

Response to Public Comments

PlayAberlour SCIO SC047670

13 March 2020

1. PlayAberlour was founded in respect of, and is fully committed to, the principles of the National Standards for Community Engagement.

- The Standards are designed to ensure that ALL members of the community are fairly and completely represented. Download a copy at voicescotland.org.uk
- They have been widely adopted across Scotland as “good-practice principles designed to support and inform the process of community engagement, and improve what happens as a result.”
- The Standards are effective at helping “community groups ... involve their members or the wider community in shaping the services they deliver, and to make sure that they accurately represent members' or communities' views...”

2. Moray Council has also committed to the Standards.

- *[Moray Council's strategic] community engagement principles ... are intended to be used as an active tool by departments when they are planning community engagement and as a reference to let community members know what to expect when working with Moray Council. ...*

The Council will ...

Adhere to the National Standards for Community Engagement.

(Moray Council Community Engagement Scheme 2012-16)

- *Examples of how we have used these tools successfully within the community are illustrated in the case studies.*

Planning for Real events took place across Moray in Portgordon, Aberlour and Forres, co-ordinated by CSU officers, to allow residents the chance to participate in 3D planning and development in their local communities.

The Aberlour Planning for Real sessions reached over 150 participants, including parents of schoolchildren, giving a participation rate of around 12% of the community's population. The community compiled their action plans and presented them to the community planning partners. Collectively the action plan was adopted and is being supported to implement it.

(Moray Community Planning Partnership, Community Engagement Strategy 2017)

3. The Planning for Real process that inspired PlayAberlour is well-known as an effective method consistent with the Standards.
4. Our own Aberlour Recreation Survey reached well beyond statistically valid numbers of responses, and complied with the Standards under the guidance of Moray Council staff.
5. We have no further comment here. With respect for the opinions of all who responded, we will let the complete and unexpurgated comments of the people of our community speak, and add to these the comments from our above-mentioned survey. (We left in our original reactions to a few of the survey comments; this is the same list that was posted on Facebook several weeks ago.)

If you use the park “rarely or never” please share the reason, and tell us what might get you out to the park.

Rarely, as I find the park very boggy wet, not a huge amount of equipment relevant to all ages. Would use it far more if it wasn't a marsh.

Children too old. Walk by often though

My kids are too old for the park. I only use it for dog walking.

Poor drainage so the park is normally muddy and too wet for the kids

Aberlour Games.

weather permitting

Would go more if there was more to do

It is dated, old, not enough to keep kids entertained.

I'm too old

Boring

im not really at the age to use the park, no dogs to walk no children to play

If the the park is left as it is I will still use it every day regardless of weather, wil not use if this becomes a Theme Park

I am 15 i dont go to the play park

Because i don't live in Aberlour but when I do go it'll be pleasant.

Any other comments on what you would like to see in the park?

As previously noted my preference would be for a very natural experience with open ended opportunities for play and investigation. Even a large wooden Fort type construction rather than bandstand or gazebo type buildings. This gives the children a chance to create their own imaginative games and experiences. Pirate ships or castle shaped would also be popular. A low level 'stage' with semi circular 'amphitheatre' type construction would be enjoyed by a different group of participants. Adding running water like they have in Fochabers is wonderful. Musical experiences where people can stand on to create sounds or chime bar type that can be 'hit' is also really inclusive and would create a wonderful multisensory Park experience. [Great ideas, thanks!]

Would like to see music performances, and community exercise classes - dance or tai chi maybe?

More lighting

Trampoline area

Lights, better drainage as park fills with water and most facilities are unusable when it rains. Skate park would be great for all ages of children and some adults. Fencing around the park as next to river.

In general the park is only appealing to young children. Need new things and more focus on things for children 10+

Alic Littler should be kept as what is was intended for by the trust no Theme Park should be aloud. [Did someone propose a theme park? No.]

Swings for children, the baby swings are too small and the other ones are for much older kids. Would be great to see a zip line and the park all on one level as the low fences are not the best for younger children.

Anything will be an improvement to what is available at the moment.

How representative and inclusive will the results of this questionnaire be? As the park is used by the residents of greater Speyside, Aberlour and surrounding towns, surely a door to door questionnaire is needed to at least try to include the opinions of all ages and abilities including those who are not comfortable with computers or smart phones. How else is the existence of this questionnaire and indeed the play Aberlour group being made known to the public? [This respondent may have received a survey a day or two before they were, in fact, put through nearly every mail slot in the village.]

