

STRATHDEARN FUTURES

TOMATIN STATEMENT - Response to Moray Firth Local Development Plan Consultation

Tomatin's identity has been eroded over recent years but the community is keen to reclaim its character by refocusing on the core area around the school, pub, shop, church, Old Mill Road and hall. A desire for a 'central' community garden or square has been expressed.

Despite its rural setting accessible green space for informal and formal recreation has declined. There is a strong community feeling over protecting and securing Distillery Wood and its accesses from over development. Equally securing a playing field with car parking and safe off road pedestrian/cycle access from the village centre is an essential part of village life. Protecting and defining the north and south village 'entrances' are seen as important as is strengthening the attraction the village has for visiting tourists.

The Distillery, although a significant long standing local employer, is now seen as a little 'distant' from the rest of the village, geographically and socially. Community views support reconnection through physical footpath links, socially through housing provision and economically through diversification opportunities – renewable energy for example – exploiting its position close to the A9.

Housing remains a real need in the community. Views expressed supported allocations with a mix of housing types to buy and rent and self-build plots. Ribbon development along the old A9 is not seen as desirable, nor are developments 'up slope' and overlooking existing properties. New developments should demonstrate how they add to village character and cohesion. Additional housing will mean further road traffic and this will have to be managed effectively.

A lack of connectivity between village destinations and for healthy recreation through an off road path network remains a concern for many and this has to be a priority for short term action. Safeguarding future potential public transport links through the Highland rail way and the old station site are considered important.

There is community support for existing economic development sites such as the Freeburn and longer term it is considered helpful to protect options, such as the old station site, in support of local businesses and self-employed contractors who may require space to expand.

The village and wider Strathdearn are rich in cultural and natural heritage important to many residents. This heritage should be sustained and enhanced as a key part of the area's character.

Note:

Moy is regarded as a separate settlement to Tomatin

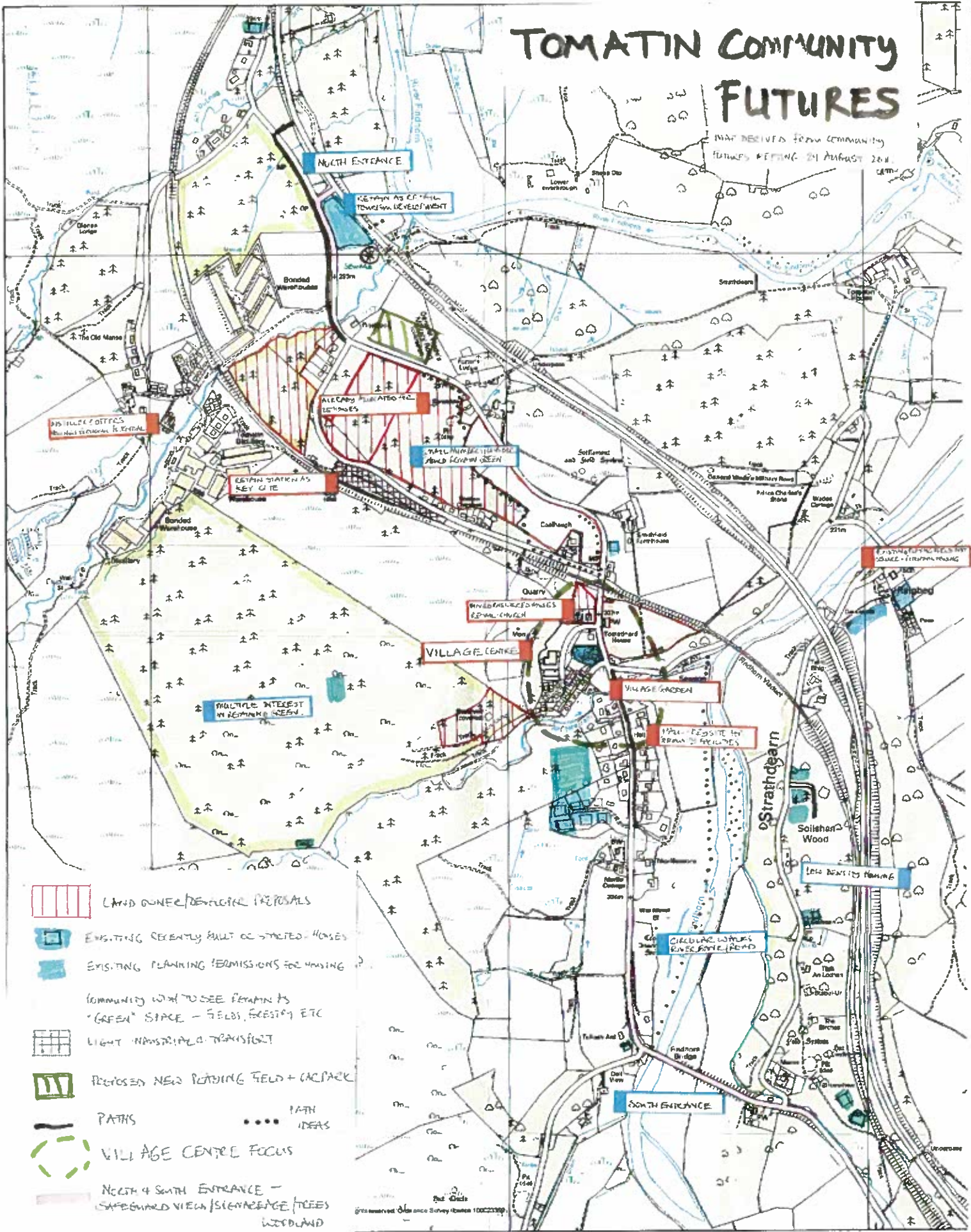
Consultation Written Comments

Housing	<p>Better integration of Distillery Housing into the village Need a mixture of houses from affordable upwards – with priority for local needs Development of large houses should not be allowed overlooking the village = loss of village character The area on Distillery Wood was classed as ‘unsuitable for housing’ by the planning committee two years ago. As nothing new has changed in those two years how can it now be up for permission again? Affordable plots for self-build for locals in both Moy and Tomatin Housing developments lead to more traffic and this should be taken into account wherever built</p>
Spatial arrangements	<p>Village developed to promote economic growth and sustainability via travel and tourism local amenities (eg pub, shop, village centre) and promotion of local wildlife. Would like to see community centred on pub/shop site not as ribbon development along access roads Nice centre to village to encourage visitors to stay and enjoy Define village centre as focus for development – school, pub, shop, church, community garden We need a focus in the village whether it be a proper pub, restaurant, or a good shop come café with non- microwaved meals and BYOB policy also focal point such as a square or garden</p>
Landscape	<p>Landscape the level part of the Distillery Wood Hill with shrubs, flowers and seats for adults. The open space along Old Mill Road to be landscaped for gardening or a play area Keep open spaces especially along the Neacrath Burn – rich in wildlife</p>
Economic Activity	<p>Distillery site for sustainable energy power plant (biogas, wood chip?) for local distribution and community financial benefit</p>
Connectivity	<p>Foot paths from Bus stop – Freeburn – school. Perimeter of Distillery Wood plus existing tracks/ paths River side Walks Walks around and through the village upgraded as an amenity for all ages for pleasure and safety Bus stop requires safe crossing of A9 – underpass perhaps</p>
Heritage	<p>Protection of historical sites eg Wades Road north of Lynebeg</p>
Others	<p>Far too many buildings for the small area on the site of the Tomatin Inn – also proposed access road beside the bus stop is a dangerous hazard Facility to upgrade Tomatin Church to enable disabled access, toilets Bring back fuel pumps Planning permission should be required for hill roads x 4 No development that needs heavy (or otherwise) traffic going up Old Mill Road and up the Forestry Road All development should consider impact on existing residents eg</p>

	access via Old Mill Road
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TOMATIN COMMUNITY FUTURES

MAP DERIVED FROM COMMUNITY FUTURES MEETING 24 AUGUST 2014



- LAND OWNER/DEVELOPER PROPOSALS
- EXISTING RECENTLY BUILT OR STARTED HOUSES
- EXISTING PLANNING PERMISSIONS FOR HOUSING
- COMMUNITY WANT TO SEE REMAIN AS 'GREEN' SPACE - FIELDS, FOREST, ETC
- LIGHT INDUSTRIAL & TRANSPORT
- PROPOSED NEW PARKING FIELD + CARPARK
- PATHS
- PATH IDEAS
- VILLAGE CENTRE FOCUS
- NORTH & SOUTH ENTRANCE - SAFEGUARD VIEW/SCENESHAPE/TREES WOODLAND

Grid derived from Ordnance Survey (Scale 1:50,000)