

Kemnay Community Action Plan

March 2017



Kemnay High Street, circa 1902.



Plan of original village - 1860.



New railway station.

Origins and Development

In the grand scale of things, Kemnay is a relatively modern village, having only come into being following the start of quarrying by John Fyfe on Paradise Hill in 1858. The young Fyfe had been supplying stone for the construction of bridges on the Alford Valley Railway from his quarries at Tyrebagger near Aberdeen. One of the contractors suggested to him that stone might be available from Paradise Hill at Kemnay thus making a considerable saving on cartage fees. An inspection of the area was made, a lease was obtained and, as the saying goes, the rest is history.

The coming of the railway in 1859 opened up the area to an easier method of moving goods and people. It provided an outlet to both the agricultural sector and the quarries for their products, and was also the means of bringing in all the necessary items and goods to keep the community running. Thousands of people were engaged in building the railway and, following the completion of the contract, a large number of them stayed on to work in the quarries.

By the early 20th century there were four general merchants, a co-operative store, two shoemakers, two bakers, a temperance hotel, a licensed hotel, a bank agency, a post

office, a saddler, three tailors, a watchmaker, a chemist, besides all the usual artisans associated with a country village.

Sadly, post-World War One, the internal combustion engine posed increasing competition to the railways, providing services over a wider area at more competitive prices. Bus travel became popular and by 1950 passenger services on the railway ceased and, like many other areas of the country, Dr Beeching's report in the 1960s sounded the death knell for the railway so the line was sold and lifted in 1966.

Education in Kemnay was renowned and in 1905 the school attained Higher Grade status, up to sixth year secondary standard. The catchment area extended right up Donside and pupils from Alford downward travelled daily by train while those from further up country lodged all week in the village and travelled home at weekends. Kemnay boasted the first female bursar at Aberdeen University in Netta Teresa Gordon, daughter of the local merchant in the Square. Eventually, as a result of falling roll numbers, the school was reduced to a junior secondary then further reduced to a primary in the 1970s but, following a massive expansion of the village due mainly to the oil industry, another primary school was built at Alehousewells, followed by a six year academy in 1982.

Extraction of granite from Kemnay quarry ceased around 1959 but by this time another product had appeared on the scene - Fyfestone - manufactured at the quarry which is now virtually a concrete factory. During the 1970s and early 1980s there was an increased demand for granite aggregates and eventually part of the quarry was reopened to satisfy the demand. Over the years since, cube stone (building stone) from Kemnay has been used during the construction of the Bon-Accord Centre in Aberdeen in the 1980s and more recently for the extension to His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen, the Parliament Buildings at Holyrood and the Battle of Britain memorial in London.

Today Kemnay has a population of 3,626. Facilities include two primary schools, an Academy, a Medical Centre and a pharmacy, a butcher's, a bakery and cafe, three convenience stores, a centre for musical tuition, two hotels, two garages, Indian and Chinese takeaways and a chip shop, two hairdressers, a beauty parlour, a library, a Scout hut, a Family Resource Centre, the Village Hall, sheltered housing, a nursing home and four places of worship. Kemnay also has several green spaces most notably the Pleasure Park at Bogbeth, the Green, the Place of Origin and the areas bordering the River Don. Annual events include the Youth Football Tournament and the Garioch Lions Raft Race.

There are various places to meet including Kemnay Village Hall which hosts a range of community organisations such as over 50 groups, two choirs, the Friday Coffee Shop and Bargain Box, Jazzercise classes, Latin cardio classes, dancing classes, yoga, health walks + strength & balance groups, reminiscence group, an African drumming group and a painting group. There are regular film nights, theatrical and musical performances. Kemnay Community Council also meets here.

The Church Centre houses the Loaves & Fishes Café and also provides a meeting and performing venue for various groups including Pilates and Yoga.

There is an all-weather pitch at Kemnay Academy, a skate park, two playparks, football pitch and cricket square, a golf course, tennis courts, and a bowling club.



Mr Robinson's local granite collection at Kemnay Academy.



Kemnay to Inverurie Raft Race 2015.



Spectrum Singers celebrated 10 years with a concert in Kemnay Village Hall.



