

# Highland Council Participation Request Annual Report April 2018 to March 2019

Highland Council is committed to a Participation Request process that supports communities to identify their needs and engage in dialogue with the Council to deliver better outcomes in communities.

We have put in place a clear Participation Request process that engages with communities and harnesses the expertise of a variety of Council officers and partner agencies to inform our approach to Participation Requests. Elected members and senior managers across the Council have been briefed on the requirements of the legislation and how we should respond to requests.

Guidance on Participation Requests can be found on the Council's website at:

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/591/council\\_and\\_government/742/participation\\_requests](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/591/council_and_government/742/participation_requests)

We have also worked within our community planning structures at a strategic and local level to raise awareness of participation requests.

This second Annual Report on Participation Requests covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2019.

## Requests Received

During the period covered by this report **three** requests were received.

Community Body	Outcome targeted	Result
Shieldaig Community Association	Enhanced availability of local affordable housing	Engagement with area housing manager, private developer and Highland Small Communities Housing Trust. Discussion of Community Asset Transfer for housing. Explanation of Highland Housing Register Allocation Policy.
Nairn River Community Council	No clear outcome indicated. Focus broadly on community planning.	Judged not to be a valid participation request as it did not specify an outcome. However, agreed that dialogue needed between Community Councils and Community Planning Partners to address issues raised. Dialogue between Community Planning partners, chairs and secretaries of Nairnshire Community Councils took place to improve mutual understanding of issues, perspectives, roles and responsibilities. Clearer role agreed for Community Councils in Community Partnership work.
Nairn West Community Council	No clear outcome indicated. Focus broadly on introduction of parking charges on Common Good land.	Judged not to be a valid participation request as it did not specify an outcome. Community Body was directed to ongoing process of engagement between the Council and local community bodies around how best to manage and engage on Common Good matters.