



Cairngorms  
National Park

Pàirc Nàiseanta a'  
Mhonaidh Ruaidh

# **Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030**

Compiled spring 2025

Supported by

**Grantown & Vicinity Community Council**

**Grantown YM Community Centre**

**Grantown Initiative**

**The Grantown Society**

**Grantown Museum and Heritage Trust**

**Grantown Business Association**

**Anagach Woods Trust**

**Grantown-on-Spey and Dulnain Bridge Church**

**Sustainable Strathspey**

Facilitated by Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey



## Contents

|                                                                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Summary                                                                        | 3  |
| 2. The Community                                                                  | 4  |
| 3. The Process                                                                    | 8  |
| 4. Community Engagement                                                           | 11 |
| 5. Survey Responses                                                               | 11 |
| 6. Action Plan – what the community wants                                         | 12 |
| 7. Spatial Priorities                                                             | 20 |
| 8. Next Steps                                                                     | 25 |
| 9. Thanks & Acknowledgements                                                      | 27 |
| 10. Appendices                                                                    | 28 |
| i. What do you like about living in Grantown?                                     |    |
| ii. What changes would you like to see for Grantown by 2030?                      |    |
| iii. What new/existing projects would you like to see happening in the community? |    |

# 1. Summary

In spring 2025, many of the key Grantown community organisations (Grantown & Vicinity Community Council, Grantown YM Community Centre, Grantown Initiative, Grantown Society, Grantown Museum, Grantown Business Association, Anagach Woods Trust Grantown-on-Spey and Dulnain Bridge Church, Sustainable Strathspey) decided that they wished to carry out a review of the community action plan for the town, which had been previously undertaken in 2014. The purpose of revisiting and updating the plan was primarily aimed at giving these Grantown organisations, along with a range of other groups in the community, plus public and private sector stakeholders, a strong mandate to move forward with tackling current and emerging issues, as well as leading on new community projects, identified as suggestions by the residents of Grantown during the process in early 2025.

With support from Voluntary Action in Badenoch & Strathspey, the community-led steering group, comprising representation from the organisations listed above, agreed that they would seek the views of local residents on a number of key questions. This was achieved via a survey which was personally delivered to every household by volunteers - as a paper copy, which was also accessible online. In addition, the questions contained in the survey were also raised with some targeted groups that were identified as being harder to get accurate/quality information from. This was undertaken by members of the steering group going out with the survey questions to places and events where it was considered that individuals or groups falling into this category might be approached.

The process was entitled **Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030**. In previous action planning carried out by the community, the focus was on activity mostly with a 2-3 year timespan. Given the increased need now to also focus on longer-term goals, particularly in relation to the environment and the economy, residents and businesses were asked to consider where they and the community wanted to be by 2030, so generating a more extended set of plans and aspirations.

Examples of **recent successes in Grantown** with community projects and action planning include:

- YM Community Centre cinema
- Town signage & information posts
- Establishing the Grantown Hub
- Anagach Woods volunteer programme & bike skills area
- Square improvements: new trees & benches
- Solar panels for Inverallan
- Reopening Burnfield Toilets
- Festive lights display
- Dulaig play park
- Community storage unit
- Events: Greentown Show, Hogmanay, Strathfest, Truckfest etc

- Museum exhibitions

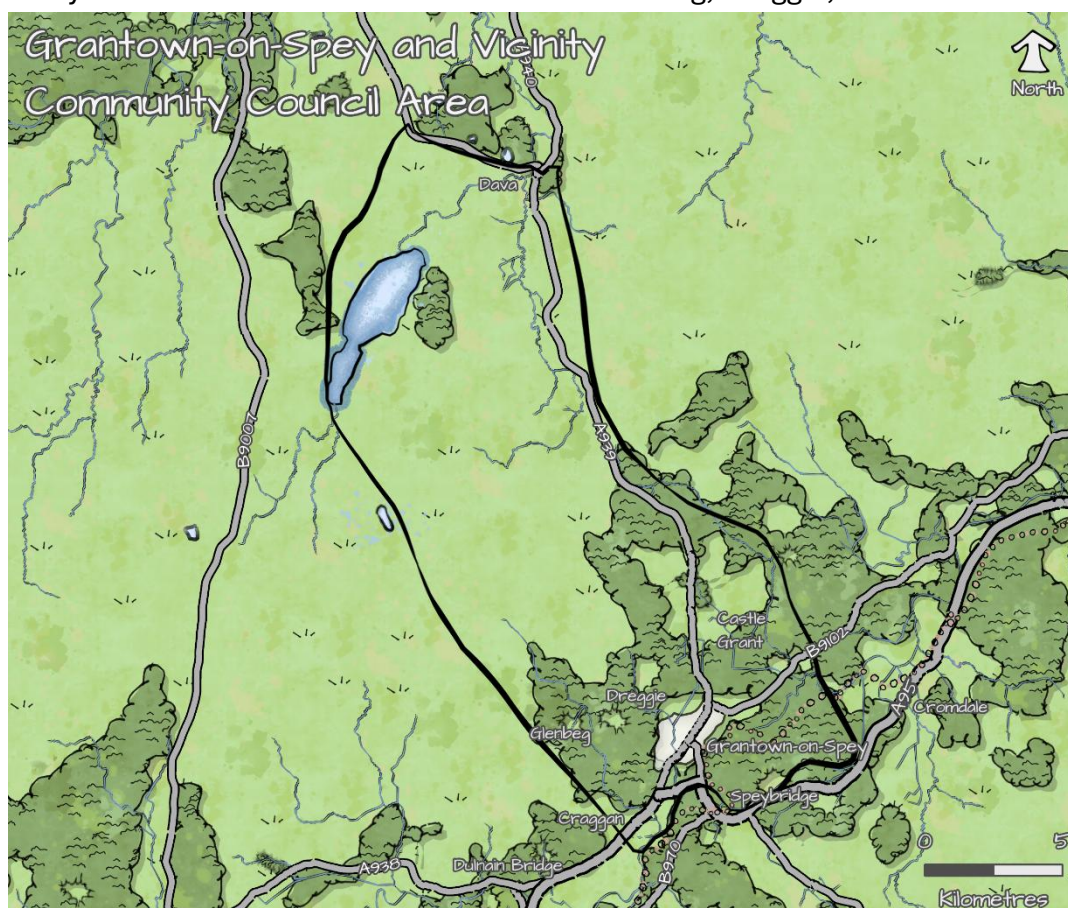
To help add to these achievements, residents were encouraged to take part in the community action plan review in 2025. However, this time round people were invited to think not only about what might be achieved together, but that the projects the town was being asked to consider, would be ones that would help Grantown develop a more sustainable future. This is set against a backdrop of life post-lockdowns, the challenge of finding new volunteers, plus the changing economic and climate situation we find ourselves in.

