



Fyvie Castle

# FYVIE

WOODHEAD AND ST. KATHERINES

## Community Action Plan 2017



Fig 1. Map of Fyvie Area



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## Section 1: CONTEXT

Fyvie is a village 26 miles north-west of Aberdeen. Fyvie Parish was one of the largest in Aberdeenshire, originally including Monquhitter and Rothienorman. The 1975 boundary changes incorporated Fyvie, Rothienorman and Monquhitter Community Council (FRM CC). Each settlement's Amenities Committee works within its community. Fyvie Amenities Committee (FAC) requested this Community Action Plan, facilitated by the Formartine Partnership.

Fyvie though probably best known for Fyvie Castle, is believed to have been a Royal Burgh from the 12th century. The church was bestowed on the Abbey of Arbroath in 1178. The ruins of a priory of Arbroath, founded at Fyvie in 1285 and dissolved around 1508 were still visible in 1840. A memorial cross in the field opposite the Coop shop marks the site. Fyvie was created a Burgh of Barony in 1673. Its population is just less than 500 having hardly changed since 1960. The lack of recent growth is reflected in its appearance. Most houses date from the 19th to mid-20th century with no large modern housing estates so characteristic of nearby settlements such as Rothienorman or Oldmeldrum.

## **Fyvie Castle**

Fyvie Castle was initially a royal fortress owned directly by the king. It began life as a 12th or 13th century quadrangular castle of enclosure. In 1390, the castle was sold to the first of a succession of prominent families, Preston, Meldrum (1433), Seton (1596), Gordon (1733) and Leith (1889). In 1984 the castle passed to the National Trust for Scotland.

Fyvie Castle can make a good claim to being "the perfect Scottish baronial castle." It is one of the largest and most magnificent castles in Scotland. Each family has left its mark on the building. More importantly, General Gordon established the designed landscape that now surrounds Fyvie, draining marshes, planting trees and establishing the lake and gardens.

## **Fyvie Castle Interior**

Much of the interior we see today is the result of the Leith influence, and interest in the interior now focuses on the fine paintings that came from their collection, including more than 12 outstanding Raeburns.

## **Fyvie Castle Designed landscape**

Alexander Seton developed the castle into a Renaissance palace and almost certainly established a suitably grand landscape setting. But this in turn, was almost entirely swept away by the Gordons during the late 18th century to be replaced by the picturesque grounds which survive today.

In 1987, Historic Environment Scotland designated the landscape stating that it is "An exceptional designed landscape that scores highly in all categories." It is described as "An intact designed landscape of parks, woods and a long artificial loch, developed in the later 18th century to provide new pleasure grounds for the much older Fyvie Castle."

## **Battle of Fyvie October 28th 1644**

The Battle of Fyvie was a scrappy encounter between Royalists and Covenanters fought over the higher ground east of the castle, centred on NJ 771 392, where ditches and dykes could be used as entrenchments. Extensive remains of banks and ditches can still be seen: one of very few battlefields within the British Isles with surviving field fortifications.

In 2011, the battlefield was included in the Inventory of Scotland's most important historic battlefields. It is therefore a material consideration in the planning process, to be taken into account in planning decisions. The site includes the whole of Fyvie village. The scheduled monument of Montrose's Camp is to be found north of the settlement.

## **Fyvie Church**

St Peter's Church was built in 1808 on the site of a medieval church first mentioned in 1178. Built into the east gable are three Class I Pictish symbol stones and a Class III Pictish cross. The East gable window by Louis Comfort Tiffany of New York, was donated by American friends of the Forbes-Leith family in memory of Lieutenant Percy Forbes-Leith, of Fyvie Castle, who died on active service during the Boer War. The secret of producing the glass was lost with the death of the last member of the Tiffany family.

## **Woodhead of Fyvie**

Woodhead is a small elongated settlement, a mixture of old stone-built cottages and large modern detached homes strung out over a mile of the B9005, 2 miles east of Fyvie. All Saints Episcopal Church, built in 1849, had its spire added in 1870. Opposite the church, a 19th century cross stands some 3 yards east of an old market cross site. A 17th century charter granted the right to a market.

North of the village is the Woodhead and Windyhills Geological SSSI. Woodhead and Windyhills Community Trust was established in 2001 to conserve this unique site of "Pliocene" gravels which were under threat of extraction. The Trust have opened the area for walkers by improving and maintaining its paths and, simultaneously, conserving its geology and biodiversity.





Fyvie Lake

## Section 2. ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) 2017: FYVIE, WOODHEAD AND ST KATHERINES

A Local Development Plan (LDP) concisely links Aberdeenshire Council Planning policies and proposals to locations and is regularly updated. The current plan, approved in 2016, was adopted in April 2017. Work on its replacement, due to apply from sometime in 2021, has already begun.

