From concept to operation:
creating 20-minute neighbourhoods in rural Aberdeenshire
Hello!
Paul Macari
Head of Service Planning & Economy, Aberdeenshire Council

Lucy Styles
Project Officer, Planning Information & Delivery Team
Introduction
Structure

- 20 minutes neighbourhoods
- Local living in an Aberdeenshire context
- Research findings
- Data gathering
- Case Study Peterhead
“..work with local government to take forward ambitions for 20 minute neighbourhoods where people can live, work and learn in communities close to home”

The Government's Programme for Scotland 2020-2021
# 20 Minute Neighbourhoods

## What is a 20 Minute Neighbourhood?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept / Proponent</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Geddes</td>
<td>A mode of planning that sought to consider primary human needs in every intervention. The identification of synergy between ‘place, work and folk’ and engaging in constructive and ‘conservative surgery’ of places (Geddes, 2021, Geddes in Edinburgh’s Old Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarence Perry</td>
<td>The Neighbourhood Unit, an idealized walkable neighbourhood. Ideal population of 5,000 (Talen and Koschinsky, 2013).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden City Movement</td>
<td>Creating communities that accommodate a wide range of community members through a mix in housing types and uses. An example being Letchworth with a population of 10,000. (Talen and Koschinsky, 2013).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Jacobs</td>
<td>Strong urban blocks that promote activity, sense of place local economies and provide almost everything you need “an intricate and close grained diversity of uses that give each other constant and mutual support, both economically and socially” (Jacobs, 2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Communities</td>
<td>Where people can live, work and play, and where walking and public transport is favoured ahead of the car. This is supported by a diverse housing mix. With each community applying the term in its own way (Complete Communities: An Integrated Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Urbanism</td>
<td>‘Pedestrian Cities’: ‘Being able to walk to a mix of shops, restaurants, newsstands, coffeehouses and open-air markets within car-free neighborhoods and work centers delivers the highest quality of life and adds great variety and vitality to an area.’ Suggested population 5,000 – 10,000 (What is New Urbanism?, n.d.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Walkable Neighbourhoods

*‘Walkable Neighborhoods’ “a safe, well-serviced neighborhood, imbued with qualities that make walking a positive experience. A “positive” walking experience means that streets, sidewalks and paths (pedestrian routes) are comfortable and interesting” (Talen and Koschinsky, 2013)*

## Ecovillages

*Although all differing ecovillages share key attributes, including sustaining healthy community life, ongoing reduction of carbon, carbon and eco literacy, local provision of services such as food production and energy systems (East, 2021)*

## The Compact City

*The Compact City is a many centred city of mixed uses which favours active travel – with development grouped around public transport walking and cycling. (Urban Task Force, 1999)*

## City of Short Distances (Freiburg)

*“a city concept consisting of independently functioning units, in which the aspects of everyday life can be laid out and accessed within walking distances by all members of society” (The Academy of Urbanism, 2013)*

## Soft City

*“the colocation of different activities in the same place make it possible to live well without having to travel much” (Sim and Gehl, 2019, p3)*
Climate change - 20 minute neighbourhoods in a Scottish context

Features of a 20 Minute Neighbourhood

- Well connected to public transport, jobs and services within the region
- Local employment opportunities
- Local schools
- Local health facilities and services
- Local playgrounds and parks
- Local public transport
- Affordable housing options
- Safe streets and spaces
- Safe cycling networks
- Accessibility
- Housing diversity
- Ability to age in place
- Safe cycling networks
- Local green spaces
- Community gardens
- Lifelong learning opportunities
- Local schools
## 20 Minute Neighbourhoods
### Global examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Freiberg| "Termed the ‘compact city’, ‘city of neighbourhoods’ or ‘city of short distances’. This is a city concept consisting of independently functioning units, in which the aspects of everyday life can be laid out and accessed within walking distances by all members of society.

(The Academy of Urbanism, 2013)                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Portland| "vibrant neighbourhoods in which 90% of Portland residents can easily walk or bicycle to meet all basic daily, non-work needs." (20-Minute Neighborhoods, 2021)                                               |
| Melbourne| "living locally the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk from home, with safe cycling and local transport options." (20-minute neighbourhoods, 2021)              |
| Barcelona| Superblocks aim to recover some of the space that is taken by private cars for the use of the residents. The objective is to achieve a healthy public space, greener, fairer, and safer, which favours social relations and the local economy.