The Grantown-on-Spey community action planning process adhered to the National Standards for Community Engagement to ensure all of the following elements were fully taken into account during the community-led initiative: Impact, Communication, Methods, Working together, Planning, Support and Inclusion.

See [Section 4. Community Engagement](#) for further details on the 7 Standards.

## 2. The Community

Grantown-on-Spey is a charming and traditional town, nestled in the Scottish Highlands in the historic county of Moray, although now part of the Highland Council local authority area. It is located on a low plateau close to the river Spey at the northern edge of the Cairngorm mountains and sits within the north-western part of the Cairngorms National Park, surrounded by forests, rivers and mountains. The Grantown-on-Spey and Vicinity Community Council area extends beyond the town of Grantown to include Glenbeg, Dreggie, Castle Grant and Dava.



Grantown-on-Spey (Scottish Gaelic: *Baile nan Granndach*, meaning Town of the Grants) was founded in 1765 as a planned settlement during the Scottish Enlightenment and was originally called simply Grantown after Sir James Grant. The addition 'on Spey' was added by the burgh council in 1898. It is characterised by its Georgian and Victorian heritage and town layout with wide tree-lined streets, traditional stone buildings and a central square.

Grantown still retains a strong Victorian character and has a peaceful, welcoming atmosphere. It has several listed 18th and 19th century buildings, which sit within its recognised Conservation Area with an up-to-date Conservation Area Management Plan.

The town serves as a regional centre for tourism and services in the Strathspey region. Historic churches and bridges reflect the architectural charm of the area and it has been twinned for many years with Notre-Dame-de-Monts in the Vendée, France. Grantown is a great place to work, live in and visit with plenty of outdoor space, an attractive Square, a High Street full of independent shops, local supermarkets, health centre, swimming pool and leisure centre, museum, hotels, guest houses, B&Bs, self-catering properties, and a caravan park, many of which are award-winning!

The town lies close to the River Spey, one of Scotland's most famous rivers, especially known for salmon fishing and Speyside whisky. The Spey is a hub for outdoor activities like fly fishing, kayaking and riverside walks. Grantown is a gateway to the Cairngorms, making it a great base for hiking, cycling, birdwatching and wildlife spotting - red squirrels, ospreys and capercaillies inhabit the area. Grantown is a haven for nature lovers and the community-owned Anagach Woods right next to the town, offer miles of scenic trails ideal for walking, biking and exploring.

The capital of Strathspey, the town is near several world-renowned whisky distilleries and is a gateway to the Speyside Malt Whisky Trail. Its own local distillery - the Cairn distillery of Gordon and MacPhail - opened in 2022 right on the edge of the town. Local shops and cafés reflect Highland hospitality and there are numerous festivals and events throughout the year, including Hogmanay in the Square, Thunder in the Glens (Grantown), Strathfest, and Fiddler of Strathspey music festivals, Greentown Show and the Christmas Torchlight procession with Santa and his real-life reindeer. Grantown also boasts a fantastic display of Christmas lights, to many, the best in the area.

Living in Grantown-on-Spey offers a peaceful, nature-connected lifestyle in one of the most scenic parts of the Scottish Highlands. It is ideal for those who appreciate small-town life, outdoor adventures and a strong sense of local community.

#### Grantown Community Organisations

There are a significant number of community organisations/groups which work for the benefit of the community and are almost entirely run by volunteers. These include:

Grantown & Vicinity Community Council, Grantown YM Community Centre, Grantown Initiative, The Grantown Society, The Grantown Museum and Heritage Trust, Grantown



Business Association, Anagach Woods Trust, Sustainable Strathspey, Grantown-on-Spey and Dulnain Bridge Church, and other churches in the town.

#### Grantown Community-Owned/Leased Assets

|                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Grantown-on-Spey YM Community Centre | Burnfield Toilets              |
| Anagach Woods                        | Community storage facility     |
| Grantown Museum                      | Town flower displays           |
| Grantown Hub                         | Town entrance signs            |
| Strathspey Thistle FC                | Flagpole in the Square         |
| Grantown Bowling Club                | High St/Square fingerposts and |
| Grantown Tennis Club                 | noticeboards                   |
| Grantown Golf Club                   | Heritage plaque                |
| Strathspey Curling Club              |                                |

#### Common Good

Common good refers to historic assets, including land and buildings, that once belonged to the former Burgh of Grantown-on-Spey.

The Common Good Act of 1491 established a strong legal status for these lands and required their management for the benefit of the community, a law that still stands today. In 1694 Grantown was made into a Burgh of Regality for Ludovick Grant by King William and Queen Mary. It then became a Police Burgh in 1898. After the dissolution of the Burgh, the assets held by the former Burgh council are held as Common Good by the local authority, The Highland Council, who holds these assets on behalf of the community to provide public benefit.

