

PARTICIPATION REQUEST

to Public Service Authorities as defined by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) act 2015, namely:

Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian, operating (i) separately, and (ii) jointly as "Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership" and as an Integration Joint Board.

1. Details of community participation body:

Name of community body: Stonehaven and District Community Council

Contact name: David Lawman, Chair, SDCC

Contact address: e-mail, as below

Contact telephone number: 01569 765105

Contact email: david@wma05.net

Website (if available): <http://www.community-council.org.uk/stonehaven/>

2. What type of community participation body are you?

b) A community council

3. Please provide details of any other public service authority which you would like to participate in the outcome improvement process: (public service authority types are listed at the end of the form)

Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian, operating (i) separately, and (ii) jointly as "Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership" and as an Integration Joint Board.

4. Please provide details of the outcome you want to improve:

Stonehaven and District Community Council wish the following outcomes to be achieved by Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian, operating (i) separately and (ii) jointly:

- 4.1 That these organisations undertake open-minded consultations with all those that may be adversely affected by their decisions.
- 4.2 That, prior to undertaking such decisions, these organisations undertake thorough appraisals of all options available: that these appraisals clearly set out the pros and cons of each option; and provide clear reasoning for the recommended option.

- 4.3 That, prior to undertaking such decisions, these organisations consider the impact in relation to their approved Strategic Plans.
- 4.4 That these organisations alter their processes so as to recognise that it is inappropriate for officers to undertake decisions which are strongly opposed by the community and/or their elected representatives. That contentious decisions (within the public sector) must be taken by those that have been elected, to represent the public.
- 4.5 That these organisations alter their processes so as to (i) ensure decisions are undertaken in a consensual manner between the two organisations, and (ii) move away from Aberdeenshire's Councillors being "legally obliged" to rubber stamp decisions they disagree with.
- 4.6 That outcomes 4.1 to 4.5 are implemented at a time, and in manner, that ensures the commitment to undertake an "annual review" of the use of the Invercarron Resource Centre is undertaken in a meaningful manner, involving both Stonehaven and District Community Council and the wider community of Stonehaven. (Covering both its short-term use as a vaccination centre and its intended long-term use as an older people's Resource Centre.)
- 4.7 That this annual review is undertaken by Aberdeenshire Council, NHS Grampian, and all relevant stakeholders, within 12 months from when it was instructed by the Communities Committee, of Aberdeenshire Council, i.e. prior to 11/3/23.
- 4.8 That support for older people is extended and developed beyond the initial one-year period where the Mearns & Coastal Healthy Living Network have been engaged to support older peoples activities and AHSCP work towards ensuring we have facilities which are appropriate for older people.

5. Please provide the reasons why you should participate in an outcome improvement process:

Up until now, Aberdeenshire Council, NHS Grampian, and their operating vehicles have failed to engage meaningfully with the community that they serve with regard to the provision of older person services within Stonehaven and with regard to the future of the Invercarron Resource Centre. Accordingly, the community of Stonehaven can have no confidence that the commitment to undertake an "annual review" will be any more meaningful.

A decision to permit Stonehaven and District Community Council to participate in achieving the sought for outcome improvements would give a clear signal to the community of Stonehaven that Aberdeenshire Council, NHS Grampian, and their operating vehicles are committed to improving their decision-making processes, particularly where this adversely affects the community to which these organisations have been established to serve.

6. Please provide details of the knowledge, expertise and experience you have in relation to the outcome:

Stonehaven and District Community Council have the knowledge of how the Centre was used, and how the community wishes the Centre used.

The Community Council have the expertise to help bridge the very large gap between the Aberdeenshire Council, NHS Grampian, and their operating vehicles and the community they serve.

The Community Council also have experience of participating in public engagements, which have been undertaken transparently and effectively

7. Please explain how the outcome will be improved because of your involvement:

Stonehaven and District Community Council will bring to this sought-for outcome improvement process a clear focus on representing the interests of the community of Stonehaven.

The Community Council is also able to facilitate well-attended public meetings which will allow the Aberdeenshire Council, NHS Grampian, and their operating vehicles to explain and consult with the community, on these matters.

8. Please describe the support you have for the participation request within the community:

Stonehaven and District Community Council received 1242 signatures supporting the following petition, in the period 23rd February 2022 to 7th March 2022 (when it was formally submitted to Aberdeenshire Council).

We, the undersigned, support the petition for Aberdeenshire Council to:

- (i) support the recommendation by Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee that the proposal to change the Invercarron Resource centre into a permanent vaccination centre be refused;**
- (ii) reopen the Invercarron Older Peoples' Resource Centre as a custom made facility for the support of older people in the area, as early as possible;**
- (iii) encourage the Centre to, once more, operate as a community operated day care centre and social hub, thus enriching older people's lives and combating the misery of loneliness; and**
- (iv) instructs that a permanent vaccination centre be located in Stonehaven, after an appropriately thorough examination of the location options is undertaken.**

Stonehaven and District Community Council hosted a well-attended public meeting on 24th May 2022, at Stonehaven's Town Hall. Amongst the attendees was each of the local Councillors. At this meeting it was made abundantly clear that the community of

Stonehaven continue to overwhelmingly support the actions called for in the petition above.

