

'Empower the change and savour the adventure!'

**Newburgh Research Project
From October 2011 until March 2012
Final report**



'Empower the change and savour the adventure!'

NEWBURGH COMMUNITY Final Report

"Good community development work is done in ways which challenge disadvantage and tackle inequalities. It involves changing the relationship between ordinary people and people in positions of power. It is not simply about listening to the loudest voices, or doing things the way they have always been done. It is an approach to achieving social change."

Community Development Alliance (Scotland)

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Introduction

Newburgh has grown substantially in recent years and Foveran Community Council in partnership with Community Learning & Development requested a survey to be carried out to establish residents' current views about the community and its needs. This was supported by Formartine Community Planning.

Background and Purpose

A new comprehensive survey would give the following additional benefits to the village

With the development of a growing village this research could look at:

- The wider needs of the village
- Ways to develop and strengthen existing community groups.
- Encourage an interest in new community groups being set-up.
- Revive an interest in groups which have ceased, such as the Gala.
- Continue to look at increasing community facilities within the Gallowshill area of the village as a potential location for leisure activities. This is an ongoing project with the Community Council and Aberdeenshire Council.
- Looking at an area of land behind Inch Road for development as a park for the residents.

Aims

To work with the local community of Newburgh to:

- Assess local needs.
- Identify key gaps in facilities and provision.
- Establish a community plan to address significant needs
- Engage with the community with regard to the ongoing development of the Gallowshill Leisure project.
- Engage with the community with regard to the development of green land for residential park use.

Objectives

To clearly identify and evidence community issues and concerns.

- For the local community to be engaged in processes and to become more empowered through action, involvement and achievements.
- Engage with the community with regard to the development of green land for residential use.
- Encourage the community to be more active and take responsibility to develop new volunteering opportunities.

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Process

What we did

In the initial stages a series of meetings were called by Community Learning & Development to gauge the opinion of local residents about what needed to be researched. An advert was placed in the local newspaper, along with an article for the Foveran Community Newsletter regarding how to get in contact allowing wider involvement in the project. Those who made contact joined together with other community representatives to form a steering group to oversee the research.

In May 2011, two Community Action Researchers were employed to carry out the research project on behalf of Newburgh residents. The funding for this project came from Formartine Community Planning Partnership; with day to day support being given by Community Learning & Development and The Formartine Partnership.

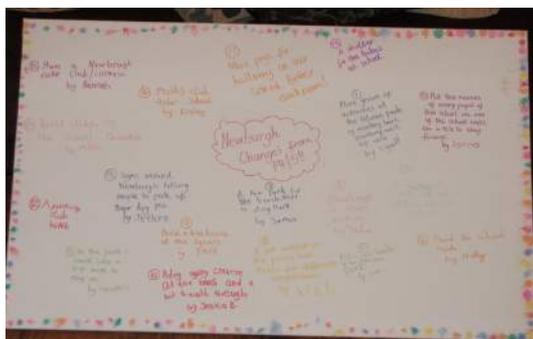
How we did it

The first task for the researchers was to find out what was currently in place and how people got in contact with established community groups. From this, they made contact with the groups and started to compile a list of issues and concerns that were being expressed by their membership.

Wish boxes were distributed in the local shops and businesses where residents could complete a form and 'post' it into the wish box. These were collected by the Researchers and the information gathered was collated and fed back to the steering group and used to form part of the research.



One-to-one interviews were carried out with those who were unable to attend events, but still wished to take part in the research project.



Graffiti Boards were installed at local venues such as the Primary, Nursery Schools and the local Youth Club to maximise the project and to collect small clips of information about local issues. The children at the primary school in Newburgh drew pictures of their wishes for the villages' future and ideas of how this could be carried out.

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Engagement

As part of the consultation, Community Learning & Development set-up an email address which was made available for those interested in receiving updates. Anyone who had expressed an interest by contacting the email address was invited to be part of a focus group meeting to 'try out' the questionnaire. From the information which was gathered by the researchers they were able to formulate a questionnaire. Each participant filled in a questionnaire and was asked to add comments and suggestions for making the final document tailored to the needs of Newburgh. The questions were considered and amended where required. By the end of the meeting everyone had agreed the contents and style of the questionnaire.



Once the questionnaires were ready to be distributed a team of volunteers had been recruited by Community Learning & Development and the researchers, who were willing to go and deliver to every household in the village. The same group of volunteers' returned a few days later to uplift the completed questionnaires. A plastic holder was issued with the questionnaire to allow residents to leave completed questionnaire on their door-steps.

