

Your View

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Are you passionate about the Cairngorms National Park? Then this is your chance to influence how the Park will be managed over the next five years.

The Cairngorms National Park is unique and it is special. At its heart, the huge granite mountains have shaped the climate, nature, people, landscapes and culture around them. They have helped establish the unique and world famous habitats and rare species of the Park and made it a stronghold for British wildlife.

The mountains have created a place with a sense of wildness and space that has inspired passion in the people who live and who have visited the Park for generations. It is central to the culture of Scottish skiing and snowsports; to Scottish mountaineering; and from the paths around villages, through forests, farmland, lochs and rivers to moorland and mountain tops, it is a place of outstanding recreation. The mountains have moulded vibrant communities with rich and distinct cultural traditions and history. They have influenced the ways people live and how

they manage the land as forest, moor and farmland. The Cairngorms National Park is a place of home as well as a place of holiday. It is a priceless part of our identity.

We think these special qualities are the essence of what people who live, work and visit the Park hold dear, but what makes the Park special to you? Tell us your views about what the next steps should be to ensure the Cairngorms National Park is cared for so that future generations can continue to live and work in it and enjoy it.



Your view really does count!

Make your view count

Two important publications will set out how the National Park will be taken forward in the future – not just in terms of the improved habitats, better conservation or growing the economy, but in terms of the built environment, infrastructure and supporting



communities too. **The Cairngorms National Park Plan 2012-2017** will be the blueprint for how the Park is managed, and the **Cairngorms Local Development Plan Main Issues Report** will tell us what kinds of development can take place and where. Much work has already been undertaken with many groups and the centre page insert shows how communities have already set out their visions for the future. This newsletter gives you a snapshot and acts as a signpost to both publications which are available at www.cairngorms.co.uk.

If you are passionate about the Cairngorms National Park, this is your chance to influence what difference the plans will make over the next five years.

You can respond by commenting on the Draft National Park Plan 2012-2017 and the Local Development Plan Main Issues Report. See the back page of this newsletter for further details.

Cairngorms National Park Plan 2012-2017 Where we are now...

As the first **Cairngorms National Park Plan** draws to a close in 2012, the second needs to be ready soon to set out the long-term vision for the Park and highlight what the main priorities will be, who will be responsible for them and how they will be delivered.

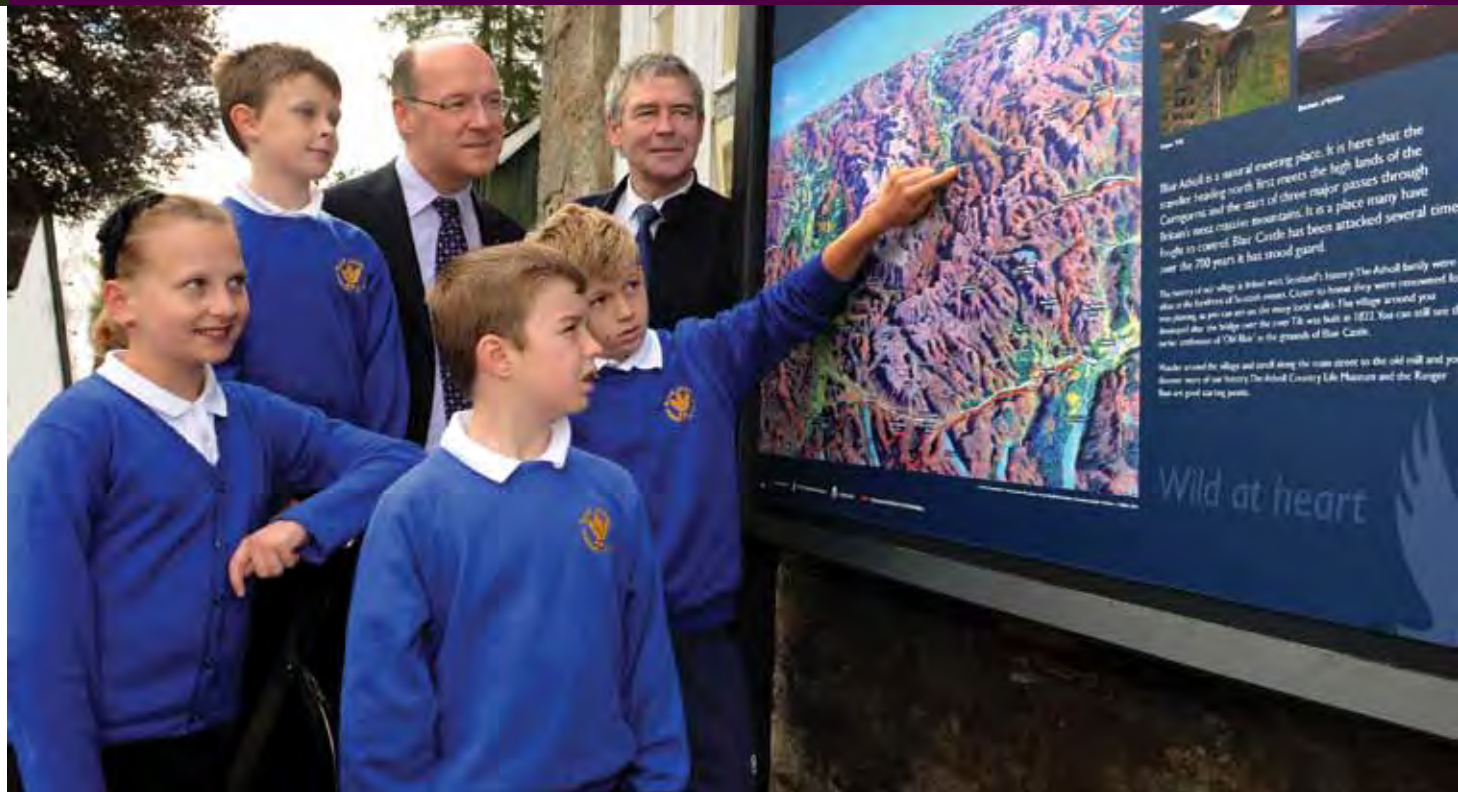
While many groups have already given us an indication of what the 2012-2017 Plan should do, it's essential that you tell us if you agree with them. Are other priorities and outcomes more important