9. Supporting Information

- 9.1 Letter to Janine Howie, Interim Partnership Manger, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership, 4th August 2021
- 9.2 Letter from Pam Milliken, Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership, 2nd September 2021
- 9.3 Letter to Pam Milliken, Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership, 15th September 2021
- 9.4 FOI response 20th October 2021
- 9.5 Letter to Rhona Atkinson, Chair. Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership, 12th November 2021
- 9.6 Petitions Submission Form, 25th February 2022



Stonehaven & District Community Council

Janine Howie

Interim Partnership Manager
Strategy & Business Services
Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care
Partnership
Gordon House
Blackhall Road
Inverurie
AB51 3WA

4th August 2021

Dear Ms Howie,

Invercarron Resource Centre: proposed change to vaccination facility

I write on behalf of Stonehaven and District Community Council to express our collective concern at the proposal to convert the use of this facility, hitherto dedicated to the needs of the elderly in our community (and built for that purpose), into a permanent vaccination centre. We would thank those officers of the Council who recently attended our extraordinary general meeting to inform us about the proposal however we remain, if anything more concerned and feel that the proposal has not been adequately thought through and is likely in the end to prove a wholly inadequate response to the need for a vaccination centre.

First of all, we want to underline our full support for the creation of a vaccination centre in Stonehaven to serve the town and its wider community. Our concerns about the choice of the Invercarron Resource Centre as the site for this are various and are detailed below.

- Firstly, there was no consultation with SDCC, user groups or the wider community regarding the decision to make the Invercarron Resource Centre a permanent vaccination centre. Whether or not it was an operational matter, surely a decision with such far reaching consequences for the elderly in our community deserved greater public consultation. When information did come into the public domain, it seemed to be almost at the point of being too far down the line for it to be possible for SDCC or others to influence any meaningful change.
- There are very major concerns about parking, with the current five parking spaces outside the Invercarron Resource Centre, likely to drop down to three once converted to fully accessible and appropriately cross hatched disabled parking spaces. The car park is also used regularly by residents inter alia. Traffic is precluded from meaningful use of the space at the front door by a neighbour's need for right of access.

- The Invercarron Resource Centre is not on any **local** bus routes. Those buses which do stop nearby are every two hours and within five minutes of each other; one of them (107) only passes through town stopping at Barclay Street and the far end of David Street therefore providing no useful service to the vast majority of residents seeking to reach the Resource Centre. The other (26) doesn't go beyond Westfield Road and has relatively few stops in town. Pedestrian routes to the building for those who are disabled are seriously limited to circuitous means of approach. Many such users will be forced to use taxis, including large numbers who can ill afford this.
- The building's entrance is situated on a junction that enters onto a corner of a major route in and out of town, creating serious risk of accident.
- No detailed impact assessment has been undertaken regarding transport and parking requirements that might be capable of supporting a fully operational vaccination centre.
- Despite assurances it remains difficult to see how easily Invercarron Resource Centre might be converted to the proposed use without spending significant sums of money. What is required is described as "*A large space for delivering the vaccines, one way flow through the site with separate entrance and exit, a reception, a waiting area, a post vaccination area, staff welfare areas, changing area, secure storage, PPE storage, waste storage, office space and toilets, including disabled toilet for public use.*" Creating one way movement would be difficult within the building as it is at present without structural change. There could be serious issues for those who are disabled. At present all ways in or out of the building are up several steps. Ramps will need to be installed. Anyone who has visited the Centre will find it difficult to envisage where all these areas itemised above are to be found without expense.
- There is also the fundamentally important question of the fate of those elderly members of the community who currently use the building and of course all those elderly people who in future will no longer have access to this resource.
- No detailed impact assessment appears to have been carried out regarding how the permanent change of building will affect the provision of support services, including assistance with loneliness and social activities for the elderly within our community. This was addressed but what was said did not demonstrate a full understanding of the centre's use prior to Covid, mainly focusing on activities which the AHSCP themselves were directly involved with. No detailed plan seemed as yet to be in place regarding where all current, ie pre lockdown, user groups would be re-housed.
- When operated to its full potential Stonehaven Older People's Resource Centre provides an environment of mutual support, friendship and a sense of ownership. It is a place where familiarisation with the geography and facilities enables older people to feel relaxed and know where to get that cup of tea and where to sit in comfort to socialise. It also serves as a hub to pass on information about services and activities on offer. Participants may turn up for one activity and also decide to do another.

Substituting that “resource centre” experience with activities at scattered locations around Stonehaven will be a poor alternative. It will lead to increased transport costs and a very diminished sense of ownership and community. The “at home” feel created in the Centre will be lost and further increase that feeling of social isolation experienced by so many people in our community precisely at a time when everyone, but particularly older people, will need support to escape from that sense of isolation.

- SDCC believes that the decision to use the Invercarron Resource Centre as a permanent vaccination centre has been rushed, demonstrated by the lack of in depth information the team were able to provide at the recent SDCC meeting regarding the following points: Expected number of the public attending the vaccination centre each day at times of high use; Correlation of available parking space to expected or likely footfall; Limited information about what staffing levels the facility would need; Fairly generalised statements about ease of conversion.
- We believe that the decision to use the Invercarron Resource Centre as a permanent vaccination centre was too heavily influenced by the fact that the AHSCP already had financial responsibility for the running of the Invercarron Resource Centre, rather than looking in more detail at other options around Stonehaven. We realise there is no option without problems but believe that the problems presented by the preferred option are greater than those presented by some others.

We repeat our commitment to fully supporting the provision of a vaccination centre for Stonehaven, SDCC and the wider community, but we believe not enough consideration has been given to other locations within the town. We would ask the Authority to give renewed consideration to this. These could include a purpose built or modular annex (such as portacabins) being added at least temporarily to other sites, such as the Community Centre, Forest View Centre or the Kincardine Community Hospital all of which have significantly better options for parking. Another alternative may be converting the Aberdeenshire Council Housing and Finance office on Allardice Street, which we understand is currently not being used as formerly. This a matter which is of vital concern to all residents in K & M and it would be good to see cooperative working between different parts of the authority’s services to help solve the issues arising and to ensure the creation of a vaccination centre which is sustainable and not likely to need revisiting in the near future.

As a final note we’ve copied below an e mail that sums up powerfully the sense of disappointment, loss and anxiety felt by members of the community and which expresses a concern typical of communications received by Stonehaven and District Community Council

Regards



Bill Watson
Chair
SDCC

E Mail Regarding Proposed Changes To Use Of Invercarron Resource Centre

I was only very recently made aware of the discussions about the change of use of the Invercarron Resource Centre.

I was very disappointed that it was actually through speculative discussions in the town that I did learn of the proposal. Rather than receiving information direct from Aberdeenshire Council about the proposed change of use of the Resource Centre for older people in Stonehaven.

I am also very disappointed that while you mention the change of use of the facility, you have not included suggested plans for re-siting all the activities that were previously held at the Centre. We are talking of lunch clubs, day care, exercise classes, coffee mornings to name just a handful. These are all groups and activities that have provided support, security, safety and much needed opportunities of social interaction for the older age group and their families in Stonehaven. For some families the activities have provided invaluable respite for carers. For some users it may have been the only time they have left their houses and spoken to someone else in the course of a week.

I know the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership take their responsibilities and duty of care very seriously, so whilst explaining that the Resource Centre is being re-purposed as a vaccination centre should they not also be outlining alternative plans and provision for the prior users of the building? This would be joined-up thinking. This would be seen as a positive approach by Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership to find solutions for all. I would like to think that Aberdeenshire Council could be leading the way here. The Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership could be forging greater ties with the community in being pro-active and reinstating services for the older people of our Town. This would be a great opportunity for Aberdeenshire Council and the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership to show how determined they are to serve the community and find solutions rather than just let previous users find their own way, or worse still, just not provide their services at all.

How many folk in Stonehaven with dementia, Alzheimer's, who live alone, who are recently bereaved, who have limited mobility, for example, will be losing out and losing the chance to live better lives will these plans affect?

Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership must provide services for the older people of this town. Please do don't fail them by using "COVID" and "vaccinations" as a "get-out". Please do not fail the older generation of Stonehaven. They desperately need activities, chances for social interaction and support groups. I'm sure you will agree and will therefore make every effort to provide them.

Surely, an alternative vaccination centre could be found? What about portacabins beside the leisure centre? There is parking and plenty of space. This might prove to be a cheaper option than trying to make changes to the Resource Centre. Given a few days I could probably come up with many other alternatives. But there are many heads at Aberdeenshire Council, so I'm sure you must have many tens of other suggestions yourselves that would work better than using the Resource Centre. Parking is limited at the Resource Centre and a one way system would not be easily operated.

Many Thanks

Our Ref: PM/LP

Bill Watson - Chair
Stonehaven & District Community Council

2 September 2021

Pam Milliken
Chief Officer
Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership
Woodhill House
Westburn Road
Aberdeen
AB16 5GB

Telephone: 01467 538909

Email: pamela.milliken@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Dear Mr Watson,

Thank you for your letter of the 4th of August 2021, in your capacity as Chair of the Stonehaven and District Community Council (SDCC) raising the SDCC's objection to Invercarron Resource Centre as the site for the Vaccination Centre for Stonehaven.

In March 2020, there was communication with the Ward 18 elected members and the Invercarron Committee highlighting the situation with Invercarron Resource Centre. The Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) no longer required to use Invercarron to deliver services, however there was cognisance that the building provided a venue for independent community groups and is important to older people in the community.

It was proposed that we work together to ensure the continuity of these activities. Unfortunately, this process was halted due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, with HSCP officers having to prioritise service delivery in a public health crisis with the subsequent detrimental impacts on our communities, staff working in health in social care and the people they care for.

The National Vaccination Programme delivery will become a legal duty of the HSCP to deliver from March 2022. This is a national service delivery change, and the Programme is one of the workstreams under the Primary Care Improvement Plan, which aims to transform primary care services to release GP time to focus on patients with a higher acuity of need.

The National Vaccination Programme is more comprehensive than only the delivery of the Covid-19 vaccine and also involves vaccination for pre-school and school aged children (although these will be predominately delivered in schools), the flu vaccination programme and a range of other vaccines.

The HSCP had already delivered the Seasonal Flu Vaccination Programme in October 2020, primarily using secondary schools as venues, however it was evident that the challenge of the logistics involved required a more permanent solution. In December 2020, two types of vaccines were approved for use in the UK for Covid-19 and the Covid-19 vaccination delivery programme commenced and continues to be delivered to cohorts as directed nationally.

The delivery of the Covid-19 programme was a significant undertaking in a time when health and social care services are already under immense pressure. There was an urgent need for temporary venues to be established to support us to deliver the Covid programme to communities. Furthermore, the venues had to meet specific criteria and we worked in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian to establish these venues.