Part of the questionnaire was:

- Appropriate forms to complete for potential volunteers.
- Increase membership of any established groups.
- Be part of setting up a new group/opportunity.
- An invitation to attend a public consultation using 'World Café' style techniques.

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Those attending the World Café event, which was held in a local hotel, had the opportunity to express their thoughts and give additional information. Along with Community Learning & Development staff who were present at this event were the local Councillors, representatives from other Aberdeenshire Council services and Grampian Police. This gave the community an opportunity to speak directly to the delegates.



Findings

There were 600 hand delivered questionnaires to households throughout Newburgh. From this, we had a 43% return of completed questionnaires which gave us 264 comments from individuals who answered relevant sections within the form.

- 8.6% were aged between 0 and 5 years
- 13.1% were aged between 6 and 11 years
- 13.7% were aged between 12 and 25 years
- 12.9% were aged between 26 and 39 years
- 36.7% were aged between 40 and 59 years
- 15.0% were aged 60+

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When asked how satisfied or dissatisfied the residents were about living in the village the responses were;

- 55.3% felt very satisfied about the village.
- 36.4% were fairly satisfied about the village.
- 5.7% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the village.
- 0.8% was fairly dissatisfied.
- 0.8% being very dissatisfied.
- 1.0% gave no comments either way.

These findings do suggest that, for most residents, Newburgh is a good place to live but like anywhere there is room for improvement.

Prior to the research, many of the issues that were coming from the community were concerns regarding dog fouling. A question was put in to gauge the extent of pets' owners in the village.

- 35.4% (93) had no pets.
- 31.4% (83) were dog owners.
- 19.7% (52) were cat owners.
- 13.5% (36) had a variety of other pets.

This information will support any follow-up action made by the Community Council looking to install additional dog bins in suitable areas both on the links and leader paths.

Environment

- 66% of respondents would use cycle lanes connecting to local settlements such as; Ellon, Balmedie and Collieston.
- 47% of individuals use the play parks in the village, of which there are a total of five.
- 46% felt that the parks would benefit from more benches/seating.
- 43% felt that the play parks required more bins within the park vicinity.



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- 38% felt that a wider variety of equipment was required for a more variable range of ages of children in the community.



- 19% of respondents felt that the creation of a footpath along golf road and a path to the coast and beach would encourage individuals to go out walking.

- 11% felt that Newburgh village could benefit from a “village clean up”, suggestion that local volunteers could initiate this task to empower individuals to keep their own village litter free.
- 8.7% felt that the grass in and around the play parks required cutting and tidying up.
- 3.8% felt that it was essential for the health and safety of the children that dog faeces needed to be cleaned up.

Community & Leisure

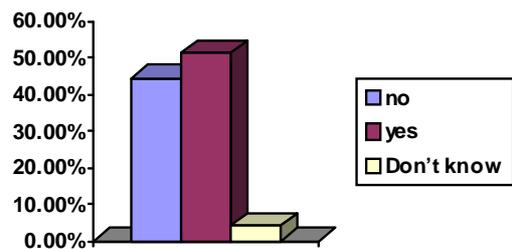
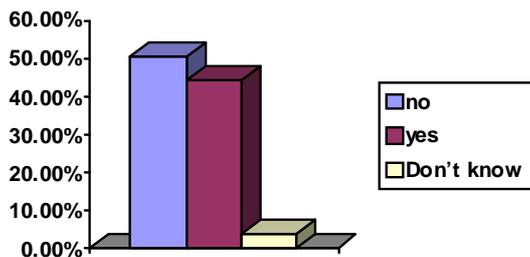
When looking at the various activities that families did attend, either within Newburgh or have to travel, there was only a little difference shown if these activities could be provided for within the village.

Attend activities outside Newburgh

If these activities were provided within Newburgh would you go?

no 44.4%
yes 51.3%
Don't know 4.2%

no 51.0%
yes 44.8%
Don't know 4.2%



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While these figures support little change if activities were to be replicated within Newburgh there was a positive response for new groups to be established.

- 23.9% were interested in establishing a walking club.
- 15.9% were interested in establishing a cycling club.
- 15.2% were interested in establishing a running club.
- 15.2% interested in introducing water sport within the estuary area



- 14.3% were looking for various adult learning opportunities to be made available locally, these ranged from archery to yoga with music in-between.
- 8.7% interested in creating a dog walking club.
- 6.8% were interesting in looking at providing a skate park in the area.

