

Dalwhinnie, Laggan and Newtonmore
Wednesday 5 October 2011, 7pm
Newtonmore Village Hall

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

Outcome 7

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

- There are issues about design, scale of development that needs more consideration. How can the National Park Plan and the Local development Plan ensure good design in the Park?
- Planning applicants passed by the current laws can look awful when they are built is an issue. Need to look planning law and highlight these issues through the Plans. (It was acknowledged that this is not a quick process.)
- Discussion about what is the Cairngorms National Parks identity, what should that look like in the built environment?
- Need to deal with property developers. How do we influence them to improve design levels? Need to develop strong policy.
- Need to have more active engagement directly with the Community Councils on planning development: where housing is sited, what kind of housing design, affordable?
- Concern about the planning application for Newtonmore Hall.
- Needs to be room for small businesses to expand.

Outcome 9

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

- Real difficulties with “Communities need access to affordable and sustainable housing” – need some support from the CNPA to address this. Need to identify smart local solutions – look at a range of options (be creative)
- Need to make positive steps for communities to share good practice, information and experience.
- Emphasis on social enterprise in very rural areas can be hard to deliver (lack of capacity). It's difficult to become sustainable.
- Difficult and time consuming to apply for funding, need information and support in doing this.
- Sustainability requires a lot of energy: volunteering and networking. Are local communities are their limit?

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

Option 6

Support for Rural Areas: *create a flexible framework for growth in our rural areas that meet their individual needs.*

- Need to revisit the wording on the option it mentions “recent past” (best to drop the recent” and be clearer about what we mean about the past.
- Possibly revisiting/regenerating communities that have disappeared over the years (ie Crathie, near Laggan)
- Development needs to be compatible with the built heritage of the area.
- Who makes the judgement about what landscapes are important? Consultation on landscape (through the CNPA) happening early 2012.
- A flexible development framework means that one size does not fit every community, each one is unique.
- Comments about supporting rural communities (local economy) – fuel poverty and other challenges of living rurally.

Option 3

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

- Lot of publicity of slowness of broadband but there are real problems with mobile phone reception. Visitors to the area find this very challenging. Needs to be a better infra structure, can the CNPA give support? Look to mobile phone 4G as a possible solution.
- Discussion about what is a community. The community statements developed in the first consultation phase of the Park Plan are a good place to start.
- Is there help for individual businesses providers? Very little help for private businesses-need more support.