

## Tourism Development

Should land be identified for new economic development activities, including tourist facilities?

- Tourist facilities – Yes, badly in need of a light industry to create work for a younger population
- Dornoch has the potential of being a good tourist centre for the highlands but more facilities needed in more areas other than golf, out of town supermarket within the Dornoch ward.
- Any development which would provide employment should be welcomed.
- I think the area needs more tourist facilities and more promotion of the Sutherland area as a perfect holiday destination. No clue about where to build new facilities though.
- Yes but on a very limited scale. The facilities at Dornoch Beach need to be improved – toilets provided, a better play park, improved car parking.
- Tourist facilities, more accommodation, caravan park?
- Dumbing down has produced army of incompetent tradesmen. Plenty room in Parich for tax financed work?
- Possibility in conjunction with new cycle tracks.
- More walks. No other views.
- I believe that Helmsdale has the potential for becoming a sea resort for people who like a seaside holiday but don't like the heat.
- The Dornoch Firth must become a registered bird sanctuary (like Loch Fleet) to protect migrating birds and to stop RAF noise and atmospheric pollution, not to mention putting a blight on local house prices. Also the practice of shooting migrating birds on the ground with a punt gun must be stopped.
- You are very limited for building without the things one needs for instance lighting, paths, sewage, which has not been addressed at all. Yet there are more houses needed – you are limited to where the sewage can be runned.
- A day care centre should be built on the old Sutherland transport site, so that the elderly Lairg residents can enjoy a view on to Loch Shin, especially those housed at Glenburn, an out of sight, out of mind place.
- Tourist information place needed.
- Development/regeneration of coastal areas for long term environmental and tourism benefits.
- To the second question, yes. The place is strangled by a lack of available land which is a shame because most of the land is unused.
- Thought should be given to a recreational building area.
- Adequate land for business and industrial units. Would be good to try to attract more tourists but unsure as to how.
- Good tourist facilities non-existent.
- A lot of already developed land lies unused i.e. Golspie. The best that can be done is to maintain roads properly. Preferably all roads and pavements in the villages. Do no create more, rather maintain to the best standard what is already there. Also, maintain public toilets and charge for their use.
- No-one is willing to sell any land for any kind of development unless they get lots of money for it. The Tongue area would benefit from a new camp site but getting land for it would be too expensive.
- Locations for wave energy would have to be carefully researched and access to power lines be available. Surfing should be welcomed / publicised more. Public lavatories should be more attractive.
- No, there is not adequate provision yet. Yes, land should be identified for new economic development activities in the area such as a Theatre, a Cinema, an Arts Centre and Café, a proper Library, a proper Leisure Centre with room for yoga, Tai Chi, Exercise classes etc.
- The wildlife park at Alladale and a visitor centre in Ardgay could be a big boost to the area.
- Yes – sports centre with gym and swimming pool. Promote cycling spots in area to migrate from

route.

- Demolition of certain buildings in Brora Village centre to create a better image for tenants.
- All tourist facilities should be kept up. This is so isolated a community that I cannot see much good in industrial land being set aside.
- Should be left alone for tourists to visit and enjoy in raw, open, beautiful countryside! This northern coastline is renowned for its beauty and needs no further building development.
- Home locally produced food. The traffic has got to come through Golspie. Takeaways – comfort stops – of a high standard.
- Tourism facilities and sports facilities would be beneficial.
- Not as a priority – housing first.
- Tourism is a poor substitute for employment in the area. Look at Tain Through Time – and other so called Heritage centres.
- Stop shooting and killing every wild animal that moves!
- It's a leisure centre, swimming pool, games, roller bowling – something like that required suiting tourists and local people – a nice tearoom and restaurant.
- I don't think so, it's the crofter's land and they want it themselves as well. (this form was illegible and this was all I could make out from this statement.)
- There is a need for new economic development activities including tourist facilities and I would be happy with a moderate development in my ward.
- There is adequate provision already with many vacancies.
- Nowhere near enough help and care given to birds and animals.
- Yes – we hope to encourage more tourist involvement and help from Geopark and promoting this.
- In Lairg former Sutherland Arms Hotel now derelict. Apparently bought over by foreign investors. Site area if not developed would be prime for small business investment and development in village centre. Certainly on route for tourist buses and passing trade.
- We need a community swimming pool such as Ullapool's Coastal Path/walks should be developed (e.g. Cornwall/Devon). Highland Stoneware blueprint for support for 'cottage industry'. Tourism- encouragement to learn to cater for 'high-end'. A range of eating/drinking amenities still needed.
- Tourist facilities could be developed. More and more people are looking for quiet holidays in beautiful places.
- We believe more land should be available for development to allow leisure activities like more swimming pools and access to the big Loch Shin like a marina. This would encourage more tourism.
- There is a long term empty shop in the centre of Golspie, next to the main car park, owned by a Mr Majeed, which would make an excellent Tourist Information Centre.
- I think Helmsdale harbour area should be developed as a marina.
- Should identify land for tourism – also spend adequate amounts of money on advertising Golspie Business Park.
- Syne Lodge should be acquired from the present owners and turned into a residential research unit for a Highland University, for the study of wetlands and freshwater biology. In the vacations it could cater for tourists – with field trips to archaeological sites etc.
- In Lochinver there seems to be enough. Its when Glencaring Lodge and associated buildings will add to tourism facilities in the future. Long term, if you sell off Glac-Mhor, you may need to find alternative land. Maybe needs are changing – for example we could do with a Hostel in Lochinver and cheap offices for business start-ups.
- A rail link between Lochinver and Lairg via Suilven and Canigf, with request stops, also a cycle/footpath. A cycle path would also link Loch Assynt Lodge via Glenleireag and Drumbeg. Likewise Achfarry and Kylestrome. A small bus depot at the Lochinver Harbour (see services). Partnerships with established businesses and charities to enhance services to tourists e.g. showers for yachtsmen at Culag Hotel and Fish restaurant KNMDSF.
- Tourism should be supported as vital to the area, but other land use should not be neglected.

