

Braemar & Glenshee
Tuesday 1st November, 7pm
Braemar Village Hall

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

Outcome 6

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

- Funding is an issue for local businesses. Leader funding is very welcome but too complicated and too much bureaucracy. Funding streams (in this time of diminishing budgets) needs to be streamlined and made more customer friendly.
- Braemar lacks small business units, we want to encourage people to come in and set up businesses. (there is an overlap with the local development plan)
- Not clear about the definition of “suitable housing” under what needs to be taken into consideration: local? Affordable? Local can mean the whole of Aberdeenshire to some people to us in Braemar it means Braemar. Affordable housing is often too expensive.
- Where does “marketing” fit into this outcome? The lead on marketing in the Park is taken by the private sector (through the Cairngorms Business Partnership)
- The national park needs to be opened up on the Perth side, lack of public transport effects local people and tourism.
- Public transport to follow the circle of the Park boundary to be able to move people around easily.
- Fuel prices are an issue on all levels, transport and housing. Look to develop regional heating systems as a response.
- Need to raise awareness that there is more than one entrance to the Park (mostly people go up the A9) Need to create opportunities to access the east side of the Park.
- The quality of the shops (groceries) is very poor.
- Need to look for sponsorship for trade shows: support local businesses and crafts.
- Concentrate on a quality tourism experience in Braemar. There are a limited number of beds and restaurant seats. Encourage high spenders; on the other side Braemar needs a campsite.
- There needs to be clarification on the role of the local DMO-needs to be better ways to brand the National Park.

Outcome 3

The species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important will be in better conservation status in the Park.

- Concerns about what is happening with deer numbers: methods of culling deer and when they are culled. This has an effect on tourism.

- The most endangered species in Braemar is the local residents! There is an aging population need to encourage young people into the village. Need to provide proper services: schools, health centres etc. The issues are even more extreme in other areas of Scotland.
- Need to have people on the ground to look after and conserve iconic species. Cannot deliver the 4 aims of the National Park without healthy communities.
- Communication is a huge issue (Broad Band, mobile reception and radio) Digital connectivity is vital and it is important to highlight this in the Park Plan/Local Development Plan.
- The group felt that they were not completely engaged with this outcome, know it's important but needs more clarity.

Main points from the Local Development Plan (Main Issues Report) (Main bullet points taken from the discussion)

Option 3&4 (taken together)

Option3

Support for Communities- *create opportunities for the right range and choice of facilities, provided in the right place to help support our communities.*

Housing/Affordable Housing- *create opportunities for new housing that supports our local communities needs.*

- There are issues around the term affordable housing: they are not always affordable. Better to build business units. There needs to be clarity for communities around planning gain/developer contributions.
- Braemar already has 50 houses with planning permission. There is a proposed development on St Andrew's Terrace which will mean an additional 50 houses, this is too much the village does not have the infrastructure to support this.
- Residents do not feel that they are listened to, feel that their views are swept aside by national Policy on planning (often by officers based in Edinburgh) Feel that there does need to be a development plan but that it needs to be flexible.
- Need support for businesses to create more jobs and tourism.
- The cost of affordable housing is based on a salary of 27K not many people earn this locally.
- Lack of smaller housing for elderly people so they can down size to something more manageable.
- Where there is a financial gain due to development the community should be consulted and be able to influence the spend.
- What about self-builds and the 25% for affordable housing? The Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) has a flexible approach and is open for discussion. There is a design guide that gives information on this. (available through the CNPA)

Braemar Masterplanning (draft proposal)

Karen Major (CNPA Planning officer) gave a brief introduction to the draft Masterplan, a joint piece of work with the two main estates: Invercauld and Marr and the CNPA.

- Important to encourage people to look at the Masterplan. The steering group that has taken the process so far needs to be revisited, there needs to be more community representation.
- Needs time for the community to read the proposal and make comments.
- The Braemar Community Council will set up a meeting to discuss the proposal in more detail (after Christmas)
- The next meeting of the Community Council is on the 21st of November they will discuss how to distribute the draft document to as many people as possible.