Facilities

When looking at the available community buildings in Newburgh, the questionnaire asked if respondents felt, they were adequate for the size of the village.

- 17% replied yes (44)
- 1.5% replied no (4)

Comments gathered as suggestions for both the buildings, services and amenities within the village.

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- 5.3% thought there should be activities for youth/teenagers.
- 4.9% felt that the current buildings were adequate.
- 4.2% looked at upgrading both the public hall and church buildings.
- 3.4% would like a café.
- 1.9% felt that there should be some health services such as doctors or pharmacy service.
- 1.5% stated that disabled access to the buildings were poor.
- 1.1% requested an ATM/hole in the wall service.

The balance of respondents gave no comment to this question, which could indicate no real concerns regarding the facilities and what they offer.

An important asset of Newburgh is, of course, the beach area which is used by most residents on a regular basis. When asked about improving access to the area the following information was gathered.

- 33.7% expressed concerns regarding the existing boardwalk, looking for it to be both extended and repaired.
- 11.4% requested that the potholes in the car park be repaired.
- 5.3% would like to see additional dog bins being provided in key locations.

Once again the balance of respondents gave no comment with regards concerns over access to the beach, although, it has to be noted that, the number of people who had concerns with the boardwalk access to the area was quite high. Over the years both the bridges and walkways have been neglected and are now in urgent need of repair.

Crime & Safety

The questionnaire asked if the individuals in Newburgh were satisfied or dissatisfied with local issues that were identified in the area.

- 69% of individuals were dissatisfied with speeding through the main street in the village.

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- 54% of the respondents said that they were not happy with the parking on the main street in Newburgh.
- 42% of respondents are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with vandalism in the village, 24% feel dissatisfied with the vandalism.
- 32% felt that crossing the main street in village was unsafe and were dissatisfied. It was asked if the residents of Newburgh felt that there was adequate police presence in Newburgh, 34% felt that there was not enough police presence.
- 26% and 27% of the respondents stated “satisfied” or “neither” respectively, for crossing the main street in Newburgh.

Local Business

- 69% of respondents in Newburgh would use a social enterprise outlets (such as Community Food initiatives, North East Credit Union and Fair Trade) if it was available in the village.

