

Cromar Consultation - 10th June 2024 - Tarland Development Group Summary

Summary Paragraph

The community of Cromar has varied perspectives on the proposed development of hub buildings at Tarland Trails, Pittenderich. Supporters believe the project will stimulate the local economy, attract grant funding, and improve amenities, especially for families and disabled individuals. They advocate for separate management from TDG and emphasize the potential benefits of tourism, including property sales and school enrollment. However, concerns are raised about potential negative impacts on existing businesses, environmental sustainability, and community cohesion. Critics fear increased competition for local businesses, noise pollution, and overdevelopment, calling for transparent planning and community engagement. Overall, while some endorse the development for its economic potential and community benefits, others caution against its potential adverse effects on the village's character and existing establishments.

Main figures are as follows:

There was a 12% return which totaled 86 valid responses out of circa 700 leaflets sent out. The breakdown of comments was as follows to give an indication of opinion:

For: 27

For with reservations: 12

Against: 43

Undecided: 4

Invalid (No postcode): 3

The consultation event was attended by 84 people and 22 people spoke at the meeting.

Support:

- **Economic Benefits:** Supporters view the hub buildings at Tarland Trails as a catalyst for local economic growth, attracting visitors and enhancing amenities like bike shops and charging stations.
- **Community Development:** They see potential in diversifying local services and supporting community projects, albeit with careful management of visitor impacts.
- **Accessibility and Grants:** Advocates highlight the benefits of improved accessibility and securing outside grant funding for the project.

Against:

- **Impact on Local Businesses:** Opponents express concerns that hub buildings could divert business from existing village establishments, leading to economic competition rather than collaboration.
- **Environmental and Social Concerns:** Critics worry about the environmental impact, increased traffic, and noise disturbance associated with heightened visitor numbers.
- **Lack of Transparency:** Some are skeptical due to perceived inadequate communication from TDG and unclear business plans.

Conclusion:

- **No Unanimous Consensus:** The community is divided between those emphasizing economic potential and others concerned about impacts on village character and existing businesses.
- **Call for Balance:** There is a strong call for comprehensive planning, transparency, and community engagement to address concerns and optimize benefits.

Next Steps (From the consultation responses) :

- **Enhanced Communication:** Advocates for better communication and engagement from TDG with the local community to address concerns and ensure broader community benefits.
- **Phased Approach:** Suggestions include a phased development approach starting with essential facilities and using profits to support community projects.
- **Sustainability and Planning:** Calls for thorough studies on environmental impact, traffic management, and sustainability to inform future development decisions.
- **Business Integration:** Recommendations to involve existing local businesses in new developments to avoid direct competition and promote synergy within the community.