- The Square (including area of ornamental garden opposite the Court House and adjacent to the Garth Hotel)
- High Street toilets and car park (also includes an area of amenity land between the car park boundary and the boundary of the property known as The Sheiling)
- Mossie Road play park
- Grantown War Memorial
- Regality Cross
- Grantown Clock & Bell
- Desk Stand
- Provost Chair

#### Local Businesses

A significant number of local businesses operate across many different sectors in the town including retail, food and drink suppliers, arts & crafts, accommodation and services. There are also outdoor activities on offer like golf and canoeing. Grantown is popular with tourists seeking a tranquil Highland experience with a good mix of guesthouses, hotels and self-

catering cottages, many with traditional Highland character. The Industrial Estate at the south of the town is also home to various, diverse businesses.

#### Previous Community Plans

There have been several previous plans and strategies developed by the community of Grantown. These include, but are not limited to, the following plans which can be found online:

- Our Community - A Way Forward Action Plan (2008)
- Grantown on Spey Action Plan (2016)
- The Grantown Compass (2018)

### 3. The Process

The Grantown community consultation period ran from February to April 2025 and during this time, the way in which the community action planning process was carried out, broadly fell into four stages. These were:

- 1) Gathering Information
- 2) Data Sorting and Collation
- 3) Involving People & Refining Ideas
- 4) Community Action Plan (CAP) document production

Within the four stages of the process, the steering group asked the following questions:

#### Gathering Information

- What do we want to know?
- What questions will we ask?
- What methods will we use?
- How will we do it?

#### Data Sorting

- What does it involve?
- How will we do it?
- Who will do / assist with this?
- In what form will we present it back to the community?

#### Involving People & Refining Ideas

- What stakeholder groups do we need to involve?
- How (& where) will we present the information gathered so far?
- How will people in the community help refine the information?
- Who will assist with this?

#### CAP document production

- What will it include?
- Who will put it together?
- How will it be presented to the community?
- What happens to it next?

In addition, the steering group also considered what timescales and key dates they wanted to aim for and how they would deal with communications & publicity - ensuring that these elements were robust, so the process was as inclusive as it could be.

The fifth and most crucial stage of the whole action planning initiative, involves delivery of the plan by the Grantown community and other stakeholders. Essentially this deals with questions such as:

- Who will take responsibility for the CAP?
- How will it be driven forward?
- How will it be monitored and evaluated?



There is more detail on how this can be achieved in [Section 8. Next Steps](#).

### Gathering Information

There was discussion about the nature and precise wording of questions in the survey, as the steering group wanted to revisit questions asked in previous community-led action planning, to re-establish what specific things people liked about Grantown-on-Spey and wanted to keep in the community. They also wished to encourage the community to look to a 5 to 10-year horizon, and consider how it might tackle some of the trickier issues such as care for the environment, supporting younger and older residents, employability and transport. So questions were employed which were broadly framed, to allow responders to bring up a wide range of issues and ideas without being led.

The paper version covered just two sides of A4 and the survey asked 3 questions:

- 1) *What do you like about living in Grantown?*
- 2) *What changes would you like to see for Grantown by 2030?*  
*(Perhaps consider how as individuals, or as a community, we can improve the environment, address the climate emergency, develop our local economy, increase social and leisure opportunities and widen local cultural experiences)*  
*If you could improve just ONE of these things, what would it be?*
- 3) *Are there any new projects (large or small) that you would like to see happening in the community? Plus any projects, clubs or organisations that you wouldn't want to lose?*

The survey also asked:

*Would you be willing to get involved in any projects you are interested in? YES / NO*  
*If Yes, please provide contact details.*

This last additional question was included to try to encourage more people to come forward to help with projects that were of particular interest to them, in order to counteract the reduction in volunteer numbers, that had come about in recent years and especially following the 2020/21 pandemic lockdowns.

It was decided that all 1450 households would receive a paper copy of the survey through their letterbox and this was carried out by a team of community volunteers, who over a period of a few days, delivered copies out into all areas of the community. This method helped to deliver an inclusive process of community engagement, where everyone had the opportunity to respond to the survey if they wished and they were able to do this via hard copy, which could be deposited back into one of the centrally located survey boxes, or online via QR code which enabled the community to access the survey on a range of devices.

### Data Sorting

All of the responses came in either online via Survey Monkey, by hard copy into CAP-branded boxes left at various locations in the town, or from information collated at events put on for specific groups in the community. Surveys were returned from the community's school pupils and these responses highlighted the ideas and opinions of young people living in the area.

Every comment was recorded and categorised, so that everyone would be able to 'see' their voice in the displayed results. The information was sorted into 5 main themes: Social, Environmental, Economic, Young People and Cultural and the number of times a particular issue or idea was mentioned was noted, so suggestions could rise to the top of the lists in each themed category.

These lists were then prepared for display (see [Section 6. Action Plan – what the community wants](#) and [Section 10. Appendices](#)), so every member of the community could see what had been said and get involved in the next stage, when ideas were refined and solutions to issues sought.

### Involving People & Refining Ideas

The process culminated in the **Grantown-on-Spey Big Conversation**, which took place on a Friday and Saturday in April 2025 at the Grantown YM Community Centre. At this drop in event, the results were offered back to the community and time given for reflection and discussion around the topics.

During the event, all of the residents who attended were asked to consider the top suggestions that had been identified from the process under the headings of:

- A Socially Connected Community
- A Climate Conscious Community
- An Economically Thriving Community
- Supporting Our Young People
- A Culturally Vibrant Community

They were asked to look at those areas of particular interest to them and write on action plan templates aimed at refining ideas by looking at questions such as:

*What specific action needs to be taken to achieve this priority and Who needs to be involved?*

### CAP document production

All of the comments and pieces of information given by the public during the **Grantown-on-Spey Big Conversation** event were collected and incorporated into this report, which now belongs to the Grantown community and will be used as the basis for ongoing community development over the next 5-8 years, with support from the community's organisations and all other relevant stakeholders from the public, private and voluntary sector.

