



**PROPOSALS FOR MAJOR GROWTH IN THE A96 CORRIDOR
CONSULTATION WITH COMMUNITY COUNCILS
27 NOVEMBER 2004**

Three Balloch community councillors (Ian Thomson, Laura MacGowan, and Ian Williams) attended the above meeting at the Highland Council HQ to explore options on the future development of the A96 corridor between Inverness and Nairn. Craigforth Consultancy and Research hosted the event, and Highland councillors were present for the first part of the presentation.

The area under consideration and defined as the A96 corridor is shown on the attached map. Four options were presented for discussion but it was stressed that these were not 'set in stone' and features from each were interchangeable. The need for development has come from the Highland Council's long term view that there will be a need for between 10 and 15 thousand new homes in the period 2011 to 2035. The outcome of this consultation will be included in the next Local Plan 2011. In all options the A96 to be duelled as far as Nairn, and integrated transport was a strong feature.

Option A. Eastern Growth. Ardersier to expand to 5,000 homes. Housing on part of the old fabrication yard. One to three new communities between Nairn and Ardersier. Rail halt at airport and road through green wedge between Inverness and Smithton linking A96 and A9.

Option B. Polar Growth. Extend Nairn west with 5,000 homes. Nairn gets a by-pass. Extend Inverness east with 5,000 to 7,000 homes at Alturlie or between Culloden/Balloch and A96.

Option C. Smaller Settlement Growth. Croy and Newlands to get up to 7,000 new homes each. B9006 to be significantly upgraded as a major new route into Inverness.

Option D. Mainly Central Growth. New community of 8,000 to 10,000 homes between the airport and Croy. Extend Balloch by 1,000 to 3,000 new homes. Extend Nairn.

The consultants will present their report to the Highland Council by the end of this year. We believe that there will be further community consultation after this. As this will significantly affect our community over the next 30 years the Community Council will be taking a very keen interest and of course would be interested in your views.

Ian Williams
Chairman

9 Jan 05