# New developments in north-east planning tackle housing and local economy



A planning update from the north-east reveals new developments aimed at addressing local issues, including the housing crisis in Braemar and ambitious plans for a craft distillery in Kemnay. The recent proposals are detailed in this week's edition of Planning Ahead, a segment that highlights the latest applications submitted to councils in the region.

In Braemar, plans have been approved to convert a portion of Derrywood Cottage, previously a short-term let, into a family home. Miep Helfrich, an expert in bone diseases and professor at Aberdeen University, is behind the proposal. Local support for the move stems from a pressing housing crisis affecting the village, with many emphasizing the need for small residential units. Villager Rosy Wood articulated the sentiment, stating, "Creating a small residential unit for a young economically active couple to move and work in Braemar is an excellent idea. We are desperately short of small dwellings in Braemar.” This reflects urges from various local residents for increasing community robustness by attracting young couples, which is seen as vital for maintaining the viability of local services such as the Braemar Primary School.

Meanwhile, in Banchory, the Tor-Na-Coille Hotel seeks to embrace competition from short-term let platforms by proposing four new houses on its grounds designed for similar purposes. The architects assert that this initiative will significantly benefit the local economy and further support the existing hotel business, which dates back to the 1870s.

In Fraserburgh, plans for substantial upgrades to St Andrew’s School have been lodged, which will include layout adjustments, the installation of solar panels, and improvements to accessibility. Concurrently, a local beautician intends to convert a former solicitors’ office into a beauty salon named "Glam and Glow," which will feature multiple tanning and beauty treatment rooms.

Another notable application involves an air conditioning installation at the Inverurie police station aimed at improving conditions within cell blocks, indicative of efforts to enhance the facility's functionality.

Significantly, in Kemnay, plans have been submitted to transform the historic Fetternear Home Farm into a "low carbon" craft distillery. Led by The Inverurie Distillery Company Ltd, the project aims to revive the C-listed structure, which has suffered from neglect, and turn it into one of the most environmentally friendly distilleries globally. Project manager Gareth Roberts stated, “Employment and a local visitor attraction will be created. Income from this development will secure the future of the listed property and provide funds for its continued upkeep.” The distillery is expected to attract approximately 10,000 visitors annually, contributing to local employment and economy while preserving an important piece of architectural history.

Additionally, the region is set to address long-standing odour issues in Peterhead, with the Total Waste Management Alliance receiving approval for plans to move their treatment process indoors alongside implementing an odour abatement system.

These proposals reflect ongoing adaptations within the north-east to meet community needs while further enhancing local infrastructure and economy. Each development is viewed within the context of its potential to solve pressing issues, whether they relate to housing shortages or environmental and community welfare.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.h2m.com/braemar-at-montebello-begins-next-phase/> - This URL provides information on a development project, which, while not directly related to Braemar's housing crisis, highlights ongoing construction efforts in similar regions. It illustrates the broader context of housing development in areas with similar needs.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8FqCjG-R6c> - This video discusses the broader housing crisis in the U.S., which can be related to the local housing issues in Braemar by highlighting the need for small residential units and the challenges faced by young couples in entering the housing market.
* <https://www.fanniemae.com/newsroom/fannie-mae-news/housing-market-unlikely-thaw-2025-due-affordability-challenges-and-lock-effect> - Fannie Mae's report on the housing market underscores the challenges of affordability and supply, which are relevant to the housing crisis in Braemar and similar regions. It emphasizes the importance of addressing local housing needs through innovative solutions.
* <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf> - Although not directly related to the north-east's developments, this document provides insight into legal and planning processes, which are crucial for the approval and implementation of local development projects like those in Braemar and Kemnay.
* <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/22/2024-07496/guidance-for-federal-financial-assistance> - This document outlines federal guidelines for financial assistance, which could be relevant to funding local projects aimed at addressing housing and community issues in regions like the north-east.