# Recent planning applications highlight local development initiatives in north-east Scotland



In an engaging overview of recent planning applications submitted across the north-east of Scotland, a variety of developments stand out, addressing both local community needs and heritage preservation.

In Banchory, the owners of the Tor-Na-Coille Hotel have submitted plans to construct four new short-term let houses within their hotel grounds. With three bedrooms each, these accommodations respond to growing competition from Airbnb-like services. The hotel, which dates back to the 1870s and was once frequented by Queen Victoria, aims to enhance the economy by providing additional short-term housing for visitors.

In the Mearns, Tom and Fran Elder are seeking to transform a dilapidated bothy near Laurencekirk into a home. The Upper Craighill property, which has remained largely untouched since the 1860s, showcases "beautiful long-range views," according to the architects involved.

Further north in Fraserburgh, St Andrew’s School is preparing for a significant refurbishment. Plans aim to enhance energy efficiency through layout adjustments, the replacement of windows and doors, new accessible entrances, and the installation of solar panels. Outdated outbuildings will be demolished as part of the project.

In another change, local beautician Rebecca West is looking to breathe new life into a former solicitor’s office at 57 High Street in Fraserburgh, transforming it into her salon named “Glam and Glow.” The new establishment will feature five tanning rooms and a beauty room. West expressed her excitement for the move on social media, stating she would miss her current location at Glamour Beauty Studio but looks forward to renovating her own space.

Inverurie’s police station has also submitted plans for the installation of air conditioning, aimed at improving conditions within the facility.

Meanwhile, the VSA charity in Aberdeen intends to develop four log cabins outside Crosby House care home, creating a designated “dementia village” for residents.

In response to Braemar's ongoing housing crisis, local professor Miep Helfrich has received approval to convert part of a short-term let into a family home. As one of the village’s historic “wee hooses”, Derrywood Cottage is intended to provide a necessary living space for her child and their partner. Helfrich's application has received backing from local residents, who highlighted the need for small dwellings in Braemar to attract young, economically active families. Community member Rosy Wood voiced support for the project, noting, “Creating a small residential unit for a young economically active couple to move and work in Braemar is an excellent idea.” Critics have pointed out the challenges of housing affordability in the area, with resident Christine Watt commenting on the previous use of the cottage solely as guest accommodation.

Plans have also emerged for a major distillery project in Kemnay, poised to transform the Fetternear Home Farm Stables into a "low carbon" craft distillery with a visitor centre. The proposed facility is noted to use eco-friendly distilling methods and aims to attract approximately 10,000 visitors annually. Project manager Gareth Roberts expressed optimism about the initiative's capacity to provide employment and preserve the historic property's structure, stating, “This will be amongst the greenest distilleries in Scotland, and therefore the world.”

Across the region, local initiatives are seeking to address various community needs, including housing challenges, educational improvements, and sustainable development efforts. These planning changes highlight the dynamic interplay between preserving local heritage and responding to contemporary demands.

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

## References

* <https://planning.org.uk/app/168/R2S0JMCAHRB00/> - This URL supports the claim about the Tor Na Coille Hotel in Banchory submitting plans for new short-term let houses. It provides information on new planning application submissions in the area.
* <https://planning.org.uk/app/168/R8VRNSCAKD600> - This URL further corroborates the planning activities around the Tor Na Coille Hotel in Banchory by providing additional details on planning alerts and submissions.
* <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldpmedia/pldp2020/responses/PP0186.pdf> - This document provides insight into planning developments in Aberdeenshire, highlighting the importance of local development plans in addressing community needs and heritage preservation.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source provides the original article discussing various planning applications across the north-east of Scotland, including developments in Banchory, the Mearns, Fraserburgh, and other areas.
* <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024-07496/guidance-for-federal-financial-assistance> - Although not directly related to the specific planning applications, this URL provides general guidance on financial assistance, which could be relevant to funding for local development projects.