- Tourists would like provision to park overnight cheaply – camping sites too expensive. Camper van sites, as in France, at £5 a night? Waste disposal/ water plug-in.
- Instead of the housing proposed for the x radio station – That and the Gleneagles Golf Course area should be developed as a self catering and leisure area with modern facilities and the harbour extended for leisure craft. Brora Station Square should be developed as a ‘restaurant and retail court’ with parking.
- The loss of the curling rink in the Marine Hotel will be a tourist facility lost.
- Tourists have nowhere to go in wet and windy weather such as art galleries/indoor sea/marine centres/historic houses/castles etc. There is a need for these tourist related businesses in N.W. Sutherland. The area is almost totally dependant on tourists who are weather driven.
- Tourists mainly come here for the peace and beauty. Indiscriminate tourist expansion would undermine this. Clearly we need more local work though to encourage young people to stay.
- Yes – KLB needs a campsite and trailer park and various potential cottage industries need financial support to staff up and develop, maybe assisting employment for young.
- No, I don’t think that there is. Land should most definitely be identified to open up more opportunities and attract much needed tourists especially during the low season.
- The site at Ferrycroft (Tourist Information Centre) is inaccessible for busses and difficult to find by anyone else. This superb centre should be repositioned into the centre of the village, near the Lochside.
- The whole of the Loch Clash area is a disgrace at present and its co-ordinated improvement would do wonders for tourism.
- So many people ask about how it used to be – archaeological finds are proving great ‘tourist’ and local interest points.
- Land unsuitable in Helmsdale for camping etc. Roads wouldn’t accommodate.
- I think there should be more public toilets, at tourist points (Strathy Point) to name one.
- People come to Dornoch to enjoy the past. Not glitzy burger bars and amusement arcades. Lots of people come to Embo to holiday but the road from Dornoch is a disgrace at holiday times. If this road was from the A9 road to Dornoch it would have been completed a few years ago.
- I think that the Dornoch Firth ward should be promoted for food production and tourism in contrast to the industrial areas of Easter Ross/ Inverness, with limited light industry. Its strength lies in its scenic beauty (Firth and mountains, lowland and upland, farming and forestry) in particular windfarms.
- Tourist facilities could expand. But important to retain quality of provision.
- Where and what do sporting tourists do in Dornoch when it is raining?
- Instead of the planned housing development on the x radio station site I believe that the whole of that area including the “Geneagles” golf course / crafting land should be developed into a quality self catering chalet type area including leisure facilities ie pitch and putt golf, fishing jetty, small marina with restaurant and perhaps other facilities such as tennis, indoor riding etc.
  - Brora Station square should be developed into an eating / food court area ie we have a good restaurant in the Quiet Piggy but need a Chinese restaurant in the x London House (not just a carry out) and perhaps a coffee shop / delicatessen in the x station ticket building.
  - Wind farms are fine and should be encouraged as long as they are at least 2 mile from the A9 and are not overshadowing any recognised popular beauty spots.
  - The idea of a steam railway enterprise based at Brora with trips to Thurso and back could help stimulate another strand of tourism. The continued development of Timespan is useful and to be encouraged.
  - Developing a network of easily navigated footpaths for tourists to walk is ideal.
- Tourist facilities should be developed. Eg. Leisure centre in Brora or Golspie for ice skating/curling and all indoor activities. Additional bed and breakfast and self-catering accommodation would be desirable in the area (Brora and Golspie).

