

AGENDA ITEM 5 & 6

APPENDIX 4

2016/0195/DET and
2016/0196/LBC

OPEN DAY
CONSULTATION
REPORT

Old Royal Station, Ballater
Ballater Open Day Consultation Report
2 April 2016



Rev 01

Prepared 4 May 2016

Background

On Saturday 2nd April 2016 from 10.30am until 2.30pm a public open day was organised in Ballater titled ‘Ballater, Get Together to Work Together’. The event was held in the town’s Victoria & Albert Halls located immediately adjacent to the Royal Station.

The purpose of the event was to provide the public with information on the numerous projects currently on-going in the area. With the devastating floods of early 2016 flood action groups have been set up to assist dealing with the knock on community impact but the event was also seen as a wider opportunity to display all of the projects on-going in the area, the Royal Station included.

A note of the attendees was taken with a total of 112 signing in to the event. Of the 112, 95 were located in Ballater, 15 located within Deeside and 2 were located out-with. In terms of the demographic, of those who signed in 62 were female, 51 were male and the below table provides an overview of age ranges:

Age	Female	Male
5-15	1	0
16-24	0	1
25-34	2	0
35-44	2	3
45-64	27	13
65-84	27	33
85+	3	1

For the Royal Station the project team were represented by Janelle Clark, the Marr Area Manager, Craig Matheson, the Aberdeenshire Council Project Manager and David Lawrie from Halliday Fraser Munro Architects. To assist in fielding public comment a questionnaire was present to allow the public to feed-back comments. In addition, post-it notes were invited to be placed on the presentation boards to record general comments.

A total of 19 questionnaires were handed in and 28 post-it notes were left on the presentation boards. A typical questionnaire is shown on image 1 and the remainder of the report details the feedback collated.

Ballater Open Day

2 April 2016

Feedback Form	
Do you have any thoughts / comments on the proposed uses?	INCORPORATE LIBRARY GIVE CONCERN RE HALLS RESOUR INCOME
Do you have any thoughts / comments on the Tullich Stones forming part of the exhibition space within the station building?	Good idea
An enhanced exhibition space is proposed, with a controlled environment for the exhibits, in a simple train-shed form instead of the former glass-walled extension from 2000. Do you have any comments?	Approve
Do you have any thoughts / comments on the proposed Station Square?	Look forward to seeing completed plans
As part of the square proposals it's likely up to 8 car parking spaces will be relocated elsewhere in the town. This is to promote a more pedestrian and cycle friendly public space. Do you have any comments on this?	Approve
Thank-you for coming along today	

18031 – Ballater Station

Image 1 – a typical questionnaire submitted

Building Uses

Submitted questionnaires:

Question	Supportive	indifferent	Not Supportive
Do you have any thoughts / comments on the proposed uses?	14	5	0

Comments:

- Consultation with Ballater Local History group should be carried out
- Museum element could have a natural element as party of the Cairngorm National Park
- With library move I'm concerned with impact to V&A Halls income
- Is there a conflict with the library and tourist facilities sharing a space, in relation to opening hours and security?
- Internal platform space should look as far as possible as original platform
- Should the library be such a focal point?
- I like the library being central and the flow through the building.

Post- it notes :

- Concerned that the library will be closed a lot of the time which will detract from the buiding.
- Agree library etc. should be accommodated in the main building. Please encourage small individual shops to set up opposite.
- The station restaurant should remain where it was.
- What about film nights at the station?
- Assume there will be walls between the tourist office and library, as both have very different opening times.
- Suggest that restaurant should be at other end of building (original location).
- . Second entrance blocks view of old restaurant window.
- Need a lockable door between the visitor centre and the library
- Gives a good community space
- Hope you keep the original decoration on the gable ends (ie red paint)
- Like the multi-purpose feel of the central area. Hope the Sweetie Factory is brought into the design
- Would like the restaurant to be where is has always been. It worked.

Tullich Stones

Submitted questionnaires:

Question	Supportive	indifferent	Not Supportive
Do you have any thoughts / comments on the Tullich Stones forming part of the exhibition space within the station building?	10	5	4

Comments:

- Ok but should not dominate the area
- A good idea in order to safeguard the stones, but a shame to take them from Tullich
- Better located at the church but if this is the only solution it's better than in storage
- Leave stones at Tullich
- The stones are more in keeping within an agricultural landscape, opposed to the surrounds of a Victorian village.
- I would prefer that the stones be at Tullich Kirk and appropriate publicity to raise their status as a tourist attraction.
- Excellent idea and show's people there is more to the area than the Royal connection.
- The stones really belong at Tullich but without protection they are vulnerable to vandalism. Could the smaller, more recently discovered, stones be located in the exhibition space with the larger ones in their original location?

