

Name
Address

Community Council Review,
Corporate Managers Office,
Highland Council,
Market Square,
Wick, KW1 4AB

Date

Dear Sir,

I am aware that the first report of the Review team has suggested further discussion to clarify local views on possible reform of the three existing Community Councils in Nairn.

I wish to express my support for the establishment of a single Community Council for Nairn – i.e. a 'Royal Burgh of Nairn Community Council.' Nairn town is an identifiable, single, coherent community. It has always been a single "burgh". The case for a unified Community Council is compelling.

The Highland Council itself has already recognised and supported this: in 2003 the then Ward Manager put forward a formal proposal, with supporting arguments, for the establishment of one CC in place of the existing three separate ones. This was agreed and endorsed by the equivalent of the Ward Forum, but not followed up or implemented by the Council at that time. The arguments for such a change remain, and are now even stronger. I support the creation of one CC for the burgh of Nairn because:

- Single CCs are the norm for all towns of similar size in the Highland and indeed Grampian region, and indeed work well in all other towns. There is no reason why Nairn should be an anomaly. Where a community has a clear identity, shares communal services and amenities, has a single station, shopping area, Post Office and other such facilities, and has a common interest in the future of the town, it is both logical and sensible to have a single Community Council which can reflect and represent the views of the population of the whole town;
- A single CC is the most appropriate forum for reaching a consensus among the community as a whole, the most democratic way of representing the collective interests of the town, and the most effective way of influencing policy and planning decisions;
- A single CC would have greater capacity to handle the growing workload of statutory consultations and to consider the planning and other issues which the government's emphasis on transparency and local consultation generates. Having three CCs for separate parts of the town means at best duplication, and at worst a risk that significant matters will be inadequately scrutinised.

I should be grateful if my views, and these arguments, could be taken into account in the further work of the Review and in its eventual recommendations and conclusions.

Yours faithfully,