

DRAFT NAIRN TCAP: Feedback from Public Consultation Event, Nairn Court House, 24 March 2015

OVERARCHING ISSUES

ISSUE	FEEDBACK RECORDED DURING DISCUSSIONS	RECOMMENDED RESPONSE
TCAP Title	The Plan's name should reflect community-ownership: Nairn Community Town Centre Plan	Plan title changed, as requested.
The Big Picture – what the TCAP is seeking to deliver	<p>Make Nairn a “go to” place; a nice place to stay; a thriving tourist town with a thriving High Street.</p> <p>Reinforce Nairn's reputation as a thriving tourist town; need to capture attention of people wanting to access to beach/Links walks etc.</p> <p>Nairn is one of the wealthiest settlements in Scotland - how to get resources into Nairn, while residents commute into Inverness; how to recycle wealth within the Shire.</p> <p>Ongoing NEI project to brand Nairn, including involvement of young people.</p> <p>Concerns over fragility of town centre. Town has to meet the needs of the community.</p>	<p>Feedback summarised under Section 2, Town Centre Plan: Action and Priorities</p> <p>Noted</p>
Need for greater collaboration between groups and organisations	<p>This stage of plan-making needs Nairn to develop a clear way of working – details are secondary.</p> <p>The town needs to plan, which involves joined-up thinking - all interests working together as a team (Town Team?): signage / tidying up etc.</p> <p>Plea for all interests to work together/collaborate for the sake of the town. Town groups need to demonstrate they are taking collective responsibility for actions identified in the TCAP- for making Nairn a “go-to” place.</p> <p>Nairn Suburban CC – all for collaboration. Community Councillors committed to work together;</p> <p>NEI priority to provide overarching view.</p> <p>NICE (constituted group) – funding sources.</p>	Feedback summarised under Section 3, Implementation: Partnership Approach

ISSUE	FEEDBACK RECORDED DURING DISCUSSIONS	RECOMMENDED RESPONSE
<p>Mechanisms for collaborative action</p>	<p>What form of collaboration would work? e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Nairn initiative II? (previous NI was the best model, an effective umbrella) – A BID? – needs buy-in from ALL businesses; scale; clear vision – Destination management organisation? (tourism focused – NEI). <p>Focus on projects, not necessarily structures. Outcomes important + getting people together. Use Nairn as a model for new planning: Development + Planning – Best practice example.</p>	<p>Feedback summarised under Section 3, Implementation: Partnership Approach</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>Funding is the key to success</p>	<p>Funding is the key to some project ideas. Sources must be lined up. Expectation that funding-raising costs need to be covered. If a “development-officer”/type post is created, the community could work with Visit Scotland, HIE, Sustrans etc. Need to create/find effective mechanisms to develop/ take forward funding bids /business plans to help deliver proposals and draw down grant funding. What assets could community own /earn money from? Visit Scotland – Challenge Fund; Cairngorms DMO experience Heritage Lottery Funding.</p>	<p>Feedback summarised under Section 3, Implementation: Potential sources of funding and support</p>

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<p>4. Develop a civic hub Theme 1 – Improve High Street environment and expand activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairing lease – tenant; otherwise landlord; linked to Theme 2 	<p>Feedback will be summarised,</p>
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Priority identified during evening workshop discussions: ➤ Tidy up the High Street

<p>PROPOSAL</p>	<p>EVENT FEEDBACK</p>	<p>RECOMMENDED RESPONSE</p>
<p>1. Tidy-up High Street and improve the public realm</p>	<p>Priority: Tidy up the High Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General tidying of Nairn needed. • Community could create a “town team” in partnership with agencies and existing social enterprises to take projects forward. • Alness example; new blood! • Funding? • Action needed to deal with urban pests: Bird droppings an ongoing problem; prevent nesting and deter bird feeding by householders; potential to use Ward Discretionary Budget? 	<p>Priority will be highlighted and feedback summarised under “Issues and Actions”, Section 2, Theme 1.</p>
<p>2. Bring upper floors back to productive use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council actively trying to consider opportunities for upper floor of High Street buildings to be brought back into use – approx. 40 vacant – role of a housing association? • Active use a bigger priority than productive use • Needs to be Council-led. • Current Building regulations can be an obstacle to upgrading • Space above the shop • Related to proposal 3 	<p>Proposal will be re-worded and feedback summarised, Section 2, Theme 1.</p>
<p>3. Improve appearance and condition of shop fronts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANB: shopfronts scheme launch imminent – up to 50% funding available for painting of facades; grants up to £2.5k; • Fund-raising will be necessary after current fund is allocated • Consider the difference previous schemes have made to the High Street – outcome more shops trading successfully • Who could survey the shop fronts? • Related to proposal 2. 	<p>Feedback, in particular progress on delivering shopfront improvement scheme, will be summarised, Section 2, Theme 1.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about implications of developing civic hub, including potential loss to town centre of Council jobs. • Achievable? Of Theme 1 projects, this this could be least straightforward to deliver • The museum does not want to move. • Council should work with the community to oversee the delivery of all aspects of the plan including civic hub. 	Section 2, Theme 1.
5. Improve appearance and amenity of Castle Square	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing in Castle Square! • Possible location for Public art / Sculpture – could be done through NICE • Bronze tiles designed by school kids • Floral displays • Book and arts festival • Low priority/ non-urgent 	Feedback will be summarised, Section 2, Theme 1.

