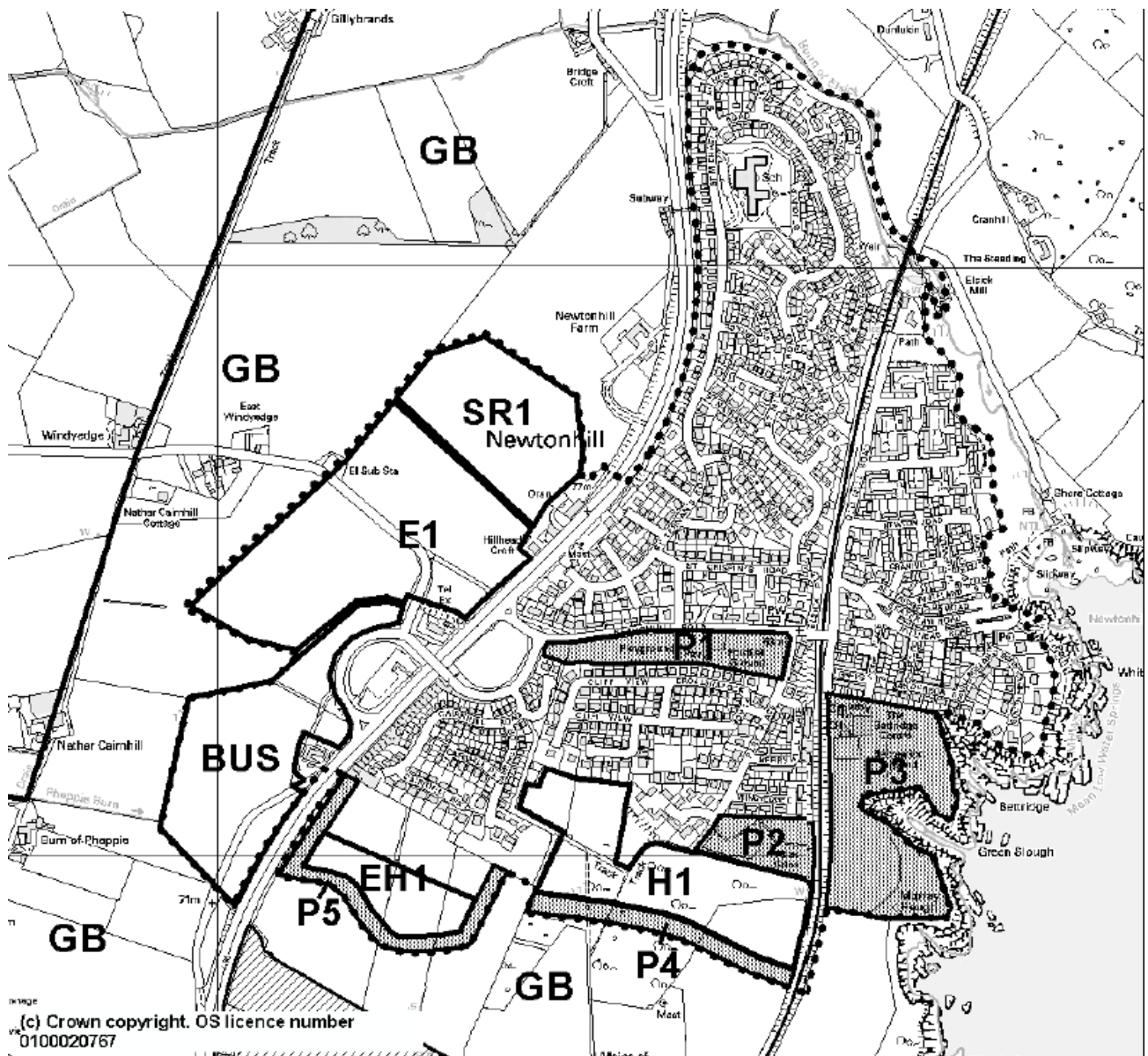


# **Newtonhill**

## **Community Action Plan**

September 2011

Prepared by  
Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore  
Community Council



This is from the 2010 Aberdeenshire Local Plan which is currently under review. Information on the new plan which has yet to be approved can be found at [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldp](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldp)

# Introduction

In May 2009 the Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore Community Council, assisted by KMAP and Aberdeenshire Council, carried out a community consultation using the Planning for Real® process. The outcomes from this have been used to create a prioritised Action Plan to help the community to focus on and develop future goals.

Based on data collected on the day and the Aberdeenshire Council's statistics on population demographic it was estimated that approximately 10% of the local population attended the drop-in event and that most age groups were well represented.

The draft Community Action Plan was presented to the residents at a Making it Real event held during June 2011 and edited to reflect the comments received at that event.

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# History

There is evidence of settlements here from before the 1650. The natural harbour at Newtonhill provided a sheltered landing place for fishermen from Cammachmore and Skateraw. A pier was built around 1880 for use by fishing and cargo vessels (coal & lime), but the harbour proved unsuitable for steam driven vessels. The pier fell into disrepair and was blown up in 1980. In the late 1880's the Laird improved the cottages to encourage the fishermen to stay, but despite this, many fishermen relocated to Stonehaven and Aberdeen. The 1901 census tells us that about one third of the cottages were vacant.

Meanwhile, Muchalls and Newtonhill stations opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1849. Businessmen in Aberdeen and further afield started to rent the cottages for the summer season and made use of the railway to access the cottages. In 1921 the Laird started selling the cottages to tenants and also sold the estates.

Businesses in Newtonhill in the 19<sup>th</sup> century included shoemakers, grocers, baker, tailor, butcher and a hotel (now the Newton Arms).

Muchalls railway station closed in December 1950 and Newtonhill station closed on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1956. This was quite some time before the infamous Dr. Richard Beeching accelerated the closure of many railway stations and tracks.

The 1971 census shows 348 persons living in Newtonhill and by 1977, after a large number of council houses were built, this was said to have doubled. In 2006 the population of Newtonhill was estimated at 3066.

West Cammachmore stands on what was the main drover's road, the Causey Mounth, from the south near Gillybrands Farm (formerly Jeally Bran's Inn in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century).

Many thanks to the Newtonhill History Group. For more information contact [elmawylie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmawylie@yahoo.co.uk).

# The following Actions have already been added to the Local Community

## ***Kincardine & Mearns Local Community Plan 2010-2014***

The K&M Local Community Plan can be found on Aberdeenshire Council's website. The Plan lays out the intentions for developments and projects for the four year period and reflects contact and dialogue with local communities, community groups, organisations and individuals. Aberdeenshire Council will be developing these projects with local communities by working with the area's Community Councils and with other partners. The 2010-14 Plan includes a number of actions specifically for Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore arising from the Planning for Real exercise, these are listed below.

## **A Community Wellbeing**

Working together to enhance the quality of everyday life by improving health and social care, housing and community safety.

### **Health Facilities**

**A11** Review provision of health centres and clinics to ensure that they meet the needs of the current and projected population

### **Road Safety**

**A21** Improve road safety through traffic management, speed limit reductions and other road safety measures

**A22** Pursue improvements to the A90 junctions with Transport Scotland

**A23** Carry out initiatives specifically targeted at reducing road collisions within K & M and making the road links in and around K & M safer for all users

**A25** Develop safer routes to schools including provision for walking and cycling to school with an initial focus on the community of Newtonhill

## **B Jobs and the Economy**

Working together to improve the economy of Aberdeenshire and the employment prospects of its people.

### **Transport**

**B9** Improve transport services in K & M by:

- a)** Carrying out a review of the 65 Special Dial-A-Trip bus services in Kincardine and Mearns to ensure the provision of a service which, within available resources, best meets the needs of older and disabled people in the area.
- b)** Providing advice and ongoing support to existing community transport schemes and assist groups to develop local schemes by advising on funding applications and other operational matters.
- c)** Completing an accessibility analysis of the Aberdeenshire local supported public transport network in Kincardine and Mearns to highlight any communities which have a lower relative provision of public transport than other similar settlements.

- d)** Following the completion of the accessibility analysis, prepare a report for the LCPG which addresses bus transport needs and other transport options in the rural areas of Kincardine and Mearns.
- e)** Introducing some cheaper fare options on the Aberdeenshire local supported public transport network.
- f)** Increasing usage of local bus services and improving public transport between villages through the provision of a high quality bus infrastructure and the promotion of bus services.
- g)** Ensuring that the potential for reopening Newtonhill Railway Station is considered as part of the development of a Rail Action Plan for North East Scotland.

## **D Sustainable Environment**

Working together to achieve sustainability by reducing resource use, protecting our environment, combating climate change and conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

**D3** Promote initiatives aimed at nurturing responsible relationships with the local environment with a focus on:

- a)** reducing littering through schemes such as Adopt-a-Street and National Spring Clean
- b)** reducing dog fouling by promoting Clean Dog walker's initiative

**D5** Deliver locally on the actions and recommendations outlined in The Aberdeenshire Walking and Cycling Action Plan:

- a)** where resources allow implement the Core Path Plan, enhancing accessibility for all
- b)** explore possibilities for providing bike friendly bus services
- c)** support the provision of bike storage facilities
- d)** promote schemes such as Cycle to Work and planning procedures that support cycling and walking
- e)** deliver skills and safety development

**D6** Ensure that in new developments adequate provision is made for sustainable waste management (i.e. provision for storage, segregation, composting where appropriate, and collection of waste) and that consideration be given to moving towards carbon neutrality and sustainable design.

**D9** Protect, enhance and make open and green spaces in the area more accessible to everyone in our communities

- b)** The Causey Mounth will be protected and where possible sections of the route will be developed and enhanced through the Development Planning and Core Path Planning process

# Four Top Priorities

## ***Safer Routes to School***

Of particular concern is a safe route to Newtonhill Primary School from Cairnhill. As part of this the path from Cairnhill across the top of the park should be improved. Also the path from the swings should be continued to meet the path at the top of the park. Then at some point a Zebra crossing or crossing patrol should be installed in Newtonhill Road.

Planning consent for application APP/2009/2530 for Full Planning Permission for Residential Development (60 Houses) at Land to East of West Monduff, Newtonhill, Stonehaven requires that "Prior to the occupation of any dwelling house hereby approved, a fully lit footpath/cycle path shall be formed that links Cairnhill Road directly with Newtonhill Road and a zebra crossing shall be formed on Newtonhill Road" The reason given was "To ensure that adequate, non-motorised, connectivity is provided from the development to community and other services within Newtonhill".

## ***Newtonhill Station***

Newtonhill is situated in a strategic growth area as specified in the Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan, 2009 and the re-opening of Newtonhill station is included in that plan.

In January 2011 The Community Council wrote to Network Rail, in response to the consultation on the *Route Utilisation Strategy for Scotland (Generation Two)*, to put the case for the re-opening of the station on the grounds of the proposed development at Elsick and the need to provide an alternative method of transport into Aberdeen other than using the A90.

Newtonhill station has been included in the Kincardine & Mearns Community Plan 2010 – 2014 (B9g).

## ***Newtonhill Park***

Many of the submissions from Planning for Real were related to Newtonhill Park and concerned facilities within the park. Access to the park across Newtonhill Road was also raised as a problem, but this will be resolved by the pedestrian crossing to be installed, see *Safer Routes to School*.

- Improve the tennis courts to include
  - Two functional tennis courts
  - Basketball hoops & nets
  - Netball court with practice goal
- Better seating area and benches
- Better park with more physical activities - improve play equipment
- Better climbing frame
- Improve swings

The Community Council has been working with local residents, a local tennis coach and a local netball coach to determine a specification for the refurbishment of the tennis courts. The refurbishment work is expected to start during 2011.

## ***Dog fouling***

This is seen as a high profile problem in the area, not only on pavements, but also on the green spaces where children play.

The Kincardine & Mearns Community Planning Partnership in conjunction with several Community Councils have developed a **Clean Dog Walking** scheme. This scheme was introduced in Newtonhill on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

## **Other Priorities**

### ***Litter***

From a survey of Newtonhill, most of the litter appears to come from a number of easily identifiable sources:

1. from children, this is mainly empty crisp packets sweet wrappers and juice containers
2. from smokers, discarded cigarette ends and packets
3. from recycle day, plastic bottles, tin lids, aluminium drinks cans and paper

The common factor here is that the most of litter is blown about by the strong winds and tends to collect in certain places. Of course all litter can be prevented, but that will require a change in human behaviour. Newtonhill Primary School has made huge progress in reducing the volume of litter coming from the school during the day and it is hoped that they continue to reinforce their anti-litter education programme.

There were several requests at the Planning for Real exercise for more litter bins. The Waste Management department of Aberdeenshire Council maintains that this is not a solution to the problem and we tend to agree with them. The wind causes the litter to collect in certain places, predominately fences and hedges. What is needed is a regular clean-up of those areas that collect the litter. By far the worst area is alongside the railway in Newtonhill.

Some litter tends to collect in the gutters alongside the roads and the regular street sweeping has a very positive impact on the appearance of the communities and we strongly encourage Aberdeenshire Council to continue this service. We also encourage the local community to pick up litter whenever possible.

### ***Roads***

Continuing road and pavement resurfacing and improvement programmes are wanted. There have also been many requests to make parking at the school safer and for a reduction in the number of cars parking on pavements and restricting safe passage e.g. for parents and buggies.

There are also requests for a Police crackdown on mobile phone use particularly during school run at Newtonhill Primary School.

### ***Leisure and Green spaces***

There is great concern among those who responded to the engagement exercises that green spaces and countryside cycle routes are preserved and maintained.

### ***The Entrance to Newtonhill from the A90***

Many residents have requested that the entrance to Newtonhill, especially from the southbound A90 be made more welcoming. A landscaped border with a carved stone has been suggested for this area, as has a living Christmas tree.

### ***Newtonhill civic pride group***

Some of the environmental issues in the village such as litter, landscaping and general appearance may be partially addressed by the formation of a local civic pride group similar to Stonehaven Horizon (<http://www.stonehavenhorizon.co.uk>). The viability of this is being assessed and it may well be undertaken as a sub-group of an existing village organisation.

### ***Cairnhill Post Box***

The campaign to provide a Post Office collection box in Cairnhill has been taken up by two local Councillors.

### ***Local Development Plan***

The Community Council has used the representations collected during the Planning for Real exercise to formulate its response to the Main Issues Report and the draft Local Development Plan 2010. The Community Council will continue to use this valuable source of information in future consultations.

### ***Supported by***

Many thanks to:  
Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership  
Kincardine & Mearns Area Partnership



Action Plan Summary

	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Community Planning Partnership</b>	<b>Outside Agency</b>
<b>Community Wellbeing</b>	Newtonhill civic pride group	<p>Review provision of health centres and clinics to ensure that they meet the needs of the current and projected population.</p> <p>Improve road safety through traffic management, speed limit reductions and other road safety measures.</p>	<p>Zebra crossing or crossing patrol should be installed in Newtonhill Road [<i>Property developer</i>].</p> <p>Refurbish tennis courts in Newtonhill Park [<i>Aberdeenshire Council</i>]</p> <p>Provide a post box for Cairnhill [<i>Royal Mail</i>]</p>
<b>Jobs &amp; The Economy</b>		Increase usage of local bus services and improve public transport between villages and Aberdeen.	Reopen Newtonhill Station [ <i>NESTRANS</i> ].
<b>Lifelong Learning</b>		Newtonhill Library is seen as a valuable community asset.	
<b>Sustainable Environment</b>	<p>Reducing dog fouling by promoting Clean Dog walker's initiative.</p> <p>Enhance the entrance to Newtonhill from the A90.</p> <p>Make submissions to the Local Development Plan regarding Green Belt to prevent coalescence.</p>	<p>Promote initiatives aimed at nurturing responsible relationships with the local environment with a focus on reducing littering.</p> <p>Maintain and improve cycle routes both for commuting and for leisure.</p> <p>Complete the cycle route between Newtonhill and Portlethen.</p> <p>Ensure that in new developments adequate provision is made for sustainable waste management.</p>	

		Protect, enhance and make open and green spaces in the area more accessible to everyone in our communities - The Causey Mounth must be protected and where possible sections of the route be enhanced.	
<b>Developing Partnerships</b>			