

APPENDIX B – Q&A

Topic	Question	Response
Ballot	If less than 50% of the village vote, will there be no action taken regardless of which option came first?	Ideally we would be hoping for a minimum 50% turn out with a clear preferred option. The vote is simply a method of gauging the community's appetite for change, the scale of the change and the preferred delivery vehicle. The decision will be for the BPDC Directors and the community will have further opportunities to engage following detailed costings and during the planning application/consent processes.
Option 3 – Campsite	Where is the proposed campsite going to be situated? I am concerned that this may be on the field at the back of the Clachan where many residents live – this would not be good at all.	Ideally, at least three separate locations will be identified and assessed as to their suitability for the purpose. The sites would include FCS land and private farmers land if available. The decision as to the location of the campsite is one that would be made in consultation with the community. In line with our strategic outcomes, we would be seeking to maintain the peace and tranquillity enjoyed by local residents. As such, an environmental impact assessment would be undertaken to ensure that the site is suitably located with minimum disruption to residents.
Costings	Estimate of approx. cost of the pub and business together with refurbishment of the building	The scope of this study is wide ranging. The focus is very much on identifying the needs of the village in order to establish objectives and thereafter, generate options. This approach is recommended by all major funding bodies as a way of justifying the need for change and therefore investment. It would not be feasible to cost all options at this stage. We have prepared four high level options to assess the community's appetite for change, scale of change and delivery vehicle. As soon as the community provides direction, the preferred option will be developed to detailed design and cost. Costs will include purchase, development, services and maintenance. The community will be engaged again at the planning and funding application stage Suitable funding bodies will be approached.
Costings	Estimate of cost of buying the shop and its associated business	The scope of this study is wide ranging. The focus is very much on identifying the needs of the village in order to establish objectives and thereafter, generate options. This approach is recommended by all major funding bodies as a way of justifying the need for change and therefore investment. It would not be feasible to cost all options at this stage. We have prepared four high level options to assess the community's appetite for change, scale of change and delivery vehicle. As soon as the community provides direction, the preferred option will be developed to detailed design and cost. Costs will include purchase, development, services and maintenance. The community will be engaged again at the planning and funding application stage Suitable funding bodies will be approached
Costings	Estimated cost of employing a full time development officer	The employment costs will depend largely on the role and responsibilities as well as the skills and competencies required. If option three is the preferred option, employment, training and development costs will be prepared in relation to this role, together with a full job specification. The role will be advertised and a fair and transparent recruitment process will be undertaken on behalf of the community by an external recruitment expert.
Option 1 – Funding	Does option 1 mean that shop, pub and other comm group or enterprise could not apply for funding from the SSE grant as independent social enterprises?	Groups and independent social enterprises can apply for funding at any time from any funding body. The success factors for receiving funding are typically dependant on there being a 'need' as well as a sustainable and collaborative solution. For SSE funding specifically, legacy projects/long term sustainable solutions are sought. If individual groups apply for funding on their own merit, we risk diluting the overall funding available to Barr and miss an opportunity for a strategic solution. With regards to the shop specifically, it is understood that the shop is running at a loss of £15-20k annually and is reliant upon grant funding. The shop has received £70,000+ funding to date and is unlikely to secure additional funds if it cannot meet strict funding criteria.
Option 1 – Funds	Effectively SSE funds would remain frozen as far as local businesses are concerned is this correct?	SSE has requested applications for one or two major capital projects as legacy supported by community sustainability projects. SSE funding cannot be applied for without full community engagement and support. Small to med sized grants from our available funders can be made any time by any community group. As long as a strong case is put forward which demonstrates positive and sustainable impact on the community.
Option 2 – Purchase of properties	Is buying both properties the only option?	As mentioned the above, it is considered that the shop alone is not a sustainable solution. The pub rated highly in the list of suggested improvements by both the community of Barr and the external respondents. Visitors and tourists expect a food and drink establishment on arrival at any local town. It is thought that by purchasing both, working collaboratively towards a single vision and improving the marketing of Barr, a small increase in footfall could be achieved and the sustainability of both would be improved as a result.
Option 2 – Leasing	Has long term leasing been investigated?	Long term leasing would not be recommended and it is unlikely that funding would be received on that basis. The community group would seek to purchase and develop the properties as well as being responsible for ongoing service and maintenance. It would not be feasible or appropriate to invest in a property which is ultimately owned by a third party.
Option 2 – Purchase / leasing	Is the purchase of the pub and shop linked or could one purchase and one lease option be selected?	See above – leasing will not be considered. We would seek to buy the assets to be owned by the community.