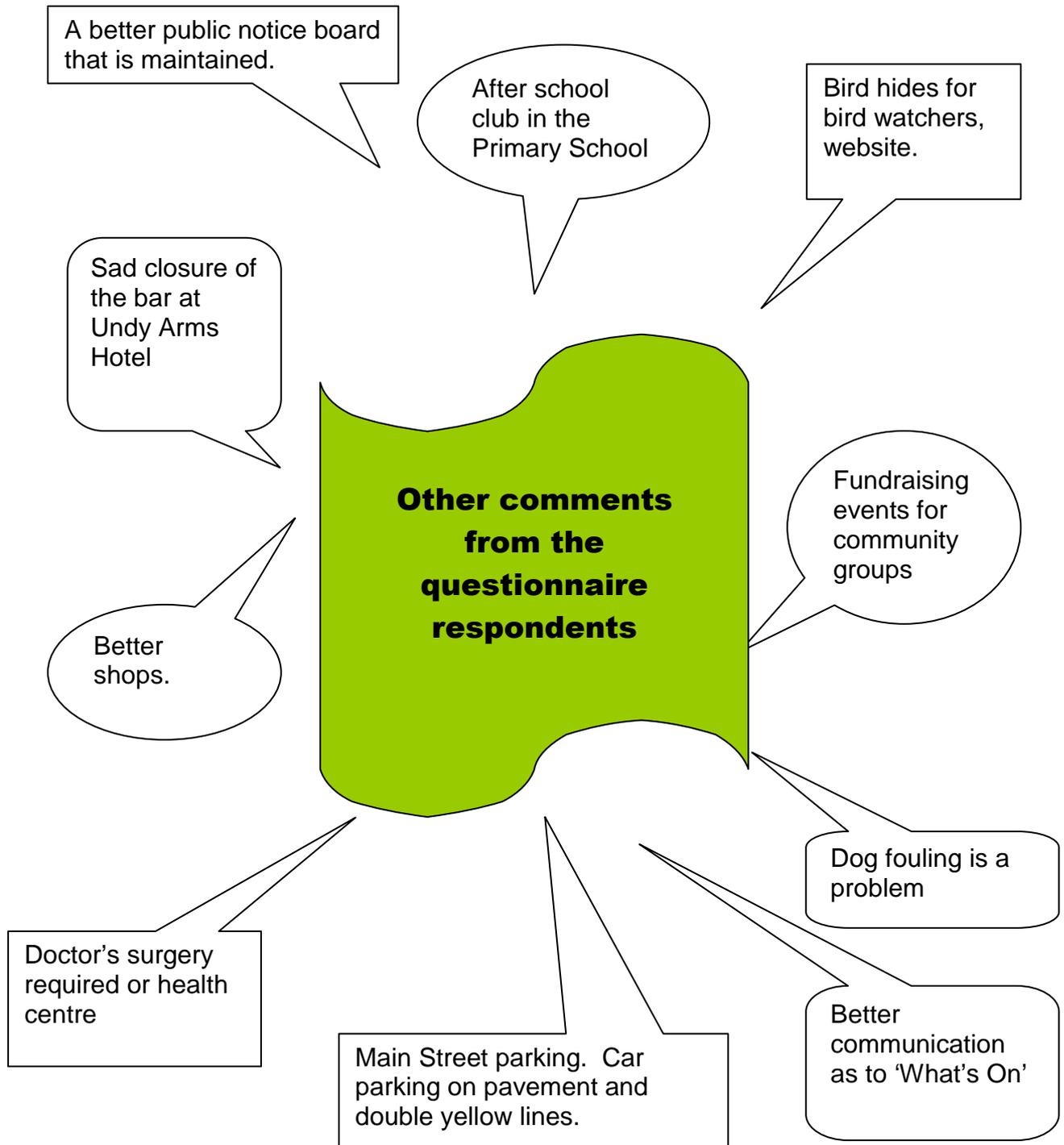


- 2.7% of individuals felt that a doctor or pharmacy would be beneficial to have in Newburgh, even on a part-time basis to meet the needs of the individuals who could not easily access the surgery and pharmacy in Ellon settlement.

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Other views

The data collected from the questionnaire which fell into the 'other' themes was varied in response.



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World Café - 9th November 2011

As part of the consultation process, Community Learning & Development held a World Café style meeting in a local hotel. Invitations to this event were publicised as part of the questionnaire and posters displayed across the village.

Each table had a theme which reflected the topics asked by the questionnaire. Participants round the table offered up issues that needed to be addressed. They were then collated and an audience response system (PPVote) was used to collectively agree which areas were to be given the greatest priority. This style of engagement allowed the sharing of both ideas and opinions. Also, allowed the community to have a voice.

Results of this process are as follows:

Environment

- **48% greatly concerned by the access bridge to the links being in a state of disrepair.**
- 19% supported the idea of creating a footpath along Golf Road and path to the coast and beach,
- 15% were looking at the creation of a new park.
- 11% suggest a beach clean community activity.
- 7% would like to see cycle ways through the village.

Community & Leisure

- **33% thought that there was an issue regarding communication re- 'What's on'**
- 30% would like local clinics and surgeries to be held in the village.
- 19% had concerns with regards the health and wellbeing of those aged 60+. One highlighted concern was the lack of community transport to allow access to health provision in Ellon and Aberdeen.
- 11% would like the set up of a village website which would include facebook pages for young people.
- 7% felt that the current transport provision was not frequent enough.

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Facilities

- **31% had concern regarding the current bus timetable for the village.**
- 23% were concerned about the disabled access to the public hall and the beach.
- 19% were concerned by the lack of facilities available to young people. Ideas were for a skate park and better use of the links pavilion.
- 12% would like to see a refurbishment of the Public Hall.
- 12% were in support of a new community centre which the local church have already proposed to look at.
- 4% interested in a café.

Crime & Safety

- **32% expressed concerns about motoring issues on Main Street, these being parking, speeding and lack of crossing facilities.**
- 21% express speeding as a specific issue.
- 18% would like to consider a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for the village.
- 14% complained about dog fouling and the location of dog bins. This also reflected on the dog warden service and education of dog owners.
- 11% were concerned with vandalism and called for some form of CCTV service across the village.
- 4% expressed concerns about cars parking outside the school.

Social Enterprise Initiatives.

- **48% wanted the Community Café to increase capacity with regards opening times.**
- 44% looked for the Gala to be restarted.
- 7% were in favour of some form of community food initiative possibly being run from the current shops.