to you or do you know of better ways of achieving them? Or are there other benefits that we should be seeking?

The Plan is prepared by the Cairngorms National Park Authority in partnership with the community, private, public and voluntary sectors and is an overarching plan for how the Cairngorms National Park will be managed.

Now is the time to tell us what you think the next National Park Plan should do.

Please tell us if you agree or disagree with the proposals in the Draft National Park Plan at www.cairngorms.co.uk





...and what's next?

This part of this newsletter provides a flavour of what the **Draft Cairngorms National Park Plan for 2012-2017** consists of. You may find it gives you enough information to form an opinion about what makes the Park special to you. Please tell us if you agree or disagree with the proposals in the full Draft National Park Plan at www.cairngorms.co.uk. Or, can you suggest alternatives? Details of how to obtain a full copy of the Plan are available on the back page of 'Your View'.

After speaking to public agencies, local communities, voluntary organisations and businesses, we suggest the long-term vision for the Park should be:

An outstanding National Park, enjoyed and valued by everyone, where nature and people thrive together.

This is supported by a clear direction for delivery:

- 1 To ensure the Cairngorms National Park is a special place where the natural and cultural heritage is conserved and enhanced.**
- 2 To develop a sustainable economy that supports thriving and resilient business and communities.**
- 3 To ensure the Cairngorms National Park delivers an outstanding visitor experience and is an international benchmark for sustainable tourism.**

Farmland, woodland, wetlands, mountains, moor and villages all have competing demands on the land. We propose the following principle to ensure effective planning and land management:

The management and use of land in the Cairngorms National Park should deliver multiple benefits – delivering the best possible combination of the National Park Plan's long-term outcomes, always ensuring that the special qualities are conserved and, where possible, enhanced.

Please tell us your views of these proposals in the Draft Cairngorms National Park Plan 2012-2017 at www.cairngorms.co.uk.

Here are the ten proposed five-year outcomes for the Cairngorms National Park Plan 2012-2017.

Are these the priorities you would choose to make sure the Park is a better place to live, work and visit by 2017?

Please tell us if you agree or disagree with the proposals in the Draft National Park Plan by going to:

www.cairngorms.co.uk

1

More people will learn about, enjoy and help to conserve and enhance the special natural and cultural qualities of the Park.

