
From: West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan
Subject: FW: West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan [#399]

Section 1: Andy McKenna

**Your
personal
and contact
details**

1.1 Name *

1.2 Are you? a community or other organisation

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1.4 Name of Organisation Inverlochy and Torlundy Community Council
(if applicable)

Select a topic to comment on Tell us your vision for the area

4.1 How do you want the West Highland and Islands area to change over the next 10–20 years?

In general, Inverlochy & Torlundy Community Council (ITCC) supports the Highland Council in its efforts to improve the quality of life in the West Highlands for everyone. We particularly want to comment on how the FortWilliam and immediate 5 mile radius should be considered.

Fort William is an important tourism destination and the area around Loch Linnhe needs to be improved by providing better access to the sea. To this end we are aware of efforts in Fort William to improve facilities around Fort William Town Pier. We also recognise the professional efforts being made by the project leaders for the Thomas Telford Corpach Marina project which would provide marina facilities for visitors and locals using Loch Linnhe.

ITCC also recognises the need for the improvement and development of the Fort William by-pass to provide promenade facilities and better scenic access to the loch views.

ITCC also recognises the Forestry plans for Leannachan Forest provided this does not compete with existing tourism accommodation and has something significant to offer locals and visitors.

ITCC supports the development of a relief road to reduce traffic from the A82, and particularly since there will be two new roundabouts between Lochy Bridge and Claggan junction. ITCC considers the relief road a priority in the Big Picture of Fort William development.

As far as housing development is concerned, ITCC recognises the need for more housing and recognises many sites within the Fort William immediate area for potential development and these are just a few: The former Police Station, the site of St Mary's primary School, Tweeddale, the site of the Belford Hospital when a new teaching hospital is built on the Blar. There is already a provision for 300 houses on the Blar from the existing Local Plan and this should be encouraged. There is also potential for large numbers of new housing at the foot of Meall an T in Glen Nevis, currently owned by Rio Tinto. This land was discussed in the current local plan.

ITCC does not see any point in housing developments in large green-field sites Fort William where there are no utilities – including schools and transportation solutions.

ITCC would encourage The Highland Council to favour any proposed developments for housing and recreation where bus routes, schools and main utilities are already in place or immediate available. Public money should not be wasted on contentious planning applications where local communities will object strongly and cause a Public Enquiry.

ITCC is working effectively with other Fort William area Community Councils to look at the Big Picture for our Highland town, and welcome any involvement in planning related matters pertaining to positive development.