The priorities from the evening have been highlighted in bold. Many of the same issues came to light through the questionnaire but by getting local people together to speak about them have confirmed the research findings.

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Volunteering in your community

Next steps

From the consultation, there had been a number of suggestions for new or previously disbanded groups to be rejuvenated. From February 2012 and April 2012 Community Learning & Development staff plan to meet with the volunteers who wish to move these ideas forward.

Suggested ideas for groups.

Flower & Gardening Group

- 24 people showed an interest in widening this group. Currently this work is being carried out by a few individuals in the village, but they would like to see Newburgh in bloom on a bigger scale.

Dog Walking Group

- 14 people were interested in development of this group. The development of a social group for dog owners in the area. Also providing some dog training locally.

Social Enterprise Group.

- 10 local people were interested at looking at various social enterprises opportunities that could be available in the village.

Tennis Club

- 15 local people showed an interest in starting a tennis group in the village. This would be to provide tennis coaching and leisure use of the tennis court.

Neighbourhood Watch

- 15 local people were interested in gaining further knowledge about setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Water Sport

- 17 local people were interested in accessing water-sport within the estuary area. There is already a small group of people set to take this forward.

Walking Club

- 26 local people were interested in forming a walking group. This would enhance health and wellbeing along with lowering social isolation.

Cycling Club

- 18 local people were interested in forming a cycling group. This would enhance health and wellbeing along with lowering social isolation.

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Gala Committee

- 24 local people were interested in re-establishing the annual Gala event. The plan for this group will be to plan a family picnic to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Christmas Light Committee

- 13 local people were interested in helping with the Christmas lights for the village. This would be as a fundraising group and the arrangements for the lights

Park Committee

- 25 local people were interested in forming a park committee for the village to develop and maintain the green areas of the village.
- Additionally to this 2 people were interested in looking to develop the area at Inch Road as a community park area.

Gallows Hill Development

- 12 local people were interested in looking at the current and future development of the Gallows Hill area of the village. This would be in partnership with the Community Council and Aberdeenshire Council. Work has already started in project with the funding and building of new changing facilities at the football pitch.

Running Club

- 13 local people were interested in starting a running club in the village. This would enhance health and wellbeing along with lowering social isolation.

General volunteering opportunities

9 other people showed an interest in volunteering but were non specific in which area they were interested.

There is a willingness to make Newburgh a better place to live, as reflected from the high numbers of volunteers.

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By working in partnership with the Community, Community Council, Foveran Partnership and Aberdeenshire Council services we will be able to put the findings of this report into action.

There have already been changes made.

- Gardening group has been formed and are make plans to rejuvenate many of the landscape areas within the village. They have also been working on the links area to improve the look and layout of the surrounding.
- A Gala committee has been formed and while they would have liked to hold a gala this year felt that time restriction would not make this happen. So.....they plan to hold a 'Diamond Jubilee Picnic' on Sunday 3rd of June for everyone to celebrate together.

Many of the other groups are taking shape and will gain momentum as they grow.

It is our aim to continue to promote what's happening in the village by way of a monthly newsletter update. This will be made available at the Post office or by email if requested.

To request an up date by email contact:

annette.holland@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

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Acknowledgments

The findings of this research have indicated that Newburgh residents have been active participants in identifying their own needs and how to meet them. Involvement in completing the questionnaire and subsequent focus group and world café event brought the community together, mixing those who had years of involvement in local activities with others who had never participated in community events. This was a useful exchange of information for everyone and developed into a clear enthusiasm and commitment to influence the community's future development.

As new groups and opportunities develop, keeping the village active and vibrant, so too will the local community, strengthening a strong sense of ownership and pride.

Commissioned and funded by Formartine Community Planning Group.

Project Development by Community Learning & Development and Formartine Partnership.

Support of volunteers who hand delivered and uplifted completed questionnaire.

The community of Newburgh, Aberdeenshire who help to shape this report.

Jackie Burr & Lisa Hofford
Community Researchers
Annette Holland
Senior Community Learning & Development Worker

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Appendix

Priorities which came from the research and the consultation

Gallowshill Project (Theme: Community & Leisure)

There had been some initial work carried out by Foveran Community Council on behalf of Newburgh residents. The project would be looking at land halfway between Udney Links and Gallowshill as a natural viewpoint. The aim of this project would be to increase community facilities within this area.