This priority will help people learn about the Park and its special qualities, through enjoying activities and time spent in the Park, and through learning outdoors, in classrooms or online. It will make it easier to

2

The quality and connectivity of habitats will have improved, enhancing the landscape at a Park scale.

As it supports many of the Parks rare and threatened species, this priority will focus on growing and linking woodlands and wetlands in particular, as well as helping to protect against the effects of climate change.

3

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

This priority will help the rare or threatened species that need more than just good habitat networks to do well. It will also reduce wildlife crime and manage invasive non-native species.

4

The qualities of wildness in the Park will be greater.

Protecting the Park's landscape setting and character from inappropriate developments like wind farms will be a feature of this priority. It will also enhance the qualities of wildness so the Park continues to be an important place for people to appreciate


What should we specifically focus on for 2012-2017?

discover more about the outstanding cultural heritage of the Park and help communities discover and share their own cultural heritage with others. It will also lead to more visitors, residents and businesses actively helping to conserve and enhance the special qualities.



and enjoy wildness – a key asset for our tourism economy.



A scenic landscape of Cairngorms National Park. In the foreground, a river flows through a valley, its surface reflecting the sky and the surrounding landscape. The middle ground is dominated by a dense forest of tall, green coniferous trees. In the background, majestic mountains are covered in a layer of snow, their peaks reaching into a clear blue sky. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day, with the sun casting a warm glow on the scene.

“Our communities define the Cairngorms National Park as much as the mountains, moorlands, forests and farmland we live with.”

Community Visions and Feedback



During 2010, many of you who live in the Park helped identify what's important about your community and what you want it to be like in the future.

These 'visions' have been key to enabling the Cairngorms National Park Authority to form the proposals and draft the **Cairngorms National Park Plan 2012-2017** (pages 2-5) as well as identify the issues in the **Local Development Plan Main Issues Report** (pages 6-7).

We want to share some information about these 'visions' here which were all prepared in your own words and are set out in full in

the Draft National Park Plan. (to obtain a copy, see the back page of 'Your View' or log on to www.cairngorms.co.uk).

Common themes

Communities told us they want more influence so that more of their ambitions can be achieved to make sure their local areas remain special.

We acknowledge it takes a lot of energy and enthusiasm to develop your respective communities and the **National Park Plan** (NPP) can support you in a number of ways and help make things really happen. The NPP five-year outcome that

states 'The Park's communities will be more empowered and able to develop their own models of sustainability,' is particularly relevant.

We think all this means putting together the kinds of training and skills development that you need, and pointing you towards the right advice and support to develop plans and projects. It also means making sure that you and the public sector agencies in the Park work together to achieve them.

You can see what we think will be needed to help make that happen in the **Draft National Park Plan**.

The community visions were prepared for:

- 1 The Angus Glens
- 2 Aviemore and vicinity
- 3 Ballater
- 4 Blair Atholl
- 5 Boat of Garten
- 6 Braemar
- 7 Carr-Bridge
- 8 Cromdale and Advie
- 9 Dalwhinnie
- 10 Dulnain Bridge
- 11 Glenlivet
- 12 Glenshee
- 13 Grantown-on-Spey
- 14 Killiecrankie
- 15 Kincaig and vicinity
- 16 Kingussie
- 17 Laggan
- 18 Nethy Bridge
- 19 Newtonmore
- 20 Strathdon
- 21 Tomintoul

You can view your community 'vision' by logging on to www.cairngorms.co.uk

Examples of community projects that have already been developed from the 'visions':

Ballater

- A community self-build housing group has been established to increase affordable housing options for young families.
- A tourist interpretation centre is being created by the community at Dalmochie lumber jack camp in Pannanich Woods.

Boat of Garten

- The station square heritage project is being developed to attract more visitors and therefore improve long-term viability.
- A village housing group has highlighted the urgent need for affordable housing, which shall help retain and attract families whilst maintaining the local school's viability.

Braemar

- Braemar Castle is being developed as an exciting cultural and natural heritage centre with local community support.
- A community renewable project is being developed with a focus on a micro-hydro scheme.

Carr-Bridge

- Investigating the options for a local community housing scheme were prioritised during a recent community action planning event.
- Action is now being taken to identify a meeting place for the village's young people with support and activities provided.

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

Grantown-on-Spey

- The local business association and Grantown Initiative are looking to strengthen their numbers and build up a strong marketing strategy to help realise a thriving, welcoming high street.