- We should concentrate our efforts on Tourism and the local unspoilt beauty of the county we live in, not try to change it!
- No comments.
- One of the main needs for business/pleasure use in a site for a golf course. A site has been identified for this purpose. Survey work carried out but no further progress maybe due to not knowing where to go next?
- Tourism is our future. Better toilets – everywhere – especially for elderly female coach/local tourists. Save our post offices – Embo/Rogart/Ardgay/Bonar Bridge.
- Alt Beag Trust have already bought a croft in Armadale with a view to renovating the croft house – funds are the problem.
- No comments.
- Adequate.
- Land e.g. south of Loch Fleet, should be identified for a second championship golf course, which would pull in high rolling golf tourists for longer than day trips.
- I am planning a small wind farm (4 towers) north of the A836 in undesignated land. This development, if it receives planning permission, will provide employment and work for local subcontractors during the construction phase. A tourist / craft centre in the village would be an asset, while a path to Torrisdale Bay from Inverness would enable better access to the beach.
- Land should be identified for tourist facilities.
- All weather pitch behind primary school could be developed as a tourist facility. Perhaps some derelict farm buildings could be restored for holiday accommodation to cater for anticipated mountain bike visitors.
- Tourism is a very important part of the economy and helps support a wide range of local businesses (e.g. hotels, shops, restaurants, boat trips, post offices, garages etc.) These in turn provide employment. More tourist facilities required to boost the tourist trade.
- The area has to identify how it is going to develop tourism and market itself
- Lairg - We feel that the main tourist activity should be the development of the Sutherland Arms Hotel site.
- Community ownership should not lead to direct competition with existing local entrepreneurial concerns (tourism) which could be placed in jeopardy.
- Assynt (first considered 1975.76) and Yacht Haven (Mariner).
- Tourist facilities seen to be adequate – most people who visit the area already know what they want and where they are going. However, food, which always used to be good in the Highlands, is now a disappointment to many visitors and more control should be exercised by those bodies inspecting food outlets.
- If tourist facilities means taking up croft land to build an informative centre for proposed reintroducing of wild animals no longer with us – no.2 by doing so prevents visitors and locals alike enjoying the freedom and quietness of our hills. No.
- The greatest lack in Lairg is a decent Hotel. If the present plans for the Sutherland Areas ever come to fruition this will help. More shops would be nice but as currently 2 have been on the market for many months with no buyers, maybe this wouldn't be feasible.
- No more developments need to be looked at but if tourist facilities are applied for (like sports grounds) then they should be considered on their own merit and whether they can be profitable in the long term.
- Development of tourist facilities would be an asset for Edderton, Ardgay, Bonar Bridge and Lairg. The advent of the Dornoch Bridge virtually ended tourism in the aforementioned areas.
- Tourism – Dornoch attracts a lot of tourists, however the town lacks in the way of indoor activities e.g. sports facilities, Art Exhibitions, indoor ski slope (well you did ask!) interactive games, simulators etc. Renewable Energy – Greater emphasis in harnessing tidal power, rather than ruining the landscape with wind turbines/blades.
- Businesses are short lived – stick to tourism.
- Land for new tourist facilities should perhaps be identified.

