

Five themed public workshops were held during May 2021 to begin to flesh out practical actions for the Community Action Plan, for review by the second Community Assembly.

The working groups built on the outputs from:

- Community survey results in February/March with 260+ responses.
- Suggestions and 'likes' in the <u>Ideas Bank</u> (most submitted online, some on paper via the shop and PO).
- The first Community Assembly on 15th April summary here.

The working groups covered 5 themes:

- Better Connections: 4 May 7:30-9:30pm
- Community Life: 11 May 7:30-9:30pm
- Organising Ourselves: 13 May 7:30-9:30pm
- Outdoors and Nature: 18 May 7:30-9:30pm
- Our Homes: 20 May 7:30-9:30pm

Summaries of what emerged from each workshop are shown on subsequent pages of this PDF document.

For more information and video recordings of each workshop, please click on the workshop titles above.

The **agenda** for each working group was:

- The big picture
- Recap on the theme
- What does this theme mean to you?
- What do we already know?
- What came out of the first Community Assembly?
- What's in the Ideas Bank?
- What solutions will create the most impact?



Working group on Better Connections Tuesday 4th May 2021

The diagrams below and right capture the main points made in discussions. The text below is a summary. Some of you may prefer to read the text, others to look at the diagrams.

What did 'Better Connections' mean to those who came to the discussion? Overall, suggestions included:

- Being able to walk, cycle and run safely between villages especially for unaccompanied kids.
- . The infrastructure that everything else flows from.
- A centre of communication about community activities.
- A local transport system linking up everywhere in the local area.
- Broadband and phone communications that mean I can work from home as well as in the office.
- Being sustainable and future-proofed.

Having looked through the Ideas Bank and what came out of the first Community Assembly, the group reached arrived at four action priorities:

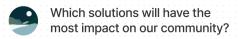
- Improving the road and path network condition, electric charging and bike rental infrastructure, better signage, the experience of travelling through the community.
- Pedestrian safety safe routes to/around schools, pavements in villages, reduced speed limits, 'slower' road design, signage.
 Integrated approach to providing practical, sustainable transport alternatives to
- Integrated approach to providing practical, sustainable transport alternatives to driving - particularly for younger & older people and those who can't drive. Both within the community and connecting to Inverness and Fort Augustus.
- Good quality broadband and mobile phone signal coverage across the whole community.

Some of these things are already starting to happen, as we heard during the workshop. Others are new ideas. There may be gaps or things to change, but they all merit further investigation at the Community Assembly before writing a first draft of the Community Action Plan.



What does 'Better Connections' mean to you?





Improving the road and path network:

- Condition
- Electric charging and bike rental infrastructure
- Better signage
- The experience of travelling through the community

What's the first thing you'd do to deliver this aspiration?



Pedestrian safety:

- Safe routes to/around schools
- · Pavements in villages
- · Reduced speed limits
- · 'Slower' road design
- Signage

What's the first thing you'd do to deliver this aspiration?

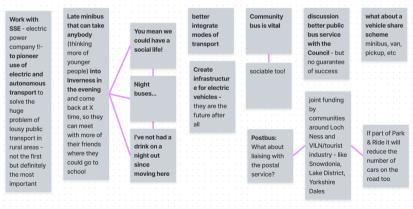
Gorthleck Average invite police speed rada speed to set signs work cameras are random well, every speed traps effective, is community should have that a solution?

introduce 30/20mph speed limits in the villages work with the Council any measures need to be practical and sustainable in long term, eg wind farm construction traffic

Integrated approach to providing practical, sustainable transport alternatives to driving:

- Particularly for younger & older people and those who can't drive
- Within the community
- Connecting to Inverness and Fort Augustus

What's the first thing you'd do to deliver this aspiration?



get suppliers

their plans to

community

to present

Good quality broadband and mobile phone signal coverage across the whole community.

What's the first thing you'd do to deliver this aspiration?



Complete
CFWN if
OpenReach
R100 not
rolled out

Decision due from OpenReach in Aug 2021



The diagrams below and right capture the main points made in discussions. The text below is a summary Some of you may prefer to read the text, others to look at

Community Life: what does that mean to you? And what needs to happen to support it?

