



BALLATER ONE VOICE OUR FUTURE (BOVOF)

**Ballater One Voice Our Future
Action Plan for Ballater**

Background

The BOVOF project follows the setting up of a pilot scheme for the communities of Grantown, Cromdale, Dulnain and Advie by the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) two years ago.

The pilot scheme devised a 'toolkit' for the best way for the organisers to get local feedback from the community and this method has been adopted in Ballater.

The CNPA is designed to be an 'enabling' organisation promoting partnership and giving leadership to all those involved in the Cairngorms.

BOVOF



The BOVOF Working Group

- set up by the Community Council
- includes representatives from Ballater and Crathie Community Council, the Cairngorms National Park Authority, Aberdeenshire Council, the Association of Cairngorms Communities, Ballater (RD) Limited, The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, Save Cash Reduce Fuel (SCARF) and Ballater residents.
- representation of young members of the community.

Cairngorms National Park Authority

Financial support and advice

Aberdeenshire Council

Financial support and advice

Ballater (RD) Limited

Project administration and co-ordination

**Ballater One Voice Our Future
Action Plan for Ballater**

BOVOF TEAM



BALLATER
Royal Deeside

Purpose of BOVOF

- to produce a prioritised community action plan for Ballater taking into account all previous consultations and surveys.
- to involve all residents and businesses in the village.
- to build on identified community needs.
- to identify “quick wins” eligible for funding.
- to make a real difference within the community in a short period of time.

Process and Timetable

Project **kick-off meeting** – 10 November 2008

Process agreed – 14 January 2009. **Timetable** as follows:

1. Identify and compile a **review of previous consultations** and research/surveys, what happened and identify previous findings and priorities (by March 2009).
2. Plan and arrange ongoing **Press Coverage** to raise community awareness for the duration of project.
3. Develop and distribute a **questionnaire** to determine issues (all residents and other stakeholders – 44% return - March 2009)
4. **Follow up visits** on questionnaire.
5. In parallel with (3) and (4) **contact/meet key stakeholder groups**. March 2009
6. **Analyses of information** – April/May 2009.

Process and Timetable

8. First community conversation “Ballater Blether” and “Youth Café” – 4th April 2009 to determine further issues through discussion groups.
9. Ballater School feedback. All information collated – by May 2009.
10. Second “Ballater Blether” – 2 May 2009 to review issues under various themes, and through discussion groups agree solutions and determine a prioritised action plan. Just for Youth Meeting – 3 June 2009.
11. Compile the Action Plan for Ballater, highlight top priorities and quick wins, and identify likely funding sources. (8 July and 3 November Progress Meetings).
12. Public Meeting and Publish final project report (November 2009).

BOVOF Themes

1. Housing
2. Local Economy
3. Education and Training
4. Health and Sport
5. Services
6. Environment
7. Community Services
8. Just for Youth

Theme 1: Housing

Principal Issues

Housing to rent or buy by locals

Permanent supplies (housing burdens/pressured area status)

Possible Ballater housing trust/association

Extra points for locals in allocation policy

Interest in a probable 2nd round of Rural Homes for Rent from landlords

Inclusion of Ballater in the Strategic Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)

Theme 2: Local Economy

Principal Issues

- Improvements to tourism industry
- Cheaper tourist facilities and services
- Improvements to caravan park and supermarket~ shopping
- Increased number of B&B's
- Improvements to existing hotels
- **Apprenticeships for school leavers**
- Increase number of business/ shop units
- **Office accommodation – cottage industry space**
- Regular cultural promotions on green
- Enlarged service from Heather Hopper with better promotion
- **Small jobs for youth – e.g. gardening for elderly**
- **Small business centre with IT facilities**

Theme 3: Education and Training

Principal Issues

- Adult evening classes
- Larger library and longer opening hours
- Use of Old School for community learning facilities
- Computing classes for elderly
- Distance learning opportunities
e.g. - facilities for video lectures from
Aberdeen University or RGU

Principal Issues

Strong demand for a village based dental service

Some sport issues raised under Just for Youth



Theme 5: Services *Principal Issues*

Larger police presence; longer station manning; publicised action on offenders.