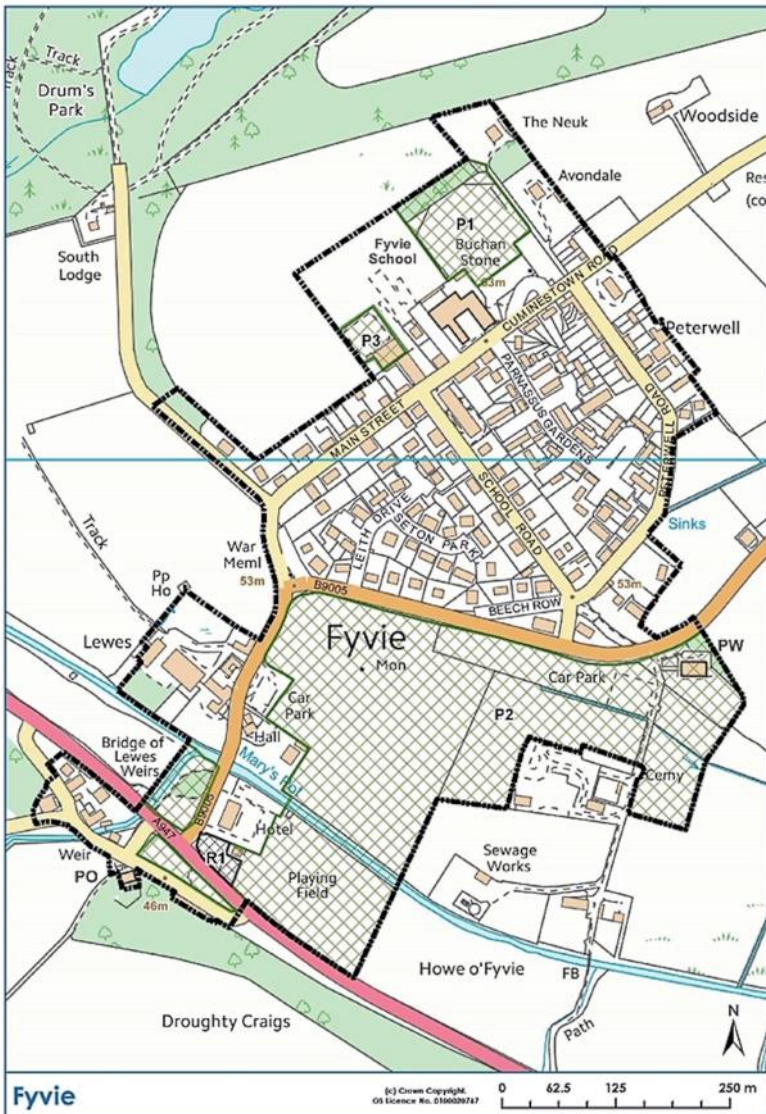
The current LDP follows the *Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2014*, in identifying two broad policy areas:

- *Strategic Growth Areas*, are intended to absorb 75% of the anticipated growth in the city region, and follow the main transport routes out of Aberdeen: A90 north to Peterhead; A96 northwest to Huntly; and A90 south to Laurencekirk; and
- *Local growth and diversification areas* where growth will be matched to local needs. This designation is further divided into a more *accessible* or *pressured area* adjacent to the city, and a *less accessible* area further out.

Because of the different development pressures in the latter two areas, local needs are viewed as requiring more restrictive or more encouraging planning policies respectively. The Fyvie area is located in the *less accessible area*.

In addition to settlements, the LDP permits development in the countryside for refurbishment or replacement of an existing or disused building; on a site which has been developed previously and is now redundant; or a dwelling house associated with the retirement succession of a viable farm holding.

Settlement Features: FYVIE LDP 2017



<i>Protected Land</i>	
P1	To conserve playing fields as local amenity.
P2	To conserve playing field, riverside park and landscape setting of the settlement.
P3	To conserve the bowling green as a local amenity
<i>Reserved land</i>	
R1	Reserved for a public transport mini interchange hub.

2.1. SETTLEMENT STATEMENTS (LDP 2017)

1. FYVIE

Vision

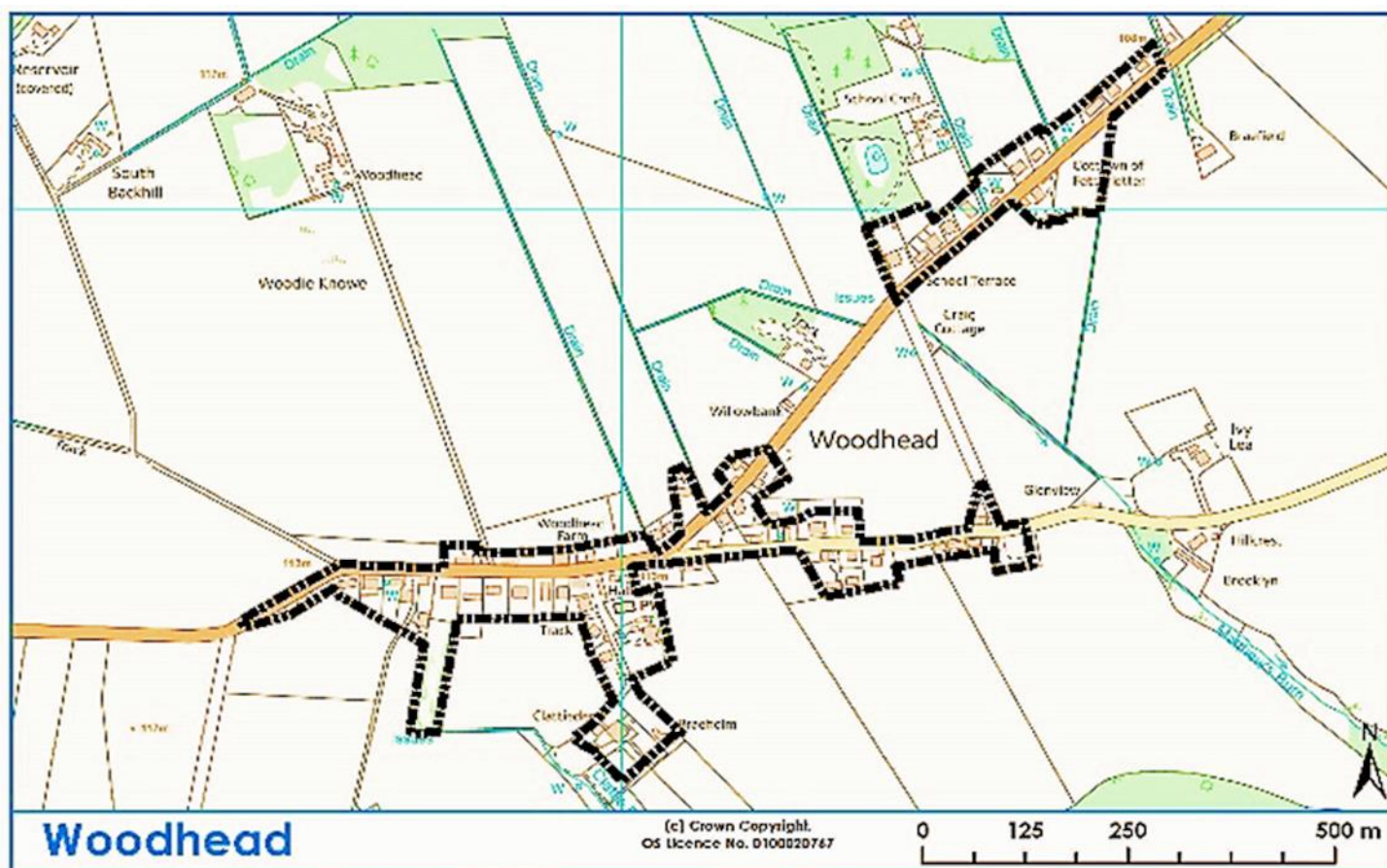
Characterised by its historic assets and excellent open space provision with a large park to the south and the Fyvie Castle Designed Landscape to the north and west, Fyvie is a large village and a key service centre for the surrounding rural community. Although an important location on the A947, with a primary school, shops, an inn, a garage and a mobile post office, opportunities for development are constrained by land ownership issues and existing designations. The planning objective is to preserve village amenity and to sustain the school roll through the rural development policy shaping development in the countryside.

