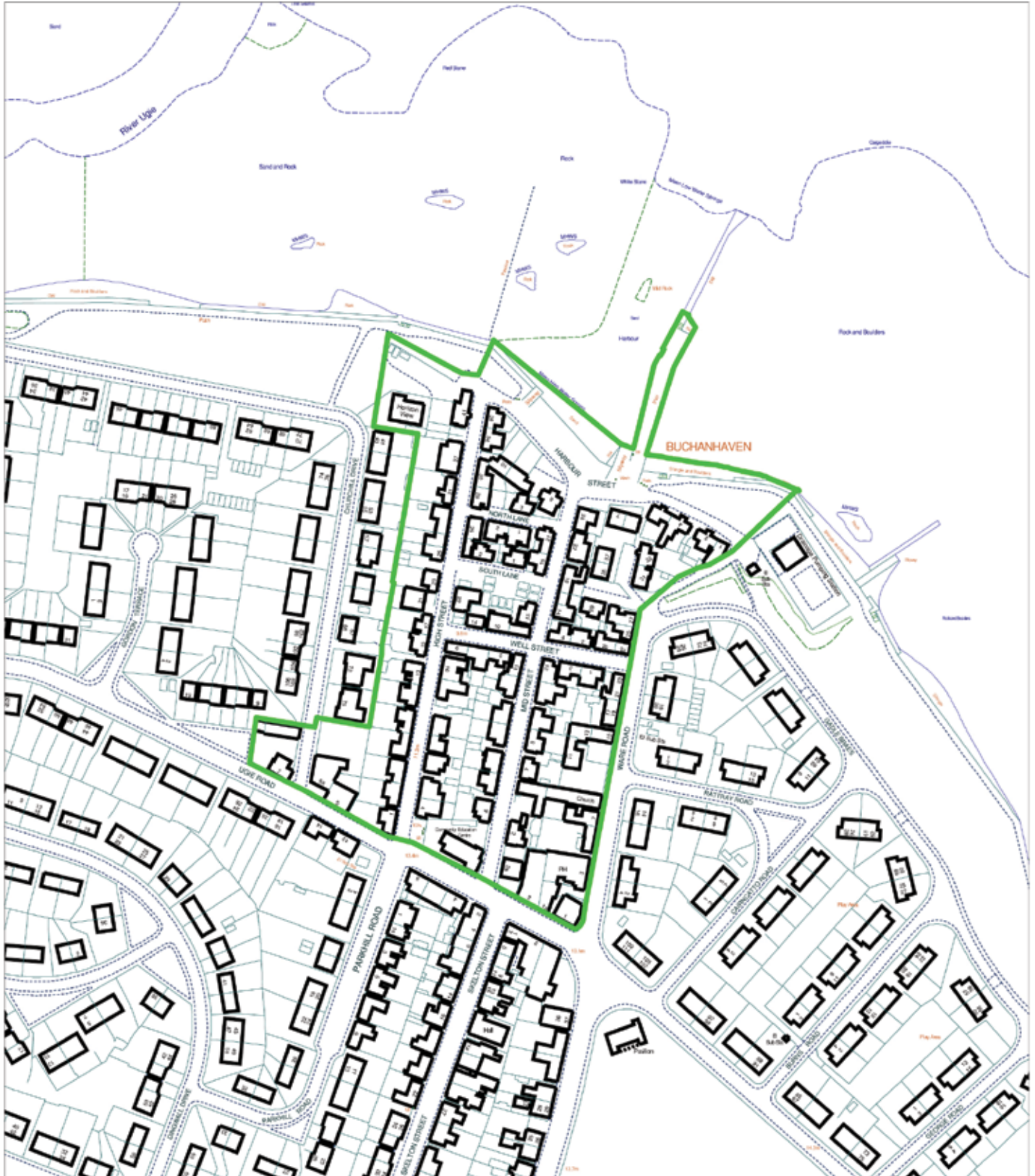




Buchanhaven

Community
Action Plan 2012



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31 October 2011

Aberdeenshire Council

Scale - 1:2500

**Peterhead-Buchanhaven Conservation Area
Designated**



Origins and Development Background

The name “Buchanhaven” dates back to 1739 and from 1760 titles to build houses there were granted by the wealthy landowner Ferguson of Pitfour, the proprietor of Buchanhaven.

The village was one of many coastal fishing communities and residents were encouraged to set up a “white fishing station” at Buchanhaven. In 1850 work started on the construction of a new pier, which replaced a smaller one that had been built to the west of the current historic pier. This was to be the first stage of building a proper harbour basin for large herring boats, however, this plan was never completed. The existing pier as it stands today did allow local fishermen to operate small-line boats from the village and by the mid 1860’s there were approximately 27 boats based at Buchanhaven.