When asked what Community Life meant to them, the group said:

- Balance better lifestyles for all ages without having to go to Inverness with retaining the community's safe rural caring character.
- · More opportunities to meet people, especially for those who are lonely.
- · More amenities and activities for kids otherwise the community will dwindle away.

 • Doing things for ourselves, being sustainable.
- · Events that bring people of all ages together.
- Create a sense of community.
- Being able to set up a home and life here after you leave school or college.

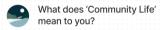
The group also reached an initial set of potential projects. In no particular order:

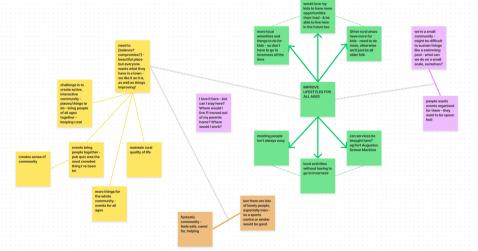
- Playpark
- Community centre
 Sports facility
- Place to sell local arts and crafts
- Community purchase of shop and Post Office
 Community purchase of campsite
- Combine the primary schools Wraparound childcare for working parents
- More activities for nursery and primary aged children
- More apprenticeships

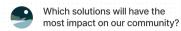
Some 'principles' were suggested too:

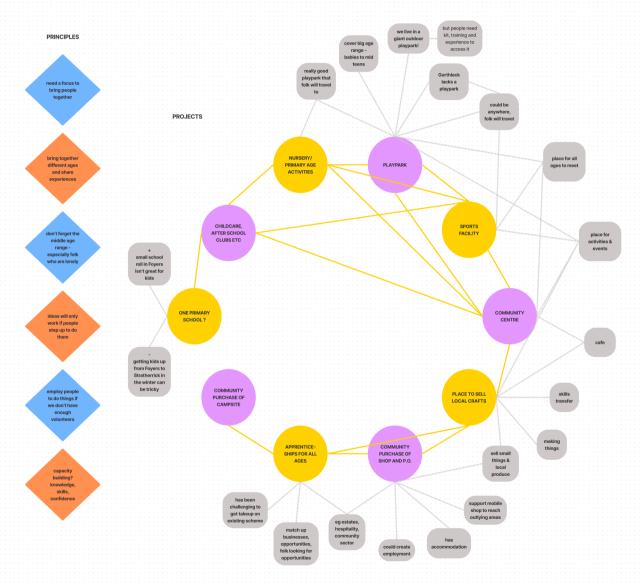
- Need a focus to bring people of different ages and experiences together.
- Things for young and old are important, but don't forget the middle age range - it can be difficult to meet people.
- Volunteers are stretched, Ideas will only work if people step up to do them. Maybe we need to use employed people more, and increase volunteer

Things may be missing, others may not be quite right. More planning is needed to work out how these ideas might work and what they will look like. But they are a









A number of gape in the discussion were

identified at the end of the meeting including:

· How groups might engage better with the

local community, as much of the discussion

was about how groups engage with each

· How groups organise themselves coming

· More discussion about volunteer burnout

 The need to expand the discussion beyond the Trust to include how everyone works

Some of these things are already starting to

Others are new ideas. There may be gaps or

happen, as we heard during the workshop

things to change, but they all merit further

investigation at the Community Assembly

before writing a first draft of the Community

out of COVID.

Action Plan

and the role of paid staff.

The diagrams below and right capture the main points made in discussions. The text below is a summary. Some of you may prefer to read the text, others to look at the diagrams.

What did 'organising ourselves' mean to those who came to the discussion? Overall, suggestions included:

- Listening to the community especially those who really
 matter like those who will be most affected by changes.
- matter, like those who will be most affected by changes

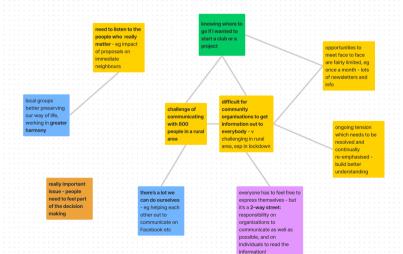
 People need to feel part of local decision making
- Local groups working in greater harmony, with less hostility in
- conversations especially around the Community Trust.