Natural and Historic Environment

The Inventory Battlefield of Fyvie can be found to the north and east of the A947, incorporating most of the village of Fyvie. The Fyvie Castle Designed Landscape can be found to the north of the settlement and also across the A947 to the west of Fyvie. A proportion of the designed landscape is also within the settlement boundary to the west.



Settlement Features: WOODHEAD LDP 2017



## 2. WOODHEAD

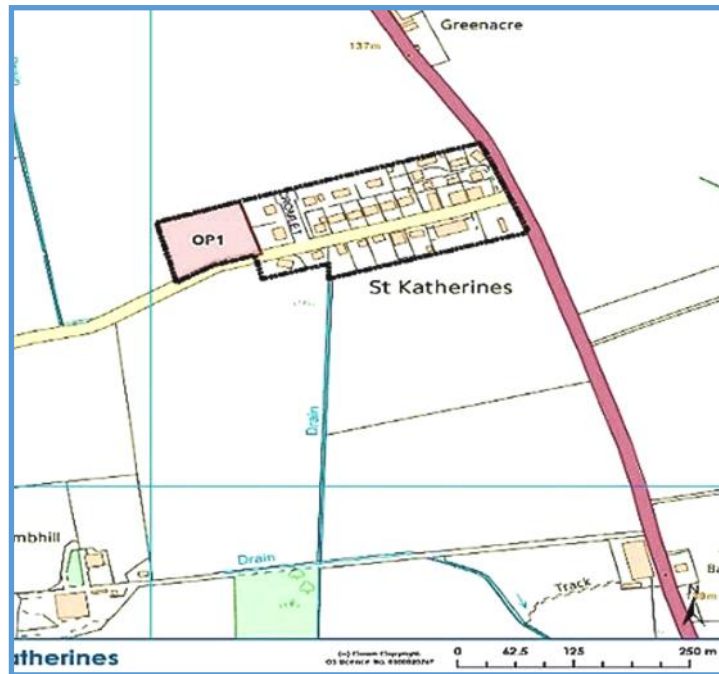
### Vision

Woodhead is a small village approximately 2km east of Fyvie. It is distinctly rural in character, with active farmland surrounding and dividing the two constituent parts of the village. Being close to larger services centres, there are few facilities or services in Woodhead. With little development pressure, the planning objective for Woodhead is to preserve the amenity of the settlement and to sustain the school roll through the rural development policy shaping development in the countryside.

### Natural and Historic Environment

- Gight and Gight Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lie to the south of the settlement.
- Windyhills and Windy Hills SSSI lie to the north. Windyhills LNCS includes some areas within the settlement boundary.

Settlement Features: ST. KATHERINES LDP 2017



3. ST. KATHERINES

Vision

St Katherines, surrounded by rolling countryside and characterised by contemporary, bungalow housing, is a small compact village on the A947, between Fyvie and Oldmeldrum. The village has no services but has excellent road and public transport links to nearby service centres. The planning objectives for this village are meeting local demand for homes and supporting local services in nearby settlements, including Fyvie Primary School. Both objectives will be met through the existing housing allocation in the village.

Allocated Sites

OP1: Cromlet Park West

Allocation: 5 homes

This site was site H1 in the 2012 LDP. Future development of this site should look to take access from the unnamed road running through the centre of the settlement. Active travel links should also be provided to the surrounding countryside to increase sustainable travel within Aberdeenshire, and in particular with the services in the neighbouring village of Fyvie.

The design of houses should be respectful to the setting of the village and to neighbouring housing styles. It is expected that one affordable home will be provided integrated within the site. Landscaping and screening should be employed to reduce visual impact on the countryside and to help increase biodiversity on the site.