The fishing industry slowly declined as larger ports such as Peterhead took away most of the work, however even to this day a number of small boats are still based at the pier and can be seen regularly operating out of the harbour, remaining true to the original spirit of Buchanhaven.

The Former School

Following the formation of the village, concern was expressed in 1780 that there was a lack of an educational establishment and in 1787 the first mention of a school was made in the records of Ferguson of Pitfour. A simple “but and ben” was built in the area now known as Ware Road. One end of the school was for the pupils and the other for the teacher to reside in. At the time, the school was built for £20 sterling, one half paid for by the villagers and the other half by Ferguson of Pitfour.

The affairs of the school were managed by a school board of seven villagers who were appointed by ballot. The school master’s fee was a penny per pupil per week, plus a contribution of peat for the school fire.

The school survived until 1840 and little information is held about any school facility in the area until 1850 when records show a new school built on an area donated by Ferguson of Pitfour, bounded by a road to the east that led to Peterhead [now known as Ugie Road], to the south Mid Street and to the north High Street. The school was to house about 125 pupils and to be paid for by public subscription, half by the villagers and half by a donation from Ferguson of Pitfour.



Buchanhaven Harbour.



Past times.



Fishermen at Buchanhaven.



Pupils at Buchanhaven.

A constitution and rules of the Buchanhaven School were adopted at a public meeting of householders of Buchanhaven in the school building on 22 February 1868 which is recorded in the Book of the Lords Council and Session. The Feu of the Charter was signed by all the villagers in which Lt Col George Arthur Ferguson of Pitfour granted "A piece of ground consisting of thirty and a half poles or thereby imperial standard measure for a public school".

The register of mortgages also records loans taken out to assist with the build and later extension of the school and are detailed below:

- 1872 School Board of Peterhead approved the sum of £325 to Buchanhaven Public School for building offices and enclosing walls.

- 1881 School Board of Peterhead approved the sum of £225 for repairs.
- 1884 School Board of Peterhead approved the sum of £224 for improvements and repairs.
- All sums were repaid in full by the villagers of Buchanhaven.

The first recorded teachers noted in 1885 were:

- Jessie Keith
- Lilius Scroggie (former pupil)
- Margaret Christie



Class of 1927.



Buchanhaven School building today.

Community Activity

There was a strong bond to the school by the villagers of Buchanhaven, and this bond still exists today. An active Heritage Society was set up to safeguard not only the school, but the history of the village and preserve the way of life that makes Buchanhaven the community it is today. The former school is now very much seen as a community hub, attracting not only local residents, but now visitors from many areas which in turn has a positive effect on the local economy.

The impact on social inclusion cannot be underestimated and since starting activity in the Centre, there has been a clear impact on community cohesion and an interest in preserving the conservation area.

In addition the Buchanhaven Harbour Committee re-launched their Harbour Open Day in August 2012, which was greatly appreciated by hundreds of visitors and it would be the intention to stage this event annually to benefit local residents and business, but most importantly to promote the village as an area of outstanding beauty both manmade and natural.

Since the setting up of the “Buchanhaven Heritage Society” in February 2012 there have been a number of community engagement activities including - a Craft Fayre, Heritage Events including live demonstrations of old fishing skills, Art Exhibition and sale, Buchanhaven through the Wars historic event. Other planned events include – Arts, Crafts and Performing Event, Tatties and Herring night with music provided by local musicians, Christmas Craft Fayre and Carol Service.



Art Exhibition.



Scottish Week Exhibition.



Scottish Week Activities 2012.



Consultation Event.

The group are currently exploring the feasibility of taking on the Community Centre through an asset transfer from Aberdeenshire Council. The first part of this work involves consulting with the local community and, depending on the results of this, developing a business case for the building to ensure that it is viable and sustainable in to the future.

As a first step, the group carried out an extensive community consultation using Planning for Real® in May 2012. Local residents were invited to a number of drop in sessions at the Community Centre to give their views. In addition, a questionnaire, specifically about the Community Centre itself was drawn up to find out what the community would like to see happening in the building. The outcomes of this have been used to create this Action Plan to help the community to focus and develop their future goals.



Consultation drop in.

(as given by various members of the community of different ages)
“amazing seafront”
“friendly, village feeling”
“the feowk are afa fine”
“scenic seaview, friendly people”
“the harbour/beach! Picturesque view of beach and River Ugie”

What could be better
“stamp out drinking of alcohol and leaving bottles”
“community activities that bring people together”
“clean street drains more often - stop flooding”
“coffee shop/centre, meeting point for the folks in the heart of Buchanhaven”
“more bins for rubbish and dog foul”



Drying nets.