 Knowing where to go if I wanted to start a club or a project.
- Overcoming the ongoing challenge of keeping people informed and updated across such a wide area and different ways of communicating, which has been especially hard during lockdown
- Thinking about the content of communications, as well as the means of communication.
- Communications as a 2-way street a responsibility on organisations to communicate as well as they can, and on individuals to seek out the information.
- Doing as much as we can ourselves, as individuals or groups, rather than looking to others to do it for us.

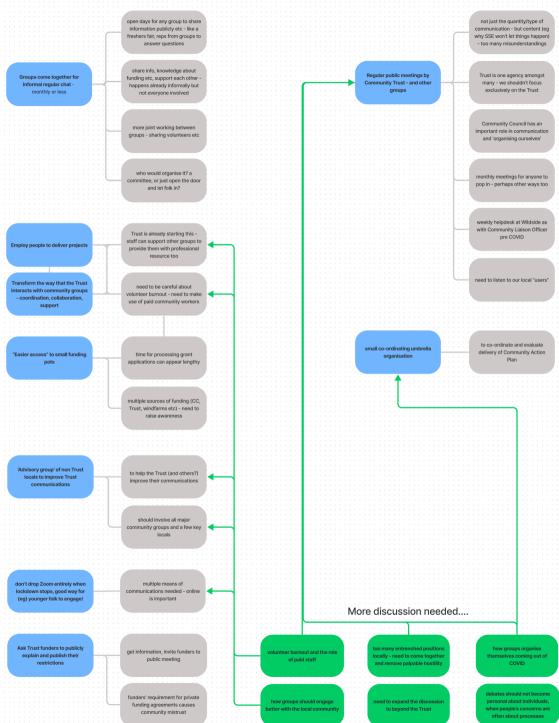
No decisions were made - it's too early in the process for that. But, having looked through the Ideas Bank and what came out of the first Community Assembly, the group reached arrived at a set of realistic potential actions. In no particular order:

- Advisory group of local folk to help the Trust, and other organisations, improve their communications.
- Regular informal public gatherings of community groups to share information, explain what they're doing to the community and support each other.
- Regular public meetings of the Community Trust, and a request to funders that full transparency is allowed.
- A small co-ordinating group from across community organisations to oversee delivery of the Community Action Plan once it has been completed.
- Community groups working together to organise themselves as the pandemic eases.
- Employ people to deliver projects rather than relying on volunteers - a suggestion which came up at the Community Life working group too.
- Transform the way that the Community Trust interacts with other community groups to provide co-ordination, collaboration and support.
- · Easier access to small funding pots for community action.

What does 'Organising Ourselves' mean to you?



Which solutions will have the most impact on our community?



Working group on Outdoors and Nature Tuesday 18th May 2021

The diagrams below and right capture the main points made in discussions. The text below is a summary. Some of you may prefer to read the text, others to look at the diagrams.

- to read the text, others to look at the diagrams.

 What did 'Outdoor Connection' ream to those who came to the discussion' Overall, suggestions included:

 The outdoor is what this community has all creates jobs, and its good for mental health and wellbelling. Need a variety of "Widfle" is under greater pressure and work protect itself-action is needed.

 Widfle" is under greater pressure and work protect itself-action is needed.

 Oool land management is important issaily mon remisling, and the second of the second control of the second control

No decisions were made about solutions to these things - it's too early in the process for that. But, having looked through the Ideas Bank and what came out of the first Community Assembly, the group reached arrived at a set of realistic potential actions.

In no particular order...

- Paths and access to water

 Definitively map the many local paths that exist, and use that to determine which ones should be prioritised for improvement, signposting and maintenance.

 Replication path plans and guides.
 Install shelters, accessible routes, viewpoints and information.