## Section 3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 3.1. Planning for Real® (PFR®)

Public engagement for the Fyvie Community Action Plan (CAP) used the standard *Planning for Real®* (PFR) nationally recognized, community planning process based on a 3D model. This allows residents to register their views on a range of issues, to work together to identify priorities, and to develop an Action Plan for change. See: [www.planningforreal.org.uk/](http://www.planningforreal.org.uk/)

### 3.2. Fyvie Public Exhibitions

Large-scale plans of the Fyvie, Woodhead, and St Katherines, were produced on Mdf base boards. School pupils painted in the roads, fields and streams; constructed and placed model card houses on their correct sites; and depicted trees, field boundaries, animals in fields, and gravestones in the cemetery, to create three-dimensional models of each settlement. The 3D models were displayed at Public Exhibitions in the Community Hall on a Saturday afternoon and a Monday evening in March 2017. Members of the community placed suggestion cards on the 3D models indicating the issues they thought were important. These were recorded and analysed: see Fig 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.

### 3.3. Initial analysis

**3.3.1. Attendance:** Saturday's meeting on the first hot and sunny summer's day of the year was noticeably less attended than Monday's, which coincided with a School Open Evening. The total registered was 115 over the two days but doesn't include a large rush of parents with children as the Open Evening ended. In all 510 suggestion cards were submitted. Fig 3.1. shows the Registered attendance; Fig 3.2. the Distribution of the Suggestion cards; and Fig.3.3. shows the most frequent Issues for Fyvie, Woodhead and St Katherines.

Fig 3.1. FYVIE PFR: Registered attendance

Age	Male	Female	Total
0 to 5	4	5	9
6 to 12	7	4	11
13 to 18	1	0	1
19 to 30	4	0	4
31 to 64	40	31	71
65+	16	3	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>115</b>

### 3.3.2. Topics.

Fig 3.2. FYVIE PFR: Topic headings and number of suggestion cards deposited

RANK	SUGGESTION CARD TOPIC	No.
1	TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT/CRIME	119
2	GREEN ENVIRONMENT	105
3	HOUSING/LOCAL ENVIRONMENT	96
4	COMMUNITY FACILITIES	92
5	LEISURE & RECREATION	43
6	HEALTH	20
7	CRIME & SAFETY	19
8	WORK, TRAINING & LOCAL ECONOMY	10
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>510</b>



3.3.3. Fyvie Main issues Identified

RANK	ISSUE	No.	COMMENTS SUMMARY	TOPIC
1	Vale Hotel	95	Please do it up; Tidy-up needed; Car dumping & burning problem	LOCAL ENV
2	School vicinity	73	Slow traffic down; Dangerous driving; Parking problems; Light-controlled/zebra crossing	T&T/Crime
3	Community café	42	Community café; Drop-in centre; Clubs- youth/old people's/summer; Keep fit/aerobics	Comm Facilities
4	A947	30	Slow traffic down; Reduce speed limit; Dangerous driving; Light-controlled/zebra crossing	T&T/Cr
5	Community garden	29	Vegetables, Sensory, Wildflowers; Picnic area; Pathway; Events	GREEN ENV
6	Dog issues	27	Dog fouling problem; More bins; Dog walking area	GREEN ENV
7	Post Office	17	Permanent Post Office wanted	Comm Facilities
8	Ball games court (Muga)	16	Suggested sports: tennis, badminton, netball	Leisure &Rec
9	Football	14	Team; Pitch, Astro turf; Floodlights	Leisure &Rec
10	Public toilet	13	Reopen public toilet; improve disabled access	Comm Facilities

Fig 3.3b. WOODHEAD PFR: Most Frequent Issues

RANK	ISSUE	No.	COMMENTS SUMMARY	TOPIC
1	B9005 Main St	15	Reduce speed; 20MPH needed; Traffic calming; flashing speed sign	T &T/C&S
2	Dog issues	7	Dog poop bins needed; Dog mess	GREEN ENV
3	B9005 Main St	6	Pavement needed; Pavements need improving; Pavement needed to Community Centre	T &T

Fig 3.3c. ST KATHERINES PFR: Most Frequent Issues

RANK	ISSUE	No.	COMMENTS SUMMARY	TOPIC
1	A947/Main St Junction	13	Speeding- traffic to be slowed down; Dangerous driving; Blind spot; Bus shelter needed	T &T/C&S

## Section 4: ESTABLISHING FYVIE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES

### 4.1. FINAL LIST OF ISSUES FOR THE ENDORSEMENT MEETING

#### 4.1.1. FYVIE AMENITIES COMMITTEE (FAC) ACCEPTED THE FOLLOWING ISSUES FROM THE PFR

2. Traffic Issues in the vicinity of the school (Traffic and transport/ Crime and safety) (73 votes);
3. Community Café (Community facilities) (42 votes);
4. Traffic issues along the A947 (Traffic and transport/ Crime and safety) (30 votes);
5. Community Garden (Green Environment) (29 votes);
7. Post Office (Community facilities) (17 votes);
10. Reopen Public Toilets (Community facilities) (13 votes);

AND

**Woodhead: (Traffic and transport/ Crime and safety) (15 votes):**

Speeding on the long, straight, main street at Woodhead;

**St Katherines: (Traffic and transport) (13 votes):**

Issues at the A947 junction- speeding, dangerous driving, blind spot, bus shelter.

#### 4.1.2. FAC DECIDED NOT TO TAKE FORWARD THE FOLLOWING ISSUES FROM THE FYVIE PFR:

##### 1. Vale Hotel (Local Environment) (95 votes):

Dissatisfaction expressed with the untidy appearance of the Vale Hotel and its environs, generated the most comments. Normally, this would not be a public policy issue as it is a private property, for which FAC has neither powers nor remit.