Also a list of all those who came forward offering to volunteer their help with certain projects was compiled and will be held by the team taking the action plan forward (referred to as **Grantown Forum** for the purposes of this report).

## 4. Community Engagement

The National Standards for Community Engagement are good-practice principles designed to improve and guide the process of community engagement.

They are clear principles that describe the main elements of effective community engagement. They provide detailed performance statements that everyone involved can use to achieve the highest quality results and the greatest impact.

The standards are particularly helpful for communities - their organisations and groups - to help them involve their members or the wider community in shaping the services and changes they need, and to make sure they accurately represent members' or the community's views in the decision-making processes.



## 5. Survey Responses

Thanks go to the residents and businesses in Grantown-on-Spey who contributed so meaningfully and thoughtfully to the community survey. 387 responses were received, representing 26% of the households in the community and includes responses from school age residents. Also, thanks go to the people who attended the Big Conversation drop-in event at the YM Community Centre over the two days.

For a full list of what came out of the survey responses, see [Section 10. Appendices](#) (list of appendices below). These show all comments made by the community in answer to the survey questions, prioritised in order of the number of people who mentioned them.

[Appendix I](#)    What do you like about living in Grantown?

[Appendix ii](#)    What changes would you like to see for Grantown by 2030?

[Appendix iii](#)    What new/existing projects would you like to see happening in the community?

## 6. Action Plan – what the community wants

### Project Themes and Suggestions

The CAP sets out the community's vision for the longer term (up to 10 years) with detailed suggestions and possible actions shown in the relevant tables and text below. These have been categorised across 5 specified themes:

- A Socially Connected Community
- A Climate Conscious Community
- An Economically Thriving Community
- Supporting Our Young People
- A Culturally Vibrant Community

These themes, adapted from Place Planning guidelines, have been used in this Community Action Plan to categorise the community's suggestions. These themes demonstrate the breadth and strength of community ambition, and provide a tool to structure the community's vision, grouping related projects together across key arenas of community life: the social, environmental, economic, young people and cultural.

It is important to note that some of the project outcomes will be a "quick win" whereas others will sometimes take significantly more time to plan and execute. To achieve results and outcomes in the short, medium/longer term each high priority project/outcome will have its own activity plan which will be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (SMART) and determined and agreed in the first part of the CAP implementation.

The 5 themes were taken and put into separate groupings, showing what the suggestions are for each theme. Within each suggestion, projects have been listed that have been drawn from the high priorities that came out of the survey data. Further views and information for each suggestion were sought from those who attended the drop-in events and suggested actions, together with any additional information are outlined below each section.

## GRANTOWN ON SPEY: A SOCIALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITY

### Top Suggestions:

#### ***More affordable (rental) housing for local people and businesses***

- Investigate options for making more housing available

#### ***Road and pavement repairs***

- More accessible pavements throughout Grantown for people with reduced mobility, pushchairs, kids bikes etc
- Road and pavement repairs, especially Grant Road, Seafield Avenue, pavements on approach roads from the south

#### ***Traffic issues***

- Traffic calming solutions on High St/Square
- Improve parking options in Square and on High St
- Move 30mph signs further out on approach roads

#### ***Sports Hub***

- Explore options for place that lots of different teams and clubs can use

### **SUGGESTION: More affordable (rental) housing for local people and businesses**

#### Investigate options for making more housing available

- When H2 (the land designated for housing development behind the Grantown Medical Centre site) comes online, this will provide more affordable housing for the town. Also need to look at abandoned/empty/unused housing and see if incentives can be used to bring them back into use.
- Call for a Cairngorms National Park-wide plan to reflect massive negative impact of 2<sup>nd</sup> homes that aren't rented out and explore options to support existing properties to favour those living and working in the area.
- Support the excellent Ian Charles Hospital redevelopment for key worker housing – will need careful management.
- Increase proportion of affordable housing in line with Local Development Plan 2021 aim to reach 75%. Should be mix of social, mid-market rent & shared equity.

### **SUGGESTION: Road and pavement repairs**

- More accessible pavements throughout Grantown for people with reduced mobility, pushchairs, kids bikes etc
- Road and pavement repairs, especially Grant Road, Seafield Avenue, and pavements on approach roads from the south and north.

### **SUGGESTION: Traffic issues**

- Zebra crossing in Square (nearer to Garth Hotel)
- Traffic calming solutions on High St/Square to reduce speeding
- Greater support needed from police to stop car racers at night in and around the town.
- Improve parking options in Square and on High St and increase parking enforcement especially at Coop and by Macleans
- Move 30mph signs further out on approach roads
- Renew box junction paint by pharmacy
- Reinstate school drop off at Burnfield car park to reduce congestion at school and visibility issues

### **SUGGESTION: Sports Hub**

- Support the initiative being developed currently at Seafield Park/Scout Hut, for different sports and other activities. Ref Seafield Park Community Trust
- Work with YM Community Centre to develop sports facilities on pitch at rear and changing rooms.
- Could Craig Maclean or other venues also be used for touring bands for gigs and concerts etc as at Badenoch Centre



## GRANTOWN ON SPEY: A CLIMATE CONSCIOUS COMMUNITY

### Top Suggestions:

#### **Active Travel opportunities**

- Cycle path built from Dulnain to Granttown
- Increase access width to parts of Anagach Woods for adaptive bikes, buggies etc
- More bike infrastructure: bike hire facilities; bike repair café; bike racks on High St
- Project to get more people cycling around town, especially safe routes to school
- Maintain paths in Beachan Woods

