# Moray projects transform office, residential and leisure spaces amid mixed community response



In Moray, an array of transformative planning proposals reveals a dynamic approach to revitalising underused spaces and enhancing community resources. Among the notable projects is the conversion of an office above Costa Coffee into a church, along with plans for new residential developments and recreational facilities, signalling a significant shift in how local sites are utilised.

Notably, the Moray Coastal Baptist Church has moved to establish its operations in a previously unused office above the popular coffee chain in Elgin. Having occupied the space since August, the church is now seeking official planning permission to formalise its activities as a place of worship. This initiative represents an ongoing trend of repurposing commercial properties for community use, aiming to foster local engagement and provide additional spiritual resources. The church has plans to enhance its facilities further by incorporating social functions that cater to diverse community needs.

Meanwhile, in a move indicative of the growing demand for residential spaces, Tulloch of Cummingston has unveiled a plan to convert the former Johnston Carmichael headquarters in Elgin into a mixed-use development. Originally proposed to include 28 apartments, including luxury flats and serviced accommodation, plans have since been amended, reducing the number of flats to 24 following concerns voiced by local residents. With 15 objections lodged, primarily regarding privacy issues arising from proposed balconies overlooking nearby homes, the development reflects the complexities of urban redevelopment. As the firm seeks to address these concerns, it highlights the balance required between progression and community sentiment.

In another approved initiative, a domestic swimming pool is set to be constructed at a private residence near Lhanbryde. The design, which includes amenities such as a changing room, sauna, and steam room, underscores the push for enhancing local recreational opportunities. Set to hold approximately 65,000 litres of water, this facility expands the leisure options available to residents, promoting a lifestyle that values health and wellness.

These varied projects, from places of worship to luxury apartments and leisure facilities, reflect a broader commitment to adapting and revitalising the built environment in Moray. They highlight not only the potential for transforming existing structures but also the importance of community input in shaping developments that impact local lives. As these initiatives progress, they promise to infuse new life into Elgin’s urban landscape, fostering both growth and coexistence within the community.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/6760218/downsize-plans-former-johnston-carmichael-elgin/), [[2]](https://www.northern-scot.co.uk/news/elgin-church-seeks-permission-to-use-space-above-costa-coffe-376311/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/6760218/downsize-plans-former-johnston-carmichael-elgin/), [[4]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/2568163/moray-church-wants-to-take-over-old-council-offices-to-expand-offering-to-the-community/), [[6]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/6356256/new-elgin-pub-erskine-forres-caber-feidh-baptist/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/6760218/downsize-plans-former-johnston-carmichael-elgin/), [[4]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/2568163/moray-church-wants-to-take-over-old-council-offices-to-expand-offering-to-the-community/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/6760218/downsize-plans-former-johnston-carmichael-elgin/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.northern-scot.co.uk/news/elgin-church-seeks-permission-to-use-space-above-costa-coffe-376311/> - Moray Coast Baptist Church in Elgin has applied for planning permission to officially use the space above Costa Coffee as a place of worship. The church purchased the property last year and has been using it for services since August. They are now seeking official permission to continue using the property as a place of worship. ([northern-scot.co.uk](https://www.northern-scot.co.uk/news/elgin-church-seeks-permission-to-use-space-above-costa-coffe-376311/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/6689009/church-elgin-town-centre-burghead-scotmid/> - Plans have been approved for Moray Coastal Baptist Church to transform an unused office above Costa Coffee in Elgin town centre into a place of worship and social activities. The church has been using the space since August and is now seeking official permission for its use. ([pressandjournal.co.uk](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/6689009/church-elgin-town-centre-burghead-scotmid/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/2568163/moray-church-wants-to-take-over-old-council-offices-to-expand-offering-to-the-community/> - Elgin Baptist Church has applied for permission to transform the former Moray Council offices on Academy Street into a community space. The church plans to use the space for youth work sessions, mother and toddlers groups, and other community activities. ([pressandjournal.co.uk](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/2568163/moray-church-wants-to-take-over-old-council-offices-to-expand-offering-to-the-community/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/6568116/elgin-baptist-church-former-moray-council-offices/> - Elgin Baptist Church is transforming the former Moray Council offices on Academy Street into a community facility. The new space will be used for youth work sessions, mother and toddlers groups, and other community activities. ([pressandjournal.co.uk](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/6568116/elgin-baptist-church-former-moray-council-offices/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/6356256/new-elgin-pub-erskine-forres-caber-feidh-baptist/> - Elgin Baptist Church has been approved to transform the former Moray Council offices on Academy Street into a community space. The new facility will be used for youth work sessions, mother and toddlers groups, and other community activities. ([pressandjournal.co.uk](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/6356256/new-elgin-pub-erskine-forres-caber-feidh-baptist/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.moraycoastbc.com/> - Moray Coast Baptist Church is an independent Baptist church serving Elgin and the surrounding area. They hold services on Sundays at 10am, 11am, and 6pm, and a Wednesday night prayer service at 7pm. The church is located at 1 Commerce Street, Elgin IV30 1BS. ([moraycoastbc.com](https://www.moraycoastbc.com/?utm_source=openai))