Nevertheless, because the observations were so numerous and consistent, and because the Hotel occupies a very prominent position at the entrance to the village, FAC decided that the Chair should meet with the proprietor to give feedback and offer any appropriate assistance, such as help with planting or tidying the outside areas.

Over the summer, there were significant improvements to the external appearance of the Hotel. The proprietor stated that this work had been planned for some time and further work was in the pipeline. FAC hope this is the beginning of a new, more positive relationship, and that this will be reflected in any future community consultation.

##### 6. Dog Issues (Green Environment) (27 votes):

This issue concerned all communities. The specific issue was dog owners bagging the poop but then leaving the bags in hedges, verges and hanging from posts and branches. Participants suggested more bins, but Aberdeenshire Council's policy is against more poop bins because of the cost of servicing and emptying them. Restrictions on locating them apply: e.g. besides schools and residential properties. FAC's solution is to rely on the personal responsibility of dog owners and work to promote education and good practice.

##### 8. Muga/ball games Court (Leisure & Recreation) (16 Votes); AND

##### 9. Football (Leisure & Recreation) (14: Votes):

FAC felt each required a separate interest group to develop them but that FAC would support and assist where possible. Since the consultation, a new Fyvie football team has been formed. It has repaired and upgraded the changing pavilion, improved the pitch and joined the North-east Welfare league.



**Woodhead Dog Issues (Green Environment):** As at Fyvie, FAC decided to rely on responsible owners and education to address this issue.

**Woodhead (Traffic and transport):** Pavement improvement along the whole length of the B9005 Main St. would be impossible because of cost and ownership issues.

**4.1.3. FAC ACCEPTED ADDITIONAL ISSUES WHICH HAD COME TO PROMINENCE SINCE THE PFR:**

**a. Community defibrillator**

Better accessibility to Community defibrillators in rural Scotland is a contemporary programme;

**b. Improvement to Internet speeds/broadband services**

A major issue in Aberdeenshire rural areas which is not addressed in PFR Suggestion Cards;

**c. Upgrade play park beside school**

During Monday’s Public Exhibition, many parents suggested that the playpark adjacent to the school needed upgrading. FAC thought it would be useful to assess the general support for this and to consider widening it to facilities for children of all ages.

**d. Future housing development in Fyvie**

Though this had not come up previously, FAC was aware that Aberdeenshire Council had started work on the 2021 Local Development Plan and wanted to find out attitudes to this issue to evidence future policy on development.

**4.2. FYVIE ENDORSEMENT MEETING 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**4.2.1. ATTENDANCE** The meeting attended by 22 people.

**4.2.2. PROCEDURE** Fig 4.2. lists the issues selected for endorsement and their ranking

Participants were given sticky paper dots to apply against each question, one per question:

<b>A green dot indicated strong Support;</b>	<b>An orange dot indicated Neutral;</b>	<b>And a red dot indicated strong Opposition.</b>
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Rank	Priority	Suppt	Neut	Opp
1	Re-opening of Public Toilet Facilities	21		1
2	I support the suggestion that Fyvie should have a community defibrillator.	19		
3	Would you support the development of a Community Garden?	18	2	
4	Would you support developing a Health promotion activities programme?	15	7	
5	Does the mobile Post Office service meet your needs?		1	15
6	Do you support additional measures to prevent inappropriate car parking around the school?	14	4	
7	Further improvement/investment for internet speed/broadband services.	14	3	
8	Upgrade of play park (beside school and bus turning bay)	13	6	
9	Should there be flashing 50mph signs on A947 to encourage adherence?	12	4	1
10	Do you support extra speed limit signage in Woodhead & St Katherines?	12	1	
11	Would you support future housing development in Fyvie	12	2	3

## 4.2.3. DISCUSSION OF RESULT AND PARTICIPANTS' COMMENTS

### 1. Re-opening Public Toilets (21 votes)

At the time of the Exhibitions it was believed the closure policy would go out for consultation and be re-opened. By the Endorsement meeting the toilets were still closed and a major issue. Comments re-enforced this: *"Toilets are essential. Visitors to village are frequently asking for toilets – bus passengers, Council workers, postmen etc."*

### 2. Would you support the development of a community garden? (18 Votes)

This would endorse the Health and Social Care Promotion Activities programme, by providing an additional Social Interaction space and through exercise and activities. Participants voted on a series of component parts for the Community Garden.

Fig. 4.2. Components of the Community Garden

Type	Votes
Vegetable Patch	11
Composting Site	11
Fruit Trees/orchard	8
Wildflower Area	7
Polytunnel	6
Sensory Garden	6

### 3. Would you support the development of a Health Promotion Activities programme? (15 Votes)

Although originally a Health and Social Care Promotion Activity, the idea of a community café was interpreted by Survey participants as a commercial tea shop. FAC felt that staffing a voluntary cafe might affect other voluntary activities in the village and decided to encourage the existing community cafes in the school and Preston House sheltered housing to start a joint programme.

### 4. Does the mobile Post Office Meet your needs? (15 opposing votes)

That the mobile PO van had broken down at the time of the survey drew extra attention to the service's limitations. Comments clearly illustrate this: *"Shame that there are no "back-up" mobile post vans when there is no permanent PO; Post van doesn't even come any more. We need to go to Turriff – not always possible for some folks; Didn't know we had one- where are the times and positions advertised? FAC support the re-introduction of a permanent Post Office.*

### 9. Do you think there should be flashing 50mph speed signs on A947 to encourage adherence?

FAC could support Aberdeenshire Council's A 947 Route Improvement Strategy: perhaps similar situation to Whiterashes recent installation of 40MPH flashing lights.