Part of the Celebration of Kemnay Exhibit.



Kemnay Futures children's consultation.



Initial consultation.

Kemnay Futures Introduction

One of Kemnay's greatest strengths is our diversity, as the advent of the oil industry brought people from near and far with very different experiences and skills to add to our local community. This is part of the belief behind Community Action Plans. Instead of Local Development Plans drawn up by Councils, people are being asked what they would like to see happen, or not happen, in their own community over the next few years. The pool of experience ensures there are nearly always enough interested people who, if they come together, can make things happen!

In Kemnay the first consultation meeting, hosted by The Garioch Partnership, was thrown open to the whole community and took place in November 2015 in one of the church halls. It is safe to say the response was not overwhelming but there were enough enthusiastic people to form a steering group, charged with collecting information on the needs and wants of as many local folk as possible to form the basis of the Kemnay Community Action Plan.

The following is the result of our efforts and shows the concerns and the hopes of the local people who participated, for the future of our village and wider community.

The Kemnay Futures Project:

The Community Planning Group for Garioch identified Kemnay as one of its priorities for 2015 - 2016. The Garioch Partnership was charged with initiating and supporting the consultation process.

The Community Action Plan that follows is the result of the work of the Steering Group, with the support of The Garioch Partnership, who met several times to plan the campaign. A variety of different methods were used to involve the local public and gain their opinions: open meetings held in the village hall on different days and times, survey forms delivered to every home in the area via the Kemnay Newsletter, to be filled in and posted into boxes in the local shops and library, visits to specific groups, a Facebook page on which people were encouraged to add their views, or by email to the Garioch Partnership.

Thanks to all the interested and concerned people who came to our events or took the time to fill in the survey forms and every group who allowed us to talk to them.

What We Heard . . .

We heard a lot of people saying how much they love living in Kemnay, how it's a great village and has a lot going for it, with a fantastic community spirit. There were frequent comments that there is a lot to do in Kemnay with many community groups across a wide spectrum of activities.

From the various forms of consultation a wide range of issues came up, which we have grouped under the headings below:

Crime and Community Safety

The majority of people considered that Kemnay was a safe place to stay, and that they felt happy to move about within the village.

Road Safety

Zebra crossings came up a number of times. Specifically they were requested at Aquithie Road and at Kemnay Academy, to encourage safe walking routes within the village.

There was a feeling that speed limits were not respected within the village. Suggestion was made that there be a mobile tracking device deployed to monitor the main routes

Some people suggested promoting safe cycling, jogging, riding and walking on roads in and around the village. There was discussion about whether this

was something the plan could really address, or if some of this was a personal responsibility issue, but it came up so many times that it was felt important to note it within this Action Plan.

Parking

Congestion and parking issues at school times at both primary schools were highlighted frequently, with particular concerns about Victoria Terrace from the Leschangie turn-off along to Kemnay Primary school, due to the bend at the foot of Kendal Road. Parking restricts vision and blocks the bend on what is a bus route and main road through the village.

Parking throughout the centre of the village was flagged as an issue, as people felt that the narrower streets of Kemnay do not lend themselves to the level of traffic that now uses them - particularly at peak school times. There were requests for education and possible Police Scotland enforcement to address this issue.

There was also an issue of cars parking around the bus stop on the narrow High Street and how it meant the buses often blocked the road completely due to the angle they use to get to the bus stop.

Dog Fouling and Littering

Dog fouling was another issue that came up, along with the issue of people who bag their dog waste then leave the bags on the ground or in trees and bushes. There was a general



Saturday morning movies.



Pedestrian crossing.



Parking at school.



Daily mile.

feeling that the dog waste bin at the Fetternear carpark was a great help, and also that there needed to be a raised awareness that bagged dog mess can go into the regular waste bins.

There was comment on the amount of litter in certain places where people congregate regularly, e.g. the skate park, the green areas around the Academy, the carpark.

Recycling and Waste

A lot of the community members we spoke to over the course of the consultation wanted better recycling opportunities - particularly around green garden waste, such as grass cuttings and hedge clippings. It was felt to be a real shame that Kemnay residents have to drive to Souterford in Inverurie to drop off garden waste, which has a huge impact on cost and ecological footprint.. It also results in fly-tipping.