#### **Community growing spaces**

- More opportunities and support to grow own vegetables and produce
- Community Allotments
- Community gardens / Orchard

#### **Improve our town's biodiversity**

- Pollinator planting in public gardens / Wildflower planting in Square around trees
- Start small by cleaning up litter and weeds in and around town
- Plant more trees
- Promotion of recycling and waste reduction to encourage a circular economy
- Maintenance of Kylintra Meadow
- Make more of community garden at Townhouse
- Improve look of park area / revive community orchard opposite Craiglynne Hotel – new seats, picnic tables & tidy up
- Dredge the skating pond

#### **Conservation Area Management Plan**

- Plan needs to change to make it easier to install renewable energy/energy efficiency options within the CA. Currently having the CA penalises this which is counter-productive as long -term effect will be to make buildings unusable

### **SUGGESTION: Active Travel opportunities**

#### Improve cycle / foot pathways and facilities

In addition to specific suggestions listed above:

- Sort gates on Speyside Way to Nethy eg 5-bar gate plus metre-wide cattle grid to allow easy passage of bikes/wheelchairs
- Community e-bike borrowing scheme
- Signpost low disturbance routes for capercaillie in Anagach Woods
- Some roads in town to include a bike lane eg Grant Rd, Woodside Avenue
- Clearer timetables at bus stops showing all intermediate stops as well as final destination

### **SUGGESTION: Community growing spaces**

- Create community allotments – establish a committee to take forward. Maybe use an area of Grant Park as location?
- Explore interest in a community growing/gardening group – for support and also to help maintain town growing spaces
- Green 'network' of different gardens in the town
- Community Garden sign at Burnfield + refit the setts surrounding the millennium block
- Improve and maintain the current community orchard

### **SUGGESTION: Improve our town's biodiversity**

In addition to specific suggestions listed above:

- Recognise Grantown as a 'Swift-friendly' town – protect nesting sites and add new boxes in appropriate places
- Manage trees in Square and replace with native species if needed
- Wildflower meadow in Grant Park
- Wildflowers on roundabouts / also remove non- native trees here

#### **SUGGESTION: Conservation Area Management Plan**

- Remove barriers for energy improvements eg solar panels/pvc windows keeping aesthetics suitable
- Decide whether to get rid of or replace the bollards and chains in Square and South Street. They are ugly at the moment and bar access for wheelchairs and buggies, and also trip hazards. See *Cultural* section.
- Release the 1960/70s bungalows from the Plan restrictions – they are unfair and unjustifiable

#### **In addition to the suggestions above:**

- Water fountain where people can refill drinking water bottles

## GRANTOWN ON SPEY: AN ECONOMICALLY THRIVING COMMUNITY

### Top Suggestions:

#### ***Key worker accommodation for Ian Charles Hospital site***

- Find a group to take this forward

#### ***Improve childcare options for under 3s***

- Lobby for this to happen

#### ***Better provision/management for campervans***

- Campervan area for visitors with waste and water facilities - identify best location for this project
- Ban campervan parking by the river

#### ***Repurpose Palace Hotel for housing***

#### ***Broaden the economic focus of the town to create a more resilient economy***

#### ***More support for the local economy:***

- Shop local
- Create opportunities for new enterprises
- More apprenticeships for young people

### **SUGGESTION: Ian Charles and Grandview/Palace Hotel**

- Redevelop both sites for accommodation for seasonal and critical workforce
- Need to find a solution to the parking issue for Palace Hotel/Grandview site
- Also look again into potential for BT site
- Complex to deliver: need a group competent in a range of housing project skills

### **SUGGESTION: Improve childcare options for under 3s**

- Requires lobbying at a regional and national level.
- Provision might need to be through a local community project or seek support from Care and Learning Alliance (CALA)

### **SUGGESTION: Better provision/management for campervans**

- No campervans by riverside. Height restrictions to 'Bathing Pool' beach area and portable loos to encourage parking only in car park
- 'No fires' signage
- Electric hookups in car park to encourage campervan parking there
- Charge for car park?

### **SUGGESTION: Broaden local economy to become more resilient**

- Rather than relying on FB to promote events, Grantown Online should be more developed to be able to provide an 'online' noticeboard which ideally businesses could update themselves. Could be used by Grantown Hub also to view through window.
- What's On page for individuals to input news/events – admin checked. Also a listing of businesses on same website.

- Support great work done by GBA for greater community building & engagement
- More housing for locals will ensure more money spent in local economy

## GRANTOWN ON SPEY: SUPPORTING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

### Top Suggestions:

#### ***Improve / Redesign Mossie Park***

- With different offering from Dulaig playpark
- Maybe 'themed' and designed for more natural/imaginative play

#### ***Hobby classes for children / teenagers***

#### ***Outdoor group for kids to learn outdoor skills***

#### ***Youth café***

#### ***Young children's nature days***

### SUGGESTIONS:

#### Mossie Park

- A shelter for children and parents on cold, windy days + seating
- Apple trees and thornless brambles for 'help yourself' fruit
- Balance trail – using wood from Anagach
- Roundabout
- In-ground trampoline

#### Hobby classes for children/teenagers

- Outdoor basketball
- Golf tournaments for under 16s
- Netball at Craig Maclean
- LGBTQ+ groups for young people through Cairngorms Pride

#### Outdoor skills group & nature days

- Get involved with a growing spaces project
- RSPB young ranger type activity – working with Grantown Grammar
- After school garden club

## GRANTOWN ON SPEY: A CULTURALLY VIBRANT COMMUNITY

### Top Suggestions:

#### ***The Square***

- Replace bollards and chains – restore to how they were
- Sort out parking issues, especially by the Coop and at Maclean's bakery
- No charge for community use of Square
- Plant more trees to replace lost/old/dying trees
- Wildflower planting areas around base of some trees
- Don't pedestrianise it please
- More benches
- Speyside House clock to tell right time

#### ***High Street looking more vibrant***

- All shop fronts in some sort of use
- Improved maintenance of some buildings
- Flags and flowers outside shops
- Initiative (economic?) to try and encourage all shop owners and landlords to improve their premises (frontages/woodwork/gutters/downpipes). Can a community volunteer work party help with this?