(O’Gorman and Dillon-Robinson, 2021, p.49)                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Paris   | "Within the distance of a 15 min walk or bike ride, people should be able to live the essence of what constitutes the urban experience; to access work, housing, good, health, education, culture, and leisure"

(TED, 2020)                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
Countrywide Policy
Urban/Rural Scotland
Aberdeenshire
How will it work?
“there will be some places that have an urban feel but are actually quite small, and others that have a more rural feel or be more remote and will have rural issues, but they are considered an urban centre because they have a population of 10,000.”

Interviewee quote, Aberdeenshire’s rural and suburban towns: an investigation into the retrofitability of the 20 minute neighbourhoods into existing places.
Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan

Chapelton of Elsick, Masterplan
“Every place is a different blend of **physical**, **social** and **economic characteristics and needs** that interact and influence each other. Action by those responsible for providing services and looking after assets to address a need based in one characteristic will all too frequently **have unintended consequences in another area**: be that positive or negative in its impact.”

The Improvement Service, *Planning For Place*
Research & Putting it into Practice
Proximity & accessibility

From mountain to sea

walking distance:
within 5 minutes
within 10 minutes
within 15 minutes
within 20 minutes
out with 20 minutes
Levels of service & expectation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of Place</th>
<th>Examples of services &amp; amenities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medium - Large</td>
<td>Key transport node (e.g. rail / bus into city)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small - Medium</td>
<td>EV infrastructure and local car and ebike share scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Creation of low level paths and links. Peer to peer carsharing, car clubs and ebike hub</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Connection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Connection (generally)</th>
<th>Public Transport</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Behaviour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mobile services that come to you e.g. pop up surgery in a local hall.</td>
<td>Public transport that it is affordable, frequent, appealing, good quality of experience</td>
<td>Car taming in town and village centres, hierarchy of movement principles</td>
<td>Challenge the aspiration for car ownership, car clubs &amp; car sharing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadband and digital connectivity</td>
<td>Flexible and agile – move away from large (empty) coaches</td>
<td>'Park and walk' facilities at the edge towns and village centres.</td>
<td>Embracing the weather and hills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated transport connections e.g. train and bus timings</td>
<td>New fuels, hydrogen, and automation</td>
<td>Move to electric vehicles and necessary infrastructure to support this</td>
<td>Sharing economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low level links, key paths to join places and between different parts places</td>
<td>Free bus travel schemes</td>
<td>Bike and ebike infrastructure (toilets, repairs, storage)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Levels of service & expectation & forms of application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Form of Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medium - Large</td>
<td>‘Hub &amp; Spoke’ ‘Fields of centres’ ‘Strategic Settlement’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small - Medium</td>
<td>‘Network of linked complimentary centres’ ‘A Network of Small Distance Places’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Small</td>
<td>‘Smart Clachan’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Large urban areas (with a population of 125,000 or more)
Other urban areas (with a population of 10,000 to 124,999)
Accessible small towns (with a population of 3,000 to 9,999)
Remote small towns (with a population of 3,000 to 9,999)
Accessible rural (with a population of less than 3,000)
Remote rural (with a population of less than 3,000)

(National Records of Scotland)
Care and Repair or Stabilisation
Community
Collaborative Working
Conditions for operationalisation

- Alignment of policy, plans, levers & conditions for delivery
- Policy
- Planning and Planners, resource, skills, confidence
- Delivery focused
- Operational framework
Data
To understand & deliver
Data
To understand & deliver
Data
To understand & deliver

Phase 1: Quantitative data

• Agreement on ‘needs’ **daily basis** in an Aberdeenshire context.
• ‘Place Data Hub’ containing information pertinent to ‘Local Living Themes’ baseline for the existing provision of services within settlements.
• Creation of an interactive StoryMap allowing visual representation of data ready for publication on the Council’s website.
• Production of settlement ‘data sheets’ providing an overview of each settlement including maps.
Data
To understand & deliver

Phase 2: analysis

• Assessment to identify where existing 20-minute neighbourhoods are and where networks of settlements exist.
• Assessment to identify those settlements capable of becoming 20-minute neighbourhood
• Capturing community aspirations
• Preparation of a ‘Living Locally in Aberdeenshire’ Report presenting the results from the project, including a full suite of completed settlement ‘data sheets’
Data
Broad themes