Kingussie

- Am Fasgadh is a project aiming to create a high quality tourist attraction on the old museum site. A variety of activities to generate sustainable income streams and local employment opportunities are planned.

Newtonmore

- Residents and businesses successfully campaigned against the closure of the Highland Folk Museum.
- A village hall refurbishment is getting underway, with the feasibility study now complete and design selected.



5

There will be a better targeted programme of advice and support for land managers in the Park that delivers the **National Park Plan**.

This priority will simplify and tailor support networks for land managers to help them deliver the best possible combinations of public benefits in the right places in the Park. It will help conserve and

6

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

Helping to strengthen the existing businesses of the Park and encouraging new businesses to start up and succeed is key under this priority. It will grow the value of tourism to the Park in a sustainable way and will lead to

7

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

This priority will lead to better designed development that fits within the landscapes of the Park and will make sure our towns and villages continue to be attractive places to live, work and visit.

8

Business and communities will be successfully adapting to a **low carbon economy**.

This will help businesses and communities adapt to the economic changes that will happen as Scotland reduces its reliance on fossil fuels, becomes more energy efficient, and gets more of its energy from solar, wind and water power.

9

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

This priority will give communities in the Park the tools and support that they need to tackle the challenges they face in the future. It will allow them to take more control and responsibility over how they change in the future.

10

The Park's recreation opportunities will have improved the health and enjoyment of residents and visitors.

Building on the outstanding recreation opportunities the Park has to offer will be the focus under this priority. It will get more people of all abilities outdoors to enjoy responsible access and exercise in the Park. It will also help to maintain

Please tell us by 9 December 2011 – you can find out how to comment at www.cairngorms.co.uk

enhance the landscapes, habitats and species' of the Park, tackle climate change and support the rural economy.

better employment opportunities; a higher quality of life for people in the Park; and support the Park's vibrant communities.



and improve the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.

Cairngorms Local Development Plan Main Issues Report

Where we are now...

When the **Cairngorms Local Development Plan** is prepared, it will tell us where and what kinds of development can take place in the Park over the five years from its adoption. It should also give confidence to communities and business about the changes they are likely to see over the next five to 20 years. It will eventually replace the recently adopted Cairngorms Local Plan.

Having the **Local Development Plan** will provide a common base for all local authorities as well as the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) to judge planning applications against. However, before the **Local Development Plan** can be prepared, a **Main Issues Report** has been produced by the CNPA. It follows work with partners, key stakeholders and community groups to stimulate debate on the main areas of change and options for future development in the National Park. Landowners and developers have also been asked about where they would like to see potential development sites.

Now is the time to tell us what you think about the issues and options raised in the Main Issues Report. Please tell us if you agree or disagree with them by going to www.cairngorms.co.uk

...and what's next?

This part of this newsletter provides a flavour of what the eight main issues in the **Main Issues Report** consist of. They are what we think planning and development should address.

Please tell us if you agree with these issues and if you support our preferred approach in the **Main Issues Report** at www.cairngorms.co.uk. Alternatively, can you suggest a different approach? Details of how to obtain a full copy of the Report are available on the back page of 'Your View'.



1

Special qualities of the Park.

Developers, communities and those thinking about the long-term future of the Park must have an appreciation of what makes the Park special when considering development. We will help developers find the right site for their development by using 'sensitivity' information about the special

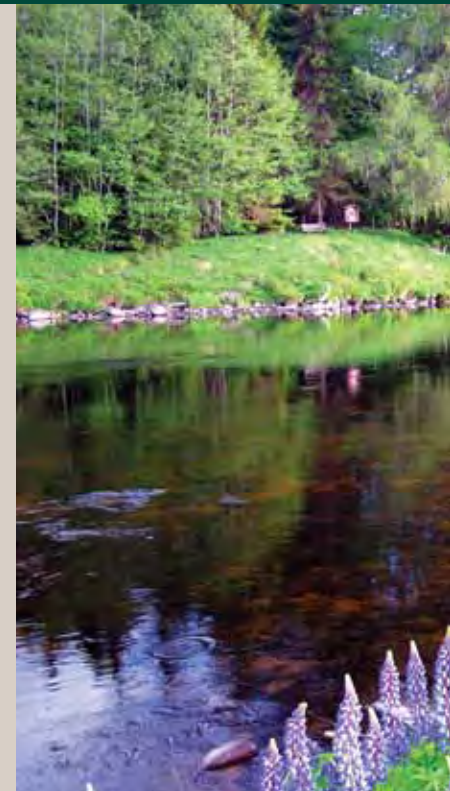
2

Resources/reducing our consumption.