There were concerns raised over the lack of kerbside glass recycling collections now, and requests for some community glass recycling points to be installed.

Environment

Protecting the Place of Origin was commented upon as an important issue and ensuring there are good paths to allow accessibility for as many people as possible. The ongoing issue of maintenance of the existing paths was also frequently raised.

Work by volunteers and Aberdeenshire Council over the years has resulted in Kemnay having some well used and attractive open spaces and it was seen as important to preserve these and to provide links to a larger network in the surrounding area.

The availability of allotments was an issue that came up in the consultation, with some people expressing the view that individual and community growing spaces would enhance the community.

Health and Wellbeing

Encouraging health and wellbeing at all ages was felt to be vital, especially with the hugely increased demands on Health and Social services and as people are expected to take on more responsibility for their own wellbeing.

There was great enthusiasm for the daily mile from the primary schools, and a few suggestions that perhaps waymarked paths around Kemnay may encourage wider take up of the daily mile to adults as well.

It was noted that the 'Positive Steps Kemnay' map includes five marked walking paths with the distance for each walk listed.

Again, the issue of a swimming pool was raised on many occasions, along with the need for Gym/Fitness facilities in the village. There were several suggestions as to how this might be achieved, including



Mavis's bench installation, January 2016.



Health walk, PoO.

commercial development or by negotiating access to the Academy facilities. Aberdeenshire Council have no plans for a swimming pool in Kemnay as the planned redevelopment of Inverurie Academy is considered adequate provision for the area, along with the other council-owned pools in Aberdeenshire.

Access to a greater range and level of activities was suggested, to benefit people of all ages and abilities.

There were requests for a Men's Shed in Kemnay, to give men somewhere to congregate and meet in similar style to the Westhill and Inverurie ones that have proved so popular. There was a lack of identification of a suitable site.

There was acknowledgement of the importance of having the Medical Centre sited in the centre of the village. Some commented on issues about making an appointment with a particular G.P. or Practice nurse. Some pointed to alternative solutions such as the role of the Community Pharmacist in treating minor ailments, available at the Chemists. Some felt that locally run Wellness Clinics may help with waiting times and prevention of illness, however Kemnay Medical Group responded to this suggestion with this statement "Unfortunately as the funding to primary care has significantly reduced there are currently limited resources to expand GP-led preventative medicine measures in the same way as we have done previously.

However, any patient who has concerns around their health should not hesitate to contact the practice in the normal way to discuss their condition."

There were many requests for a dentist in the village. At present people are expected to travel for dental treatment, which is not always easy or convenient. It was pointed out that Inverurie seems to have a surfeit of NHS dentists who advertise their services - could not one of them be sited in Kemnay?

Transport

Public Transport

The current coach style buses that have steep steps and a limited number of seats on the lower deck present an accessibility issue. These coach style buses also have a high step up to board and alight if they are not on a hard standing bus stop.

There were issues with connectivity of bus times to other modes of public transport, such as the train in Inverurie. Bus services often stop early in the evening, resulting in folk having to drive into Aberdeen and Inverurie for evening leisure pursuits.

Bus times/frequencies were not practical to access clinics in ARI, increasing the number of people having to use their car to attend the hospital, which has a knock-on effect on parking, congestion and the ecological impact of driving.



Garioch Area Bus Forum



2nd March 2017
(7.30pm - 9pm)
Westhill



Staff Room of Westhill Academy.

The agenda and all relevant background papers including minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd September 2016 can be requested from Stuart.copland@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

There is an opportunity for the audience to speak at the forum meetings and question can be tabled in advance.

If you require any assistance to attend contact:-
Claire Marshall on 01224 664594 by noon on 27th February. If you wish to discuss any matter regarding public transport please contact either

Susan Watt (Tel: 01224 664584) or

Stuart Copland (Tel: 01224 664784).

