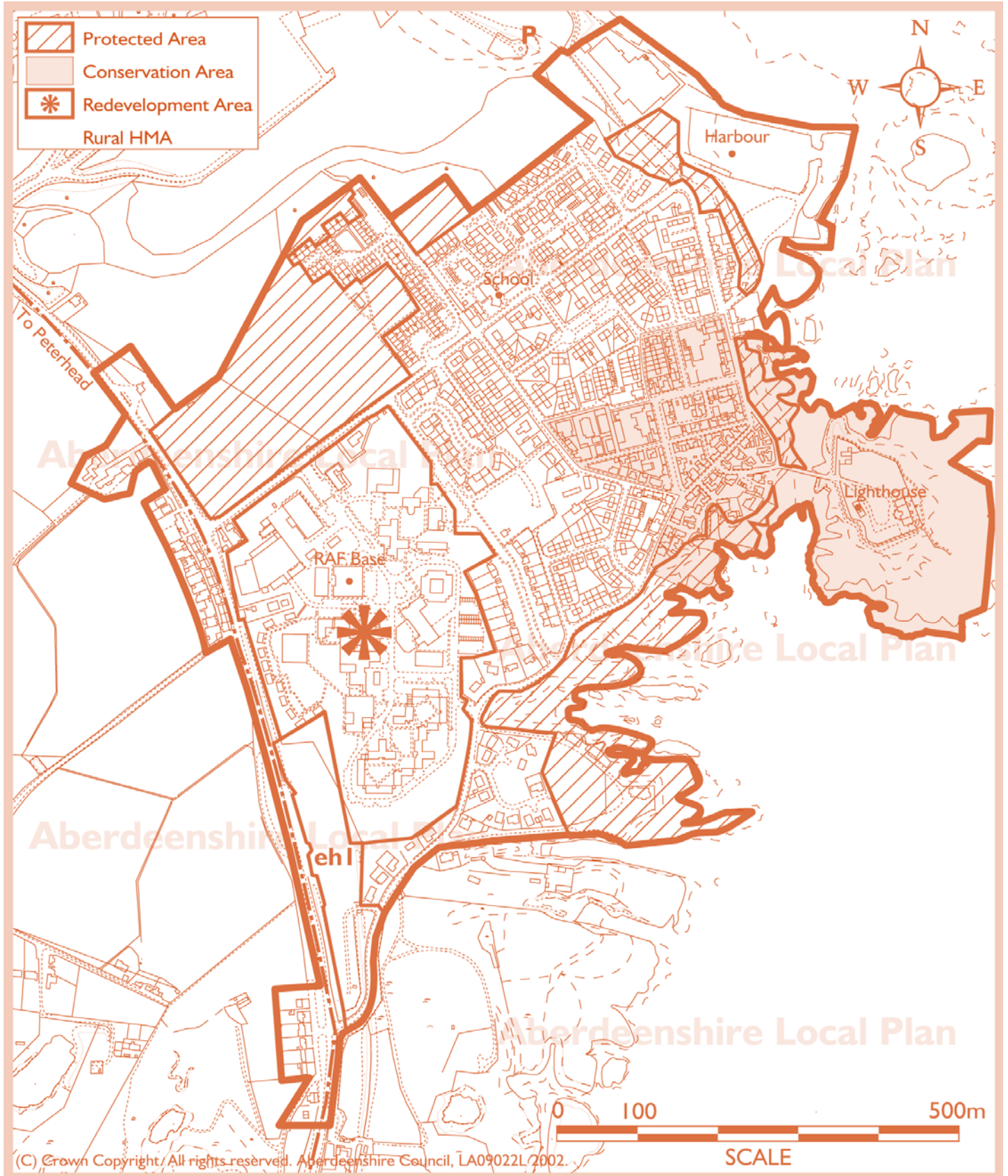




Boddam
Community
Action Plan



This is from the 2002 Aberdeenshire Local Plan which is currently under review. Information on the new plan which has yet to be approved can be found at www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldp

Origins & Development

The coastal village of Boddam is situated almost 30 miles north of Aberdeen and three miles south of Peterhead. The lighthouse at Buchaness, a well known local landmark was built by Robert Stevenson and is situated on the most easterly part of Scotland. The remains of Boddam Castle – one of Scotland's oldest castles was built in the late 16th Century by Keiths of Ludquharn. Also close by are the remains of Lord Aberdeen's Marine Villa which was used as a summer retreat. The pier in Boddam was erected with the help of funding largely from the 4th Earl of Aberdeen which led to a great increase of boats for white and herring fishing. The Harbour was built later by Mr William Aiton (one of the sub-contractors involved in the building of the Suez Canal). The population was recorded in the 2001 census as 1,364. The adjoining settlement of Stirling Village sits on the main Aberdeen to Peterhead road and was originally chiefly occupied by quarry workers at Stirlinghill. The high quality syenite or Peterhead granite was extracted during the 18th and 19th centuries and was used both locally and further afield – (eg London and Canada).