Buchanhaven: Buchan Community Plan 2013-2016

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 which are of particular relevance to Buchanhaven.



Harbour Day.

Heading/Lead Service	Action/Project
Community Wellbeing	<p>A3 Community Safety - To work with local Partners to deliver on Community Safety priorities for Buchan, for example including - road safety, alcohol, domestic violence, drugs, youth disorder/underage drinking, serious and violent crime, vandalism/graffiti, fire safety, neighbour disputes.</p> <p>A5 Improving Health and Tackling Inequalities in Buchan - To work in partnership with services and the community to address health improvement priorities with a focus on those more vulnerable or who have higher risk of preventable ill health.</p> <p>A6 Older People - To work with Community Planning Partners to identify actions and priorities for older people in Buchan in light of the new Scottish Government National Outcome 15 - "our older people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it."</p>
Jobs and the Economy	<p>B2 Support for Employability Activities and Work - To continue to develop and support employability projects to help people in Buchan overcome barriers in order to enter and sustain employment.</p> <p>B3 Tourism and Events - To support projects and activities eg Theatre Modo, Family History, Aden Country Park, Scottish Week, Aden Bike Challenge etc which promote our Buchan area, and particularly help to meet local needs and address priorities within the Buchan Community Plan.</p> <p>B4 Social Economy/Social Enterprise - Community Planning Partners in Buchan will support an evaluation of social enterprise activity and will work with these organisations to strengthen their future sustainability.</p>
Lifelong Learning	<p>C3 Community Facilities - To identify with Communities what their needs are through available evidence, local consultation and Community Action Plans and match this with funding and resources available.</p>
Sustainable Environment	<p>D3 Community Assets - To work with local communities to identify and promote Community Asset Transfer opportunities, which meet both the communities' and partners' needs including Caravan Parks, Community Buildings or Services.</p> <p>D4 Environmental Improvements - To encourage maintenance, improvement and biodiversity of the local environment of the Buchan settlements.</p> <p>D6 Waste - To work with Partners to increase awareness of recycling and encourage community engagement in ReUse, Recycle and ReSale whilst promoting the Zero Waste Agenda for the Buchan area through - Recycling Points, Reuse and Recycle, Litter, Green Dog Walkers Initiative</p>
Developing Our Partnership	<p>E1 Increasing Community Involvement - Partners will lead on, engage with and support Community Engagement exercises.</p>



Ducks on the beach.

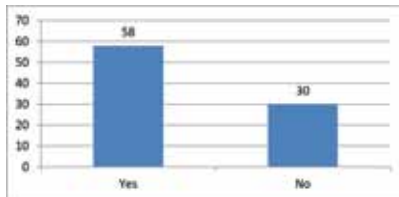


Fishing.

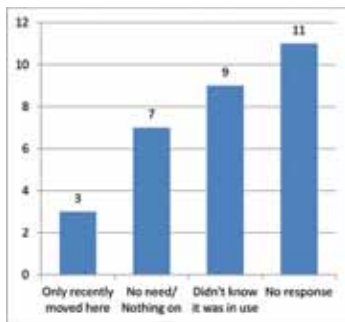
The results of the Community Questionnaire are documented below. There was clear support for a number of activities in the Centre - Heritage events, Classes of all kinds, youth activities and a Cafe serving homebakes and light lunches.

Buchanhaven Questionnaire

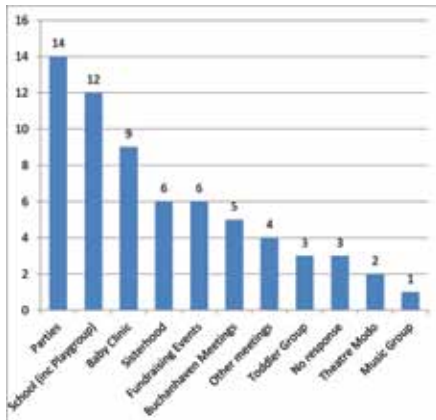
1 Have you ever used Buchanhaven Community Centre?



