# Inverness councillors approve six new short-term lets amid community unrest



Six new short-term lets in Inverness have been approved by local councillors, despite concerns voiced by residents regarding potential disturbances to their communities. The decisions were made amidst a backdrop of apprehension about noise and anti-social behaviour, particularly related to the comings and goings of transient visitors.

Residents, including Fiona McInally, who lives on Lochalsh Road with her young children, raised issues about the possible impact of "unknown visitors" on their families, stating that such presence could affect their quality of life. Martin Mackintosh, a 48-year resident of the same road, expressed concerns that the emergence of short-term lets could undermine the residential character of the area, suggesting it could deter families from moving in and utilising local facilities. He noted, “We are just killing the whole community feeling in the north of Scotland.”

Another resident, Geoff Lowe, who resides directly opposite one of the properties, highlighted the noise generated by visitors’ luggage as a particular concern. He also voiced apprehensions regarding anti-social behaviour potentially arising from the new short-term lets, indicating that he feels the “sense of community is being eroded.”

Councillor William MacKay remarked that the suggestion of noise from wheelie suitcases as a disturbance was a "completely new" notion to him. This illustrates a growing dialogue between local authorities and residents as they navigate the implications of increasing short-term rental properties in the area.

In response to these concerns, property owners and short-term let managers defended their applications, promising responsible management. Jillian Macleod, who manages several properties through Ness Holiday Homes, reassured councillors that she would ensure the properties are “treated appropriately” and expressed a willingness to work collaboratively with neighbours to alleviate their concerns. Other property owners on Lochalsh Road also proposed implementing guest limits to minimise noise disturbances.

The newly approved short-term lets are situated at various locations throughout the city, including Lochalsh Road, Great Glen Place, Castle Heather Drive, and Riverside Gardens. Additionally, properties on Ladies Walk and Hill Street were granted approval after objections were withdrawn.

This decision occurs within a broader context where the Highland Council is currently processing over 8,000 short-term let applications, a significantly higher number compared to Edinburgh City Council's 5,000 applications. Sean Kennedy, chairman of the licensing committee, highlighted the need for applicants to engage with local residents and address their concerns. Although council officers noted that many of the resident complaints were not relevant to the licensing decisions, Kennedy assured that the newly granted licences would be subject to review if any issues were reported by neighbours in the future.

As the landscape of short-term letting continues to evolve in Inverness, the dialogue between residents and property owners remains pivotal in shaping the future of community dynamics in the area.

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

## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/politics/6212932/app-highland-short-term-lets-landlords/> - This piece covers the introduction of an app designed to help residents in the Highlands object to short-term lets, reflecting community concerns about the proliferation of such properties.
3. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/inverness/5863846/short-term-lets-inverness-approved-highland-council-licensing-committee-dornoch/> - This article reports on the approval of short-term let licenses in Inverness by Highland Council, despite objections from residents regarding noise and housing shortages.
4. <https://www.mygov.scot/short-term-let-licences/planning-control-areas-short-term-lets> - This official guidance explains the concept of short-term let control areas, where local councils can require planning permission for such properties, relevant to the concerns about community impact.
5. <https://www.highland.gov.uk/homepage/107/short_term_lets> - This page from Highland Council outlines the licensing scheme for short-term lets, including the responsibilities of operators and the council's approach to managing these properties.
6. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/highlands-islands/3456518/highland-councillors-back-plans-to-implement-legislation-for-short-term-lets-as-situation-reaches-crisis-point/> - This article discusses Highland councillors' support for using planning laws to limit short-term lets, addressing concerns about housing shortages and community impact.
7. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/inverness/6746346/inverness-short-term-lets-approved-despite-concerns/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data