



Newtonmore Business Association comments as regards Big Issue Report

Newtonmore Plan.

1. Wider impact assessments need to be undertaken on developments in village for example;
 - Provision of additional industrial development space at ED2, this must also come with improvement of the junction between Station Rd and Perth Rd.
 - Traffic calming measures in order to “police” current speed limits.
2. What analysis has been done. Is there a requirement for small scale rentable business units for business development/startups industry and food production? Do not currently see any empty ones.
3. The housing requirements have been well discussed and analysed and a range of housing options are required along with supporting infrastructure and transport provision

Visitor/Local experience facilities

1. Notice provision of more off Road walks. Speyside Way is mentioned but not The East Highland Way which has increasing amount of traffic. A section of that is on the A86 at Laggan. In addition, what support/provision is there from the CNPA for supporting these with marketing so that the economic impact is maximised.
2. Improving visitor experience is mentioned at Cairngorm and Glenmore, but should more effort be placed in taking away from these “honeypots”. With for example greater Ranger Activity walks in the more peripheral areas such as Badenoch.

3. Impact assessment on current facilities ensuring increased numbers do not dilute experience due to inadequate supporting infrastructure.
4. What specific support and budget will be given to local communities to enhance facilities?
5. There is mention of Improved information and help with supporting community activity in this area which is good. What form will this take, level of budget and SMART plan?

Infrastructure

1. A9 dualling is identified as a significant development. What work is being undertaken that during that work visitor experience is not negatively impacted?
2. I would also argue that ensuring train/bus services are adequate and suitable for people commuting, and, where there are stations, trains stop more regularly especially early morning trains to the south and north. Early trains do not stop in Newtonmore.

Economic Development

1. Analysis of what facilities are required for local economic development, such as small business units for, industrial, commercial activity. Which might include food grade facilities. What I mean by this is, is there a demand for more small business units like there are in Newtonmore? How can these be built by the various agencies as in peripheral area there is a need for agency intervention?
2. It is avoiding the "one size fits all" approach and ensuring that economic support to business is shared across all aspects of the economy and not short term gains.

Please note we have responded to the Plan in this format, as it is essential that the next iteration of this plan has specific actions and measurable objectives for each community, otherwise it appears more as a box ticking exercise, rather than an SMART plan to achieve benefits for all in the National Park.

Eric Dodd

2nd March 2018