New slide and zip wire

good play equipment

Zipline. A better slide that's easier for kids to get up onto. I really like the idea of a covered larger seating area.

Just something different to normal, something that will make kids want to play outside and be excited to go to the park. Maybe a few big slides for races. A running track around the park also.

Information boards with local history made with anti-graffiti paint.

Play equipment for all ages and abilities.

Improved drainage in kids play area. We don't use it very often as it's so wet underfoot.

More rubbish bins

A big bouncy cushion!

More golf things next to putting green e.g. Chipping mat and net

No broken things or things that would/could be damaged or dangerous and no litter, dog mess. Put all dogs on lead

Wheelchair accessible play equipment and pathways suitable for wheelchair use.

Toilets must be kept open [Agree. The toilets are not connected with this project, however.]

As a child, we had a volunteer in our play park to oversee any emergency or accident.

more flower beds

More poop bins along Speyside Way

Highland games is center of the village [Agree! Really looking forward to working with the Games committee.]

How will you stop vandals from destroying the place? [A neglected park shows we don't care about it, so why should vandals?]

No skate/roller park – eyesore [Many people want a place to skate in the village, but it's a complicated question so we've left it out of our proposal. It will have to be something we can all try to figure out in the future.]

keep tearoom, toilets and ice cream [The tearoom and toilets are not affected by the ownership of the park.]

Driving range [Creative. Unlikely.]

Zip wire (big!). Witch's hat

What are you most excited about?

Rejuvenated play area for infants and children. Anything else will be a bonus

A safer play area, young kids and water are scary! [A fence around the playpark is a top priority.]

Its a beautiful area so upgrading would bring more pleasure and use. Would love to see fitness and play equipment for the older folks.

Having a fun all inclusive experience for all.

A lot more for children of all ages to keep them occupied and active outdoors.

A well looked after park more appealing to residents and visitors

I am most excited about having the chance to maintain and preserve the park exactly as it was entrusted to the inhabitants of the community. As a long-time resident of Aberlour and the nearest neighbour who accesses the park at least twice a day in all weathers and who helps to man the Speyside Visitor Centre in the summer, I regularly hear uniformly complimentary comments from users about the park precisely as it is. I have only heard expressions of consternation when these people learn of the recent proposals to make radical permanent changes to such a wonderful amenity. [Actual play equipment in a playpark. The park cleaned up. Radical!]

I'm not excited by these proposals at all. I would rather concentrate on ownership of the park being taken back by the Community following the recent land grab by Motay Council [But... we *are* the community. Also, MC didn't grab nor even want the park, it fell in their lap due to a change in Scottish land law and inaction by the previous owner.]

The park being safe and special again

The upgrade

Children being able to play in a better area

The park being busy with locals and visitors

Somewhere to take the kids with various options regardless of the weather (if undercover areas) somewhere for beginners on bikes would be great as we don't have this opportunity at our house.

Big changes

The chance of a playpark that would benefit the locals, but also bring more visitors to the village, as this would benefit all the businesses too.

Safe play area

The play areas for preschool kids

Upgrading

Skatepark

A better environment for all

New play park for the kids

An inclusive park to be proud of.

Outdoor fun

Toddler facilities they can actually reach!

Something eventually being done about the state of the park.

New equipment for children

New equipment

Having a safe area for all age group to enjoy the outdoors.

A park the family and I want to go to whenever we have time.

that this form has been made and people care to get things done [Thank you for this!]

Using park as large groups of family's to bbq

Nothing! Leave the Park alone! [OK if we clean it up a bit? Fix the playpark?]

the prospect of a park for everyone and anyone including dogs

More equipment for kids to play on

A fenced, safe, clean area to let little ones explore

Seeing the park improved

I'm excited about having a park that my children want to visit, instead of having to drive out of the village to go somewhere for us to enjoy on a nice day.

a new playpark

Having the park get cleaned up and fixed up. I don't like it that everything is broken and falling apart.

An updated exciting area for kids to play, and for adults to work in fitness. Being able to do it at the same time as your kids are playing would be great!

Seeing what changes will happen whilst keeping in line with the beautiful surroundings.

New stuff for the dogs

More choice of activities to suit all ages

I live in Fochabers, but I love to bring my kids over. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and I'd love to bring classes down to use outdoor fitness equipment. I tried, (and failed) to secure funding through 'Money for Moray' to build an outdoor gym, but we don't meet the criteria. I think that a facility like this - along with a general upgrade - would be most welcome.