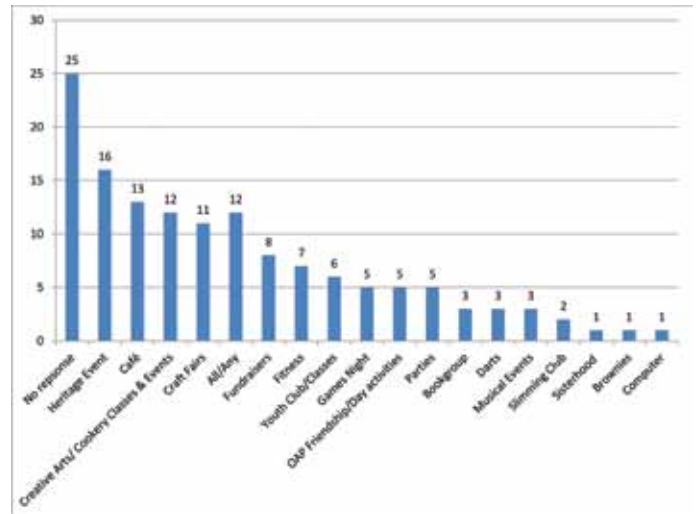
a) If no, please provide reasons:



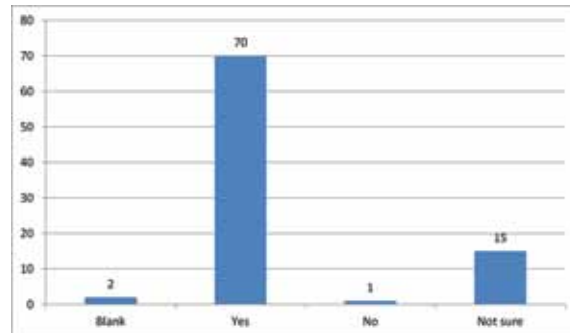
b) If yes - what was your reason for using:



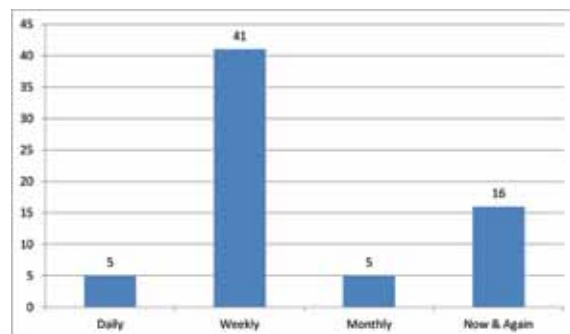
2 What activities and events would you support and attend in the Community Centre?



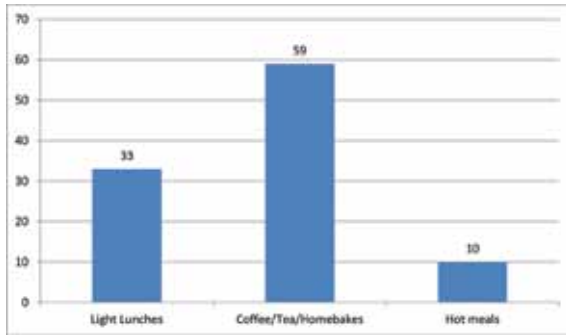
3 Would you support a Café in the Centre?



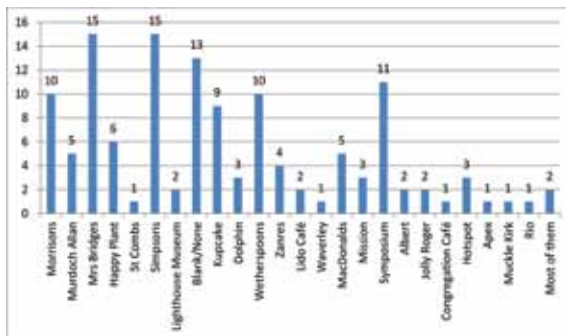
4 If yes, how often would you use it?



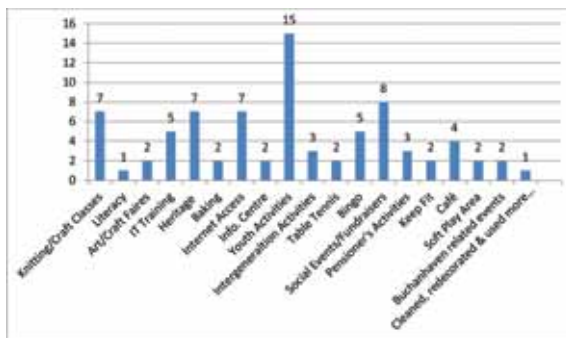
5 If yes, what would you like it to serve?



