

# KINCARDINE ESTATE

## Community Consultation Policy

### Introduction

Kincardine Estate is a busy, working, rural estate which contributes to the economic and social life of the surrounding community and far beyond. We are determined to be a good neighbour to those living, working and visiting the Estate and to be an active participant in the community.

Recognising that there will be a broad range of views, we are committed to considering opinions from a wide range of local organisations, businesses and individuals when taking decisions that could impact the community.

Whilst Kincardine Estate will always maintain its existing 'open door' policy, this statement formalises our aims and approach to consulting and involving the community in the major decisions we take. This policy forms part of our wider Community Engagement Plan.

### What are we required to do?

Section 44 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 required Scottish Ministers to issue "guidance about engaging communities in decisions relating to land which may affect communities". The guidance supports greater collaboration and engagement between those who make decisions about land and the local communities that are affected by those decisions. In addition, Principle 6 of the Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement states that, "There should be greater collaboration and community engagement in decisions about land". To support the Government's guidance, the Scottish Land Commission (SLC) have issued further advice and update this from time to time. Kincardine Estate is committed to applying the guidance to our decision-making processes.

### What do we aim to achieve?

Through the application of this policy, Kincardine Estate aims to

- recognise the value of the local community's views and its role in contributing to important decisions relating to land in and around Kincardine O'Neil.
- work with the community to develop mutually beneficial solutions to local issues.
- be a visible, valued member of the local community, contributing to community wellbeing and sustainable development.

## **How do we define our community?**

In broad terms, our local community can be defined as those individuals, organisations and businesses who reside, work, and otherwise make use of land on the Estate and in the immediate vicinity. This is more specifically defined below in the list of those we will consult when taking major decisions.

## **Who will we consult?**

### Formally constituted community bodies

Kincardine O'Neil has its own Community Association and the Estate boundary crosses three Community Council areas: Lumphanan, Mid Deeside and Torphins.

### Estate Tenants

More than 80 households and businesses who occupy land and property owned and/or managed by the Estate.

### Local Residents

Private households within the Estate environs and those immediately adjacent to any proposed development. In the case of large developments this may extend to the whole village and surrounds.

### Local Businesses

Commercial operators within the Estate environs and those immediately adjacent.

### Estate User Groups

Sporting and recreation groups who have formal access agreements or leases with the Estate.

### Local Organisations

Community groups and local services such as our schools, community facilities, churches, sports clubs and charities.

## **How will we consult the community?**

The SLC has developed a Route Map for Community Engagement which Kincardine Estate will follow when taking decisions that could impact the community. The Route Map can be found [here](#).

The Route Map recommends that land managers consult the community through formally constituted bodies. Where our decisions might have a long lasting and significant impact on the community, the SLC makes it clear that we should go much further than this by consulting residents, local groups, businesses and other land users to get as broad a range of views as possible.

The Scottish Land Commission has been clear that it does not expect that all sections of a community will feel the same about a particular issue and that there will be opposing views. The SLC has said that it is the land manager's role to take all of these views into consideration – alongside all the other factors that will assist in determining a final position/decision.

## **Our promise to the community**

When we are considering making changes to land use that will impact the community we will

- Publish our intentions in an open and transparent manner
- Gather as broad a range of views from the community as is possible
- Use a variety of consultation methods to make participation as easy as possible
- Seriously consider the views of the community
- Publish our conclusions and reasoning in an open and transparent manner

## **Contact**

Kincardine Estate welcomes comments, questions and queries at any time. You can contact us by using the following details.

Email: [office@kincardineestate.com](mailto:office@kincardineestate.com)

Telephone: 013398 84225

Post: Kincardine Estate Office, Kincardine O'Neil, AB34 5AE

You can also find out more about the estate online at [www.kincardineestate.com](http://www.kincardineestate.com)