

## ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES FROM POTTERTON PROJECT

The Potterton project was an event which took place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 and was organised by Belhelvie Community Council in conjunction with Formartine Partnership and was aimed at the villages of Potterton, Belhelvie, Whitecairns and Blackdog to find out from the villagers what they would like to see happen within their village in relation to improvements in facilities and amenities.

Another aim of the project was to advise the villagers of the sums of money which the community council has been allocated by Aberdeenshire Council to be used for enhancements or improvements in each of the villages.

The event featured large scale maps of each village and the villagers were invited to discuss any issues with the officials present. Small prompt cards were available covering a very wide range of subjects to encourage the villagers to put an appropriate card at a specific location on the map. A total of 73 cards were used along with a number of completed questionnaires and these were used as the basis for this report.

The report has been divided into specific sections rather than villages to try and collate the general needs and requirements of our area and it is hoped that this format will also assist in targeting the various authorities required to become involved in the realisation of the outcome of the project.

It is proposed to hold a 'follow-up' event some time in the Spring of 2011 to gain further feedback from the various settlements.

One of the features of the event was to encourage residents to enter their names and e-mail addresses in the visitor's log which gives us the ability to maintain contact with them over the months to advise them of our progress and developing plans for the villages.

The attached summary gives an overview of the responses and should be read in conjunction with the Excel Spreadsheets.

## *POTTERTON PROJECT*

The following report should be read in conjunction with the attached spreadsheets

### Environmental (19)

A number of issues were raised throughout all the villages with regard to environmental issues and would probably need further input by BCC to request actions by various departments.

### Transportation (19)

19 issues were recorded regarding improvements to the public transportation service and would need further analysis by BCC before submitting to the Bus Forum for consideration.

### Gardening (9)

This list of 9 suggestions relate to gardening issues which could possibly be dealt with by community involvement.

### Grit/Litter/Dog Bins (54)

In total, 54 comments were submitted relating to this subject. A fuller analysis of these will have to be made prior to any requests being submitted to the relevant authorities for equipment.

### Parks & Paths (34)

This section relates to land which would appear to be owned and controlled by Aberdeenshire Council and most requests relate to the levels of maintenance of these areas. Again, further analysis could be undertaken by BCC to rationalise this list prior to submission to the appropriate department.

### Nature Trails (36)

Comment cards were only submitted by 3 of the 4 villages but nevertheless indicated a very strong interest in the formation of cycle/walking paths throughout and connecting the various settlements. A number of suggestions were made to use existing 'rights of way' and historical pathways which must have connected most of the villages.

### Adult Facilities (57)

There was a very strong interest in the provision of a variety of types of activities which would be suitable for adults. As can be seen by the list this covers a wide variety of subjects however the problem would be in locating a suitable venue to hold such events. Potterton Community Centre had been a popular venue in previous years however it was the general opinion of the villagers that this venue was no longer suitable due to the attitude of the organisers. Another factor was the lack of suitable heating during the winter months.

Forsyth Hall would be a much better facility if some arrangement could be made regarding cost.

### **Children/Youth Facilities (36)**

This section relates mainly to the provision of outdoor facilities for children and teenagers however a need was identified for a facility for some indoor activities and would again require a suitable venue.

### **Sports & Leisure (22)**

This section relates to outdoor sports facilities and some use could be made of our allocated funding to further these projects.

### **Roads & Traffic (Police Involvement) (74)**

The items within this section relate to problems regarding traffic and parking. Most comments are connected to speed of moving vehicles and also to perceived inconsiderate parking. There are also a couple of comments regarding the use of the villages by driving schools.

### **Roads Department (30)**

This section relates to the condition and suggested improvement of the roads throughout the villages and also covers the perceived needs for pavements and cycle lanes.

### **Miscellaneous (51)**

The comments within this section cover a range of comments and observations by the villagers and will require further analysis to extract items of practical value to the settlements.