Option 3 – Supply Chain	Will the positions for which you are recommending your colleagues be publically advertised? What are their names?	Those in attendance were not colleagues but independent business owners and members of the Ayrshire Chambers of Commerce. Kirsty Innes, Stephen Dunn, Ian Ivory and Colin Cogswell. They attended on the day to provide a flavour of their skills and experience

		including rural development and economic regeneration experience. Positions will be advertised, proposals and quotes obtained, and a supply chain chosen on a fair and transparent basis without any involvement from the consultant - prior to the development of any funding applications. The supply chain will then support the preparation of costs for the funding applications. As with any community based project, if a local supplier that is a resident in Barr can be found then that would be the ideal scenario. If not, we will seek to work with Ayrshire wide businesses to obtain, then share knowledge and skills.
Option 3 – Retail Facility	Retail facility – is this arts and crafts combined with village shop or just village shop or crafts and garden center? Does the post office have any place in your plans	The retail facility will be determined if Option 3 is chosen as the preferred option.
Option 3 – Community bus	Would the community bus replace the existing private and publicly run options currently in place	To be determined if Option 3 is chosen as preferred option. It is proposed that the community bus is run as a tourist/guide bus for day trippers and tourists but will service residents as an added benefit. Further information and discussions will be required if option 3 is chosen as the preferred option.
Option 3 – Dial a Bus	As an alternative could you or village commit to facilitate discussion with SPT and MSPS to improve what is a good service but could be made better? Publishing times of booked journeys on a daily basis to allow people to join the journey?	Please see report for assessment of the current service provision. This level of service provision would not be sufficient to support option 3, therefore the community transport initiative is a critical feature of this option.
Option 3 – Village Hall	As far as the SAC failure to upkeep the hall goes, any property that is bought will need substantial refurbishment. All of that interim maintenance on the hall would be completely wasted if was then immediately modernised and refurbished in (hopefully) an environmentally sympathetic way with an emphasis on multi use facilities and using as much green technology as possible? Where is the option to regenerate the hall?	The hall will be considered and costs compared with the pub, shop and existing domestic properties if option 3 is the community's preferred option.
Option 3 – Further funding	Do you, in Option 3, have any contingency for owning and refurbishing the Pub & shop and then finding further funding for the hall should that become necessary?	Contingency is not an issue at this stage. Costs will be developed if Option 3 is the preferred option. The final proposal will comprise two or possibly more buildings – depending on which combination can most cost effectively address the need. If buildings become available at a later date, and we have genuine need/sustainable use, then we can apply for more funding.
Option 3 – Governance	Also in Option 3, your new village committee structure. How do you plan populate those groups? Would people be able to sit on more than one of these overarching groups?	All residents over the age of 16 can apply. We would seek to avoid as far as possible the issue of individuals sitting on more than one group. As mentioned at the community event, we would seek to appoint external directors if it was likely to strengthen the organisational structure and governance.
Option 3 – Purchase of domestic properties	Previously your colleague advised a concerned member of the community that the purchase of domestic property would not receive funding. As most properties currently for sale are domestic properties would this issue limit the scope of option 3? Is this restriction still in place?	Funding is unlikely to be approved for the purchase of a domestic property if the intended use is to rent the property to a housing tenant. Funding may be provided if the use was changed from domestic to commercial.
Option 4 – Dinmurchie	Would this proposal be part of Option 3 offering a place for the camping site? Road access to Dinmurchie poses a severe logistical issue.	FCS and any other available private land for sale will be considered for the camp site (option 3). A full environmental impact assessment would be required for the camp site (option 3) and Dinmurchie (option 4). The existing road access into Dinmurchie could be resolved by creating an alternative access route.
Option 4 – Traffic	If this option is selected will traffic be limited in both speed and volume on both the Clachan and Changue Road in the interests of safety?	This would be considered if the option progresses to detailed design stage. The community would be involved in any planning application/consent processes.
Option 3 – Community Bus	Re the 'Barr Bus/Community Transport' initiative, is this intrinsic to Option 3 or could it be developed alongside one of the other options, for example, with Option 2 or Option 1?	Only option 3 at the moment. Typically rural bus services require to be subsidised. The new community group developed as part of option 3 would seek to use funds generated for income streams i.e. business centre, hub lease etc to support the bus. It is unlikely that Option 2 or option 1 could sustain that level of subsidy.
Option 3 – Planning	Re Option 3, has any dialogue taken place with the Planning Authority to confirm that the present access to the village would be considered suitable for a major Center Parcs/Forest Holidays type development?	There was no suggestion of the village being considered as a major attraction under option 3. Option 3 is proposed as a boutique tourist destination. The reference to Centre Parcs and Forest Holidays was made to demonstrate the demand for staycations and the popularity of family outdoor holidays such as Center Parcs, suggesting we could tap into that market.
Option 1 – Governance	If Option 1 is selected, would a reconstituted BPDC undertake to support all existing and future community enterprises and local businesses?	BPDC will only be reconstituted under option 3 and will undertake to support all existing and future community enterprises and commercial businesses.