A focal point for the area

Seeing the improvements

Possible fitness equipment for a healthier community. And a nicer, greener park where the village goes.

Skate park

Seeing the park fully used and enjoyed by all ages

Covered seats

Seeing more stuff

Skate park

Having somewhere to meet other mums and be comfy

would be great to have something for teenagers. Love the idea of fitness equipment for adults!

Exercise park

bbqs & picnic tables - means we could spend longer and with a wider age range

Great to see enthusiasm and doers in Aberlour! [Thank you!]

Aberlour needs upgrading.

Bandstand

Fitness

The community having pride in its park again

Any other general comments?

Is there room for a maze? Even a small one would be fun for all. Or is that being over ambitious.

I feel extremely angry at the demonstrable arrogance of PlayAberlour in riding roughshod over the wishes of the established members of the community by eliding the preferred option of preserving the status quo for the Alice Littler Park, one of the community's most sanguine assets. [We have no words.]

I think you need to raise public awareness of your group, your aims and your funding sources before asking people to complete your questionnaire. [Did you read the front of the questionnaire? A whole letter explaining.]

Is the drainage at the play area getting a sorted first?

This Q'aire starts from a false premise based on an invalid survey. The Planning for Real process was flawed in that it raised expectations for a group who wanted some changes but then totally ignored the majority of residents who were happy with the status quo and who did not bother to stick flags on a map. It continues with that trend in that it is aimed at a minority of the public. The bulk of park users will never bother to log on to Play Aberlour or even use Facebook and will be totally unaware of this initiative. [So... democracy by inaction? We prefer democracy IN action.]

To have a Q'aire in which one of the voting categories is for an age where they cannot fully understand the implications carries on the statistically flawed appeal for support. Yes, there is a need for investment in some aspects of the park, but Play Aberlour already ignored an opportunity to show they were able to handle the initial need to invest in the play area. In so doing they alienated one possible source of funds. If you really want to find out what the people of Aberlour want for the Alice Littler Memorial Park, do a proper and complete door to door survey without biased questions, then post the results. [Want to know how many little kids responded? One. Thanks, kid!]

The drainage in the play area really needs to be sorted as a priority. When you take children there is is so wet that they come back filthy.

Upkeep is very important. The play equipment that was put in in 1999 has not been properly maintained and just looks awful.

Drainage needs attention, its always so wet around the big slide. It really puts us off using the park. Fencing off the park would be good to stop dogs messing in the play areas and also to enclose children, the river is very close with no barriers etc to stop them should they run away from their adult.

The park is in a state just now. There is nails stick out of the wood in the small children area.

Older children will invariably wreck, litter, graffiti anything new so some sort of monitoring or deterrent of this would be great

exercise area for adults sounds good, need robust equipment!

Are you trying to keep discerning visitors away from Aberlour, they come to see the Park as it is and to walk along the River and to see our beautiful Trees. Will you be chargeing Entry Fees??? [Entry fees? Where do these ideas come from?]

Sand and water is fun in theory but inevitably stops working and becomes dirty and not so nice to play with.

Sand is good but if you have water nearby the sand will end up in the water and block it up as happened in the meadows, edinburgh.

The main park in the meadows, edinburgh has a fantastic selection of apparatus for all ages.

More swings. Baby swings on long chains so have longevity as need to be used until 3/4.

Destroy the Park and its trees you will never be forgiven for what you have done.
[Destroy the park? Where do these ideas come from?]

Great park and great location, will be great to see new things happen to it.

May I respectfully suggest, if you make a success of these projects initially, there would be time to introduce new projects. I have been involved in several ideas within the village, and the main problem has always been upkeep, which can be really costly. I have discussed this with my friends, and they would be very upset if the natural arena where the highland games would be held would be altered in any way. [No one is proposing altering the games area. We agree, the community will have to work together on upkeep, no matter what happens with the park.]

Just to say that my kids absolutely love the climbing wall/bridge. We've never seen another playpark with a facility like this.

I am pleased that PlayAberlour would like to improve the Alice Littler Park. The childrens' play area is badly in need of upgrading and fencing off. I'd also like to see the putting green reinstated.

This sound good but should we still keep all the old equipment as well as we enjoy it [We will save what we can, replace what we can't.]

Have been to the park with excercise equipment in Nairn - this would be a great addition to Aberlour!

Good luck

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Good luck!