[A947 Route Improvement Strategy](https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/transportation/transport-strategies-projects/a947-route-improvement-strategy/) : <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/transportation/transport-strategies-projects/a947-route-improvement-strategy/>

### 11. Would you support future housing development in Fyvie (12 votes)?

FAC felt the community had recognised that "Fyvie needs development to grow; currently a retirement village!!"



## 4.2.4. FYVIE AMENITIES COMMITTEE: Final Plan

Rnk	That PRIORITY	FYVIE AMENITIES COMMITTEE COMMENT/ASSESSMENT
1	Re-opening Public Toilet Facilities	Toilets are essential. Visitors to village frequently ask for toilets – bus passengers, Aberdeenshire Council workers, postmen etc.
2	Development of a Community Garden	Seek grant for Feasibility Study – decide what is wanted- herb gardens etc; Link to Health Promotion Activities Programme. AD Heating have offered to help with digging etc.
3	Would you support the development of a Health promotion activities programme?	Responders envisaged <b>commercial café</b> and were reluctant to volunteer for community one. <b>INSTEAD:</b> Expand School Community café; Widen interaction eg scouts/pensioners- Space at Preston House for interaction between school and residents; Link to community garden.
4	Mobile Post Office service.	Mobile unit does not meet requirements and a permanent one is required.
5	Upgrade play park near School	Parent Council intends to develop playpark for Primary school age. Support and expand to make it appropriate for all ages.
6	Additional measures to avoid inappropriate parking around the school?	Some progress made in respect to yellow lines/ encouraging people to use carpark. Ask for review from Aberdeenshire Roads & Police Scotland.
7	Flashing 50mph speed signs on A947 to encourage adherence.	Co-ordinate with Aberdeenshire Council's A 947 Route Improvement Strategy. Perhaps similar situation to Whiterashes recent installation of 40MPH flashing lights
8	More speed limit signage in Woodhead (Spire View bend?)	Discuss provision with Aberdeenshire Council Roads.
9	Improvements to visibility splay St Katherines /A947 junction	Co-ordinate with Aberdeenshire Council's A 947 Route Improvement Strategy. Explore bus Shelter provision.

FAC decided not to follow through:

	Community defibrillator.	Already two- at surgery (opening hours) and at Legion (24 hr). There may be a need to raise funds to cover future maintenance and training on usage.
	Further improvement to internet speed/broadband services to meet needs.	There has been some improvement in Woodhead, but still problems in areas. Unlikely that there is anything that FAC can do to influence BT.
	Support for future housing development in Fyvie	Recognition in Fyvie that it has been losing facilities and increased housing could improve sustainability.

## 4.3. LINKS TO THE FORMARTINE COMMUNITY PLAN (FCP) 2016-2019

The *Formartine Community Plan 2016-2019* brings together input from public services, Community Planning Partners, Elected Members and regular interaction with local communities. It identified four key priorities for Formartine (Fig 4.1):

**Fig 4.5. FORMARTINE COMMUNITY PLAN 2016-19: Table of Priorities**

<p><b>Priority 1: Stronger Empowered Communities</b></p> <p>1.1. Communities are empowered and supported to develop and deliver a vision for their local area</p> <p>1.2. Communities are well informed, involved in decision-making and take a responsibility in delivery of local actions and priorities.</p> <p>1.3. Stronger local resilient communities through the contribution of volunteers.</p>
<p><b>Priority 2: Safer Communities</b></p> <p>2.1. Fewer Formartine residents are injured or killed as a result of preventable accidents, particularly in relation to road collisions, accidental dwelling fires and deliberate and non-domestic fires.</p> <p>2.2. Formartine communities experience fewer instances of antisocial behaviour and residents experience a better quality of life, particularly in relation to vandalism and perceptions of safety.</p> <p>2.3. Greater awareness of individuals, families and the vulnerable within our communities to be safe from harm (cyber safe) while online.</p>
<p><b>Priority 3: Tackling Inequalities</b></p> <p>3.1. Reduction in inequalities in health outcomes between identified communities across Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>3.2. Equality of access to early intervention and prevention creating healthier and active lifestyle choices, especially for older people and the vulnerable.</p> <p>3.3. Individuals &amp; families are enabled to make small changes that have long lasting positive impacts for themselves, their families &amp; the community they live in</p> <p>3.4. Children living in families who are vulnerable are identified and offered early support.</p>
<p><b>Priority 4: Transport and Connectivity</b></p> <p>4.1. Demand responsive transport and supported bus network serving Formartine.</p> <p>4.2. An improved transport provision to access and wellbeing activities to address challenges of inequality, social exclusion, rural isolation and vulnerability.</p> <p>4.3. Greater opportunity to encourage sustainable travel in the area for 30% of people covering shorter distances, to either walk or cycle all or part of their journeys.</p>



## PLACE STANDARD: Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter Community Council (FRM CC) 2018



In August 2018, Fyvie, Rothienorman and Monquhitter Community Council decided to use Place Standard to establish its residents' level of satisfaction with their communities, as places in which to live, and to identify issues which needed addressing.

**PLACE STANDARD** was developed for the Scottish Government "to support the delivery of high-quality places in Scotland and to maximise the potential of the physical and social environment in supporting health, wellbeing and a high quality of life." It assesses "How good is our place?" comparing different places by assessing their assets, strengths and limitations.

The **PLACE STANDARD TOOL** consists of:

1. 14 *themes* relating to the physical and social elements of a place;
2. Each theme has a *key question* to be scored between 1 and 7;  
(1 = much room for improvement and 7 means very little room)
3. Each *key question* has a series of *subsidiary "prompt" questions* to help evaluate the score;
4. Each *key question* has an *open comments box* to give reasons for the score.

