

LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP
DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
Tuesday 12th April 2005 at 3.00pm.
in the Albert Memorial Hall, Ballater.

PRESENT:

Bruce Luffman		CNPA Board
Fiona Munro	"	(Housing Officer)
Jean Henretty	"	(Community Liaison Co-ordinator)
Hamish Trench	"	(Park Plan Officer)
Norman Brockie	"	(Local Plan/Policy Officer)
Gavin Miles	"	(Local Plan/Policy Officer)
David Bale	SNH	
Nicola Abrams	SEPA	
Miff Tuck	SRPBA	
Kate Adamson		Association of Cairngorms Community Councils
Bill Ashcroft		Aberdeenshire Council Local Plan
Jeffrey Kenyon		Aberdeenshire Council NEST Structure Plan Team

AGENDA:

1. N.Brockie welcomed those present and offered introductions; Jeffrey Kenyon was welcomed as the new Aberdeenshire rep (Structure Plan team).

APOLOGIES:

2. Apologies were offered for: Gillian Buchanan, Aberdeenshire Council; Martin Wanless, Moray Council; Duncan Bryden, Douglas Glass, Basil Dunlop & Sue Walker, CNPA Board; Anna Barton, Community Liaison Co-ordinator.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

3. Were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

4. Norman explained that the planners hoped to send draft policies out to consultees as they were written. There was some discussion over who they should go to as they are in early draft stages.
5. David Bale asked whether a breakdown of the consultees proforma responses could be provided.
6. Kate Adamson asked about the timeline for consultation for the preliminary draft and Norman explained that the communities themselves were organising the times/meetings.
7. There was some discussion about how long or short the policies should be. Although current thought is that Local Plan policies should be brief and concise, making use of more supplementary planning guidance (SPG), David Bale noted that sometimes it was

more user-friendly for the Local Plan to contain all the relevant info, rather than needing to look at numerous other documents or policies for detail.

COMMUNITY LIAISON CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS.

5. Jean noted that the Community Councils seem to be more interested in being involved now. David Bale asked whether the community statements would be linked back to what the consultation report said. This was confirmed by the planners.
6. Anna's report highlighted that more publicity was required for the next phase.

UPDATE ON NATIONAL PARK PLAN.

7. Hamish outlined the progress with the Park Plan, noting that the contents, vision and objectives had been presented to the Park Board on the 8th April.
8. Miff said he was unsure about the key principles. Bruce said that he thought they were fine but that there were some presentational issues that needed to be dealt with before the public could be shown them.

SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment)

9. Gavin explained that the formality of the Screening Report had been sent to the Consultation Authorities and that Hamish and Gavin were progressing work on the Scoping Report.
10. David Bale noted that he thought Hamish's paper on the special qualities of the park might be a good starting point for the scoping.

UPDATE ON HOUSING ISSUES

11. Miff expressed concern that the CNPA might constrain property development within the Park, particularly in rural areas. Bruce noted that there was not an intention to prevent the renovation or reuse of property, simply to try to ensure that new houses were kept as effective housing for people living in the park.
12. It was noted that obtaining housing projections was proving difficult. The demand for affordable housing was also discussed and it was noted that Local Housing Needs Surveys give more accurate information on demand than council waiting lists.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

13. Gavin explained that consultants had been appointed to conduct a Landscape Capacity study for the main settlements. This will be used to identify longer term housing land options as well as give some indication of how to best integrate existing developments in the landscape.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

14. The next meeting was arranged for Tuesday 10th May 2005, at 3pm in Ballater, venue to be confirmed.
15. The meeting closed at 4:30pm.