

KILLIECRANKIE FINCASTLE & TUMMEL

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

To: planning@cairngorms.co.uk

From: Loretta McLaughlan info@kftcommunitycouncil.co.uk

Date: 21 June 2024

PLAN OUTCOMES SURVEY

The following is the response of the KFT Community Council to Cairngorms National Park Authority's survey on the proposed outcomes for the next Local Development Plan.

There are a couple of caveats we need to make. Our involvement with the National Park is minimal. Of the three main geographical areas that our Community Council covers, only Killiecrankie is within the park perimeter. Even then, not all homes in Killiecrankie are within the boundary. We estimate there may be fewer than 50 residences within the park. Thus, our input to the LDP and impact of the LDP are marginal. This is mirrored in CNPA's involvement with the Killiecrankie community. Indeed, our location at the very southern tip of the park is overlooked on the Visit Cairngorms website which describes Blair Atholl, not Killiecrankie, as the southern gateway. <https://www.visitcairngorms.com/cairngorms-national-park-map/>

The other caveat is that we have no volunteer with sufficient time to read all the legislation, plans, policies and guidance that frames the Local Development Plan. Nor has the Community Council produced a local place plan nor a community action plan. Therefore, regarding your specific questions about the correct legislation, plans and policies, the accurate answer to all is "don't know". We are not qualified to comment.

That said, there are two desired outcomes that appear pertinent and these both relate to the section on place aims. We too would like the park to be where communities are connected and where cultural heritage is celebrated.

As far as accessible paths and cycle routes are concerned, we need a better connection between Killiecrankie and Blair Atholl. CNPA's Sustainable Transport Officer recognises how unsafe the B8079 is for walkers and cyclists. Without improving the unclassified U166, known as Quarry Road on the right bank of the R Garry, there will be no safe entrance into the park for walkers and cyclists who approach from the south. As the name suggests, there is a quarry at the end of the road and it generates a significant number of heavy vehicles on an otherwise quiet road. If Shierglas Quarry had permanent direct access to the A9, the problem would be resolved. Such a development requires discussion with Transport Scotland and the Community Council believes that CNPA should be in a good position to negotiate with Transport Scotland to achieve a favourable outcome for the local community and for the park.

Regarding CNPA's stewardship of our historic and cultural heritage, we think this presents some issues in Killiecrankie. An important battle took place here in 1689 and the site is logged in Historic Environment Scotland's Inventory of Historic Battlefields. This and other HES documents and guidance have been used to inform the proposed LDP. In our experience, we have found that the CNPA defers to HES in all matters relating to the battle site. We think, therefore, it is misleading to suggest that CNPA wishes to exercise any responsibility for this particular asset. It would be helpful to define CNPA's specific obligations.

In relation to new builds, extensions to existing buildings and renovations of existing buildings, we note that the CNPA has an obligation to ensure that the cultural environment and heritage is respected. Planning of this sort is coordinated with the local authority but we hope that, in future, the CNPA will insist that new developments will show consideration of the special characteristics, historic landscape and architectural vernacular of the geographical area. This is important when there is pressure to ease a housing shortage and costs must be considered along with aesthetics.

ENDS