



OUR COMMUNITY.....A WAY FORWARD

**DRAFT COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN
ADVIE**

2008

OUR COMMUNITY .. A WAY FORWARD

Background

Our Community .. A Way Forward was carried out as a pilot project, covering the communities of Grantown-on-Spey, Cromdale/Advie and Dulnain Bridge. The work involved gathering information on housing, social and economic issues; conducting a survey of all households; and organising a range of community consultation activities. Residents were asked to identify the best things about their community as well as improvements. Following an analysis of the information and community feedback obtained, priorities for action have been identified. Individual action plans will be finalised in discussion with the project Steering Group and each community.

Advie – An Overview

Households from Advie and Cromdale were included in the same survey. Findings therefore relate to both communities. In addition, most of the statistical data and information obtained was for both Advie and Cromdale.

Population

Advie's population has remained relatively static over the last few years but is projected to increase over the course of the next decade, with the number of households increasing at a faster rate. The population is ageing with a growing proportion of residents aged 60 or over.

Employment and the Economy

The local economy is reported to be relatively buoyant. Employment patterns are similar to the rest of Highland although there is a tendency for both male and female employees to work longer hours. Agriculture continues to be an important employer, with tourism also important to the local area.

Housing

Compared to the rest of Highland there is a higher proportion of empty properties and a much higher proportion of private rented accommodation and tied housing. There is no social rented housing in Advie. Feedback from the community consultation suggested that several households (for example those living in tied accommodation) had either not applied to the Council for housing as there is none in Advie or had applied to other areas in Badenoch and Strathspey, thereby understating the extent of local housing need.

House prices in Advie have risen dramatically over the last few years, and continue to rise, making it increasingly difficult for people living and working locally to access affordable housing.

Whilst there is an ongoing demand for housing to buy on the open market, due to the shortage of affordable housing options, there is also a growing reliance on private rented housing.

Facilities and Amenities

In Advie, the one facility is the village hall - an attractive and well restored building. Advie Church was recently sold although the community will still have access to it for weddings and funerals.

Community Organisations and Groups

Cromdale and Advie Community Council has recently been revitalised after a period without membership. Monthly meetings alternate between the two communities. The Community Council receives community funding from the nearby wind farm which can be paid three years in advance for specific projects. The repositioning of Advie's war memorial has been a recent contentious issue which the Community Council has had to address.

Advie Hall Committee has only three members at present. There are concerns about the Committee's future and the fact that responsibilities and hard work fall on a small number of individuals.

Community Issues and Views

The community consultation and the household survey provided an opportunity for people to tell us what they thought about their community and what was needed for the future. Key findings are summarised below.

Living in Advie

Survey respondents indicated that while a third of residents had lived in the community for over 20 years, a similar proportion had lived there for less than five years.

The things people most liked about living in Advie were the scenery and natural environment; the low crime rate; and living in a small village.

High Points and Successes

Achievements in raising money for and improving the village hall were identified as Advie's greatest successes, together with the fact that it has remained a rural community. Support from the local Councillor Stuart Black and the renovation of the houses at Tormore were flagged up as further achievements.

Advie's Strengths and Assets

The people and being able to depend on neighbours for help was regarded as the community's greatest asset, together with the safe environment, providing an ideal place to bring up children.

Things to Value/Keep

Feedback from the community consultation and household survey highlighted the size and character of the communities, community spirit and the rural way of life as being the things most valued.

Change/The Future

Community consultation participants in Advie indicated a need to build upon and improve their existing relationship with Tulchan Estate which has considerable influence on life in the community. The improved provision of services and amenities within this small rural village was also emphasised. Whilst public transport has improved, more improvements were felt to be needed.

Next Steps and Action Planning

At the 'Next Steps' community consultation event, participants allocated all of the issues raised at the previous event against one of three categories of importance: high, medium, low, with some being moved from one category to another following discussion. Issues were then grouped into the following themes for discussion:

- Housing
- Transport/roads/bridges
- Village hall
- Telephone exchange
- Relationship with Estate/water supply.

The draft Action Plan that follows has been developed by the project steering group. The Action Plan will be finalised in discussion with Cromdale and Advie Community Council and Badenoch and Strathspey (Community Planning) Partnership.

Abbreviations used in Action Plan

Agencies/Organisations	
AHC	Advie Hall Committee
AoCC	Association of Cairngorms Communities
B&SHF	Badenoch & Strathspey Housing Forum
C/ACC	Cromdale and Advie Community Council
CNPA	Cairngorms National Park Authority
HIE	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
HSCHT	Highland Small Communities Housing Trust
THC	The Highland Council
VABS	Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey
WFF	Windfarm Fund

Service Section	
CLD	THC Community Learning and Development

Individuals	
FM	Fiona Munro
JT	John Thorn

ACTION PLAN – ADVIE								
THEME	AIM	ISSUES/OBSTACLES						
Housing	<i>To develop a more accurate picture of local housing need</i>	Household survey included Advie and Cromdale. As Advie is the much smaller community, more work is needed to identify housing need, especially as there is thought to be hidden need, e.g. among households living in tied accommodation.						
ACTION		Lead Agency/ Section	Lead Individual/ Action Contact	Partner Agencies	Local Lead Organisation	Level of Priority	Funding: sources & est. costs	Time-scale
1.	Gather more accurate information on local housing need – to include: ♦ Carrying out further work, e.g. contacting households door to door ♦ Obtaining information on housing from Tulchan Estate	THC CNPA	/FM & B&SHF FM	CNPA THC Tulchan	C/ACC C/ACC + AHC	High	CNPA THC	Short
2.	Amend THC housing application form to ensure local needs identified in areas where there is little or no social rented housing. Sue Palmer (Highland Council) agreed to take this up with Housing Services.	THC		CNPA AoCC	C/ACC	Medium		Medium
3.	Improve information and advice on affordable housing options: by: ♦ Information on grants and mechanisms for LCHO ♦ Look at ways of providing advice on housing options, particularly for people in tied accommodation	CNPA CNPA	FM FM	HSCHT THC AoCC	C/ACC C/ACC	High	CNPA THC	Short