Once the temporary venues were established work then commenced in conjunction with NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire Council property to identify sites suitable for permanent use. These sites need to provide the opportunity to be refurbished in a very short timescale; by the end of March 2022 to allow us to deliver the programme. Portacabins are not suitable as a clinical venue to deliver a vaccination programme to an estimated 22,000 people in Kincardine and Mearns. There must be a reception, waiting, recovery area and a one-way system and there is still two metre social distancing in place in health and care settings. None of the required criteria would be met in a portacabin.

A new build would be prohibitively expensive and not ready within the required timescale. The cost of the site is currently being met through additional Covid-19 funding. However, from March 2022, there is no guarantee of continued funding, therefore it is vital that sites are delivered with minimal ongoing costs.

The other sites referred to in your letter were rejected on the following grounds:

- Forestview Centre – The NHS Public Dental Service is going to be sited in the building, plus a continuing service for people with learning disabilities and incorporating 2 metre social distancing (still in place in health and social care settings) there is no space capacity for a vaccination centre.
- The Community Centre – the two upstairs rooms do not give adequate space to accommodate a reception area, waiting area, 6 to 8 booths for vaccine delivery and a recovery area. Downstairs is unsuitable due to the lack of space and small rooms. The corridors are too narrow for physical distancing. It is a listed building with wood panelling throughout the building in the rooms and corridors, planning permission would need to be sought to remove this and the cost and time of replacing it with clinically compliant surfaces would not be feasible.
- The Housing Office at Allardice Street – the layout is unsuitable with lots of small offices.
- Kincardine Community Hospital – there is no capacity at the hospital, as it provides an in-patient ward, a renal unit and numerous out-patient clinics, which provide a valuable service for the Kincardine and Mearns community to save them the inconvenience of always travelling to Aberdeen for services.

Other options considered and ruled out were remaining at the Town Hall or returning to Stonehaven Leisure Centre. Both venues provide unique facilities that cannot be replaced by moving to another venue in Stonehaven. There would be a detrimental impact on all ages of people in the community if these services were lost and a loss to the local economy of potentially losing a venue that hosts large events.

The layout in Carlton House is unsuitable as there is only one large room on the right and it is too small to provide all that is required. The rooms on the left are office spaces and are too small for a vaccine delivery programme, plus the corridor is too narrow for social distancing and a one-way flow through the building is not possible.

It is within the context described that the decision was made to site the Vaccination Centre in Invercarron. The Invercarron Committee were aware that the service was under review pre-Covid and as soon as this decision was made this was communicated to them. The groups are not provided by HSCP and are not statutory health and social care services, therefore we are not required to have formal consultation. It is regrettable that there was not more time to engage with the Committee and the community, however the delivery of the vaccination programme is an urgent service priority and has to be prioritised.

The HSCP no longer require to use the building and it is a reasonable operational response to repurpose it as a Vaccination Centre. All other buildings assessed in Stonehaven had been ruled out for the rationale stated, therefore any consultation would have involved the choice between retaining Invercarron as a venue for activities for older people and meetings or travelling out with the Kincardine and Mearns to access a vaccination service.

Invercarron has two large rooms at either end of the building. The large conservatory area has space for a private care and treatment room, 6 to 8 booths for vaccination delivery and a recovery area next to the fire exit where people egress from the building.

Patients would enter the building through the fire exit into the small lounge into a reception area and waiting room. There would be a one-way flow into the conservatory for vaccination delivery. Wheelchair users would access and exit through the main entrance, which has a ramp. There is a large vestibule area and the corridors are wide, which supports social distancing.

The Kitchen will be refurbished to accommodate the fridges for storing the vaccines and for other storage areas. The 1st floor provides good staff rest areas. There are excellent toilet facilities. The conservatory is large, with a high ceiling and good ventilation, which minimises the risk of spreading any infection present in an indoor space. It requires minimal refurbishment- adaption of the kitchen the creation of a clinic room in the conservatory and replacing the flooring, lighting and furnishings to a type that is clinically compliant.

People walking can cross Low Wood Road and then onto the green bridge across the Carron River, which provides access to the town centre without crossing Dunnottar Avenue. If people are concerned about crossing Dunnottar Avenue then they can park on Carron Gardens and access Invercarron through Woodview Court.

A maximum of 22 patients will be in the centre per hour, however as the vaccination delivery plus recovery period is 25 to 30 minutes and appointments are staggered throughout that hour, the total in the Centre at the same time will be less than 22. There will be approximately 15 to 17 staff per day and they will be expected to park further away from the building than patients. A parking assessment has been completed, which indicates adequate parking at the time of the survey for the number of people using the Centre. The survey is attached for information.

Unfortunately, there is undoubtedly a personal impact for the people who used the activities at Invercarron and I am sorry that this cannot be avoided. All group organisers have been written to and offered support to access alternative venues, but there has been little response to this offer, with only 5 groups accepting this. A Community Link Worker is dedicated to this task and has identified thirteen venues, however due to the ongoing Covid situation many of these venues are not yet taking new bookings.

This situation is likely to improve in the next few months, dependent on the Covid situation, as Live Life Aberdeenshire venues will be opening further.

There has been a meeting with the Invercarron Committee and a steering group will be established to support the members for the longer-term should they want to continue organising the groups. Participation and support from a member of the SDCG would be most welcome.

Thank you for contacting the Health and Social Care Partnership and I trust that this comprehensive response answers all the queries that you have raised.