The *scoring* allows instant comparison of settlements using a **Compass Diagram** (see Fig. PS 2).

The *open comments box* identifies particular issues and informs the place's strengths and limitations.

Place standard enables comparison of settlements at several levels using the scores' weighted averages as depicted in the **Compass Diagram**. Importantly, doing this can mask issues significant at a community level. This can be partially compensated by careful analysis of the *open comments boxes*.

Fyvie's data were collected at a Public Meeting in November 2018. Participants completed paper sheets for each of the 14 *themes* and *Post-it notes* of the *open comments* together, with the individual gradings were displayed, collected and recorded. However, only 12 people attended and only 10 completed the exercise. This compares with the 115 who participated in *Planning for Real*, and the 22 at the Prioritising Meeting. Furthermore, there was no demographic information regarding the participants and their locations. However, regular mentions of Woodhead, and rural Issues, suggest some participants were aware of issues in Woodhead.

### **FYVIE PLACE STANDARD: RESULTS**

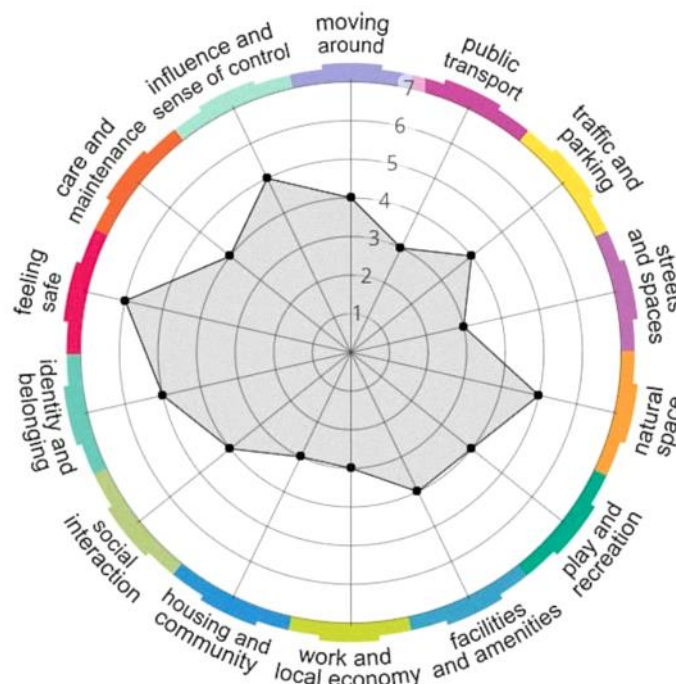
The weighted-average scores are presented below, in rank order, along with the associated Key Question (Fig. PS 1.). The highest Theme is **Feeling Safe** with a score of 5.50. The lowest is **Streets and Spaces**, score of 3.27. Ten Themes are rated above the median value, only four are below, but all are close to it.

Fig. PS 1. FYVIE PLACE STANDARD: Ranked Themes and Key Questions

Rnk	THEME	KEY QUESTION	W/Avg
1	12. feeling safe	Do I feel safe here?	5.50
2	5. natural space	Can I regularly experience good-quality natural space?	5.29
3	11. identity/ belonging	Does this place have a positive identity, and do I feel I belong?	5.18
4	14. influence & sense of control	Do I feel able to take part in decisions and help change things for the better?	4.85
5	10. social contact	Is there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people?	4.36
6	3. traffic & parking	Do traffic and parking arrangements allow people to move around safely and meet the community's needs?	4.33
7	6. play & recreation	Can I access spaces for play and recreation?	4.19
8	1. moving around	Can I easily walk and cycle around using good-quality routes?	3.73
9	13. care/maintenance	Are buildings and spaces well cared for?	3.64
10	7. facilities/amenities	Do facilities and amenities meet my needs?	3.50
<b>MEDIAN</b>			<b>3.50</b>
11	2. public transport	Does public transport meet my needs?	3.38
12	9. housing/ community	Do homes in my area support the needs of the community?	3.36
13	8. work/ localeconomy	Is there an active local economy and the opportunity to access good-quality work?	3.33
14	4. streets & spaces	Do buildings, streets and public spaces create an attractive place that is easy to get around?	3.27

### FYVIE PLACE STANDARD: Compass Diagram

The *themes'* weighted-average scores show, at a glance, themes most in need of improvement, closer to the centre, and strengths towards the edge. In a "satisfactory" place, the diagram will be fuller, with most themes close to the outer edge, as with *'Feeling safe'*. In a "poor" place, the shape will be closer to the centre, as with *'Streets and Spaces'*. Fyvie's results are moderate, neither very high nor very low.



## FYVIE PLACE STANDARD: Analysis of Comments.

323 individual comments were classified and analysed.

*Facilities and Amenities*, had the highest number of comments, *Feeling safe*, the lowest.