As Scotland's economy adjusts to a lower carbon future, a framework for development will be introduced that sets standards to allow resources like water, energy and waste to be considered before developments are approved. This will help guide development to manage these resources sustainably.

Do you support our preferred options?

qualities and explaining what is required.



3

Support for our communities.

Ensuring the right range and choice of development opportunities are provided in the right place will help support sustainable economic and social development of individual communities in the Park as well as meet their needs.

4

Housing/affordable housing.

In deciding where we can best meet the housing need in Park communities, we aim to ensure all main and other settlements have some future development options regarding housing. Ensuring a reasonable number of affordable units within all new developments; retaining

5

Spatial strategy.

The spatial strategy shows where the main developments over the next five to 20 years are likely to happen. Communities can see how this affects them and meets their future needs. All the main Park settlements have sites where development is likely to happen in future and they are

6

Support for our rural areas.

In rural areas, maintaining a degree of flexibility is essential to making sure smaller rural communities benefit from economic development and the provision of housing, whilst developments that detract from the Park's special qualities are prevented.

7

Connectivity and communications.

Focusing on the key links and routes across the Park, including review of core paths, will identify where improvements are needed. Developments will be required to make a contribution towards existing and new routes to help people move around the Park more efficiently

8

Other policy issues.

There are a number of other policy areas and approaches we propose to take forward from the 2010 Local Plan into the Local Development Plan. They are:

- Cultural heritage including archaeology, conservation areas and listed buildings
- Contributions to

Please tell us by 9 December 2011 – you can find out how to comment at www.cairngorms.co.uk



as much flexibility as possible; and not ruling out any reasonable accommodation options is our proposed approach.

described and mapped in the Main Issues Report. They are assessed using landscape, ecology, flood risk, settlement relationship, local transport and effectiveness criteria and are also available for comment.



and effectively. This will help infrastructure providers focus their investment.

- developments by developers
- Design including how new development fits with the landscape
- Development standards
- House extensions and alterations
- Deciding when existing houses can be replaced by new ones
- Conversion and reuse of existing and traditional vernacular buildings
- Making provision for travelling people

How to respond

The Cairngorms National Park will be here for generations to come and with your help, we can all play an active role in developing the Park and shaping its history.

Giving us your views will help us turn the Draft National Park Plan into the final Cairngorms National Park Plan 2012-2017, and prepare the Local Development Plan informed by the Main Issues Report.

The consultation for both documents starts on 19 September 2011 and the closing date for submissions is 9 December 2011.

Full copies of both publications and details of how to respond can be downloaded from the Cairngorms National Park Authority website at www.cairngorms.co.uk.

Copies can also be obtained at local libraries or by contacting the Cairngorms National Park Authority by post, telephone or by email.

Alternatively, why not come along to one of our community information events that will be held throughout the Park during the consultation? Starting at 7pm and finishing at 9.15pm, they are free and there is no need to book a place.

October	Venue	Communities covered
Wed 5 7pm	Newtonmore Village Hall	Dalwhinnie, Laggan, Newtonmore
Thu 6 7pm	Blair Atholl Village Hall	Blair Atholl, Killiecrankie
Mon 24 7pm	Cairngorm Hotel	Aviemore
Tue 25 7pm	Boat of Garten Community Hall	Carr-Bridge, Boat of Garten, Nethy Bridge
Thur 27 7pm	Talla nan Ros, Kingussie	Kingussie, Kincaig
Mon 31 7pm	Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown-on-Spey	Dalnain Bridge, Grantown-on-Spey, Cromdale and Advie

November	Venue	Communities covered
Tue 1 7pm	Braemar Village Hall, Braemar	Braemar, Glenshee
Wed 2 7pm	Mike Sheridan room, Victoria and Albert Halls, Ballater	Ballater, Donside, Mid Deeside and Cromar
Mon 7 7pm	Memus Hall, Nr Kirriemuir	Angus
Mon 7 7pm	Richmond Memorial Hall, Tomintoul	Tomintoul, Glenlivet



Help us to shape the history of the Cairngorms National Park

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natural
scotland
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT