

## Meldrum Academy Community Engagement

### VIS - Very Important Service

| What would you like to see happen in Aberdeenshire by 2050?  |
|--|
| <b>Meldrum responses</b>   |
| More care homes near the centre, easy for shopping/bus access  |
| Variety of different sports clubs/activities   |
| Big child friendly shopping mal, arcades, forbidden planet, skate shops etc  |
| Social areas - *big venue for events, bus collects from all over local area to bring all young people together* under18's disco, social bus (young scot card)                                    |
| Neighbourhood watch: train station: skate park: paths to Kintore-Kemnay: better shopping facilities: tennis court: swimming pool   |
| Youth Cafe up and running  |
| New academy/primary school with leisure/gym and community centre   |
| Private nurseries  |
| Entertainment facilities - festivals, gigs, dances etc   |
| Updated parks  |
| Easier access to jobs for younger generation - NEED HELP WITH SKILL SET - more varied employment opportunities <b>VIS</b>  |
| Better quality retirement homes  |
| Transport links to small villages (bus service to ALL villages with regular times) cleaner, cheaper, safer public transport, more buses to allow for population and facilities growth <b>VIS</b> |
| No university fees   |
| To be self sufficient  |
| Children indoor soft play centre   |
| Double Decker trains   |
| Allow young people to take risks, give them real responsibilities and learn from failure   |
| More experience for young people, less emphasis on just looking at academic ability, look at qualities as well as qualifications   |
| Less money under spent each year   |
| More opportunities and reasons to stay for young people  |
| More clarity on the way the council makes decisions, buildings should be fit for purpose and multi-purpose   |
| Young people really being involved in decisions making, not just consulted. (lack of clear communications at the moment)   |
| Better local shopping/leisure activities and train stations  |
| More windmills and solar panels, better located and brings more renewable energy   |
| More diversity in industry   |
| Good education facilities (school meal prices are too high)  |
| More frequent and efficient community services   |
| Nuclear energy   |
| Youth based funding  |

|  |
|--|
| Community cinema - smartly allocated for access from several villages  |
| Cycle path to Inverurie, with safe cycle parking   |
| Use of CCTV (appropriate amount) for sufficient safety - STAY SAFE   |
| Litter free Aberdeenshire  |
| Recycle rain :)  |
| Less tension between younger and older people  |
| Smoke/drug free Scotland - more visual deterrents for younger people   |
| More youth work  |
| For Scotland NOT to be independent   |
| Manage our own money/trusting society  |
| Affordable, top quality housing <b>VIS</b>   |
| Education should be less broad...opportunity to specialise or re-train   |
| Move academies/libraries/cafe's and community centre to beside local transport hubs to become a centre of community activities |
| Cinema in Meldrum  |
| More time for youth clubs and drop-in centre   |
| Internet cafe/game console in evening  |
| Hover cars   |
| Bring back old school curriculum   |
| Lower fuel costs   |
| Do school via the internet   |
| Multi-activity centre/coordinated services   |
| <b>FIX THE ROADS! TOO MANY POT HOLES!!! VIS</b>  |
| <b><u>Stonehaven responses</u></b>   |
| Youth groups (Mearns and Edzell Woods youth group)   |
| Bettridge Centre   |
| Parks  |
| History of the area to stay intact and beautiful   |
| Outdoor swimming pool in Stonehaven  |
| To be as safe as it is now   |
| For there to be plenty to do in the area   |
| More cycle paths to link towns and villages  |
| More annual events e.g. fayres, bonfire nights, festivals etc  |
| The people to stay the same, friendly and community involved   |
| Shops and a supermarket in Stonehaven  |
| <b><u>Aboyne responses</u></b>   |
| More swimming pools easily accessible  |
| Scouts and Brownies still running  |
| Skate park   |
| Transport museum   |
| Ski pavilion   |
| Bus and Train prices to be lower, far too expensive for a young person to travel on public transport.                          |
| Less crowded   |
| Good job opportunities   |