- Install shelters, accessine routes, viterpuents and unconstant Work with landowners to make improvements. Establish a paths group(s) to take these things forward and lisise with events organisers like the Loch Ness Marathon. Improve access to Loch Ness (slipway) and Loch Mhor

- Wild camping
 Manage it better rather than try to ban it.

- Community woodland

 Opportunity to nurture wildlife, organise activities, create employment on the community's terms!
 Start small or aim big? Various potential locations.
 Vlability can be an issue, especially for running costs and

The need to balance recreation, productive use of land and nature was discussed at length - and the need to balance and respect landowners' needs as well as community aspirations. Collaboration is essential.

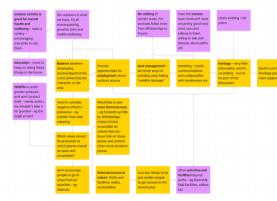
A number of ideas meriting further discussion were suggested at the end of the meeting, including:

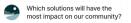
- Attractions like a dry ski slope, <u>scenic routes project</u>, mountain biking and skiing on windfarm access tracks, windfarm
- interpretation and shelters for dark sky watching.

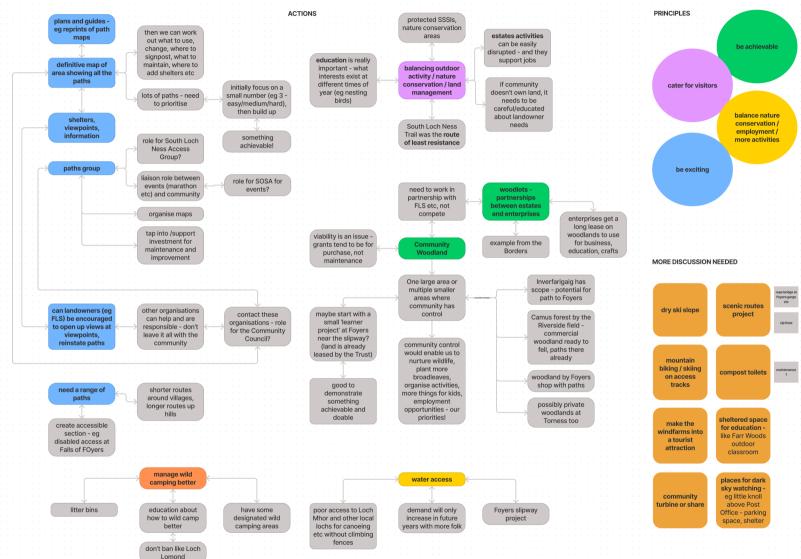
 Sheltered outdoor space for education like Farr Woods outdoor
- classroom.
 Composting toilets.
 Community turbine to generate income.

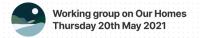
Some of the suggestions discussed in the meeting are already starting to happen, as we heard during the workshop. Others are new ideas. There may be gaps or things to change, but they all merit further investigation at the Community Assembly before writing a first draft of the Community Action Plan.

What does 'Outdoors and Nature' mean to you?









ACTIONS

- Community-led new homes mixed tenure, flexible designs for families/singles and different ages
- Local control of rental allocations and restrictions on sale or let
- . Invest in existing homes occupied and derelict
- Community-led housing management including communal factoring, services and maintenance
- Help-to-buy financial support eg for young people or those moving out of tied housing
- Provide support for people in their homes to address physical, social, financial issues
- Directory of local tradesmen to help residents and businesses
- . Identify sites for new homes including self-build
- Specialist (eg respite) accommodation plus supporting facilities and carer accommodation

PRINCIPLES

- Affordable
- · Focus on local people
- Be inclusive, all ages young to old
- Small mixed development with amenities to build community
- Eco, green, innovative, local materials
- New homes should meet certain standards space, eco. gardens and/or allotments
- Local builders/tradesmen
- Sympathetic to rural environment / landscape
- Roles for various local organisations in delivering action - eg Community Trust, BCC, Community Council

BENEFITS

- · Build/support community
- Encourage younger people and families > sustainable community
- Provide good suitable accommodation for local people in need
- Support care in the community
- Local control
- Eco-friendly

POINTS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION?

- Crofting / smallholding opportunities
- Second homes