Theme 2 - Make better use of area between King Street and the High Street		
Priorities identified during evening workshop discussions:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bring former Social Work building back to active use ➤ Make car parking space more attractive 	
PROPOSAL	EVENT FEEDBACK	RECOMMENDED RESPONSE
6. Establish a new Town Square		
7. Provide new multi-function space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This proposal is do-able and achievable if costs can be met from existing funding • Important that canopy design will withstand bird nuisance. • Town centre activity is clustered in King St/High St area. 	Noted. Feedback will be summarised, Section 2, Theme 2.

APPENDIX B (con'd)

Theme 2 (con'd) - Make better use of area between King Street and the High Street

PROPOSAL	EVENT FEEDBACK	RECOMMENDED RESPONSE
<p>8. Reconfigure car-parking to achieve more efficient use of space</p>	<p>Priority: Make car parking attractive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme 2 proposals are all linked. This proposal is key to success of town centre and should set the template for the other projects to follow. It is essential to develop a blueprint/plan for car parking, including dedicated parking for tourist buses. • Community may have capacity to be involved in maintaining and enhancing car parking; trees, flower beds landscapes. • Social enterprise – for car park environment – community could generate income; nominal charge. • Consider use of funding to remove unattractive buildings. 	<p>Priority will be highlighted and feedback summarised under “Issues and Actions”, Section 2, Theme 2.</p>
<p>9. Bring the Council’s former social work building back into use</p>	<p>Priority: this building should be saved and brought back to use because it is part of the traditional fabric of the town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counter argument in favour of demolition: the building currently sticks out like a sore thumb. • Building can easily be made useable: keen interest in a community use/ownership; unsure about distillery – prefer café, tourist information centre. • Get a good solution for this building. • Complexities, e.g. What if sold privately? Could be a speculative purchase. 	<p>Priority will be highlighted and feedback summarised under “Issues and Actions”, Section 2, Theme 2.</p>
<p>10. Convert the Council’s Finance Office to civic use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about the loss of Council buildings – related to Council Jobs – need to retain employment in the town centre • Surely not available? • Of Theme 2 projects, this could be least straightforward to deliver. 	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Feedback will be summarised, Section 2, Theme 2.</p>

APPENDIX B (con'd)

Theme 3 - Improve walking and cycling links between town centre and surroundings

Priorities identified during evening workshop discussions: ➤ Develop walking links, including improvements to wayfinding and paths

PROPOSAL	EVENT FEEDBACK	RECOMMENDED RESPONSE
<p>11. Improve walking and cycling links between the High Street and King Street</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vennels – very attractive – a selling point for town • Town needs to take pride in vennels; encouragement needed 	<p>Feedback will be summarised under “Issues and Actions” in Section 2, Theme 3.</p>
<p>12. Promote better walking links between the town centre and the river</p>	<p>Priority: Develop walking links, including improvements to wayfinding and paths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town needs to attract people who want access to beach, Nairn Links, etc – connections and walks; • Walking to river a big priority; issues to be addressed include safety, private ownership, walking, cycling, leisure. • Town centre signage and interpretation needed guiding tourists to various destinations: harbour, beach, links, golf courses etc • Walks to river – harbour – coast: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coastal paths group; - Volunteer bodies to assist. • Better links to Moray Coastal Trail • River connections need to be more joined up; path under A96 would be tricky to construct – is this achievable? • Bridge crossing: could path on other side of river connect to town centre? • Community keen to work with Visit Scotland, HIE, Sustrans, THC, with funding support to develop: signage and interpretation; investment in tourism; planning for greening the town/ landscaping improvements. 	<p>Priority will be highlighted and feedback summarised under “Issues and Actions”, Section 2, Theme 3.</p>

Theme 3 (con'd) - Improve walking and cycling links between town centre and surroundings		
PROPOSAL	EVENT FEEDBACK	RECOMMENDED RESPONSE
13. Review and improve traffic management on the High Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20MPH to be introduced 	Noted
14. Reinstate King Street (A96) as a vibrant town centre street that balances the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term objective: improve landscape along roadside (trees) • More information needed on what's planned for street, involving discussion with/by others • Develop a plan for greening the town/improving landscaping • This proposal is a medium/long term priority that, of Theme 3 proposals, is likely to be least straightforward to deliver; linked to timescales for bypass; • Investment in tourism • NB when bypass is in place there will be a need to market Nairn as an attractive place to visit to ensure drivers are encouraged to detour into town centre. 	Feedback will be summarised under "Issues and Actions" in Section 2, Theme 3.

INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS RECEIVED ON DRAFT NAIRN TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN

Q1: What do you think about these priorities and proposals for tackling town centre regeneration?		
Respondent/ Organisation	Verbatim Comments	Recommended Response,
G Kerr/ NWCC and NICE	Proposal:	
	1 The need to control the seagulls and pigeons has not been included in the action plan.	This will be highlighted in the Issues and Actions for this proposal.
	Litter - Action required by police	Noted.
	Parking on pavements	Forthcoming Council action to enforce parking restrictions is explained in the Issues and Actions for Proposal 13.
	Protecting arms for street lights NOT a good idea - bird droppings.	Noted. This reference will be removed from Proposal 1.
	2 Upper floors - Owners to be identified	This will be highlighted in the Issues and Actions for Proposal 2.
	7 Multi function space - More detail required	Noted. A requirement to secure planning permission will be confirmed under Issues and Actions for Proposal 7.
	8 Reconfigure car parking - Make spaces larger	The need to make car parking more attractive was identified as a key priority during the public consultation on the draft action plan and will be highlighted under Issues and Actions for Proposal 8.
	9 Finance office - Possible tourist information or quality toilets	Noted.
10 Old social work building - Retain existing building and retain ownerships for possible future development of the whole area	Bringing this building back to active use was identified as a key priority during the public consultation on the draft action plan and will be highlighted under Issues and Actions for Proposal 10.	
12 Access path on west side of river - Not practical	This will be highlighted in the Issues and Actions for Proposal 12.	
P Mason	I find your document very impressive. May I suggest early action on one or two demonstration projects on improving walking links to the town centre and to the river.	The need to develop better walking links between the town centre and its surroundings was identified as a key priority during the public consultation on the draft action plan and will be highlighted under Issues and Actions for Proposal 12.

INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS RECEIVED ON DRAFT NAIRN TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN

Q1 (con'd): What do you think about these priorities and proposals for tackling town centre regeneration?		
Respondent/ Organisation	Verbatim Comments	Recommended Response
G Gray	1. Buses, walking and cycling (long distance)	The need to develop better walking links between the town centre and its surroundings was identified as a key priority during the public consultation on the draft action plan and will be highlighted under Issues and Actions for Proposal 12.
	2. Attraction (The Highland Art Gallery)	Noted. Proposals 4 & 9 have potential to introduce a new visitor attraction to the town centre.
	3. Good cafes	Noted. The Town Centre Action Plan aims to maximise footfall and deliver town centre regeneration, which should increase opportunities for commercial development, such as cafés and restaurants.
	4. Improved housing mix – town	Noted. Proposal 2 is focussed on bringing redundant upper floors back to commercial or residential use.
	5. Offices (employment)	
K Young	2 and 3. Very limited info and detail.	Noted. Noted.
	– Timescales?	The plan does not set out a timetable for delivering proposals because it is anticipated that individual projects will be brought forward or amended as funding becomes available. Wherever possible the plan highlights relevant issues that could impact on timing, delivery and/or funding of individual projects.
	- Meaning/explanation to cycle links.	Introduction to Theme 3 will be revised to define cycle links.
	- River walkway - how to be constructed & impact on the river & habitat.	Proposal 12 has been revised to signpost sources of advice on path construction and measures to mitigate against negative impact on wildlife habitats.
	Very poor information at source from people requesting the council.	Noted

INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS RECEIVED ON DRAFT NAIRN TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN

Q2: What are your suggestions for partnership-working to deliver individual projects? (e.g. can your community organisation lead or help to deliver a project?)		
Respondent/ Organisation	Verbatim Comments	Recommended Response
G Kerr/ NWCC and NICE	The three Nairn Community Councils should be used to add to the consultation for the various projects. NICE could be used if funding is required for individual projects.	TCAP Section 3 on Implementation will be revised to confirm Community Council interest in consultation, and community commitment to involvement in fundraising.
K Young	See earlier comment.	Noted.

Q3: Use this space for any further comments on the Town Centre Action Plan		
Respondent/ Organisation	Verbatim Comments	Recommended Response
G Kerr/ NWCC and NICE	Keep the discussions going.	TCAP Section 3 on Implementation will be revised to confirm community commitment to engaging in delivering the action plan.
K Young	See earlier comment.	Noted.