Employing Youth Workers to become involved in their community in a more positive way.

20MPH speed limit through the village at least for the length of Bridge Street. Flashing 30MPH sign at village boundaries.

Concern was expressed at the number of potholes and generally poor state of local road surfaces. Pedestrian crossing in the main street

Upgrade street signs, with some “leading to” signs, e.g. for Monaltrie Park; an information board/map accessible in terms of height, colour, lighting and wording.

Tullich Graveyard additional parking/hard standing is required. Deeside Way crossing of A93 at Tullich dangerous. Needs signage and feasibility study for a suitable bridge.

Theme 6: Environment

Principal Issues

Anti-litter measures and Dog Fouling

Street Cleansing- optimise timing and extend service

Improved Landscaping in village and maintain village boundary woodlands. Allotments.

Solar Panels - information on how to source relevant information and funding for householders.

Deeside walkway extending to Braemar and impacts.

Recycling in Village: Church Square Car Park recycling facility needs to be emptied much more frequently. Garden refuse collection – Spring & Autumn.

Recycling centre on periphery of Village: Possible locations – Quarry areas near Cambus O,May; Lions Face, Braemar, NOT Aboyne.

Theme 7:Community Services

Principal Issues

Ballater Old School site for both affordable housing and as a sustainable learning/training/educational facility. **Ideas for uses:** outdoor centre, youth facilities, community centre, business centre/ business units, youth club, more FE classes (e.g. yoga), museum, community café.

The Ballater Centre Development Group should be broadened to include partners from all sectors of the community and involve young people. Links to other groups potentially developing services within Ballater (V&A Halls group).

V&A Halls refurbishment: heating system, insulation, toilets, kitchens, storage, disabled person access, improved emergency service facilities. **Ideas for extending usage:** Indoor sports, more fitness classes, cinema, history and arts facilities.

Usage audit for **Monaltrie Park**. **Suggested improvements:** toilet facilities, pavilion changing facilities, litter prevention, security/vandalism, lighting, paths, expansion of park landscaping, community ownership/management, more fitness equipment in park play area.



Theme 8: Just for Youth

Principal Issues

- More youth leadership/ youth workers
- Monaltrie Park: bigger park, better toilets, area for older youths
- Skateboard park/athletics track/all-weather surface
- Youth club
- More youth events
- More youth gathering places
- Ice rink/gym/swimming pool
- Pool table hall
- Facilities for non-sporting youngsters
- More team sports
- Encourage more use of golf course by young players
- Cycle lane through the village
- Facilities for motorbike scramblers

BALLATER ACTION PLAN FOLLOW UP

It was agreed in December 2009 that BOVOF would continue with the following purpose and structure:

1. The purpose of BOVOF is to **CO-ORDINATE ACTIONS BETWEEN VARIOUS PARTNERSHIPS AND EXISTING DEVELOPMENT AND INTEREST GROUPS** within the village of Ballater, arising from the community consultation held between April and June 2009 and in the future.
2. One representative from each of the partnership, development and interest groups should attend bi-monthly meetings to **ENSURE COMMUNITY PROJECT CO-ORDINATION** (both quick wins and longer term projects) across partnerships and groups, the provision of mutual support, **CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION** and future community consultation as well as the avoidance of duplication of effort.
3. The meetings will also provide **REGULAR CONTACT WITH AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES** from Aberdeenshire Council, the Cairngorms National Park and their partners.
4. BOVOF will be chaired by the Ballater and Crathie Community Council and co-ordination and administration will be provided by Ballater (RD) Ltd - (BRD).