Option 3 – Demand	What evidence has been collected to show that sufficient tourist numbers could be attracted to Barr to sustain and justify major investment on a boutique visitor destination development designed to compete with Center Parcs and Forest Holidays?	Option 3 does not propose major investment in a tourist destination. Option 3 proposes a boutique tourist destination in-keeping with the community's preference to attract, manage and control visitor/tourist numbers. Option 4 proposes major investment. Option 3 would not compete with Center Parcs but will target their customers.
Option Identification, Development and Sifting	At an earlier open meeting there was some support for other development ideas in Barr, but these seemed to have been dropped. As an example, pursuing the renovation and opening up of the clocktower was suggested, to some approval, to make it a destination attraction which the village so badly needs. I am neither advocating nor not advocating this particular course of action, but use it merely as an example of an idea now lost.	No ideas have been dropped at this stage. Following an assessment of the needs, we have identified four primary options to gauge the appetite of the community with regards to change, scale and governance. Once a preferred option has been chosen, we will return to the consolidated list and augment the preferred option with a range of standalone options which further enhance the offering (typically soft options) including cosmetic improvements etc. The clocktower suggestion is categorised as a heritage solution/attraction and will be recommended for further consideration at a later date, together with horse-riding/pony treks and other similar pursuits.
Option 1 – Sifting	Option 1 is do nothing. What about alternative options that you have not listed? There are other possibilities for the future of Barr.	Please see report for rationale behind 'Do Nothing'
Option 3	Option 3 intended as a "catch all"?	Please see report for the rationale behind 'Moderate Infrastructure'
Option 2	Option 2 Purchase the pub and shop. (A) For me the purchase of the pub would be a waste of money. Rural pubs are in decline across the country and cannot survive, it seems to me, without an extremely good restaurant. Even then, competition from the supermarkets, the current drink/driving laws and changing social habits when combined with the small size of our community and the fact that we are not on a route to anywhere makes our pub unsustainable. It is neither fair nor financially likely that the shop can make enough profit to subsidise the pub. How can the purchase of the pub be justified in economic terms?	It is difficult to justify the pub or the shop in economic terms as standalone entities in Barr. That is why collaborative working is encouraged and marketing support offered. The shop is not expected to subsidise the pub, nor is it likely to. The pub was a recurring theme during the surveys locally and regionally. The Hub initiative (as per option 3) is very popular – it has resulted in a revival of rural pubs across the country.

Option 2 – Shop	(B) What do you mean by "the shop"? It is a building in private hands, a cooperative company with shares already run in partnership with members of the community, and stock held by that company; it does not include the Post Office, which cohabits with "the shop" but is in different ownership. What do you propose BPDC should buy?	BPDC would only buy and develop the assets. The buildings would then be leased to those enterprises that can provide a robust business case and demonstrate that they will be self-sustaining. BSSG is a company limited by guarantee, not a co-op and they have no share capital. The Post Office utilises a space within the shop for free and pays their employee a PAYE wage.
Option 3 – Village Hall	Option 3 makes no reference to the future of the Hall. I know the history of the building and that the community did not want to take it over because of fears of the cost of running it. I cannot see how any alternative will avoid falling foul of the same attitude. If attitudes have changed - and I am not aware of whether you tested this in your surveys as I was never approached - then why not put forward the revamping of the Hall as an option? Did you test this in your survey? As it stands, this option seems to be entirely dependent on external input and has no clear focus.	Option three includes an assessment of all currently available and prospective buildings to assess suitability and cost, so yes, the hall will be included within that. Sorry we didn't catch you during the public consultation. We spent two days in Barr doing door to door surveys, we left 'missed you' notes and we held 1-2-1 telephone interviews. We also left blank questionnaires at the village hall for those that hadn't managed to provide feedback. Option three is driven entirely by the needs identified as part of the public consultation process, therefore the focus is the strategic objectives.
Strategic Outcomes	Finally, there appears to me to be a mismatch between the Options and the seven intended Outcomes that you listed on a handout. How, for example, do any of the Options address Outcome 1, 2, or 3? Likewise, how will Outcomes 4, 5, 6 & 7 be a necessary consequence of any of the Options?	Please see report for information relating to option selection.
Option 3 – Social Enterprises	Does it need to be social enterprises or could it be commercial?	Commercial Businesses or Social or other. Social enterprises are encouraged because the profits return to community projects, and because there is a grant funding and support available. Commercial businesses contribute to the local economy as well.
Option 3 – Money	Where is the money going to come from for option 3?	If option three was the preferred option we would undertake detailed design and cost analysis to support the preparation of a funding application. There are several funding bodies established each of whom provide small grants and capital funds to community based regeneration projects, and rural villages such as ours. We can apply to individual funding bodies for individual aspects of option 3. For example, the community hub is a popular trend supported by Prince Charles and the Plunkett Foundation and the big lottery has a general funding provision for capital and legacy projects. We would also seek to match fund from the various wind farm allocations.