Now that you have completed our complaints procedure, if you remain dissatisfied with the manner in which your complaint has been dealt with, you have the right to ask the Scottish Public Service Ombudsman (SPSO) to consider your complaint. The SPSO is the final stage about complaints for most organisations providing public services in Scotland. Their service is independent, free and confidential.

The SPSO cannot normally look at complaints:

- more than 12 months after you first became aware of the matter you want to complain about OR
- that have been or are being considered in court.

Address: Freepost SPSO

Telephone: 0800 377 7330

Website: <https://www.spsso.org.uk/contact-us>

I trust you find this to be in order but if you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, or if you require further information regarding the Aberdeenshire Council complaints procedure, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Pam Milliken
Chief Officer
Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership



Stonehaven & District Community Council

15th September 2021

Pam Milliken

Chief Officer

Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership

Woodhill House

Westburn Road

Aberdeen

AB16 5GB

Dear Ms Milliken

Invercarron Resource Centre: proposed change to vaccination facility

Thank you for your response of 2nd September to our enquiry of 30th July 2021.

It is noted that your response has reinforced the view of the Community Council that these proposals are deeply flawed. It is also noted that it remains the view of the Community Council that these flaws could have been avoided if your organisation had conducted an open-minded public consultation, prior to coming to an entrenched conclusion.

The Community Council would appreciate your organisation's responses to the attached requests for information. In case of doubt, each request should be treated as separate requests for information under all the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. Where the requested information does not exist, please advise by reporting a nil return.

The Community Council will be happy to discuss, any clarifications you may require as to these requests. In case of doubt, however, it is the Community Council expectations that the maximum permissible responses will be provided to these requests.

Regards

Bill Watson

Chair

CC Ward 18 elected members and local MSPs

Request for Information 1: Parking and Traffic assessments

It is noted that this assessment was created on 9th August 2021 (sometime after the reported decision by your organisation). The accompanying drawings appears to show parking on double yellow lines, bus stops, at road junctions, across a garage forecourt, across car driveways and at the other side of a busy road. While it is appreciated these were not the author's intentions, it does effectively illustrate the unsuitability of this location for a vaccination centre.

- 1.1 Please provide copies of any other parking and traffic assessment for the Invercarron proposal, that may have been undertaken.
- 1.2 Please provide evidence of any resident consultation that might have been undertaken in relation to these parking proposals.
- 1.3 Please provide exemplar evidence of the type of park-at-a-distance proposal envisaged for the staff of this proposed vaccination centre, and also provide clarification as to which location is to be designated for this purpose.
- 1.4 Please provide any parking and traffic assessments that may have been undertaken in relation to the other sites that have been considered for this proposed vaccination centre in Stonehaven

Request for Information 2: Public transport assessments

- 2.1 Please provide copies of any public transport assessments for the Invercarron proposal, that may have been undertaken.
- 2.2 Please provide copies of any public transport assessments that may have been undertaken in relation to any other sites that may have been considered for the proposed vaccination centre in Stonehaven

Request for Information 3: services to older people in Stonehaven

Your acknowledgement of the importance of the Invercarron Resource Centre to older people in Stonehaven is welcomed. It is noted that the Community Council was already concerned by the withdrawal of public sector support that led to the previous reduction in the volunteer led services, that preceded the pandemic. It is noted that the Community Council considers the full resumption of these services to be particularly important: so as to encourage isolated, vulnerable members of our community to resume social contact as, and when, the dangers of the pandemic recede. The Community Council also considers it to be vitally important that these services are delivered from a single, familiar location. The Community Council considers the, apparent, prospect of these services being scattered around the town as being unacceptable.

It is noted that insufficient evidence has been provided as to how your organisations proposals will be reconciled with “Kincardine and Mearns, Local Community Plan, Priority 3 – Wellbeing Focus on inclusive community spaces and opportunities, reducing inequalities in all outcomes within and across communities in Kincardine & Mearns.”

- 3.1 Please provide copies of any assessments that may have been undertaken in relation to the anticipated service needs of older people in Stonehaven, following the pandemic.
- 3.2 Please provide copies of any assessments that may have been undertaken in relation to the resource and facilities that will be required for these anticipated service needs.
- 3.3 Please provide evidence of any consultation that might have been undertaken in relation to these anticipated service needs.

Request for Information 4: Invercarron proposals

- 4.1 Please provide copies of the proposed layout drawings, including details of how this building is to be adapted so it is made accessible to all, while also maintaining social distancing.

Request for Information 5: other options

Your letter notes that a mass vaccination programme was conducted in October 2020 using, primarily, secondary schools as venues. Your letter dismisses the provision of a vaccination from a purpose-built modular medical facility, but gives no explanation.

It is noted that modular construction has been employed to provide high quality medical facilities throughout the UK, where prompt completion is the top priority. Attached are images of a health clinic provided after a flood in Cottingham, near Hull. These images might help challenge the negative perception of this generic option, that was apparent in your letter. It is noted that a very large number of other images could have been shared, encompassing all types of health care requirements: from GP surgeries to operating theatres.

- 5.1 Please provide a copy of any appraisal that may have been undertaken with regard to the provision of vaccinations from a purpose-built modular medical facility at Mackie Academy.
- 5.2 Please provide a copy of any appraisal that may have been undertaken with regard to the provision of vaccinations from a purpose-built modular medical facility at any other location within Stonehaven.