### SUGGESTIONS:

In addition to specific suggestions listed above:

#### The Square

- Remove (some) chains to give access to grass for wheelchairs, buggies
- Tree condition survey & programme for phased replacement. Use native trees. Same for Church Avenue.
- Dedicated paths across grass and down Church Avenue.
- Improve poor aesthetic of new bins chained to concrete blocks – some kind of wooden bin surround

#### The High Street

- Grants for refurbishment of shop fronts
- Use one empty premises for encouraging pop-up shop run by local charities – can the Hub do this?
- Insist on a more uniform quality of shop signage – no plastic
- Tool library?
- Promote High Street shopping over online more – poster campaign
- No wheelie bins on street
- Museum & Hub to share visitor information role through the year.

## 7. Spatial Priorities

The maps below illustrate the spatial proposals to help realise Grantown's community vision and Community Action Plan. They display comments which were provided by Grantown residents and businesses during the two-day Big Conversation drop-in event. They refer to the suggestions that have come out of the Community Action Plan (CAP) responses and help express the community's aspirations and solutions for development and use of land within the Local Development Plan. This reflects the local planning policy which aims to create sustainable, liveable and productive places as expressed in National Planning Framework 4 (2023).

The maps show the community's ideas and suggestions for the future development of the Grantown-on-Spey area, as well as helping the community to develop and deliver its own projects.

The purpose of the maps are to:

- Complement the CAP by showing how the Grantown community could look in the future once the vision and CAP have been implemented.
- Help Grantown-on-Spey, Highland Council & Cairngorms National Park Authority consider the impact of planning applications on the community.
- Inform Cairngorms National Park Authority's review of the Local Development Plan.
- Influence investment from public bodies, funders, key landowners including Seafield and Strathspey Estates and businesses, in ways that support the community.



## i. Active Travel map



Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



## ii. Green Space map



Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



### iii. Housing and Infrastructure map



Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



#### iv. Streets and Parking map



Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

## 8. Next Steps: Delivery

### Steps to deliver the Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan

The next steps to start working with the action plan and looking at how parts can start to be delivered will be subject to some discussion within Grantown's community organisations, but broadly involves **collectively**:

- Following up with the *Grantown Forum* (see below) to take the plan forward. Agreeing a chair for a specified period at a time, so will rotate after X months or after X meetings
- Agreeing to adopt the Values and Principles laid out below
- Drawing up a more detailed delivery action plan for each prioritised project, identifying aims, actions, milestones, who needs to be involved, key deliverables. (VABS has a template for this.)
- Agreeing what suggestions will be taken forward initially
- Managing the project volunteer list that has come out of the process
- Involving all key stakeholders (organisations & individuals) in co-design of project delivery
- Communicating progress with the community
- Reviewing progress on a regular basis
- Revisiting the action plan as required

### Values and Principles

The following values and principles will underpin the way in which this action plan is rolled out and implemented:

- 1) A plan for all - it is the responsibility of the whole community (individuals and groups) to unite and work together for project ambitions to be realised
- 2) Transparency - all ideas should be planned and researched openly with a commitment to co-production where groups contribute to the ideas as they develop
- 3) Partnership - working together with a shared agenda will be at the heart of any activity arising from this plan
- 4) Inclusion - everyone is invited to participate and everyone benefits, regardless of age and ability
- 5) Impact - the success of this plan will be judged on activities which have a positive influence on people and communities
- 6) Involvement - ensuring the community is meaningfully involved in decisions that affect their lives.

### Grantown Forum

It is very important to ensure the effective delivery of this action plan, for the whole community to work together to implement it, ie a full community approach not just one or two organisations. The Grantown community under the *Grantown Forum* will be the body that will principally take this forward which comprises as many as 14 of the main community organisations operating in the town for the benefit of the wider community.



The *Grantown Forum* will be the body for agreeing on how the Steps at the start of this section are taken forward, as well as where responsibility will sit in terms of delivering on the Values and Principles outlined above. It will not have a separate legal identity, but simply be a forum called maybe two or three times a year, perhaps by a rotating chair. It comprises as a minimum, representatives from the organisations who initially steered the action planning process, together with any other community groups who wish to be involved.

#### Ongoing community engagement

A process for securing community mandates for projects at key milestones is advisable, so that projects can enjoy broad community support, follow best practice in terms of co-design and allow for those who will be most impacted by a project's deliverables to be involved in the activity.

#### Volunteer lists

A list of people who have come forward to volunteer in general or for specific projects, has been compiled from a question in the survey and also information given by residents at the Big Conversation event. The Grantown CAP Volunteer list is a vital part of delivering on the action planning process and those on the list need to be kept informed of how things are being progressed and what part they might be able to play in that.

#### Levels of Support

The surveys have given the key community organisations in Grantown-on-Spey a lot of detailed information coming from a wide sector of the community, regarding their thoughts on issues and ideas for projects that they would like to see taken forward on their behalf.

The suggestions fall into two main groups and will require to be tackled in a different way:

- projects which, although some are mid to longer term, are possible for the community to take forward themselves, with some minimal support from the relevant key agencies or support organisations.
- large, complex issues around employment, housing, transport, business support and infrastructure, where the community will require a great deal of long-term assistance from various public, third and sometimes private sector organisations in order to take these forward and make a notable difference.