- Shopping & Leisure
- Health & Wellbeing
- Homes & Housing
- Travel & Transport
- Work & Economy
- Community
- Life Long Learning

Living Local in Aberdeenshire
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Buchan</th>
<th>Banff &amp; Buchan</th>
<th>Formartine</th>
<th>Garioch</th>
<th>Kincardine &amp; Meams</th>
<th>Marr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberchirder</td>
<td>Ardallie</td>
<td>Balmiedie</td>
<td>Auchleven</td>
<td>Arbuthnott</td>
<td>Aboyne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banff</td>
<td>Auchnagatt</td>
<td>Barhol Chapel</td>
<td>Blackburn</td>
<td>Auchenblae</td>
<td>Alford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyndie</td>
<td>Boddam</td>
<td>Bethelvie</td>
<td>Chapel of Garioch</td>
<td>Blair's</td>
<td>Ballater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairnbulg &amp; Inverallochy</td>
<td>Crimond</td>
<td>Berefold</td>
<td>Colpy</td>
<td>Catterline</td>
<td>Balloch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornhill</td>
<td>Cruden Bay</td>
<td>Blackdog</td>
<td>Dunedoch</td>
<td>Chapelton</td>
<td>Banchory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crovie</td>
<td>Fetterangus</td>
<td>Collieston</td>
<td>Durno</td>
<td>Cookney</td>
<td>Braemar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crudie</td>
<td>Hatton</td>
<td>Cultercullen</td>
<td>Echt</td>
<td>Downies</td>
<td>Bridge of Alford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fordyce</td>
<td>Longhaven</td>
<td>Cuminestown</td>
<td>Garlogie</td>
<td>Drumlithie</td>
<td>Cairnie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraserburgh</td>
<td>Longside</td>
<td>Daviot</td>
<td>Hatton of Fintray</td>
<td>Drumoak</td>
<td>Clatt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardenstown</td>
<td>Maud</td>
<td>Ellon</td>
<td>Insch</td>
<td>Edzell Woods &amp; New Esk</td>
<td>Crathes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverboyndie</td>
<td>Mintlaw</td>
<td>Fintry</td>
<td>Inverurie &amp; Port Elphinstone</td>
<td>Fettercairn</td>
<td>Crathie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Edward</td>
<td>New Deer</td>
<td>Foveran</td>
<td>Keithhall</td>
<td>Findon</td>
<td>Dinnet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladiesbridge</td>
<td>New Leeds</td>
<td>Fyvie</td>
<td>Kennay</td>
<td>Fordoun</td>
<td>Drumblade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macduff</td>
<td>New Pitsligo</td>
<td>Garmond</td>
<td>Kingsseat</td>
<td>Gourdon</td>
<td>Finzean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mensie</td>
<td>Old Deer</td>
<td>Hattoncrook</td>
<td>Kinnuck</td>
<td>Inverbervie</td>
<td>Forgue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Aberdour</td>
<td>Peterhead</td>
<td>Kirkton of AUCHTERLESS</td>
<td>Kintore</td>
<td>Johnshaven</td>
<td>Garty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Byth</td>
<td>Rora</td>
<td>Methick</td>
<td>Kirkton of Skene</td>
<td>Kirkton of Durriss</td>
<td>Glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennan</td>
<td>St Combs</td>
<td>Newburgh</td>
<td>Leslie</td>
<td>Kirkton of Maryculter</td>
<td>Glenkindie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennan</td>
<td>St Combs</td>
<td>Newburgh</td>
<td>Leslie</td>
<td>Kirkton of Maryculter</td>
<td>Glenkindie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portsoy</td>
<td>St Fergus</td>
<td>Oldmeldrum</td>
<td>Lyne of Skene</td>
<td>Laurencekirk</td>
<td>Huntly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rathen</td>
<td>Strichen</td>
<td>Pitmedden</td>
<td>Meikle Wartle</td>
<td>Luthermuir</td>
<td>Inchmarlo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosehearty</td>
<td>Stuartfield</td>
<td>Potterton</td>
<td>Midmar</td>
<td>Marykirk</td>
<td>Keig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandend</td>
<td>Rashieriev</td>
<td>Foveran</td>
<td>Millbank</td>
<td>Marywell</td>
<td>Kennethmont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandhaven</td>
<td>Rothienorman</td>
<td>Newmachar</td>
<td>Muchalls</td>
<td>Kincardine O’Neil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyrie</td>
<td>St Katherines</td>
<td>Old Rayne</td>
<td>Newtonhill</td>
<td>Kirkton of Tough</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitehills</td>
<td>Tarves</td>
<td>Oyne</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tippery</td>
<td>Pitcapie</td>
<td>Portlithen</td>
<td>Logie Coldstone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turriff</td>
<td>Clurys &amp; Sauchen</td>
<td>Portlithen Village</td>
<td>Lumphanan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Udny Green</td>
<td>Westhill</td>
<td>Roadside of KINNEF</td>
<td>Lumsden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Udny Station</td>
<td>Whiteford/Logie Durno</td>
<td>St Cyrus</td>
<td>Montgarrie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>West Pitmilan</td>
<td>Whiterashes</td>
<td>Stonehaven</td>
<td>Monymusk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Woodhead</td>
<td>West Cairnbig</td>
<td>Muir of Fowlis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ythanbank</td>
<td>Woodland of DURRIS</td>
<td>Rhynie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ruthven</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Strachan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Strathdon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tarland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Torphins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Towie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Whitehouse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Study
Peterhead
Case Study
Peterhead