Subject: FW: FOI: Invercarron Resource Centre - AbdnShireIR:20092

From: Social Work <social.work@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 October 2021 15:01
To: Alistair Lawrie <alistair.lawrie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk>
Subject: FOI: Invercarron Resource Centre - AbdnShireIR:20092

Dear Mr Lawrie

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ("The Act")

We refer to your request dated 22/09/2021 09:20, for the following information: FOI - Invercarron Resource Centre.

- 1.1 Copies of any other parking and traffic assessment for the Invercarron proposal, that may have been undertaken.
- 1.2 Evidence of any resident consultation that might have been undertaken in relation to these parking proposals.
- 1.3 Exemplar evidence of the type of park-at-a-distance proposal envisaged for the staff of this proposed vaccination centre, and also provide clarification as to which location is to be designated for this purpose.
- 1.4 Parking and traffic assessments that may have been undertaken in relation to the other sites that have been considered for this proposed vaccination centre in Stonehaven
- 2.1 Copies of any public transport assessments for the Invercarron proposal, that may have been undertaken.
- 2.2 Copies of any public transport assessments that may have been undertaken in relation to any other sites that may have been considered for the proposed vaccination centre in Stonehaven
- 3.1 Copies of any assessments that may have been undertaken in relation to the anticipated service needs of older people in Stonehaven, following the pandemic.
- 3.2 Copies of any assessments that may have been undertaken in relation to the resource and facilities that will be required for these anticipated service needs.
- 5.1 Copy of any appraisal that may have been undertaken with regard to the provision of vaccinations from a purpose-built modular medical facility at Mackie Academy.
- 5.2 Copy of any appraisal that may have been undertaken with regard to the provision of vaccinations from a purpose-built modular medical facility at any other location within Stonehaven.

[In relation to the above questions, we have undertaken a full search for the information requested, and I now write to confirm that this information is not held by us.](#)

We confirm we hold the following information:

- 3.3 Evidence of any consultation that might have been undertaken in relation to these anticipated service needs.

[There was a full public and stakeholder consultation across Aberdeenshire to inform the strategic priorities in the HSCP Strategic Plan 2020-2025.](#)

- 4.1 Copies of the proposed layout drawings, including details of how this building is to be adapted so it is made accessible to all, while also maintaining social distancing.

Draft Layout is attached, which is subject to change. This takes social distancing into account. The orange line shows patient flow for ambulant patients. Patients with mobility difficulties will enter and exit through the ramped entrance, accompanied by a member of staff.

Please contact me as the officer responsible for responding to your request if you have any further queries.

If, for any reason, you are not satisfied with this response, please refer to the further information at the link below.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator
Health & Social Care Partnership

Further Information:

Aberdeenshire Council's Review Procedure under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/foi-review-process/>

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Dh'fhaodadh fiosrachadh sochaire, a tha a-mhàin airson an neach gu bheil am post-dealain air a chur, a bhith an seo. Ma tha thu air am post-dealain fhaighinn mar mhearachd, gabh ar leisgeul agus cuir fios chun an neach a chuir am post-dealain agus dubh às am post-dealain an dèidh sin. 'S e beachdan an neach a chuir am post-dealain a tha ann an gin sam bith a thèid a chur an cèill agus chan eil e a' ciallachadh gu bheil iad a' riochdachadh beachdan Chomhairle Shiorrachd Obar Dheathain.

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Stonehaven & District Community Council

12th November 2021

Rhona Atkinson

Chair

Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership
Integration Joint Board
Woodhill House
Aberdeen
AB16 5GB

Dear Ms Atkinson

Invercarron Resource Centre: proposed change to vaccination facility

I write with reference to (i) Ms Milliken's letter of 2nd September and (ii) the FOI response received from the Health & Social Care Partnership's Freedom of Information Co-ordinator of 20th October 2021. (See attached, for convenience).

On behalf of the Community Council, I would like to thank your officers for the research and preparation of these responses, and also for the transparent sharing of information.

Unfortunately, these responses have confirmed that the proposal to change the Invercarron Resource Centre into a permanent vaccination centre has been arrived at without an appropriately thorough consideration of the disadvantages of this site, and the advantages of other options that are available.

Accordingly, the Community Council asks that Integration Joint Board instructs:

- the cancellation of the proposal to change the Invercarron Resource centre into a permanent vaccination centre;
- the bringing back of the Invercarron Resource Centre into use as a Day Centre for vulnerable residents of Stonehaven; and
- the undertaking of an appropriately thorough examination of the location options for a permanent vaccination centre in Stonehaven.

Regards

Bill Watson

Chair

CC

- Aberdeenshire Council – Chief Executive: Jim Savege
- Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership – Chief Officer: Pamela Milliken
- Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager: Bruce Stewart
- Integration Joint Board – Board Chair: Rhona Atkinson – NHS Grampian – Non-Executive Board Member
- Integration Joint Board – Board Vice Chair: Councillor Anne Stirling – Aberdeenshire Council
- Aberdeenshire Council – Ward 18 Councillors - Wendy Agnew, Sarah Dickinson, Dennis Robertson and Sandy Wallace
- Aberdeenshire Council – Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee Members – (Not already included) Ian Mollison, Alastair Bews, George Carr, Alison Evison, Bill Howatson, Jeff Hutchison, Colin Pike and Leigh Wilson
- Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership - Integration Joint Board – Remaining Aberdeenshire Councillors - Glen Reynolds and Ann Ross
- Andrew Bowie MP
- Mairi Gougeon MSP

Briefing Paper to Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership, Integration Joint Board

Request for information made by SDCC 15th September 2021 and FOI responses of 20th October 2021: identifying gaps in the information, so far, considered by the Board with regard to the location of a permanent vaccination centre in Stonehaven.