The railway arrived in Boddam in 1897 with the opening of a line from Ellon constructed by the Great North of Scotland Railway Company – however the line was closed during the Great Depression of 1932 to passengers. In the 1950s a radar station was opened by the RAF and the camp was built on the site of the old railway station – which both boosted the local economy and changed the character of the village. RAF Buchan

closed in 2005 and the housing attached to the base has been sold off, bringing new families into the village. The base was sold to a private investor and some of the buildings have been developed. The former RAF Pavilion is now owned by Boddam Development Trust.

During the 1970s Peterhead Power Station was built to the north of Boddam, opening in 1980. It is now a multi unit station owned and operated by Scottish and Southern Energy. The three 277MWe V94.3A (now called SGT5-4000F) Siemens gas turbines provide a CCGT-type system of power generation, with three Doosan Babcock heat recovery steam generators providing steam to one (older) steam turbine.

Boddam is able to sustain a range of services and businesses despite being located close to Peterhead – the largest settlement in Aberdeenshire. These include a general grocer's shop, Post Office, Chip Shop, Garages and Car Sales Businesses, two Hotels and a Hostel. There is also a Doctor's Surgery, Library, Pensioners' Hut, Sheltered Housing complex, three Churches, the Public Hall, Primary School, Harbour, and two parks – the Recreation Park and the former RAF Park and Pavilion. Several businesses and groups are also located in the ex RAF base including Buchan Braes Hotel, Nursery, Kirkburn Mill and Factory Shop, Air Cadets, Garage, and Training Organisation.

Community activities centre around the Hall (Playgroup, Mums and Tots etc) and Library (Tuesday morning drop in sessions and story telling). Other groups active in the village include – Boddam Community

Council, Boddam Community Association, Recreation Park Committee, Boddam Development Trust and Boddam Pensioners who meet in "The Hut" on the seafront during the week.

Boddam is situated on the Coastal Trail close to a particularly stunning, rugged stretch of coastline where colonies of seabirds nest and rear their young. Funding has recently been secured by Boddam Community Association to develop paths and to create viewpoints on Stirling Hill.

In 2010 a community consultation was carried out using the "Community Signature" tool. Members of the community were invited to several open sessions in the library to participate. Further consultation work was done in 2011 at another drop in session and at the Gala Day at the Park. A follow up prioritisation meeting was held – the outcomes of all this work have been used to create this prioritised Action Plan to help the community to focus and develop their future goals.

Things we like about Boddam (as given by various members of the community of different ages)

"generally friendly and a good place to live"

"our heritage"

"a good sense of community in Claymore Crescent – they have street parties!"

"the active eco school, the library as a community hub"

"lighthouse walks, harbour area, Sandford Beach, natural attractions, the Fisherman's Hut"

"new playpark and cycle path"

"safe place to live generally"



The Harbour.



Community Signature Event at the Library.



The Power Station.

Boddam: Buchan Community Plan 2010-2014

The Buchan Local Community Plan brings together the key actions and projects of a number of public agencies under five themes – Community Wellbeing, Developing Our Partnership, Sustainable Environment, Jobs and the Economy and Lifelong Learning. It also includes

actions based on consultation with the local communities and local community groups. The plan can be accessed on www.ouraberdeenshire.gov.uk/buchan

The latest version includes actions specifically for Boddam which are listed below and there are numerous general intentions in all categories within the plan which might affect Boddam.

Specific Actions:

Area Plan Reference

Detail

Community Wellbeing

A1 Affordable Housing

To work in partnership with the Scottish Government, Private Developers and Registered Social Landlords to assist in the delivery of affordable housing on both brownfield and Greenfield sites throughout Buchan. Boddam is named as a top priority area.

A4 Environmental Projects Housing Areas

To continue to deliver a planned approach within Aberdeenshire Council housing estates whilst achieving the objectives of regeneration - Boddam is specifically mentioned as one of the settlements here.

Jobs and the Economy

B1 Energetica Energy Corridor Project

To finalise the Energetica Delivery Plan highlighting investment opportunities, resource requirements and milestones for the next three years – Boddam is well placed to benefit from this initiative.

B2 A90 Trunk Road

To improve road safety and access in and out of Buchan. Road improvement scheme at Toll of Burness is included as a priority as well as the duelling of the Tipperty-Balmedie road.

B12 Community Assets

To work with active community groups to investigate funding and develop a schedule of works for the upgrading of Council and Community Halls – Boddam Hall is a priority for a general upgrade.

Lifelong Learning

C2 Active Schools Programme

To increase the level of participation in sport and physical activity by young people in Buchan. To develop improved links from schools in Buchan to sports and recreation clubs in the wider community through the Community School Network that covers the Peterhead area.

C3 Holiday Activity Programmes

To continue to support and promote the Holiday Activity Programmes and increase the range of activities, through the Community Schools Network at Peterhead, which includes all the feeder Primary Schools to enable young people to participate.

C15 Play Areas

To continue to work with communities and others to upgrade existing play facilities in settlements – Claymore Crescent Play Area in Boddam is mentioned as a priority (has recently been completed)

Sustainable Environment

D3 Urban Regeneration

To undertake a review of conservation areas commencing with Boddam to gain a better understanding of existing conservation areas and opportunities for their enhancement within an emerging strategy for the Historic Environment.

D10 Paths and Outdoor Access

To continue the development and implementation of path projects around Buchan eg the Coastal Path – Boddam is situated on this route

Top four Priorities

The top four priorities to emerge from the review are outlined below

Improved Working Between Community Groups *(Theme: Developing Our Partnership)*

It was clear at all the consultation events that links between community groups in Boddam could be improved. It was felt that there were tensions between groups and that there needed to be some clarity as to what each group was responsible for within the village and that communication between them could be better. It was suggested that a community newsletter which included information from all the groups in the village and community noticeboards would help. This could be a project that could be run from the library as part of an IT initiative.

Training For Volunteers *(Theme: Lifelong Learning)*

It was recognised that the demand for more activities in the village would require volunteers and there was therefore a need for support and training for volunteers. This could be done through the local Volunteer Centre with other partners. Accreditation for this

training was a possibility which would also help with people looking for a route back into the workplace. There was also support available with volunteers applying for PVG.

Activities And Learning Opportunities For All Ages *(Theme: Lifelong Learning)*

The consultation exercises identified a demand for a wider range of activities for all ages in Boddam.

Young people who participated had a number of ideas for activities from developing a community garden to learning about different cultures and accessing information on careers and getting a job. Community Learning and Development are prepared to work with young people to help establish youth clubs for primary and secondary age pupils. They will also look into the possibility of getting the Streetsports initiative to the village to engage young people. During the summer Theatre MODO are holding sessions for young people in Boddam.

There was also a call for more activities for older people – it was felt that some follow up consultation work was needed to ascertain the demand for the different ideas coming forward (outdoor bowls, IT classes etc).



Gala Day Fun.



Theatre MODO in Boddam.



Looking over to Stirling Village from the Recreation Park.



Fun activities in the Library.



The Library.



Boddam Primary School.

Better Integration Of New Residents In To The Village (Theme: Community Wellbeing)

With the closing of the RAF base and sale of associated housing there are a large number of new residents in the village and it was felt that support was required to help new people integrate and become involved in the community. Agencies such as GREC (Grampian Racial Equality Council) and the Bilingual Healthlink worker were also available for additional help and advice with this issue.

Other Issues

Many other suggestions received support and these are listed on pages 6 - 9. A summarised Action Plan can be found on pages 10 and 11.

Lifelong Learning

This theme produced two of the top four priorities (see page 5). Other key issues which arose in the consultation were –

- Retaining and developing the library as a community hub - the library is a key hub for a range of activities already but it was felt this could be developed even further to help bring community groups together eg as a base to produce a community newsletter.
- There was a need identified for more computers in the library and the potential for a range of classes from basic computing to ECDL
- Support for young people's ideas

Theme: Jobs & The Economy

Some of the issues arising were:-

- Opportunities for adults to access more employability courses locally to fit in with school hours.
- Hall not being used to its full potential. However, this point needed clarification as some felt that it was well used.
- What impact will Energetica have on the local economy?
- Public transport good during the day but not in the evening – though people recognised that compared to other villages, public transport was reasonable in Boddam.

- RAF base – is there potential for other initiatives and activities on the site? This could be done in conjunction with a survey on activities people would support.
- Developing tourism initiatives – Peterhead Projects were willing to help with any initiatives in the future.



The Post Office.



Service bus in Boddam.



The Lighthouse.



Cliffs at Boddam.



The Pensioners' Hut.

Theme: Community Wellbeing

This theme produced one of the top four priorities (see page 6).

Other issues included

- Vandalism – it was felt this was linked to the lack of activities for young people and that some of the initiatives suggested would help alleviate this problem.
- More opportunities to improve the health of the community – there were several ideas on how to tackle this issue – eg working with the surgery, linking with the Healthpoint in the Hotspot in Peterhead, developing the Healthy Helpings initiative and linking with CFine (Community Food Initiative). The Bilingual Healthlink worker was also available to work on this issue.

Theme: Sustainable Environment

Issues under this theme included -

- Dog mess and litter – it was suggested that this could be resolved by working with the dog warden on an initiative to encourage dog owners to clean up after their dogs.
- Recycling bins not accessible (currently located behind the Buchan Braes Hotel) and not kept tidy and there were problems with the bin collection from time to time in Stirling village.
- No lighting on the cycle/footpath between Boddam and Peterhead – it was suggested that this could be done as part of the Energetica project in the future.

Theme: Developing Our Partnership (Working with others)

This theme produced one of the top four priorities (see page 5).

Other issues were

- There was a perception that local Councillors did not hold surgeries in the village but this was discovered to be incorrect.
- Review times of Community Council meetings – it was pointed out that these are held at the same time as all other Community Council meetings in Buchan and indeed Aberdeenshire the reason being that they have to be held in the evening so that people working during the day can attend.



Creels at the Harbour.



View from Stirlinghill.



Cadet Training Centre.

| | Independent | Partnership | Outside Agency |
|--------------------|-------------|--|--|
| Lifelong Learning | | <p>Training for Volunteers</p> <p>More activities and learning opportunities for all ages</p> <p>Retain and develop library as a community hub</p> <p>More computers in the library</p> <p>Support for young people's ideas</p> | <p>Increased opening at the library</p> |
| Jobs & The Economy | | <p>Opportunities for adults to access more employability courses locally</p> <p>Hall not being used to its full potential</p> <p>RAF base – potential for other initiatives and activities on the site</p> <p>Developing tourism initiatives</p> | <p>Public transport good during the day but not in the evening</p> <p>Impact Energetica will have on the local economy</p> |
| Local Environment | | <p>Dog mess and litter</p> <p>Recycling bins not accessible</p> <p>Problems with the bin collection in Stirling village.</p> | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <p>Health & Wellbeing</p> | | <p>Lighting on the cycle/footpath between Boddam and Peterhead</p> <p>Better integration of new residents in to the village</p> <p>Vandalism</p> <p>More opportunities to improve the health of the community</p> | |
| <p>Developing Our Partnership</p> | | <p>Improved working between community groups</p> <p>Community Newsletter</p> | |

Partners who may help to deliver the above

Aberdeenshire Council Services:-
Education Learning and Leisure
Housing and Social Work
Law and Administration
Planning and Environmental Services
Transportation and Infrastructure

Private Investors

Other Agencies:-
Buchan Community Safety Partnership
Grampian Police
Grampian Fire and Rescue Service
NHS Grampian
Reaching Out Project

This booklet is one of a series produced by Local Rural Partnerships together with the community under the banner Making It Real.

The Making it Real initiative is sponsored by Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership and Shell, and run by Aberdeenshire Community Economic Development Co-ordinators Forum. The aim is to provide community action plans in an attractive, easy to read, professionally printed format.

In Boddam, the consultation exercise was led by the Reaching Out initiative using the “Community Signature” tool developed by BusinessLab and supported by Aberdeen Foyer.

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 reviewed and updated. As some projects are completed, other issues will arise and take their place in future versions of the community plan.

Thanks are due to Boddam Community Council, Boddam Library and the wider community for their help and input with the community consultation and follow up meetings.

BUCHAN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

AREA OFFICE • NETHERMUIR ROAD • MAUD • AB42 4ND
T: 01771 613666 • F: 01771 613204 • E: BDP@SCOTMAIL.NET