

February 2005

Issue 1

Northmavine Development Company Newsletter

Report from the Chair

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Northmavine Local Development Group. We hope it gives you a flavour of what we've been up to so far and what to expect in the coming months.

During 2004 a lot of work went into setting up and constituting the group, finding premises and recruiting our workers. But the highlight of the year was the series of consultation meetings which took place across Northmavine late in the year. We were delighted to see people in all areas come along for what turned out to be some very lively discussions. Around 10% of the population came along, and the broad spectrum of folk who live here were well represented.

Views and ideas on the issues facing Northmavine were many and varied, and we are now working our way through the data to identify the big themes. We also have some further consultation to do with specific groups within the community. All this information will be used to produce a Development Plan for Northmavine, which we intend to launch in the late spring.

Northmavine has many assets, and foremost amongst them are the people who make up our community. We're a diverse lot with wide-ranging and often conflicting views who nevertheless work together well in running our halls, school boards, co-operatives, playgroups, youth clubs, grazings committees and all the other organisations which make up the fabric of our community. With the same approach to development we can really make things happen.

We have 3 years of Initiative at the Edge status running from November 1st last year. The status pays for our workers and gives us funding priority for the projects we come up with. The aim of the Development Plan will be to identify the priorities and set the direction. We'll then be looking to the wider community to work with us in putting together the kind of projects which we all believe will strengthen the social and economic life of Northmavine and help to provide it with a vibrant and sustainable future.

Margaret Roberts



The Original Development Group

Back Row Left to Right: Ronnie Johnson, Alistair Williamson, Ivor Johnson, David Murray (treasurer), Geoff Bevan (secretary), John Alex Cromarty (vice chair)

Front Row Left to Right: Helen Balfour, Margaret Roberts (chair), Joe McDonald, Pete Bevington

Photo: Linda Coutts, April 2004

Local Development Workers

Pat Christie, Cunningsburgh and Karl Bond, Walls were appointed as the Local Development Workers in November 2004



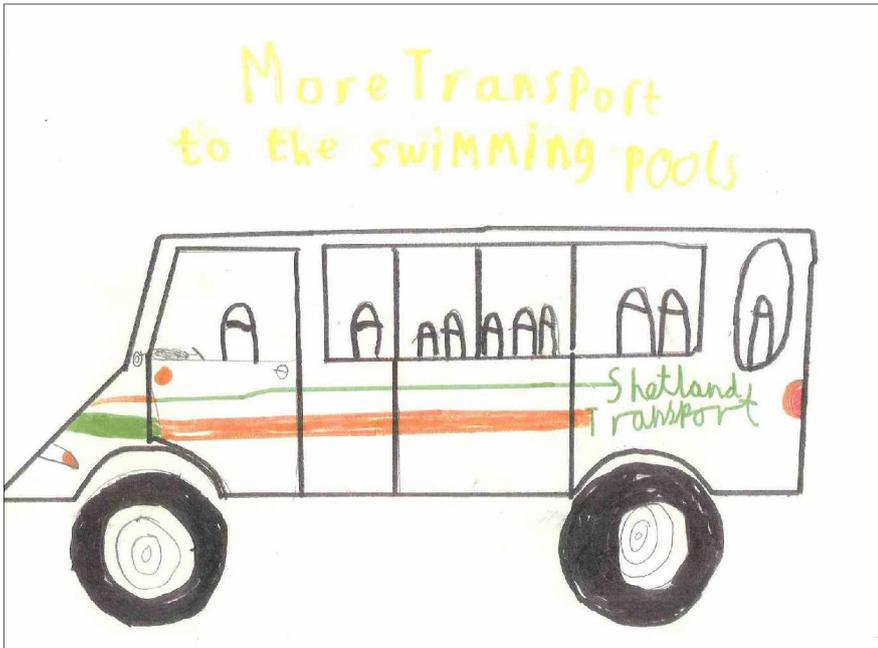
Development Plan Progress

The Development Plan is currently on schedule for launch in early May. The data gathered from the public consultations is being drawn together into a manageable format for analysis. Added to this will be all the information from the schools and individual consultations carried out so far. The structure and format for the draft plan is also being drawn up. The bones are in place, as it were, and it's now a question of fleshing out the details.

The Consultation Process

Northmavine Development Company have shown that if you want people to attend consultation meetings then having an informal get together with eight o'clocks consisting of tea and home bakes is the right recipe. Public consultation meetings were held in each of the five halls and people turned out in force despite poor weather on some of the nights. Along with the adults we had a number of children in attendance and that was very encouraging. They were full of enthusiasm and energy which bodes well for the future. Many topics were discussed around key themes such as employment, housing and depopulation. The group were impressed that people not only identified issues in the area but had come with ideas on how to solve the problems.

We do however recognise that not everyone can or wants to attend public events. As a result we are writing to a number of groups to seek their views. We also intend to speak the young folk and get their opinions. We would encourage as many people as possible to visit the office to chat about the future over a cup of tea. Many have done so already and their thoughts have been recorded and added to the data.



Vision from Northmavine's Children:

We have to thank Northmavine's schools who have helped our consultation process so far by getting some of the primary children to 'paint or draw an idea'.

The children's optimism for the future of Northmavine shines out through the bright, cheery pictures they have created. Their ideas range from a zoo, swimming pool, to more public toilets and transport. These will be added to the analysis and incorporated into the Development Plan.

The pictures will be displayed at an event later in the year

The Bus was drawn by: Declan Harrison-Ames, P.6, North Roe Primary School

The Office:

The Northmavine Development Company office is situated at the Ollaberry Hall for the time being. There is currently a great deal of evening and weekend work undertaken therefore if you wish to meet with the development workers then it is advisable to telephone and leave a message and they will get back to you. However, if you see the light on and cars there please do not hesitate to pop in for a chat and a cup of tea.

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All contributions for the next newsletter welcome



Photo: Sna on Ronas Hill, Pat Christie, February 2005

A Reflective Moment:

One of the recurring themes that people came up with at the public consultations was that the beauty and tranquility of the scenery in Northmavine should be promoted more. The majesty and splendour of Ronas Hill which dominates all aspects of Northmavine should not be underestimated.