

From:

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Cairngorms National Park Authority  
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Dear CNPA Planning Department

24/2/18

**Cairngorms National Park Authority Main Issues Report consultation - Carrbridge H1**

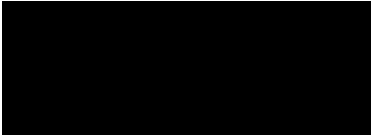
I am writing to respond to the CNPA's consultation on the Main Issues Report, specifically the section on preferred sites for housing in Carrbridge (p. 79). In this, you recommend that H1 (Carr Road) be retained as an allocation for 72 houses. I am writing to express my view that this allocation is wholly inappropriate for Carr Road and for Carrbridge:

- 72 houses built in this location will **increase traffic to a dangerous and totally unacceptable level**. Carr Road is a narrow road, with barely sufficient room for two cars to pass, and few locations where pedestrians can step off the road. It is an important route to school for primary school children, and route to the bus stop for secondary school students. An increase in traffic, of the scale proposed, would pose a danger to these and other users.
- Developers have suggested that 72 houses will double the number of cars on Carr Road. This is an enormous change in the level of use. Add to this the fact that the developers' assessment included the cars turning onto Carr Road from houses right next to the junction with the Main Road, and it is clear that the number of cars travelling the full length of Carr Road will actually increase by far more than double.
- I am aware that previous proposals for housing here were based on access from the main road (B9153) on the southern approach to the village. This was proposed precisely because Carr Road does not have capacity to accommodate the traffic associated with such a development. Those development proposals failed because access from the B9153 is unacceptable on an environmental basis. For the planners to now be trying to put the traffic flow back onto Carr Road, as a 'fix' to enable the development to go ahead, demonstrates woeful disregard for the original judgements about the suitability of Carr Road to accommodate such a major increase in traffic flows.
- A development of 72 houses in Carrbridge is totally disproportionate and inappropriate. It will completely alter the scale and character of the village. I, and many other Carrbridge residents feel passionately that the character of where we live is very special, and - far from protecting this - the CNPA's proposals threaten the very nature of our community.
- I believe that an **appropriate scale of development in this location in Carrbridge is 12 houses. These would need to be 25% affordable housing, with the remainder as low to mid-market housing to meet local demand.** The development should also include some communal recreational space. This scale and pattern would be commensurate with the character of our village. I believe any development bigger than this, on Carr Road, would be against the interests of our community.
- I have heard the argument from developers that such a small scale and low-cost development is not worth their while; that, to be profitable for them, a development needs to be large, and comprised of expensive houses. I don't believe this is true, or in the local interest. Smaller developments, of lower cost houses are suitable for local building firms to take on. The CNPA should not be pressed into a development which is in the interests of big-scale building companies, and against the wishes and needs of local communities. Better-still, some members of the community would welcome the opportunity for self-build plots.

- In previous consultations, the Planning Department has received many letters from Carrbridge residents expressing our view that a large-scale development of this type on Carr Road is not appropriate. Many of us feel we have written on numerous occasions to express our concern about what is proposed here. When the CNPA Board came to see the site, 100 residents turned out to express our objection. As a community we have made our views clear and we have expressed them firmly. To see the National Park Authority persisting with a proposal to which there is clear community opposition is, to say the least, disheartening - it gives us little faith that the Authority acknowledges and values the community view.
- I also have concerns about the practicality of constructing a development along Carr Road, in particular the difficulty of access for construction vehicles, given the narrow nature of the road, and the difficulty large vehicles have turning into Carr Road.

Finally, I am aware that previously, the CNPA has recognised the concerns of many in our community and sought to reduce the number of houses that has been proposed for site H1. The position of the CNPA was then overturned by the Scottish Government. It is for this reason that I am copying my letter to Fergus Ewing MSP, so that he is aware of the strength of feeling about this proposed development in our community.

Yours faithfully,



Cc Fergus Ewing MSP

24.02.18

*See additional notes attached.*

Carol Turnbull,



Date; 24.02.18

To CNPA.

**Addendum to letter of 24.02.18**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I would like to make the additional points in objection to the proposed housing site on Carr Road, Carrbridge.

**Access; Carr Road does not meet the Governments own road provision criteria;**

**Road width; Government guidelines state unclassified road width should be 5.5m min, plus 1.5-2m for pedestrians / 2m verge.**

At PineView, Carr Road is only 5.3m wide, with approx. 100 mm to a fence on one side, and approx. 200mm to prickly bushes on the other; no verge, no pavement. There are regularly cars and minibuses parked outside the Carrmoor guest House, Lynroy and other homes, where the road surface has a wall on one side, with grass verge on part of the other. Any areas of verge are disconnected requiring pedestrians to cross the road many times. Clearly Carr Road does not meet the governments own criteria, therefor additional traffic for 72 homes cannot be accommodated.

'Designing Streets'; diagrams on page 40 show road width for shared space being approx. 25% wider than a 2 lane road with pavement to each side; in Carr Road we have approx. half the overall width implied in this document (5.5m average overall width to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, cars, large farm vehicles), therefor half the width required for shared space in government guidelines.

Due to the limited public transport in this area, there will be greater than average car use.

**Snow;** Carrbridge has on average, very high snowfall for a residential area, which piles up at either side of the road reducing it to single lane for both vehicles and pedestrians to share. (average 30-60 days of lying snow; Met Office website).

**Pedestrians;** As this is the route to Primary school, playpark, playing field, shop, bus stop for Secondary school, there is currently heavy pedestrian traffic, and whilst children / pedestrians / pushchairs, children on cycles, are passing parked vehicles, it is not possible for moving vehicles to pass. This clearly contravenes your own documents; 'Designing Streets' states that; a street should be a social space. Highland Council 'Roads and transport guidelines for new developments (draft Nov 2010); 5.15.2.5; Footpath width should be wide enough to stop and talk without causing an obstruction. 5.27.1.1; Play areas; most children can safely walk or cycle to and from them without the need of an adult escort.

**Existing driveways and access lanes:** The Access lane to An Bothan and 3 houses behind is blind to the right, so a car needs pull out approx 2 metres out into the road before it can see approaching vehicles, the same applies to many driveways along Carr Road.

**Cycle route:** Carr Road is a Sustrans National Cycle Route from Inverness to Perth. The additional vehicular and pedestrian traffic using the same narrow space will compromise safety for all.

**Tourism:** should be promoted; Carrbridge is a tourist village; where most businesses exist on tourism. Carr Road is a busy route for walkers, particularly in summer, many walk up from the Carrbridge Hotel (200beds) and numerous other smaller hotels. This level of increased traffic would contravene Highland Councils document; Roads and transport guidelines for new developments, draft, Nov 2012; 1.5.2; must reflect the rural character of the area.

**Farming:** Carr Road provides access to farms / agricultural land beyond the village, so large farm vehicles regularly use Carr Road; including large lorries carrying livestock/ feed/ produce/ haybales etc, large tractors with trailers, combine harvesters, Maintou fort lift type vehicles, Unimogs, etc etc. As Carrbridge is a rural village, and farming is a vital industry, these vehicles cannot be hindered, and increased numbers of children and vehicles using the same narrow space is not desirable.

**72 additional houses is simply too many houses to access from Carr Road**

Yours sincerely,

Carol Turnbull.