Fig. PS 3. FYVIE PLACE STANDARD: Issues by Theme

THEME	ISSUES	Total
7. facilities/amenities	Shops 17; Toilets 10; Café/meeting place 7; General 5.	39
4 streets & spaces	Improve entrance 13; Positive 8; Specifics 5; litter 4; Negative views 3; Toilets 3.	36
1 moving around	Lack of Pavements 16; Unsafe- Speeding & Crossing Roads 12; Lack of paths/cycleways 5; Others 2.	35
3 traffic & parking	Speeding 15; Parking 13; A947 4.	32
13. care & maintenance	<i>Poor Maintenance 30- Buildings 7; Dog mess 6; Overview 4; Vale 3; Playpark 3; Litter 3; Grass 3; Woodhead Hall 1.</i>	30
2 public transport	Rural & Woodhead bus links 7; Fyvie bus links 6; Fyvie to Inverurie bus links 6; Bus hub 3; Bus turning area 3; cost 2.	27
6 play & recreation	Playpark 14; Football club 4; Specifics 4.	22
9. housing/community	Housing issues 13; No development 3; Miscellaneous 2.	18
10. social contact	Clubs Availability 9; Lack of opportunity 7; Others 2.	18
8. work/local economy	Poor Local Economy 11; Childcare 3; Transport links 3.	17
5. natural space	Woodland Walks 11; Community Garden 2; Play area 1.	14
11. identity/ belonging	Generally strong heritage, belong but elements of reservation 13.	13
14. influence/sense of control	Weak 8; OK 4.	12
12. feeling safe	Feel Safe 8; Concerns 2.	10
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>323</b>

FYVIE PLACE STANDARD: Fig. PS 4. Most numerous Issues (over 10 comments)

Comments about Shops were highest. Toilets scraped in at 10, though lack of toilets were implicated in *Moving about* and *Public transport* too.

Theme	MOST NUMEROUS ISSUES: RANKED	No.
7	<b>Shops</b>	17
1	<b>Lack of Pavements</b>	16
3	<b>Speeding</b>	15
6	<b>Playpark</b>	14
4	<b>Improve entrance</b>	13
3	<b>Parking issues</b>	13
9	<b>Housing issues</b>	13
11	<b>Generally strong- heritage, belong but under-current of reservation</b>	13
1	<b>Unsafe- Speeding &amp; crossing roads</b>	12
8	<b>Poor Local Economy</b>	11
5	<b>Woodland Walks</b>	11
7	<b>Toilets</b>	10
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>158</b>

Fig. PS 4. FYVIE PLACE STANDARD: Most numerous Issues by Rank Order



## FYVIE PLACE STANDARD: DISCUSSION

Shops were mentioned many times, but the issues were wide ranging and unfocussed, including lack of a permanent Post Office and difficult access to the chemist. Toilets, mentioned in Facilities, and again in *Moving About*: no conveniences at the bus turn-round nor the new transport Mini hub.

## FYVIE PLACE STANDARD: COMPARISON WITH ISSUES RAISED IN THE FYVIE CAP

*Planning for Real* had covered the above issues, though in a different fashion: highlighting the untidy entrance and buildings, speeding, safety crossing road and need for facilities and amenities. Toilets had only developed as the top Issue at the Prioritising stage when closure had just occurred.

## FYVIE PLACE STANDARD: PRIORITIES FOR ACTION:

What are the main issues and priorities for change that you have identified?

Participants were asked to identify *their* main issue. Not everyone stuck to a single issue as requested.

Fig. PS 5. FYVIE PLACE STANDARD: Priority Issues.

PRIORITY	ACTION	Score
1. Public toilets	Open/re-open public toilets	7
2. Improve visual appearance of key local businesses and buildings	Make entrance to Fyvie look better; Improve the visual appearance of the key local businesses and buildings; Tidy buildings, gardens, flowerbeds .	6
3. More public facilities	More public Facilities; Playpark: update equipment; More Youth groups	6
4. Public transport	More buses on B9001 to Woodhead; More Public Transport	3
5. Dog mess	More dog bins required	2

## FYVIE PLACE STANDARD: COMPARISON WITH FYVIE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN (see Fig. 5.1)

The above Priorities were all identified in the Pfr® but not all were taken forward by Fyvie Amenities Committee to the Endorsement Meeting when the *Toilets* Issue became a key issue. *Dog Mess* was removed (see Sections 4.1.2. and 4.1.3.) and *Improving the Visual Appearance at the entrance* was addressed by a private meeting. The *Public Facilities* issue was considered along with a *Community Garden* and *Community café*. *Speeding at Woodhead* was also included.

Fig 5.1. FYVIE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

RNK	ACTION	LINK TO FOR-MARTINE COMMUNITY PLAN	LEAD	PARTNERS	TIME SCALE
1	Re-opening of Public Toilet Facilities	Priorities 1.1; 1.2.	Fyvie AC	Aberdeenshire Council	Short
2	Development of a Community Garden	Priorities, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3; 3.1, 3.2, 3.3.	Fyvie AC	AC Landscape Services, ADH	Medium
3	Health promotion activities programme/ Community cafe	Priorities, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3; 3.1, 3.2, 3.3.	Fyvie AC	Fyvie School, Sheltered Housing,	Short
4	Post Office service.	Priorities 1.1; 1.2.	Fyvie AC	Post office/local shop	Short
5	Prevention of inappropriate car parking around the school.	Priorities, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3; 2.1, 2.2, 2.3; 3.1, 3.2, 3.3.	Fyvie AC	Fyvie School, AC Roads, Police Scotland	Medium
6	Upgrade play park (beside school).	Priorities, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3; 2.1, 2.2; 3.1, 3.2, 3.3.	Fyvie AC	School/Parent Council AC- Education & Landscape Services	Medium
7	Flashing 50mph speed signs on A947.	Priorities, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3; 2.1, 2.2.	Fyvie AC	AC Roads, Police Scotland	Medium
8	Further speed limit signage in Woodhead (Spire View bend?)	Priorities, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3; 2.1, 2.2.	Fyvie AC	AC Roads, Police Scotland	Short
9	Improve visibility splay at ST KATHERINES /A947 junction	Priorities, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3; 2.1, 2.2.	Fyvie AC	AC Roads, Police Scotland	Medium



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