- Yes, I think that some land needs to be used to boost our tourist industry e.g. water sports, horse trekking, Lochinver golf course etc.
- Kinlochbervie - We badly need a Tourist Office.
- The only way to help tourism is to keep development down to minimum. Tourists only go so far North who want wildness, not facilities (proved by a Visitors Book Comments we've kept for 'lets' for 23 years).
- Tourist information sites are required in all settlements, preferably sited in existing buildings.
- Tourism/leisure is the future and golf courses, fishing etc. should be actively nurtured.
- I imagine tourist numbers will drop if the predicted number of wind turbines are constructed and erected. It could be argued that people/companies may be attracted to the far north to escape the congested south, but we are very remote and some quality market research would be necessary before this type of development is undertaken.
- I recently visited the leisure centre at Lochinver – a great facility – is it possible for the Highland Council to arrange for 'reasonable access at reasonable rates' for locals or visitors to use the recreational facilities at the school during holidays. When I last enquired prices were prohibitively high e.g. Lochinver Bonaly Castle for 2 children £1.50 each for 1 hour.
- Brora I believe we should be encouraging families to visit the area as well as places of entertainment for our local youths. Cinema or bowling alley. The old railway station could be used as an excellent recreation centre or interactive heritage centre.
- Holiday accommodation is a form of economic development, and in our case that with the greatest potential.
- Tourist facilities are always welcome but tend to be open seasonally.
- Any economic development, including tourist facilities should be market driven.
- There appears to be no encouragement to tourists/visitors. There are very limited accommodation facilities. The area desperately needs caravan parks, camp sites, B+B's and hotels. A small airstrip would be very beneficial or even a harbour or marina.
- There is always scope for tourist facilities to be improved. It's effort and imagination we require, we have the walks, place of interest, scenery, wild life, trees etc all in one place.
- The development of a local caravan/camp site with facilities in the Kinlochbervie area is needed since the closure of the one at Oldshoremore. A community swap for the sale of local crafts has never come to fruition due to lack of premises in Kinlochbervie.
- Make harbour land at Kinlochbervie and Lochinver available for marina.
- Tourist facilities are adequate.
- I am of the opinion that tourism will grow and therefore land could be well used if released for this purpose.
- Tourists and industry don't want to come here – it's too cold and windy.
- This is always going to be a problem in these parts and the accent should always be put on tourist facilities which contribute much today and will contribute more and more in the future as people seek to enjoy the kind of beauty and peace we have up here.
- Dornoch Hotels do not have swimming pools, leisure and/or fitness facilities. Maybe a unit could be built which would be available to hotel and B+B tourists, and the local population, otherwise our 'old world' will lack the standards expected elsewhere.
- More parking and picnic sites along loch banks, e.g. Terry Bridge along past small cottage at Shinness, Fiag bridge etc. Clear scrub and improve viewing and parking at Lairg wood.
- The whole of the Dornoch Firth Ward area attracts a great many tourists not just from the UK but from all over the world. Small businesses providing services and interest for that market must be encouraged, and will create employment. Agriculture aids tourism. Industrial development would certainly be very detrimental to tourism and in turn to the local communities.
- Tourist facilities badly needed.
- Tourist facilities are needed and should be developed in the area south of the 'new' business units. Tennis courts, driving range, bowling (10 pin) crazy golf, a maze – all needed and others. A public golf course could be built on Drumdrivan ground.

- Bonar Bridge Note tourism is of more benefit to local people than windfarms.
- Increased No. of identified tourist routes around Loch Shin, including viewpoints, picnic spots to allow people to remain in central Sutherland rather than passing through it. Better signage of existing tourist spots and more development of new ones.
- The Dornoch Firth Catchment Basin shall be the green lung of the Moray Firth area and therefore the development which will be encouraged will be light industry, food and drink manufacture, tourism and services. Heavy and large scale industry will not be permitted nor will any potential development, such as fish farming or further wind farms, which might cause damage to the environment. The area to the west of Manse Road, where there is already a repair yard and a workshop, should all be zoned for light industry. There is also need for sympathetic understanding and assistance for light industrial projects on farms and crofts throughout the parish.
- Why bother about tourist facilities when the scenery is being vandalised by wind farms. Lack of quality accommodation and eating facilities.
- Tourist facilities. A caravan site. Why not a site between A9 and railway Drummie.
- Great care needs to be taken with any tourist 'development' – short term 'opportunities' often lead to long term irreversible damage to the natural environment.
- Caravan and camping centres should be established.
- More facilities for tourism, eg the golf course at Brora could be world famous as a James Braid course but is spoilt by old crofting rights. The opportunity lost of this is enormous. Americans are not prepared to play surrounded by animal droppings.
- In this area tourism is the main source of income & everything should be done to encourage this.
- Tourism should be encouraged.
- Yes Dornoch is a very busy tourist town yet there are no wet weather facilities, no swimming pool, absolutely nothing.
- We must focus on tourism, training all business people how to interact with tourists.
- There is not a lot for tourists to do when its wet. So they leave.
- Tourist information / green tourism is lacking in Sutherland and is becoming the major employer – more investment needed.
- Yes.
- Tourist facilities being addressed by the current excess of apartment buildings being proposed.
- The successful Rosehall trails (walks) could be expanded.
- The region is dependant on tourism – therefore only important facilities for tourists must be welcome.