



FINDERNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Report on Community Consultation Questionnaire 2022

Executive Summary

BACKGROUND

The FINDERNE Community Council (FCC) decided that because it had been four years since the last survey of the FINDERNE community and with the events that had taken place since 2019 that it was timely to seek the views of the community to see what should be the focus and priorities of the FCC. In June/July the FCC forwarded a questionnaire to 491 addresses seeking the views of the community.

There were 110 replies, which represented 22% of the total, of which 77 were online and 33 hard copies. The following is the Executive Summary of the main report which contains detailed appendices of the data that was extrapolated from the replies.

RESILIENCE PLANNING

There were 30 replies indicating willingness to become involved in producing the proposed resilience plan and/or the execution for the FINDERNE community. This will provide a good basis for the plan. However some replies did not include contact details so the FCC will reach out to the community to ascertain contact details.

Next Steps. The FCC will form a working group to include community volunteers to develop a resilience plan for FINDERNE. This will include looking at wildfires amongst the risks to be managed.

TRAFFIC ISSUES

The responses showed significant support for the use of vehicle activated signs and the construction of a shared use path from Rafford to Forres. Moreover, there was support for increased police speed checks and traffic calming measures.

Next Steps. The FCC will continue to press ahead with its current plans to develop a footpath within Rafford, the procurement of vehicle activated signs and enhanced village signage. We will also campaign for a shared use path from Rafford to Forres, and engage with the Moray Council regarding a speed limit between Upper and Lower Rafford, visibility at junctions and grass cutting.



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WINDFARMS

Whilst the consensus view from Rafford was to focus on maximising the community benefits from windfarm developments, the Logie and Dunphail area showed a majority, albeit only slightly, in favour of continuing resistance to new windfarm developments.

Next Steps. The FCC will modify its present stance on windfarm developments within the FINDERNE area and would consult the community on a case-by-case basis. The FCC will engage with organisations such as Energising Moray to ensure maximising the benefits of windfarm developments to the FINDERNE community. However it will not routinely object to windfarm proposals outside the FINDERNE area.

HOUSING

Generally there was little support for additional housing, particularly from Upper Rafford. Whilst in responses from Logie/Dunphail there was less resistance to any new developments. Responses from Upper Rafford indicated nearly 60% were against the proposed Brockloch housing development, with most preferring it to be used for other community purposes. However, if additional houses were to be built, responses showed they should be smaller affordable homes.

Next Steps. The FCC will continue to monitor and comment on any future planning applications within the FINDERNE area. FCC will also liaise closely with the FINDERNE Development Trust (FDT) who are the main party in developing the Brockloch project, with a view to minimising impact on the local community.

Chairman's Note: The FDT had recently acquired ownership of the plot of land, opposite the Rafford Village Hall, upon which the proposed Brockloch housing project would be built.



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OTHER ISSUES FROM THE RESPONSES.

There were several issues raised by the responses that did not fit into any of the preceding topic headings and included the following;

- The concerns of poor broadband service within the FINDERNE area figured considerably.
- Road safety including verge cutting and footpaths.
- The issue of dog waste and the provision of dog waste bins.
- The lack of public transport.
- Active travel routes.
- A community shop.
- Refuse collection.
- Mains sewage.

Next Steps. The FCC will work towards addressing the various issues raised in the 'Other Issues', concentrating on the broadband issues.

CONCLUSION.

The questionnaire was designed to highlight the issues that matter to the residents of the FINDERNE area and act as a vehicle for residents to express their concerns for their environment. The FCC would like to thank all those that took the time to reply to the questionnaire. The FCC will now move forward and work hard to resolve these issues. Clearly some are likely to be simpler to tackle than others.

To view the Main Report and the detailed appendices, follow this link to our website <https://findernecc.com/community-consultation-2022/> .

Please feel free to delve into this data.

T S McCracken

Chair FCC