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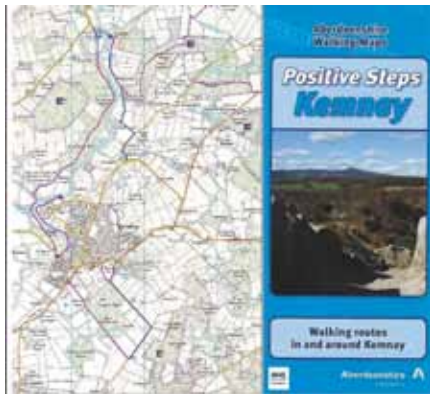
Bus Forum.



Horse on Leschangie road.



Medical Centre.



Positive Steps Kemnay.

Whilst the “Park & Choose” service was commended, there were requests to ensure that the public were widely consulted on the destinations, frequency and style of buses to be used.

It was noted that Kemnay has no charging points for electric vehicles

Cycle and Walking Routes

Cycle path networks between settlements (Kemnay to Monymusk, Kemnay to Kintore and Kemnay to Inverurie) would be welcome and would encourage people to look at alternative modes of transport between local villages. With the development of Kintore railway station, it would afford more choices for commuters.

Paths to Place of Origin should be made accessible to wheelchairs and pushchairs to allow as many people as possible to use this facility.

There were many comments that the existing paths are welcome and well used.

Housing

Many people felt there was a real requirement for a mixed type of housing, including suitable homes for people downsizing, not all social housing, but not all expensive large homes either - more about new builds being what the community needs, to offer a wide range of housing options. At the same time there were comments about further housing

development, questioning the need for it and whether account was taken of the impact on existing infrastructure and availability of key public services, such as primary health care and education.

After the recent flooding, people felt it was essential to respect the flood plain and not be building more houses in known flooding areas.

There was a lack of clarity around developer obligations and what they could be used for, and how they might benefit the community.

Community Space

Parks and Pavilion

People felt that they were lucky with the green space but that there was a real need for toilets at Bogbeth Park, particularly through the summer when it attracts so many children as a play space. The comfort scheme toilets at the Bennachie Lodge were not viewed as suitable, as they are too far away.

It was felt that the Village Green, in Aquithie Road, was under-utilised and could perhaps be used for village events such as Christmas Lights or a village fair. To date these have been held in the park on the south edge of the village, where most of the sporting activities already take place. However parking is a real problem here, as Bogbeth Road is frequently congested due to parked cars.



Skate Park.



Dalmadilly path.

Flexible Community Facilities

The majority of people we spoke to expressed disappointment that the Academy was not the community facility it was intended to be, with issues around accessibility and times for the community to use it.

They felt there was a need for an appropriate venue to carry out specific activities and for informal learning. Whilst the Village Hall is viewed by many as the heart of the village, it is fully utilised and is not always suitable. Whereas the Academy was designed to offer access to all and provide facilities for a wide range of activities.

As previously identified, there was a discussion around a Kemnay Men's Shed.

A number of people commended the past work of the Kemnay Community Learning & Development team based in the Academy.

People also commented on the quality of the library within Kemnay and how lucky we are with our local librarians!

Community Involvement:

A number of active and concerned citizens took part in the Kemnay Futures events. For some, this was the first time they had come forward with their views. This was seen as a positive outcome and it was felt that the connection between the villagers and the Kemnay Community Action Plan should be fostered.

Communication

Mobile signal and broadband provision was a big issue, with many people feeling they lost out due to the lack of service.

The village newsletter, village website and "Yellow Book" were all highly commended as being really useful sources of information and services locally. It was suggested that groups/classes be encouraged to publicise themselves in them, along with contact details.

Action Plans

Whilst drawing up the following Action Plan Summary it became clear that there were some issues for which there was neither an easily identified action plan nor appropriate person/organisation to carry it out. This does not mean that these issues cannot be tackled; however an interested party would be required to develop a plan (see below).

Future Opportunities

Issues are listed with a reference to where they feature in the report:

- Kemnay Men's shed (page 7)
- Swimming Pool (page 6)
- Accessibility & maintenance of green space (page 8)
- Dentist in Kemnay (page 7)
- Zebra Crossings (page 5)



ABSI Netball Club, meet in Kemnay Academy.



Monymusk Scottish Country Dancers.



www.Kemnay.info has up-to-date village information.