Request for Information 1 (SDCC 15/9/21): Parking and Traffic assessments

It is noted that the assessment (provided on 2nd September) was created on 9th August 2021 (sometime after the reported decision by the Board). The provided drawings appeared to show parking on double yellow lines, bus stops, at road junctions, across a garage forecourt, across car driveways and at the other side of a busy road. While it is appreciated these were not the author's intentions, it does effectively illustrate the unsuitability of this location for a vaccination centre.

- 1.1 Please provide copies of any other parking and traffic assessment for the Invercarron proposal, that may have been undertaken.

FOI response: "we have undertaken a full search for the information requested, and I now write to confirm that this information is not held by us."

- 1.2 Please provide evidence of any resident consultation that might have been undertaken in relation to these parking proposals.

FOI response: "we have undertaken a full search for the information requested, and I now write to confirm that this information is not held by us."

- 1.3 Please provide exemplar evidence of the type of park-at-a-distance proposal envisaged for the staff of this proposed vaccination centre, and also provide clarification as to which location is to be designated for this purpose.

FOI response: "we have undertaken a full search for the information requested, and I now write to confirm that this information is not held by us."

- 1.4 Please provide any parking and traffic assessments that may have been undertaken in relation to the other sites that have been considered for this proposed vaccination centre in Stonehaven

FOI response: "we have undertaken a full search for the information requested, and I now write to confirm that this information is not held by us."

Request for Information 2 (SDCC 15/9/21): Public transport assessments

- 2.1 Please provide copies of any public transport assessments for the Invercarron proposal, that may have been undertaken.

FOI response: "we have undertaken a full search for the information requested, and I now write to confirm that this information is not held by us."

- 2.2 Please provide copies of any public transport assessments that may have been undertaken in relation to any other sites that may have been considered for the proposed vaccination centre in Stonehaven

FOI response: "we have undertaken a full search for the information requested, and I now write to confirm that this information is not held by us."

Request for Information 3 (SDCC 15/9/21): services to older people in Stonehaven

Your acknowledgement (Ms Milliken's letter of 2nd September) of the importance of the Invercarron Resource Centre to older people in Stonehaven is welcomed. It is noted that the Community Council was already concerned by the withdrawal of public sector support that led to the previous reduction in the volunteer led services, that preceded the pandemic. It is noted that the Community Council considers the full resumption of these services to be particularly important: so as to encourage isolated, vulnerable members of our community to resume social contact as, and when, the dangers of the pandemic recede. The Community Council also considers it to be vitally important that these services are delivered from a single, familiar location. The Community Council considers the, apparent, prospect of these services being scattered around the town as being unacceptable.

It is noted that insufficient evidence has been provided as to how your organisations proposals will be reconciled with "Kincardine and Mearns, Local Community Plan, Priority 3 – Wellbeing Focus on inclusive community spaces and opportunities, reducing inequalities in all outcomes within and across communities in Kincardine & Mearns."

- 3.1 Please provide copies of any assessments that may have been undertaken in relation to the anticipated service needs of older people in Stonehaven, following the pandemic.

FOI response: "we have undertaken a full search for the information requested, and I now write to confirm that this information is not held by us."

- 3.2 Please provide copies of any assessments that may have been undertaken in relation to the resource and facilities that will be required for these anticipated service needs.

FOI response: "we have undertaken a full search for the information requested, and I now write to confirm that this information is not held by us."

3.3 Please provide evidence of any consultation that might have been undertaken in relation to these anticipated service needs.

FOI response: There was a full public and stakeholder consultation across Aberdeenshire to inform the strategic priorities in the [HSCP Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#).

SDCC's further response:

It is noted that this Strategic Plan was published in November 2019 and, therefore, did not take into account the impact of the Covid pandemic on the support needs of vulnerable citizens. It is noted by the CC that there is no justification for considering that these support needs will have diminished. It is noted that the CC considers that it is more likely that these support needs will have, instead, increased due to the social isolation experienced by many over the last two years.

It is noted, however, that this Strategic Plan does not support the proposal that the Invercarron Centre should be lost for use by vulnerable citizens in Stonehaven.

It is noted that the Strategic Plan instead supports:

- " people to remain connected to their local community"
- " Build on existing, long-standing relationships, partnerships and local networks, as well as inspiring new participation"
- "People who access our services, our staff, local communities and partners will all have opportunities to influence decision-making, service planning, and delivery at all levels.

It is acknowledged that the Strategic Plan includes the following comment regarding "Change to day care provision"

"Theproject looked at providing day services in a different way for people with learning disabilities and other additional support needs. The focus was to make use of community resources and identifying opportunities for people to be part of and contribute to their local communities rather than use of traditional building based day care services."

Aberdeenshire Council's website, however, clarifies that this means a shift away from delivering services exclusively from buildings.....rather than not using buildings such as the Invercarron.

Request for Information 4 (SDCC 15/9/21): Invercarron proposals

4.1 Please provide copies of the proposed layout drawings, including details of how this building is to be adapted so it is made accessible to all, while also maintaining social distancing.

FOI response: Draft Layout is attached, which is subject to change. This takes social distancing into account. The orange line shows patient flow for ambulant patients. Patients with mobility difficulties will enter and exit through the ramped entrance, accompanied by a member of staff.