- **Ballater Housing Partnership Group**
- **Ballater and Upper Deeside Adult Learning Partnership**
- **Youth Action Group (BAG)**
- **Monaltrie Park Users Group**
- **Dental Service in Ballater**
- **Ballater Centre Development Group**
- **Victoria and Albert Halls Improvement Project Group**





Overall

- A total of **75 people** indicated that they are in housing need or have a desire to move within or to Ballater.
- As of 31/03/09 Aberdeenshire Council had 93 people with Ballater as a first choice (38 outwith Ballater)
- Out of the 75 who responded only 26 stated they were on a waiting list so we have highlighted a hidden need of **18**

BOVOF

Requirements

House size	No. of Respondents
1 bed	8
2 beds	44
3 beds	16
4+ beds	7
Total	75

Housing option	No.
Rent from council or housing association	39
Rent from private landlord	48
Homestake	11
RHOG	9
Affordable starter home from private developer	23
Self build	14
Open market housing	25

Rent level	No. of Respondents
Less than £250	13
£251-350	19
£351-450	8
£451-550	6
£551+	0
Total	46

Mortgage - Afford to pay	No. of respondents
less than £75,000	15
£75,000-100,000	8
£100,000-150,000	11
more than £150,000	14
Total	48

Ballater One Voice Our Future
Action Plan for Ballater



The Housing Partnership Group is taking action...

- exploring options for the provision of affordable housing.
- looking at land availability.
- indicating which options for affordable housing would be specific to Ballater with an explanation of the funding mechanisms and grants.
- seeking possible web-based housing exchange system from Spring 2010.
- Investigating letting and management scheme for second homes.

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Aim

To increase the opportunity for learning, training and preparation for employment in Ballater



BOVOF ACTION PLAN

- Adult evening classes
- Larger library and longer opening hours
- Use of Old School for community learning facilities
- Computing classes for elderly
- Distance learning opportunities – e.g.
 - facilities for video lectures from Aberdeen University or RGU



Learning Partnership Group

- Aberdeenshire Council Community Learning & Development
- University of Aberdeen
- Careers Scotland
- Robert Gordon's University
- Workers' Educational Association (WEA)
- Aberdeenshire Council Library & Information Service
- Cairngorms National Park Authority
- Scottish Agricultural College
- Linking Education and Disability Scotland (LEAD)
- Aberdeen College



Learning Needs Survey

- Learning Needs Survey delivered to all homes in Ballater
- Financed by Upper Deeside Community Development Group
- Asking about learning for fun/interest, as well as about learning which could make a real difference in people's lives
- Asking how people want to learn

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Monaltrie Park Users Group

Initial meeting held to air views on priorities and the future for the park

SWOT analysis complete

Feedback from Ballater School Pupil Council has resulted in first “quick win” funding for the Group

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Dental Service in Ballater

- Ballater population of 2000+, together with Craigendarroch, tourists in summer, Royal Guard, Met police, etc, **indicates potential for one full time dentist and one part time.**
- Such a Practice would require 3 surgery rooms, so extension of Medical Centre or new location would be required.
- Financial climate has slowed progress of Plan, but still possible to aim for enhanced dental facility in Ballater over the next couple of years.



Dental Service in Ballater

Ongoing Action

- Try to ensure that the present limited dental service in Ballater can continue.
- Advertise locally for qualified dental personnel interested in working in Ballater.
- BOVOF and NHS Grampian will continue to liaise.

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Ballater Centre Development Group

Updating the feasibility study and business plan for the development of the Ballater Old School site as an education and training centre.

A “quick win” following the BOVOF consultation was the award of a Cairngorms Leader Grant in September 2009 to help to complete the study and plans following a community consultation.

Ongoing liaison with Aberdeenshire Director of Education, Cairngorm Learning Group and CNPA concerning education outreach facilities requirements and the availability of the site.



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Victoria and Albert Halls Improvement Project Group

A “quick win” grant from the Cairngorms National Park Authority and the Marr Area Partnership Initiative Grant Scheme following the BOVOF consultation to produce up-to-date digital layout and elevation plans in August 2009.

Specification sent and proposals received for feasibility and design studies.