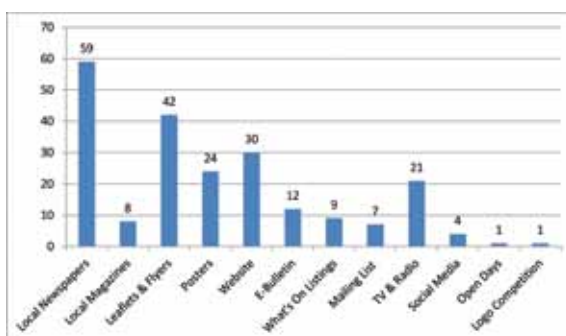
6 Which Cafes do you visit regularly in Peterhead & the surrounding area at the moment?



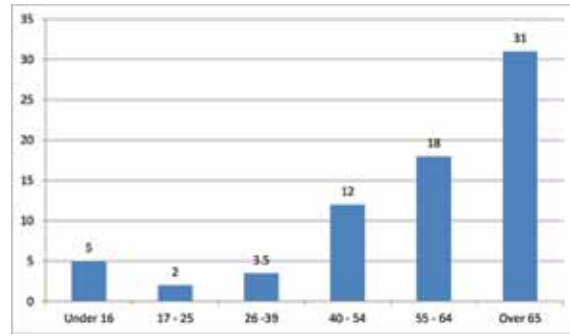
7 What additional facilities would you like to see in the Centre?



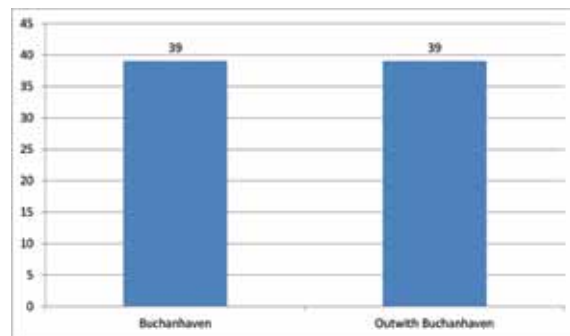
8 Which methods of promotion would you use to find out more about Buchanhaven Community Centre?



9 What age group are you in?



10 Where do you live?





Antisocial drinking.



Dog fouling.



Dumping.

During the consultation, residents were also invited to comment on other issues within Buchanhaven.

Lifelong Learning

The results of the questionnaire showed that local residents would welcome provision of a wide range of classes and activities in the Community Centre for all ages.

Other issues included:

- Better toilets at Buchanhaven School.

Community Wellbeing

There were various issues around community safety including -

- Traffic lights on Hay Crescent - at Morrisons
- Street lights along the prom between the Harbour and Birnie Bridge
- One way system in Hope Street outside Buchanhaven School - drop off point also requested
- One way system - Ugie Street between Hay Crescent and Victoria Road
- Anti social behaviour - drinking alcohol on the streets. There was a perception that this was linked to the houses let out by absentee landlords.
- Increased Community Warden patrols in village and prom area

There was also a call for a play area in Barclay Park and in the open area Churchill Drive to Gordon Terrace.

Jobs And The Economy

Issues raised were around attracting visitors to Buchanhaven to see the conservation area, including the Harbour.

- Activities in the Centre to attract tourists
- Historical information plaques at key locations
- Flag pole at the Harbour

Sustainable Environment

People were supportive of initiatives to enhance the local environment - particularly around the Harbour area.

- New railings along the prom between the Harbour and Birnie Bridge
- Address dog fouling issues in village, prom and beach area
- Apply for Clean Beach Award between Harbour and Birnie Bridge
- Toilets at the Beach front
- Pumping Station - there were comments that this looks a bit like a prison camp and residents could hear a humming noise from the Station. It was felt that screening with planting would help with both the noise and appearance of this area.
- In addition there was a request for the bench situated on the prom behind the Pumping Station to be moved further along towards Gadle Braes. This bench is currently hidden and attracts people drinking alcohol despite the recent ban which has been introduced in Peterhead.



Harbour Day.



Sunset.



Pumping Station.

This booklet is one of a series produced by Local Rural Partnerships together with the community under the banner Community Action Plan.

The initiative is sponsored by Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership 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.

For most communities, the content of each community

plan is based on the results of Planning for Real® exercises carried out by the communities themselves, together with any other available reports. This process ensures that the plans are truly community-led.

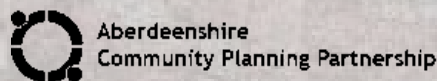
This information can now guide the community and Community Planning Partners in drawing up detailed action plans to implement the top priorities as well as addressing the other issues which have been identified. For each priority or issue this will involve agreeing who should be involved, what

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
Buchanhaven Heritage
Society and the wider
community for their
help and input with the
community consultation.**

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