

**Draft Cairngorms National Park Plan 2012-2017 and Main Issues Report Consultations  
Community Information Events**

Grantown-on-Spey  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011, 7pm  
Grant Arms Hotel

**Main points from the National Parks Outcomes  
(Main bullet points taken from the discussion)**

**Outcome 7**

*Settlements and build development will retain and enhance the distinct sense of place and identity within the landscapes of the Park*

- New development - what work will this draw on? What will we do that is new?  
Gavin Miles - Some good e.g. already in Park
- Are there powers to enforce what we want from the design point of views? Persuasion more than force
- Extended period of austerity on the way – if there's no public finding, how will it be implemented?
- Needs a financial plan to go with National Park Plan 2  
Hamish Trench – this is about 'prioritising' and communities can tell us what they want. Not all 'high cost options'
- Social problems like 'youth development' need to be addressed
- Mapping project led by equality & HR commission – was there CNPA input?
- Need to match Steering Group agenda with the Cairngorms National Park Plan
- Are we still allowing 50% of housing stock to go to second homes?
- Where will affordable housing come from?
- Concern about character of Park changing under lots of new development
- Concern about second homes for those out with the are
- What has been done to explain this term distinct sense of place and how was this term refreshed and what was the involvement of communities
- Sense of place and identity – standard of extensions on buildings which are out of proportion not in the style of surrounding building we should try to reverse trend towards using Speyside - should be using Strathspey
- How do you measure the delivery of the outcomes?
- What is meant by 'public space'? is that literally spaces between buildings, or specific places in the public realm e.g. row, parks etc
- Costliness of working with natural and sustainable materials makes it harder to deliver affordable housing and there will be less housing stock built.

- The whole cross section of housing is important from second homes to affordable housing – good for job and trades people

## **Outcome 4**

*The qualities of wildness in the Park will be greater*

- Ensuring that development doesn't encroach on visitor facilities and experience e.g. campsite
- How do we propose to keep the real wildness wild yet maintain tourism and visitor experience?
- The interaction between walking and mountain biking could affect wildness
- Woodland and wetland expansion – trees shouldn't be planted in the montane boreal zone – reforestation should occur through natural regeneration
- What control do National Parks have over the destruction of habitats e.g. woodland, roads
- An example of collaborative working between private estates further north was given
- Will there be a definition/interpretation of wildness; a feeling was expressed that Scotland is losing so many of its wild places?
- Is the Beaulieu to Denny line a one off or will we always be out losing to these big projects national
- Should we seek a developer contribution for the long term impact of a power line
- Could Cairngorms National Park Authority pressure land managers to improve paths e.g. along the Spey - there are some poor examples of paths locally that don't give a good visitor impression
- General point about maintenance of paths, removal of fallen trees
- Hill tracks could we incentivise the removal of hill tracks? They have a big impact on wildness

## **Outcome 9**

*The Park's communities will be more empowered and able to develop their own models of sustainability*

- Struggle of community to find people to come on to local trusts and committees
- Affordable housing, who gets them? Allocation is critical The Highland Council doesn't have a 'key worker policy' could we look at something specific for the Park?
- Do we know how many empty houses could be brought back into use? Are there any plans in the Park to create new crofts?
- Can we discourage second home ownership through council tax mechanism?
- Is there capacity to put residency restrictions on property in the National Park
- How can we build capacity when there is already a dearth of volunteers?
- A feeling that a 'bottom-up' approach will not work and it will take years to achieve National Park Plan not just five years

- We still need the vision
- An amnesty to get through five years – Cairngorms National Park needs to get real
- There isn't enough current support to keep people and groups going – we need more people like the Community Development workers to help those trying to achieve community goals

## Outcome 6

*The economy of the Park will have grown and diversified drawing on the Park's special qualities*

- Extension of Strathspey Railway to Grantown, put it in the park plan
- Need to preserve and enhance the local economies
- Building 'community wild farm' is an opportunity for communities to generate income, is there a conflict with outcome four on wildness

## Main point from the Local Development Plan (Main Issues Report)

(Main bullets points taken from discussion)

**Issue 7 Connectivity & Communications:** How can we help move around the Park – local access, tourist, people travelling through the Park?

- CNP CPP - disappointing, focused on recreational walking rather than functional access
- Integrated Transport – can we influence bus companies to co-ordinate with trains
- HITRANS – supported two buses between Aviemore and Grantown, Stagecoach removed them. Why are these things allowed to happen?
- Path improvements – linking car parks to seats etc by improving paths, extension of railway to Grantown.
- Is the development of a path between Dulnain Bridge and Grantown dependent on the railway extension?

**Issues 3 – Supporting our communities:** *How to make sure communities have what they need – jobs, tourism, facilities etc* & **5 Spatial strategy:** *Allow the right level of new development in communities that suits their needs and builds on what they already have.*

- At a community level, how do allocations match community aspirations?
- Lots of little areas of development mean that local developers get a bite at the cherry
- Use developer contributions to improve connectivity e.g. cycle routes/public transport
- What does affordable mean?
- Query about engagement with the south and east side of the Park
- Is it a Park Plan and Local Development Plan for the whole Park