|   |
|---|
| Good ski facilities   |
| Affordable housing  |
| Better internet and Wi-Fi connections   |
| 'girls' things to do (not just sports and skate parks)  |
| Expressive arts access  |
| More things for young people  |
| Countryside to stay untouched (so important to this area)   |
| Better transport services with affordable pricing   |
| Better walking and cycle paths to link small villages   |
| Good schools and more opportunity for further education   |
| School transport service (Braemar pupils currently get public bus, they have complained to police and school about odd characters but nothing is getting done about it) |
| Take more advantage of local produce and support out local economy  |
| Later public transport to get home from Aberdeen after 11pm   |
| Marr is great but to stay there as a family needs to be more activities and better accessibility  |
| Don't get carried away with housing, need to retain countryside and scenery   |
| <b>Fraserburgh Responses</b>  |
| Better entertainment facilities and more self-sufficiency   |
| Better transport links to smaller communities   |
| More for young people to do, including a youth café   |
| 'Greener' homes including the use of solar power and the creation of green energy to replace traditional resources  |
| A smoke and drug-free Scotland  |
| Better education regarding drugs and a more realistic view of the effects of drugs  |
| Better education specialism's and the choice of more subjects   |
| Lots of different shops and more employment opportunities   |
| Should be less empty shops and more centers for business  |
| More support from the police  |
| Better transport links to wide area   |
| Varied culture should become more integral to Aberdeenshire   |
| More pride for Aberdeenshire and its communities  |
| Better network coverage and faster more readily available Wi-Fi   |
| Cheaper housing   |
| Better university courses   |
| Affordable shopping   |

### Summary of event

Responding to the matter of subject choices, Maria Walker said she appreciated many of those present were in the process of moving from one education system to another with the introduction of Curriculum for Excellence.

She said that with the new system looking at the curriculum across years four, five

and six of secondary school, pupils should be able to follow as many subjects in S6 as anybody from another school.

The new system is also placing a larger focus on vocational education, as a school career 'isn't just about qualifications', it was added.

On the subject of self-sufficiency, Cllr Gifford said the council was keen to explore such options where possible. The new community and leisure facility at Banff could have solar panels on the roof, for example. He agreed that self-sufficiency is something developers should be doing more of.

Stephen Archer added that in planning terms the difficulty is that the council can't require developers to ensure buildings are self-sufficient. He added the aim was to 'get the balance right' and that some forward-thinking developers are already focusing on greener methods.

Moving on to transport matters, Mr. Archer said the council is about to roll-out real-time electronic timetabling at bus-stops over the next few months across Aberdeenshire, so that it will become easier for passengers to know exactly how long the next bus will be.

Cllr Gifford made reference to rail travel, commenting on the hopes of re-opening a station at Kintore as soon as possible. There was further discussion about looking north of Aberdeen and the possibility of routes as far as Banff and Buchan.

The room then heard the feedback from Mackie Academy, whose desires included a new swimming pool and better transport links including more cycle paths. They also called for a 'more active' community and more for children and teenagers to do. Ideas included a school bus for young people that would travel between communities to allow youths from different areas to meet up more easily.

Cllr Gifford said that the development of new facilities was dependent on the volume of numbers to support them and make them viable.

A suggestion to recycle rainwater was raised by an attendee at Meldrum. He said harvesting the resource would be sustainable, and could provide benefits nationwide and even in other countries.

Colin Mackenzie said it was important for communities to become sustainable on their own, adding he believed the world currently uses three planets' worth of resources and that this would not be viable in the long term.

The feedback from Aboyne also included a call for better transport links in the countryside, the need for affordable housing, faster internet, greater use of local produce, youth cafes and care for the environment. Cllr Gifford outlined a project being investigated to bring faster broadband to rural areas, including

Aberdeenshire.

Back at Oldmeldrum, one attendee said that providing free school meals for all pupils would make it more manageable for those who had other financial responsibilities, such as contributing to household bills.

Alan Wood said that while it would be possible to provide free school meals, the cost of such a move would need to be met by a reduction to budgets elsewhere in the council. Another attendee suggested that money from the council's under spend could be geared towards that, but it was highlighted that savings can't be guaranteed every year.

Those at Fraserburgh Academy called for train links to the north, more job opportunities and more buses in rural areas. A football net was on the list for young people at Maud.

Stephen Archer said that big projects such as establishing rail links would be expensive and take many years to develop, but added this was part of the reason the council is looking to 2050 so that planning for the future can start well in advance.

An attendee at Oldmeldrum suggested more CCTV cameras were necessary. Cllr Gifford point out that Aberdeenshire is already a very safe place to live. Another attendee said he felt that more monitoring would not be a good idea as people might simply avoid them and find other places to congregate.

As the session came to an end, Colin Mackenzie and Cllr Gifford thanked everybody for their attendance.