Post-it notes :

- Leave pictish stones in Tullich as part of the Deeside Way.



Enhanced Exhibition Space

Submitted questionnaires:

Question	Supportive	indifferent	Not Supportive
An enhanced exhibition space is proposed, with a controlled environment for the exhibits, in a simple train-shed form instead of the former glass-walled extension from 2000. Do you have any comments?	17	2	0

Comments:

- Engage the Royal Family in supporting items from their own collections. Generally a good idea and exhibition should be free.
- Needs to have more glazing in the roof to enable view to Craigendarroch.
- The explanation sounds exciting
- Depends if there is enough natural light, which is important.
- I like the idea of a train shed form for an exhibition hall.
- Agree, but replicate the pitch of the original canopy.
- Will look professional and exhibits will be given a place deserving of their importance.

Post-it notes :

- Model railing of Ballater Station please
- Good overall concept. Concerned about 'gable end' with a suggestion for a hipped end. Like the high windows.
- New plan enhances the exhibition and in my opinion improves the original layout. Love the idea of the library and community space being housed here.
- We like the new enhanced exhibition space but would like lower horizontal windows to see the hill from the dining area (while sitting).



Station Square Proposal

Submitted questionnaires:

Question	Supportive	indifferent	Not Supportive
Do you have any thoughts / comments on the proposed Station Square?	14	5	0

Comments:

- Brilliant idea, a must for the redevelopment
- Provision for shops & café restaurant
- If anything could be opened by Ballater Victoria week 2017 it would be great.
- I feel strongly that the area between the station canopy and the V&A halls should be pedestrianised with access only for deliveries.

Post-it notes :

- Bringing the Station and V&A Halls together is a cohesive plan. Heritage area of the village and encourage walking.
- Please remember to include provision for young people particularly teenagers. Like the idea of a bike park. What about a gym?



Parking

Submitted questionnaires:

Question	Supportive	indifferent	Not Supportive
As part of the square proposals it's likely up to 8 car parking spaces will be relocated elsewhere in the town. This is to promote a more pedestrian and cycle friendly public space. Do you have any comments on this?	11	4	4

Comments:

- Best to remove all parking, apart from disabled spaces.
- Parking spaces are at a premium already in Ballater. Disabled parking at least should remain.
- Acceptable but not as a through road.
- Total pedestrianisation would be good.
- No parking, apart from disabled and emergency vehicles. Community public space which is safe and non-polluting.
- Essential to consider car parking options.
- Parking is at a premium in the centre of the village, not in favour.
- Agree, the parking "island" and movement of cars is a hazard.
- Good idea but give cyclists bells.
- This will be a miss for people who find walking hard.
- Parking near to the station building is very useful.
- All parking could go to the rear of the confectionary shop, along the old platform.

Post-it notes :

- Seems obvious that pedestrian only area with an extra car park built off site would be the best idea.
- Area behind the Sweetie Factory should be looked at as an overflow car park.
- This area should be completely pedestrianised
- Some of us agreed for full pedestrianization when building was last renovated. Only disabled and emergency vehicles, creating a public space.
- Fully pedestrianize, maybe disabled parking only.

General

General comments received, not covered in the questionnaire:

- Would be good to be kept up to date with progress of planning app and when work will start etc.
- Railway to Cambus O'May! What a good idea!
- It would be good to have some form of public event to tie in with Victoria Week in August 2017.

One gentleman explained the emotional journey his wife took when arriving at Ballater during World War 2 as a refugee. The route from the platform, through the entrance corridor and out under the port-cochere was highlighted as a key emotional memory.



Conclusion

The tone of the consultation was general positive with the vast majority in favour of the proposals. The design team have collated the feedback received and have reported this back to the Stakeholder Groups. The contents of this report has also assisted in pre-planning consultation with Historic Environment Scotland, Aberdeenshire Council Planning Department, Cairngorms National Park Authority Planning Department and technical consultees such as Aberdeenshire Council's Roads Department.