Greenspaces, outdoor spaces and biodiversity (10)
- LDP 2017
- Community Impact Assessment 1
- Community Impact Assessment 2
- Choose Peterhead
- Sport Culture Community Facilities Survey 2017
- Sustaining Choices
- Town Centre Health Check 2017
- Longate Mini-pubic
- The Plan is in your Hands
- Peterhead Decides

Feeling Safe (8)
- Community Impact Assessment 1 (Survey)
- Community Impact Assessment 2
- Choose Peterhead
- Sustaining Choices
- Town Centre Health Check 2017
- Longate Mini-public
- Peterhead Town Centre Regeneration Strategic Report, Past, Present and Future – The Heart of Peterhead

Employment, skills and local economy (6)
- Community Impact Assessment 1 (Survey)
- Community Impact Assessment 2
- Peterhead Vision and Action Plan
- Longate Mini-public
- Peterhead Town Centre Regeneration Strategic Report, Past, Present and Future – The Heart of Peterhead
- Peterhead Arts and Culture Network Engagement Event

Interaction/connection/integration (5)
- Community Impact Assessment 1 (Survey)
- Community Impact Assessment 2
- Peterhead Vision and Action Plan
- Longate Mini-public
- Peterhead Town Centre Regeneration Strategic Report, Past, Present and Future – The Heart of Peterhead

Culture & Art, Heritage (5)
- Muckle Kirk Feasibility
- Choose Peterhead
- Sport Culture Community Facilities Survey 2017
- Peterhead Town Centre Regeneration Strategic Report, Past, Present and Future – The Heart of Peterhead
- Peterhead Arts and Culture Network Engagement Event

Community Facilities & Public spaces (5)
- 2017 LDP PS Peterhead
- Muckle Kirk Feasibility
- Choose Peterhead
- Peterhead Vision and Action Plan
- Education Campus Engagement (5)

Local Environment and public realm (5)
- Community Impact Assessment 1 (Survey)
- Community Impact Assessment 2
- Sustaining Choices
- Your Voice, Your Choice
- Peterhead Decides
Case Study
Peterhead

Review of plans & strategies
Case Study
Peterhead

Review of plans & strategies
Case Study
Peterhead

Mapping all projects
gaps & opportunities
Aberdeenshire
Next Steps

• Continue building the baseline
  • Establish a Storymap and place database
  • Embrace local place plans
  • Increase confidence and dialogue

• Alignment
  • Policy, plans and levers
  • Service delivery
  • Embedding the place principal

• Testing & Delivery
  • Willingness to experiment and try things out
  • Commitment to medium and long term goals
Thank you

Lucy.styles@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
References:

- Putting Towns on the Policy Map: Understanding Scottish Places
- Aberdeenshire’s rural and suburban towns: an investigation into the retrofitability of the 20 minute neighbourhoods into existing places
- Paths for all
- Room to Thrive – Huntly
- Understanding Scottish Places (usp.scot)
- Our Place | Our Place
- 5f0d9630bd952_20200714_SLC_Savills_Rural_Housing_Report_FINAL.pdf (landcommission.gov.scot)