

CASCT Communication Update – January 2007

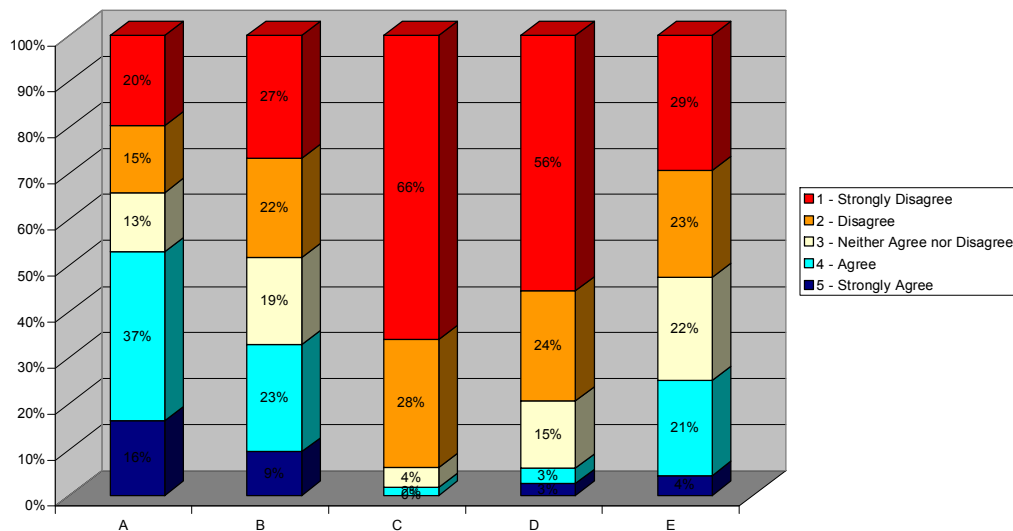
Architectural Competition

An exhibition of designs for the new Community Centre submitted by 5 architects was held in Slains House between 25 November and 3 December 2006. Some 150 people visited the exhibition; a very respectable turn-out. In addition, 119 completed questionnaires were returned by the deadline of 9 December. Thank you for taking the time to provide this valuable feedback. This was collated in the form of a full report and summary presentation. Both documents were available for the judges to review during the judging process on 15 December. They can also be viewed on our website, and hard copies are available to borrow from the CASCT tray in the Post Office. The feedback showed that Design A was a clear favourite (see diagram below), ahead of designs E and B.



Exhibition Questionnaire

Histogram for Q1 – **This design would sit comfortably in its surroundings**



Despite being aware of village feedback, the judging panel selected Designs E and B to go forward to the next stage of the competition. It is important to note that this was the **unanimous** decision of the judging panel, which included 3 representatives from the village.

In view of this outcome, a further Public Meeting will be held in the Hall at 7.30 pm on **Friday 19 January 2007**. Charles Rattray, chair of the judging panel, will review each of the 5 designs and explain the panel's rationale for selecting Designs E and B. This will also be a great opportunity to express your views on the designs and competition.

The architects for Designs E and B will now be invited to present their designs to the village in the Hall at 7.30 pm on **Friday 26 January, 2007**. It is really important to

recognise that at this stage we are choosing between 2 conceptual designs. This means that while the winning architect will expect us to honour the concept, we will have plenty of scope to tailor the design to match our needs and desires. This meeting will be a great opportunity to get a better understanding of each design and to ask questions about them.

It is worth remembering that in 2004 the village gave CASCT a strong mandate for demolishing and building a new Community Centre, as opposed to extending and refurbishing the existing hall or doing nothing. The Architectural Brief was written to honour this mandate. However, during the competition, one of the architects asked whether it would be possible to incorporate part or all of existing buildings in the design for the new Centre. Knowing that there is still strong attachment for the new buildings within the village, CASCT left it to the individual architects to choose whether or not to include the existing buildings. In the event, the architect that asked the question chose not to do so.

It is still CASCT's view that doing nothing is not an acceptable option. In the absence of a project to replace the existing hall, Aberdeenshire Council will most likely be forced to close it as it doesn't meet modern building regulations. As a consequence, it is vitally important that we progress the new Community Centre Project to provide a social gathering place for the village. However, we still need your support to make this happen. Without it, it won't! Please make every effort to attend the 2 upcoming public meetings on 19 and 26 January 2007.

Summary

- Judging panel select Designs E and B to go forward to the next stage of the architectural competition, despite the village favouring Design A
- There are 2 important Public Meetings that you should aim to attend in January:
 - Friday 19 January 2007, 7.30 pm, Village Hall – Charles Rattray will summarise judges view of each design and the rationale for choosing Designs E and B
 - Friday 26 January, 7.30 pm, Village Hall – new date for the architects of Designs E and B to present to the village
- Saturday 9 February – new deadline for ballot returns and announcement of winning design