SDCC's further response:

It is noted that it is proposed that this new facility:

- will not comply with the current Building Regulations with regard to accessibility;
- will either provide a public health risk by requiring a large number of people over short periods of time to handle the same door handles; or alternatively
- require the external doors to be wedged open leaving the staff and visitors very cold and thereby breaching the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992.

Request for Information 5 (SDCC 15/9/21): other options

Ms Milliken's letter of 2nd September notes that a mass vaccination programme was conducted in October 2020 using, primarily, secondary schools as venues. This letter dismisses the provision of a vaccination from a purpose-built modular medical facility, but gives no explanation.

It is noted that modular construction has been employed to provide high quality medical facilities throughout the UK, where prompt completion is the top priority. Attached are images of a health clinic provided after a flood in Cottingham, near Hull. These images might help challenge the negative perception of this generic option, that was apparent in this letter. It is noted that a very large number of other images could have been shared, encompassing all types of health care requirements: from GP surgeries to operating theatres.

SDCC's further comment: Aberdeenshire Council has recently committed itself to delivering a community campus at the Mackie Academy site.

5.1 Please provide a copy of any appraisal that may have been undertaken with regard to the provision of vaccinations from a purpose-built modular medical facility at Mackie Academy.

FOI response: "we have undertaken a full search for the information requested, and I now write to confirm that this information is not held by us."

5.2 Please provide a copy of any appraisal that may have been undertaken with regard to the provision of vaccinations from a purpose-built modular medical facility at any other location within Stonehaven.

FOI response: "we have undertaken a full search for the information requested, and I now write to confirm that this information is not held by us."



PETITION SUBMISSION FORM

Details of the Principal Petitioner

Name: William Watson, on behalf of Stonehaven & District Community Council

Address: 41 Farburn Drive, Stonehaven

Postcode: AB39 2BZ

Tel No: 01569 764231

Email: williamwatson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Subject Matter/Title of the Petition

Save Invercarron Resource Centre

Petition Statement: (Maximum of 250 words detailing what action the petitioner wishes the Council to take.)

It was reported to the Community Council on 8th March 2022, by the Chair of Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee that Aberdeenshire Council is likely to decide to close Invercarron Resource Centre for use as a day centre for vulnerable residents of Stonehaven.

The Health & Social Care Partnership's Chief Officer reported on 2 September 2021 that because the services provided by voluntary groups within the Centre were non-statutory that it was "reasonable operational response" to close the Centre and then repurpose it as a Vaccination Centre without formal consultation.

The Community Council received FOI responses from the Health & Social Care Partnership's Freedom of Information Co-ordinator on 20th October 2021, in summary this advised that:

- there had been no assessment of the needs of older people in Stonehaven, following the pandemic;
- that the assessment of the suitability of Invercarron as a location for a vaccination centre was substantially incomplete; and

- several more obviously suitable locations for a vaccination centre, within Stonehaven, had not been assessed by H&SCP.

The Community Council notes that H&SCP's Strategic Plan 20220-25 supports:

- " people to remain connected to their local community"
- " Build on existing, long-standing relationships, partnerships and local networks, as well as inspiring new participation"
- "People who access our services, our staff, local communities and partners will all have opportunities to influence decision-making, service planning, and delivery at all levels".

It is the view of the Community Council that the full resumption of the volunteer led services within the Invercarron Resource Centre, to be a key priority for community of Stonehaven, once the dangers of the pandemic recede:

- so as to provide social opportunities for our older citizens to meet up;
- to help reduce loneliness; and
- help reduce mental health issues.

The Community Council also considers it to be vitally important that these priority services are delivered from a single, familiar location. The Community Council considers the prospect of these services being discouraged, greatly reduced and scattered around the town as being unacceptable.

Stonehaven and District Community Council petitions Aberdeenshire Council to:

(i) support the recommendation by Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee that the proposal to change the Invercarron Resource centre into a permanent vaccination centre be refused;

(ii) reopen the Invercarron Older Peoples' Resource Centre as a custom made facility for the support of older people in the area, as early as possible;

(iii) encourage the Centre to, once more, operate as a community operated day care centre and social hub, thus enriching older people's lives and combating the misery of loneliness; and

(iv) instructs that a permanent vaccination centre be located in Stonehaven, after an appropriately thorough examination of the location options is undertaken.

What action (if any) has been taken to resolve the issue **before** submitting the petition?

SDCC have previously formally raised this matter in:

- a letter and Freedom of Information requests to the Chief Officer of Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership, Integration Joint Board on 15th September 2021
- a letter to the Chair of Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership, Integration Joint Board on 12th November 2021
- an e-mail to the Chair of Aberdeenshire Council's Communities Committee on 9th February 2022

Other Proceedings

Please indicate whether any of the following apply to the issue concerned.

Are the issue(s) raised in the petition currently being dealt with by Aberdeenshire Council? Yes No

Have the issues raised been dealt by Aberdeenshire Council in the past? Yes No

Are the issue(s) raised subject to any legal proceedings? Yes No

Request to Speak

A petitioner may request to speak about their petition at the Committee meeting. The decision whether to hear from speakers is made by the Committee. Please indicate below whether you wish to have the opportunity to speak about your petition.

I DO wish to make a brief statement during the meeting.

I DO NOT wish to make a brief statement during the meeting.

Declaration and Signature of Principal Petitioner

I declare that the information provided by me on the above form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Print Name: William H. Watson

Signature:



Date: 25/2/22

Number of people who have signed the petition. TBC