Public consultation completed.

4 Funding applications submitted. LEADER funding approved.



And finally...

The Action Plan for Ballater reflects the views of the community given during the BOVOF consultation between April and June 2009.

The success of its implementation will depend on positive support from members of the community. So far several members of the Ballater community have made a significant contribution to the progress of partnerships and project development groups.

If you are interested in any aspect of the Action Plan for Ballater , would like to help or if you have any queries please contact BOVOF at 013397 55467 or ballaterdeeside@btinternet.com



Stop press...

An application for LEADER funding by BRD for a Deeside/Donside Development Project was approved by the Cairngorms Local Action Group in January 2010.

When the funding package is confirmed this will allow for the recruitment of a Development Manager part of whose remit will be to build on the process and outcomes of community action planning in Ballater (BOVOF and its predecessors), as well as Upper Deeside and Donside within the Cairngorms National Park.

This will be a full time post based at BRD in Ballater.

Further details of this post will be announced and applications invited in due course, aiming to start 1 April 2010. This should prove a good opportunity for anyone interested in working with the communities in the Cairngorms National Park to plan, manage and deliver a range of projects to support their future needs.

Key Factors for Successful Community Planning Consultations

- **Strong project co-ordination.**
- **Active community communication programme to increase awareness.**
- **Feedback of results.**
- **Deliver “quick wins” to engage the community interest.**
- **Support and commitment from public agencies.**



BOVOF

THE ACTION PLAN FOR BALLATER

Action Plan in Hard Copy

Action Plan and Appendices on CD

Large Print Version of Action Plan

**Available from
Ballater Library and**

BOVOF

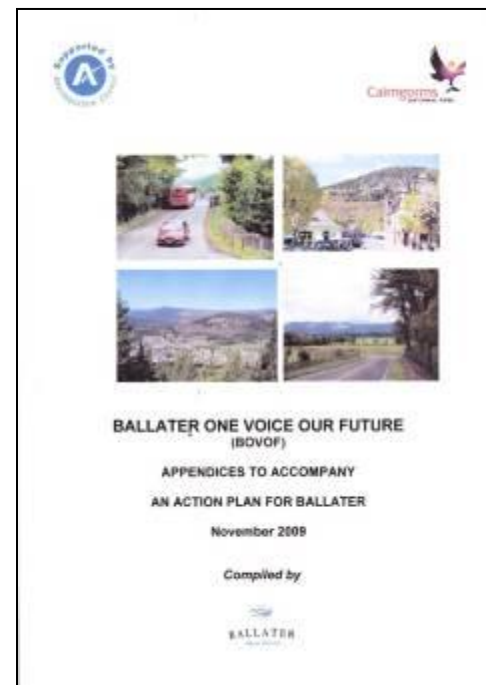
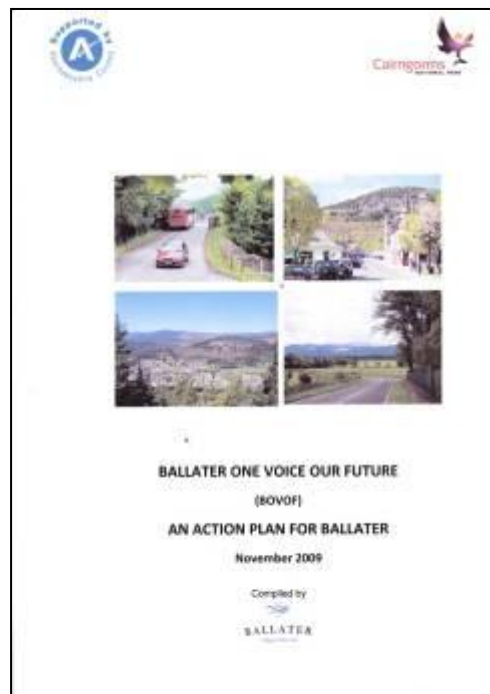
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BOVOF

THANK YOU



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