

Every community in the National Park is different and has its own particular importance, issues and aspirations. Because of this, the next National Park Plan wishes to reflect what each community wants to aspire to in the future and support those visions.

This survey raises some of the issues that will affect communities in the National Park in the future and that may affect your own community's vision for the future. The results of the survey may help you look at these issues in more detail and develop a plan to help take your community forward. It will also tell the CNPA and other agencies a little about what people think is important about places within the National Park.

The same questions will be used for individuals, groups and open/public sessions across the Park to build up communities' views of the future. It is important to have as many responses as possible so the views of the future of the Park reflect the views of its communities.

## **ISSUES THAT WILL AFFECT YOU**

- **Climate Change**

Climate change will affect everyone more and more over the coming years. It is likely that most of the National Park will become generally warmer, with wetter winters and more frequent floods. This will affect the plants and animals living here, the places and ways we live, and even the landscapes we see in the Park. We will be forced by law and by rising costs to change our energy sources for electricity, heating and transport, and we may need to grow more food locally or to plant more woodland for fuel or as a way of storing carbon.

- **Population Change**

It is likely that the population of the National Park will grow over the next 20 years, and that people will live longer. There will be many more people aged over 60, 70 and 80 than there are today, but the number of young people and children is likely to stay about the same. The changes in population will mean we continue to need new housing, especially for affordable housing, housing for the people who work here to live in, and housing that meets the needs of an older population.

- **Changes to the economy**

There will always be economic challenges in the National Park because of its remoteness from Scotland's main population centres. However there will be new opportunities to continue to develop tourism, change the way that land is managed and products from the land and Park are valued. The changes in population will also bring changes to the economy of the Park and the opportunities for employment. The way that services are delivered and the types of services that are needed will change. An older population has different needs to younger generations but also has more leisure time that can support their community, its organisations and infrastructure.

- **Changes to the public sector**

Everyone expects that there will be reduced public spending for the foreseeable future. This

will affect the National Park as much as other parts of Scotland. There will be pressure on all public services to reduce costs and make savings. Although we don't yet know what will be affected most, it's likely that rural communities will need to work very closely with public agencies to ensure that critical support is maintained and services and communities can adapt.

Name of your Community

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Please tick as applicable:

Individual response

Group response

Number in Group

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Your Age 16 -24

25 -35

36-55

56-65

66+

What is your connection with the Park? I have a business in the park  I live in the Park

I work in the park  My family lives or works in the Park  I spend leisure time in

the Park

1. We use the word 'streetscape' to describe how streets look, the buildings on them, the styles of architecture, the open spaces in it. There are probably things you like about it as well as parts you don't. Over time buildings change, are added to, replaced or new ones built. Sometimes it is small changes over time and sometimes one development makes a big immediate change. The more we plan for what we want to see in future, the more likely we are to be able to keep the things we like and to make new changes attractive.

What things about the way your community looks are important and make it an attractive and good place to live?

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2. The National Park was designated because it is a special place. What makes your community special and an important part of the National Park?

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3. How do you feel about living in the Cairngorms National Park?

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4. Thinking about infrastructure (communications, transport, water, electricity) what will your community need in the future to improve the quality of life in your community?

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5. Some communities have supermarkets, leisure centres and public parks while others may have a village shop and a hall. However all communities need reasonable access to a range of facilities, some of which will be close by and others shared with neighbouring areas. In the future, you may want new or different facilities. For example, you may want to grow more of your own food and need spaces such as allotments or community growing spaces.  
What facilities does your community need now and what will it need in the future?  
How could you support them?

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6. The services you use in your community such as waste collection, library, care services, schools, healthcare, transport and emergency services will all change and try to be more efficient in the future.  
What services are most important to your community now and what will be important in the future?

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7. Living and working in rural areas needs a different set of skills to being in a city. People manage land, businesses tend to have higher transport costs and communities are further from many services and facilities. There are many different training opportunities in the Cairngorms, and some can be designed for particular needs. There are likely to be specific opportunities to help land management businesses, around business support, and supporting community development.  
What skills, support or training could help people in your community in the future?

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8. Although we expect the population of the National Park to get older, many people both young and old work here and will do so in the future. Many of the jobs we do today will still be required in the years ahead but there will also be new opportunities in the future.  
Are there particular opportunities for employment in or around your community now or in the future?

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**Does your community need more/different employment opportunities now or will it in the future?**

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**9. Considering new houses, both affordable and those sold on the open market, where they are built and who lives in them, is a big issue for most communities. In the past, a lot of new open market housing has been too expensive for people working in the National Park to afford, and there is never enough affordable housing for all who want it. There are no simple answers to making housing in communities affordable to local people, but it may be possible to target more of any new housing to local need.**

**What sorts of housing will your community need most in the future if it is to thrive? Please tick all that apply.**

- open market housing for anyone;
- housing that's targeted at local people;
- affordable housing (such as council housing and housing association housing)
- housing for people with special needs (including the elderly)
- no new housing

**Comments:** .....  
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**10. What issues related to climate change is your community likely to find most difficult to tackle? Please tick all that apply.**

- improving energy efficiency of homes and facilities
- reducing use of fossil fuels
- generating renewable energy
- converting to alternative fuels
- changing the way people use cars/transport
- dealing with extreme weather events like flooding

**Comments:** .....  
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**11. Are there any other challenges that your community will face over the next 10 years that haven't already been mentioned?**

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The next three questions are about the landscape of the national park and what you think is important about it. Your answers will help the CNPA in managing the landscape.

12. When you think about the place where you live, your surroundings, your landscape – what do you visualise? (Please order 1 to 6 where 1 = most important)

Your house / garden     Your town / village / farm     The estate   
The glen     The strath     The national park

13. What bit of your surroundings/landscape is most important to you in your daily life? (Please order 1 to 5 where 1 = most important)

Garden     Local park     Local woods     Fields and forest   
High hills & remote glens

The landscape tells a story of change. In the coming years and decades the landscapes of the Park will alter as we face the challenges of climate change, the reducing use of fossil fuels and changes in the way we live.

14. If you had the opportunity to protect the following things in your local landscape how would you rank them? (Please order 1 to 6 where 1 = most important)

- The views from local roads, footpaths and settlements
- Important archaeology in its setting (in fields and woodland)
- Important wildlife habitats (water and wetlands, mountain and moorland, woodland and meadow)
- Important buildings and artefacts (castles and gardens, bridges and monuments)
- Special features that contribute to local identity and distinctiveness (big trees, curling ponds, dry stane dykes)
- Green spaces in settlements

Additional comments: .....

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THANK YOU FOR GIVING YOUR VIEWS WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO US.  
PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED SURVEYS BY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2010