How will this be taken forward?				By When?
Action	Independent Community Group/Private Initiative	Partnership	Outside Agencies	
Support for community ownership and increased use of Bogbeth Pavilion, including possible public toilet facilities	Bogbeth Pavilion Committee	The Garioch Partnership	Aberdeenshire Council	Ongoing
Support for Kemnay Village Hall to ensure it meets the community needs and continues to flourish	Kemnay Village Hall Committee	The Garioch Partnership	Aberdeenshire Council	Ongoing
Gym/Fitness Centre			Laird's Throat project being undertaken by a private business interest	April 2017
Community Use of school facilities			Aberdeenshire Council	2017
Increasing range and level of activities available within the village	Bogbeth Pavilion Committee, Kemnay Village Hall Committee, Community Newsletter; yellow book and website.		Current service providers - eg community groups, voluntary groups and private providers.	Ongoing
Dog fouling and Littering, more bins		Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership	Schools Aberdeenshire Community Waste Officer	Ongoing 2017
Recycling, Garden waste and glass	Greener Kemnay		Aberdeenshire Council Community Waste Officer (regarding site of glass recycling facilities)	2017
Allotments	Greener Kemnay, private landowner		Aberdeenshire Council	Ongoing
Paths in and around Kemnay	Greener Kemnay & Positive Steps paths joint working group		Paths for All External grant funding bodies	Ongoing

How will this be taken forward?				By When?
Action	Independent Community Group/Private Initiative	Partnership	Outside Agencies	
Safe cycling routes between Kemnay, Monymusk, Inverurie and Kintore and promotion of safe cycling, jogging, walking and riding	Greener Kemnay, Positive Steps Kemnay Village Newsletter		Aberdeenshire Council Cycling Scotland Paths for All Schools	2019
Provision of electric vehicle recharging points	Kemnay Community Council		Aberdeenshire Council	2017
Public transport, type of buses, timetabling, Park & Choose service		Garioch Area Bus Forum	Aberdeenshire Council Aberdeenshire Public Transport Unit	Ongoing
Speeding	Kemnay Community Council Individuals		Aberdeenshire Council Garioch and North Marr Community Safety Partnership Police Scotland	Ongoing
Parking	Individuals		Police Scotland Schools	Ongoing
Mixed Tenure of Housing to meet appropriate needs for size/demand	Kemnay Community Council		Aberdeenshire Council Housing Developers	Ongoing
Development of Broadband	Kemnay Community Council		Aberdeenshire Council Scottish Government BT Openreach	
Encourage active citizenship and volunteering	Kemnay Community Council, all Kemnay voluntary groups	The Garioch Partnership, Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action	Aberdeenshire Council, Kemnay Learning Community Partnership	Ongoing

This booklet is one of a series produced by the Local Rural Partnerships for a number of communities in Aberdeenshire.

This initiative is sponsored by Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership and run by Aberdeenshire Local Rural Partnerships. The aim is to provide community action plans in an attractive, easy to read, professionally printed format.

This information can now guide the community and Community Planning Partners in drawing up detailed action plans to implement the top priorities as well as addressing the other issues which have been identified. For each priority or issue this will involve agreeing who should be involved, what resources will be needed and target dates for completion. It is hoped that this process will be driven by representatives of the community with support - moral, technical and financial - from the relevant Partners.

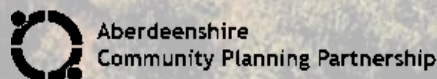
It is important that this booklet is seen by all concerned as an account of the community's views at the time of the latest consultation, and that it will have to be regularly updated. As some projects are completed, other issues will arise and take their place in future versions of the community plan.

It is recommended that this plan has a maximum life of five years.

With grateful thanks to the community of Kemnay, Duncan Downie for the history, Rick Ellerman for the cover photograph, Kemnay Scouts for the use of their post-boxes and the various premises who hosted them, Kemnay Village Hall, Kemnay Medical Practice for their involvement, the Garioch Local Community Planning Group, Kemnay Futures Steering Group, Kemnay Community Council, Kemnay Newsletter, Nom Wright (Community Waste Officer, Aberdeenshire Council), Jill Sowden (Garioch Community Planning Officer). Thanks also to those who allowed us to include their photographs.

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