ACTION PLAN – ADVIE								
THEME	AIM	ISSUES/OBSTACLES						
TRANSPORT/ ROADS/ BRIDGES	<i>To improve provision of public and community transport services available to the Advie community</i>	Concerns include: ♦ Lack of integrated transport (e.g. to Inverness) ♦ Cost of public transport ♦ Shortcomings of community transport (e.g. Dial-a-Bus does not cover Advie)						
ACTION		Lead Agency/ Section	Lead Individual/ Action Contact	Partner Agencies	Local Lead Organisation	Level of Priority	Funding: sources & est. costs	Time-scale
4.	List of transport concerns to be sent to Ward Manager and raised at April Ward Forum meeting	THC	JT	CNPA	C/ACC	High		Short
THEME	AIM	ISSUES/OBSTACLES						
TRANSPORT/ ROADS/ BRIDGES	<i>To improve road junction at Advie Monument</i>	Council has advised that discussions are ongoing with BEAR Scotland about the possibility of upgrading this junction. At a previous meeting about re-siting the war memorial residents advised that work was likely to be too expensive						
ACTION		Lead Agency/ Section	Lead Individual	Partner Agencies	Local Lead Organisation	Level of Priority	Funding: sources & est. costs	Time-scale
5.	Follow up to check outcome of Council/BEAR discussions	THC		BEAR	C/ACC	High		Medium

THEME	AIM	ISSUES/OBSTACLES						
TRANSPORT/ ROADS/ BRIDGES	<i>To carry out safety improvements to railway bridge</i>	Bridge was strengthened a few years ago by British Rail. The Council has said that it might consider safety improvements for inclusion in next years bridge maintenance works						
ACTION		Lead Agency/ Section	Lead Individual	Partner Agencies	Local Lead Organisation	Level of Priority	Funding: sources & est. costs	Time-scale
6.	Discuss possibility of safety improvements with Highland Council and enlist support of local Councillors for inclusion in future programmes.	THC			C/ACC	Medium		Medium

ACTION PLAN – ADVIE								
THEME	AIM	ISSUES/OBSTACLES						
VILLAGE HALL	<i>To carry out further improvements to Village Hall and ensure Hall is run in line with national legislation/policy</i>	Issues include: ♦ Activities are organised in the Hall but tend to be supported by the same small group of people ♦ Works have been carried out but more work needed. Priorities include new windows and car parking ♦ National legislation and policy is making it increasingly difficult for small communities to run village halls.						
ACTION		Lead Agency/Section	Lead Individual	Partner Agencies	Local Lead Organisation	Level of Priority	Funding: sources & est. costs	Time-scale
7.	Case for funding window replacement to be made to Community Council for monies from Windfarm fund and to Highland Council via Discretionary Budget.	VABS		THC/CLD CNPA AoCC	AHC + C/ACC	High	WFF THC CNPA	Medium
8.	Take forward proposals for village hall car park on land presently being cleared for for repositioning war memorial	THC		VABS	AHC + C/ACC	Medium	THC WFF	Long
9.	Access low cost training in hygiene regulations through VABS community development workers	VABS			AHC	High		Short

ACTION PLAN – ADVIE								
THEME	AIM	ISSUES/OBSTACLES						
TELEPHONE EXCHANGE	<i>To improve access to Broadband</i>	Some but not all households in Advie have access to Broadband. Those interested in Broadband have registered under the Scottish Government scheme						
ACTION		Lead Agency/ Section	Lead Individual	Partner Agencies	Local Lead Organisation	Level of Priority	Funding: sources & est. costs	Time-scale
10.	Obtain information and advice from HIE Inverness and East Highland on accessing Broadband or for installation of satellite system	HIE		VABS	C/ACC + AHC	Medium	HIE	Medium

ACTION PLAN – ADVIE								
THEME	AIM	ISSUES/OBSTACLES						
ESTATE/ WATER SUPPLY	<i>To build on the relationship with Tulchan Estate to enable a joint approach to issues of common concern</i>	Thought that the community would benefit from a more collaborative relationship with the Estate to enable a joint approach to discussing and resolving common issues and concerns. The water supply was considered to be a key issue for discussion.						
ACTION		Lead Agency/ Section	Lead Individual	Partner Agencies	Local Lead Organisation	Level of Priority	Funding: sources & est. costs	Time-scale
11.	Confirm up to date position on improvements to water supply to individual houses and Advie Hall with Highland Council	THC		TE	C/ACC + AHC	High	TE THC	Short
12.	Contact Estate to request a meeting to discuss water supply and other issues of concern	CNPA		THC VABS TE	C/ACC + AHC	High		Medium

ADVIE – TOP PRIORITIES		
QUICK WIN	Action 11, or: Action 7	Water Supply (some houses already being fitted with water filters) Installation of new windows at Advie Hall
FIRST PRIORITY		