#### Monitoring, Auditing and Evaluation of the Community Action Plan

Monitoring, auditing and evaluation are essential requirements of any Community Action Plan to ensure it is being implemented. *The Grantown Forum* will meet regularly to review progress on the plan. Keeping records against each theme and project will be a useful tool to ensure progress is being maintained. These meetings will be open and accessible to all groups and individuals. Evaluation provides an opportunity to reflect and learn from activities, assess the outcomes and effectiveness of a project and think about new ways of doing things.

## 9. Thanks & Acknowledgements

Thanks for all their involvement and hard work in helping to make the process a success must go to:

- \* Grantown & Vicinity Community Council
- \* Grantown YM Community Centre
- \* Grantown Initiative
- \* Grantown Society
- \* Grantown Museum
- \* Grantown Business Association
- \* Anagach Woods Trust
- \* Grantown-on-Spey and Dulnain Bridge Church
- \* Sustainable Strathspey
- \* All the delivery volunteers who put surveys through every household's door

Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS), as an independent community and volunteering development charity, supported the Grantown community through this community action planning process and facilitated the steering group meetings, but always following the community's lead in how they wished to proceed.

Community Action Planning (CAP) is carried out in partnership by all of the Cairngorms National Park communities on a regular basis at the community's request.

Funding to VABS to facilitate the communities' CAP process is provided by the Cairngorms National Park Authority.



## 10. Appendices

### Appendix i

#### What do you like about living in Grantown?

- Living here is special: a vibrant community spirit – with lots of friendly and caring people. Close knit and most people know each other.
- The feeling of being part of a strong community – good for wellbeing as you always see someone you know to talk to
- Fantastic environment, being so near to nature – amazing air quality, the Spey, surrounded by forest with easy access to beautiful woodland walks and the Speyside Way
- The High Street and all the independent shops, cafes, galleries, post office AND all the wonderful shopkeepers!
- Always lots of events to look forward to eg Grantown Show, tractor rideout, the Harleys, the markets, festive lights, Truckfest, the fantastic Hogmanay celebrations and Torchlight parade with Santa
- The Square provides a lovely space in the centre of the town – beautiful and historic
- Anagach Woods -extensive and accessible for all. A wonderful asset having it on our doorstep
- Very safe – for families, young and older. Safe walking at night.
- Lovely little town with nice cafes and local amenities, talks and groups catering to a wide range of interests.
- I like that I can buy almost everything I need from Grantown ... even fresh fish!
- Grantown Museum; KJ's Bothy Bakery (outstanding); YM Community Centre; Grantown Hub; Craig MacLean Centre; swimming pool; hotels; golf course; library; great garages for car servicing; the Coop
- Clean and tidy streets
- The community centre is a real hub with lots of activities for all generations
- Volunteers: commitment from some members of the community to make town more vibrant to live and work in by ensuring things happen
- Lots of places (big spaces) to play – parks and play parks (Dulaig especially)
- Having nursery, primary and grammar school in our town
- Some lovely old buildings – the architecture, history and culture of the town
- Impressive range of local organisations that provide support and entertainment for the community
- Sustainable Strathspey and its activities
- Good bus network
- Lovely flower displays in the spring and summer
- Proximity to main Highland rail line and A9
- Town with strong values and traditions
- Excellent medical centre
- Diversity of wildlife
- I like being able to walk everywhere I need to go

- Cycling infrastructure that gives access to the wider countryside
- Tennis courts and Bowling Club
- Refurbished Burnfield toilets
- Low levels of traffic
- Having HC Service Point & Library
- Free parking
- Fuel station

## Appendix ii

### What changes would you like to see for Grantown by 2030?

#### **SOCIAL**

- More affordable housing available:
  - Needs to be mid-market/social
  - Build H2 in the Local Plan
  - Push for completion of Dulicht Court development
- Road & pavement repairs
  - Better pavements & accessibility throughout Grantown for people with reduced mobility, pushchairs, kids bikes etc
  - Road and pavement repairs, especially Grant Road, Seafield Avenue, pavements on approach roads from the south
- Traffic issues
  - Enforcing of 20mph in town
  - Speed bumps on High Street/Square to discourage speeding
  - Install (Highland Council) car recognition camera on lights crossing between Hub and Spey Bank Studio
  - Reduce car noise and racing in the Square and around the town
  - Lower speed limit on approach roads to Grantown. Move 30mph further out
  - Better marked bays in the car parks
  - More disabled parking on the High Street - also by Coop
  - Increase parking limit to 3 hours rather than 1
- Sports Hub that lots of different sports teams can use - have changing rooms, meeting place, pitch. Old Scout hut?
- More activities / social groups for 25-45 year olds and younger people in general – a place to hang out and socialise safely
- Craig Maclean open longer at weekends / More public swimming times at the pool / facilities to properly train with weights
- ‘What’s On’ and ‘What to Do’ in Grantown – 2 separate listings that can be found electronically in one place
- More joined up public transport eg buses with train timetables and later service back from Inverness

- More affordable activities for whole families
- Further improvements to YM Community Centre to ensure its success eg Astro turf pitch at rear
- Parkrun up and successful with lots of regular involvement
- Find a good use for old telephone exchange/site
- Upgrade Inverallan Church to a community hub
- Revisit existing community plans eg Iconic Report and Grantown Compass to build on those ideas
- Installation of road name sign for Birchview Terrace (off Seafield Ave) and Woodlands Crescent ( opposite St Columba's Church)
- Close road in Square for short while on Remembrance Sunday
- Repaint railway sign at triangle
- Support for adults who need help filling in forms
- Community Education classes for fun and qualifications
- Reduce smell from sewage works by duck pond
- Broadband in Speybridge

