

## Affordable Housing in Tomintoul

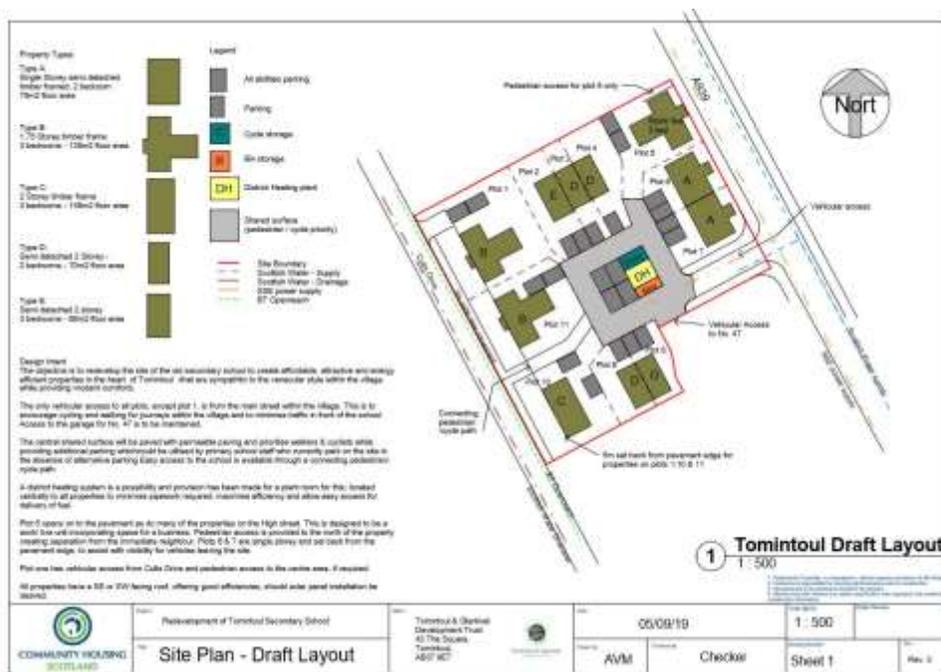
The Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust had identified through community consultation that there was a demand within the community for good quality affordable housing. It was also clear from responses that the lack of housing was a barrier to families remaining and new families moving in which was having a negative effect on local businesses, community groups, school rolls etc.

TGDT's Development Manager Oliver Giles was aware of the work The Highland Small Community Housing Trust (HSCHT) had undertaken in other communities in the Cairngorm National Park and after visiting some of these with members of the TGDT board they contacted HSCHT to ask advice on how best to take forward an affordable housing project.

After consideration and receiving support from Moray Council and other stakeholders TGDT decided to apply for funding from the Scottish Land Fund and Rural Housing Fund to carry out a feasibility study for a community led housing project.

After receiving confirmation of funding HSCHT / Community Housing Scotland (CHS) were engaged to carry out the study which would include assessing housing need, developing a indicative scheme, preparing a business plan and obtaining costs for the works.

*Oliver Giles TGDT Manager:  
'like many rural communities ours has a shortage of good quality houses which are affordable to local people. That shortage means local families have to move away to find a home and new families can't move in. With CHS's assistance we have developed a project which will develop the affordable housing our community needs on the site of a disused and derelict school which is an eyesore in the centre of the village. The homes we plan to build will allow families to stay in the community and new families to move in'.*



The feasibility study is now well advanced. Surveys have shown that there is strong need for affordable housing to support the community and reverse the gradual aging of the resident population. A draft business plan has been developed and costings based on an indicative plan are positive. The project is now moving to the next phase to obtaining quotations from design and build contractors which will allow final funding applications to be progressed.