Inch Road Project (Theme: Environment)

Foveran Community Council are looking ways develop the land behind Inch Road as a park for residents. Looking at new footpaths and cycle tracks leading from this area.

Setting up of Community Group. (Theme: Community & Leisure)

Through the consultation a number of ideas for new groups were highlighted. Over the months Community Learning & Development will make contact with the local residents to move the ideas and plan ahead. The strongest of these are the gardening group and Gala committee.

Disabled access to public hall. (Theme: Facilities)

An area of concern raised through the consultation was the lack of disabled access to the public hall. The public hall is committee run by local residents.

Social Enterprise. (Theme : Local Businesses)

From the questionnaire and the consultation event there was an interest in developing some volunteering opportunities through social enterprises. The main two would be the Credit Union and Cfine.

Corner Café/Church of Scotland (Theme : Community & Leisure)

This is a social enterprise currently supported by the local church. The consultation highlighted that they would like to see the opening times extended. This would be dependant of volunteers coming forward to help.

Traffic speeding (Theme: Crime & Safety)

As part of the research and consultation, there were still concerns regarding speeding through the Main Road and parking issues.

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Community Action Plan

Priority Themes	Key Issue /Focus area	Lead Agency/Partnership	Action/Outcome
1. Community & Leisure	<p>Further develop the Gallowshill Project</p> <p>Increase community groups in Newburgh</p> <p>Corner Café.</p>	<p>Foveran Community Council Formartine Community Planning</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council – Community Learning & Development</p> <p>Church of Scotland</p>	<p>-to continue to develop Gallowshill area for leisure activities along with local volunteers.</p> <p>-to support the setting up of independent groups. Needs highlighted as Cycling, Walking, Gala, Flower & Garden, Tennis and Water-sports etc.</p> <p>- Support the Church to widen the opening times of this venture.</p>
2. Facilities	<p>Disabled access to public hall.</p>	<p>Public Hall Committee</p>	<p>-to support the committee to enable them to upgrade the disabled access to the public Hall.</p>
3. Local Businesses	<p>Look at developing a social enterprise for Newburgh</p>	<p>NESCU CFINE Aberdeenshire Council – Community Learning & Development</p>	<p>-to support the setting up of small social enterprises locally run by volunteers.</p>

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<p>4. Environment.</p>	<p>Inch Road Development</p> <p>Increase the number of footpaths etc.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the issue regarding dog fouling</p>	<p>Foveran Community Council Aberdeenshire Council – Community Learning & Development</p> <p>Foveran Community Council Formartine Community Planning</p> <p>Foveran Community Council Formartine Community Planning</p>	<p>–to continue to develop Inch Road area for the help of local volunteers.</p> <p>-creation of new footpaths, cycle lanes and reinstating the foot bridges onto the links/beach areas.</p> <p>-prevention of dog fouling through education – provision of extra bins and signage.</p>
<p>5. Crime & Safety</p>	<p>Speeding on Main street</p>	<p>Foveran Community Council Formartine Community Planning Grampian Police</p>	<p>-speeding limits to be reduced on Main Street.</p> <p>-monitoring speeding and report finding back to the community.</p>
<p>6. Bus Service</p>	<p>Bus timetable</p>	<p>Formartine Bus Forum.</p>	<p>-to ensure a bus service that meets the need of the community.</p>
<p>In addition to the research</p>	<p>Bridge access to the links</p>	<p>Foveran Community Council Formartine Community Planning</p>	<p>-to raise awareness and support for a replacement bridge. Dates have been set for public meetings to be held April 2012.</p>

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Partners who may help to deliver the above

CFINE

-An organisation run by volunteers to provide fruit and vegetables to promote healthy eating in the community.

www.cfine.org/

Church of Scotland

-The Corner Café is run by volunteers through the church.

Community Council

-A community council is a group of local people who care about their community and want to make their area a better place to live.

Aberdeenshire Council - Community Learning & Development

-Supporting the community to develop new skills and create volunteering opportunities.

Community Stakeholders

-The residents of Newburgh

Formartine Bus Forum

-Act as the principal focus for consultation on public transport matters.

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/publictransport/forums.asp

Grampian Police

-Working with the people of Formartine and Grampian to improve well being and keep all our communities safe.

NESCU

-North East Scotland Credit Union (NESCU) is a financial co-operative, owned and controlled local members, as a 'not-for-profit' social enterprise.

Public Hall

-The public hall is run by a committee of local volunteers.

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Public Art – Newburgh Mathers Primary School – 2012