## ENVIRONMENTAL

- Active Travel opportunities
  - Cycle path built from Dulnain to Grantown
  - Increase width of access to parts of Anagach Woods for adaptive bikes, buggies etc
  - More bike infrastructure: bike hire facilities in Grantown; bike repair café; bike racks on High St
  - Project to get more people cycling around town, especially safe routes to school
  - Maintain paths in Beachan Woods
- Growing Spaces
  - More opportunities and support to grow own vegetables and produce
  - Community Allotments
  - Community gardens / Orchard
- Improve the town's biodiversity and response to climate change:
  - Pollinator planting in the 2 public gardens
  - Plant more trees
  - Promotion of recycling and waste reduction to encourage a circular economy
  - Wildflower planting in Square around trees
  - Maintenance of Kylintra Meadow
  - Make more of community garden at Townhouse
  - Improve look of park area / revive community orchard opposite Craiglynne Hotel – new seats, picnic tables & tidy up
  - Dredge the skating pond
  - Start small by cleaning up litter and weeds in and around town

- Conservation Area (CA) Management Plan needs to change to make it easier to install renewable energy/energy efficiency options within the CA. Currently having the CA penalises this which is counter-productive as long-term effect will be to make buildings unusable
- Reduce dog poo eg at path to pond
- Reduce littering: new community bins in town; community litter picks  
*A number of people however mentioned the wonderful work already carried out by our Council workers in the town, which is very much appreciated*
- Lobby Highland Council to invest in warm-light LED streetlights to save the council costs, but also to replace or cap the lights we have to keep the light pointing downwards. Beneficial for dark skies and nature
- Scheme for food waste composting
- More support / information sessions for homeowners to switch to renewable heating systems
- Start a Community Tools Scheme (Grantown Remakery to host?)
- Woodland Games area in Anagach Woods
- Council Recycling centre to have a shed for reusable things / local recycling community enterprise like Moray Waste Busters
- Community microgeneration project
- Protect sensitive areas such as The Mossie from development
- Dogs kept on leads, especially in capercaillie areas
- Reinstatement of wildlife garden at primary school
- More EV chargers
- 'Trout only' Spey ticket

## OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Improve / Redesign Mossie Park – with different offering from Dulaig playpark. Maybe 'themed' and designed for more natural/imaginative play
- Hobby classes for children / teenagers
- Outdoor group for kids to learn outdoor skills
- Youth café
- Young children's nature days

## ECONOMIC

- Key worker accommodation for Ian Charles Hospital site
- Improve childcare options for under 3s
- Better provision/management for campervans - ban campervan parking by the river
- Repurpose Palace Hotel for housing
- Broaden the economic focus of the town to create a more resilient economy
- More support for the local economy:
  - shop local
  - create opportunities for new enterprises



- more apprenticeships for young people
- Maps and signposts need renovation
- Better signage for Burnfield toilets
- More support for Work From Home businesses
- Improved transport services for getting to work/college
- Work with hotels to bring more of their visitors on to the High Street
- More office space to rent to encourage more businesses into the town
- Encourage business owners not to park on the High Street
- Grantown Society (The Hub) and Grantown Museum to support each other with tourist information
- More use of Grantown Remakery to encourage reuse and recycling of goods that otherwise are going to the tip eg furniture

## CULTURAL

- The Square:
  - Replace bollards and chains – restore to how they were
  - Sort out parking issues, especially by the Coop and at Maclean’s bakery
  - No charge for community use of Square
  - Plant more trees to replace lost/old/dying trees
  - Wildflower planting areas around base of some trees
  - Don’t pedestrianise it please
  - More benches
  - Speyside House clock to tell right time
- High Street looking more vibrant:
  - all shop fronts in some sort of use
  - improved maintenance of some buildings
  - flags and flowers outside shops
  - initiative (economic?) to try and encourage all shop owners and landlords to improve their premises (frontages/woodwork/gutters/downpipes). Can a community volunteer work party help with this?
- The steam train back in Grantown
- Inverallan and the YM to work together to avoid duplication and competition for activity space
- Support for local artists / musicians
- Refresh to Grantown Museum with some interactive displays
- Preserve Grantown’s history for future generations
- Explore possibilities for Pictish trail, Well trail, Tree trail
- Information about the Poor House history
- Info board about old Mineral Well
- Renovate or demolish Gladstone House – tidy up front garden, cut overhanging foliage

## Appendix iii

### What new/existing projects would you like to see happening in the community?

#### NEW

- More Gaelic/local folk live music events/projects
- Grantown Parkrun
- Hobby clubs for children/teenagers
- Tabletop gaming group for adults eg Dungeons & Dragons/Warhammer
- What's On for Grantown
- Mental health support – safe space, guidance for those struggling
- Support groups for drug and alcohol awareness in the community – awareness, prevention initiatives
- Focus on healthier food at the Coop
- Childcare project
- More LGBT+ events
- Precious plastics project to become a Zero Waste town
- Success of Open Studio event ... and expansion
- Swift boxes project
- Covered tennis courts
- Youth café
- Beginners weight training classes
- Walk/cycle/wheel 'bus' to school
- Sports Hub area
- More litter picking groups
- Dementia walking group

#### EXISTING ... don't want to lose

- All our amazing community organisations and clubs that support and provide activities for the town
- Craig Maclean Centre, the pool and all the activities and classes
- All the independent shops on the High Street and elsewhere in the town
- Free access to our Square
- Uniformed groups: Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts
- Community Cinema & community café
- Library
- Hogmanay, Greentown Show, Harleys, Grantown Show
- Christmas Lights
- Art shows & classes at Spey Bank
- Grantown-on-Spey and Dulnain Bridge Church - Inverallan Church
- Shinty Club
- Strathspey Thistle youth team
- Health Centre
- U3A
- Nature talks at Grant Arms
- Dancing classes
- Community choir
- Business networking and connecting across all sectors
- Services: community groups must work together and not replicate services eg information to avoid downfall of one or both/all