

## GLENLIVET AND INVERAVON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Rita Marks, Secretary Roadside Cottage Tomnavoulin Ballindalloch Banffshire AB37 9 JL

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Planning Department Cairngorms National Park Albert Memorial Hall Ballater AB35 5QB Calmgorms National Park Authority 1 4 MAR 2012

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Application Number: 2012/0015/DET
Our reference: 12/00005/APP

Glenlivet and Inversion Community Association, together with the Moray Council and the Crown Estate have been searching for a site to complement the current graveyard at Downan - which is reaching capacity - for more than seven years. Many sites were proposed and tested but until now none have met the strict criteria for graveyards from the environmental regulations to the requirements of the Highways Authority.

The site at Drumin fulfils these criteria and has been endorsed by the community at Open Community Association Meetings where ALL members of the community are members with a right to express an opinion and vote.

The CNPA covering letter with regard to this application refers to the new cometory as being "adjacent" to Drumin Castle and thus raises natural and cultural heritage issues. Castles and forts are often in conjunction with graves and memorials, albeit of a more historical nature than this site will be - at inception. Downan itself has an early incised Christian Cross on a Pictish stone and is the burial ground for the fallen from the Battle of Glenlivet. It will be an advantage that the increased parking spaces, which must be included in the site, will provide extra parking for visitors to Drumin Castle. The present parking at the foot of the castle mound is quite small and frequently extremely muddy.

A well maintained – and the condition of the present site at Downan is a prime example - quiet and peaceful graveyard with use only at intervals will add, rather than detract from, an historic building. Interment rather than cremation is still the first choice of many in the community and without the new site local people will not be able to bury their loved ones in the area they all love and keep their memories fresh within their communities.

We hereby give notice to reserve the right for a community representative to address the planning committee when a date is set for the hearing

Rita Marks p.p. Glenlivet and Inversyon Community Association