

STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS LOCAL PLACE PLAN

INITIAL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
NOVEMBER 2022

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1 INTRODUCTION

In late November 2022, a series of events was organised to gain community input to a new Local Place Plan, using the existing 2021 Community Action Plan themes and priorities as a starting point.

The events were organised by the independent facilitation team, led by Nick Wright Planning, who have been commissioned by Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust to produce the Local Place Plan. That team also produced this report. More information about the Local Place Plan and the Community Action Plan can be found on the dedicated website at www.communityfuture.net.

This report contains the written comments from **five public events**, which included four village events covering the various settlements in the area (Errogie / Gorthleck / Torness, Foyers, Inverfarigaig and Whitebridge) and a community-wide event in Foyers.

Each event was staffed and had display information and questions. Most participants stayed for a considerable time to read the displays and other people's comments, discuss issues with the facilitation team and other local residents, and leave their own comments. The Communities Housing Trust also participated in three of the events (Errogie / Gorthleck / Torness, Inverfarigaig and the community-wide event).

Across the five events, 126 people left written comments (out of population of approximately 800); a handful of those participated in more than one event.

All of the written comments left at the events are transcribed in this document. Participants had two ways of leaving written comments – by **settlement** (see section 2 of this report) and by **theme** (see section 3).

The outputs from the events will be used to inform the draft Local Place Plan that will be produced for public review in early 2023.

A number of other specific events were held in late November, including school sessions in Foyers Primary, Stratherrick Primary and Kilchuimen Primary/Academy, a business breakfast in Foyers, and a visit to the parent-and-toddler group in Whitebridge. The team also tried to organise a separate event for the estate and farming communities; although this proved impractical, estate and farm owners and workers were invited to the business breakfast.

If you have any queries, please contact Nick Wright: nick@nickwrightplanning.co.uk.

2 COMMENTS BY SETTLEMENT

This section contains the posters for each settlement in the area, together with the comments left on those posters in response to questions on the posters. Some of the settlements also have maps with comments, and there is also a 'community-wide' poster.

Each village poster and (where appropriate) map is reproduced on these pages in its original format. The handwritten sticky notes are people's responses to the questions posed on the posters. All comments have been transcribed beneath the images for ease of reference.

Larger images of each poster, with comments, can be viewed online at www.communityfuture.net/posts/52

The villages are:

- Errogie (page 4)
- Foyers (page 6)
- Gorthleck (page 8)
- Inverfarigaig (page 10)
- Torness (page 13)
- Whitebridge (page 15)
- Community-wide (page 18)

2.1 ERROGIE



COMMUNITY LIFE

What facilities, spaces, events and activities do we need locally?

- Community woodland
- Community orchard and paid gardener to maintain
- Community allotment area (instead of sports place??)

How could Errogie kirk be best developed as a community hub?

- Open/unmanned shops selling essentials (vending machine), local produce
- Gym facility
- Gym
- Place to make community/craft food
- Heritage and culture focus
- Place to meet socially
- £1.8m!!!! need a reality check!!

Are more business premises or facilities needed? What and where?

- [no comments]

GETTING ABOUT

How can we make it easier and safer to walk and cycle about?

- *Forest cycle tracks*

Which routes and destinations should we prioritise?

- *Turn the log road into a cycle track*

OUTDOORS AND NATURE

Which paths should we focus our attention on?

- *Network of paths of different difficulty*

Thinking of our history, nature and scenery: which places of interest should we make more of?

- *Re-wilding info*
- *Eagle conservation*
- *Broadleaf tree planting schemes on forest land*

Which hotspots need better management?

- *[no comments]*

Where are new playparks needed?

- *Village green!*

Which existing ones need investment?

- *[no comments]*

OUR HOMES

Does the local community need affordable homes?

- *Yes!*
- *Please get on with it! You have land and ££s*

What kind? How many? Where?

- *[no comments]*

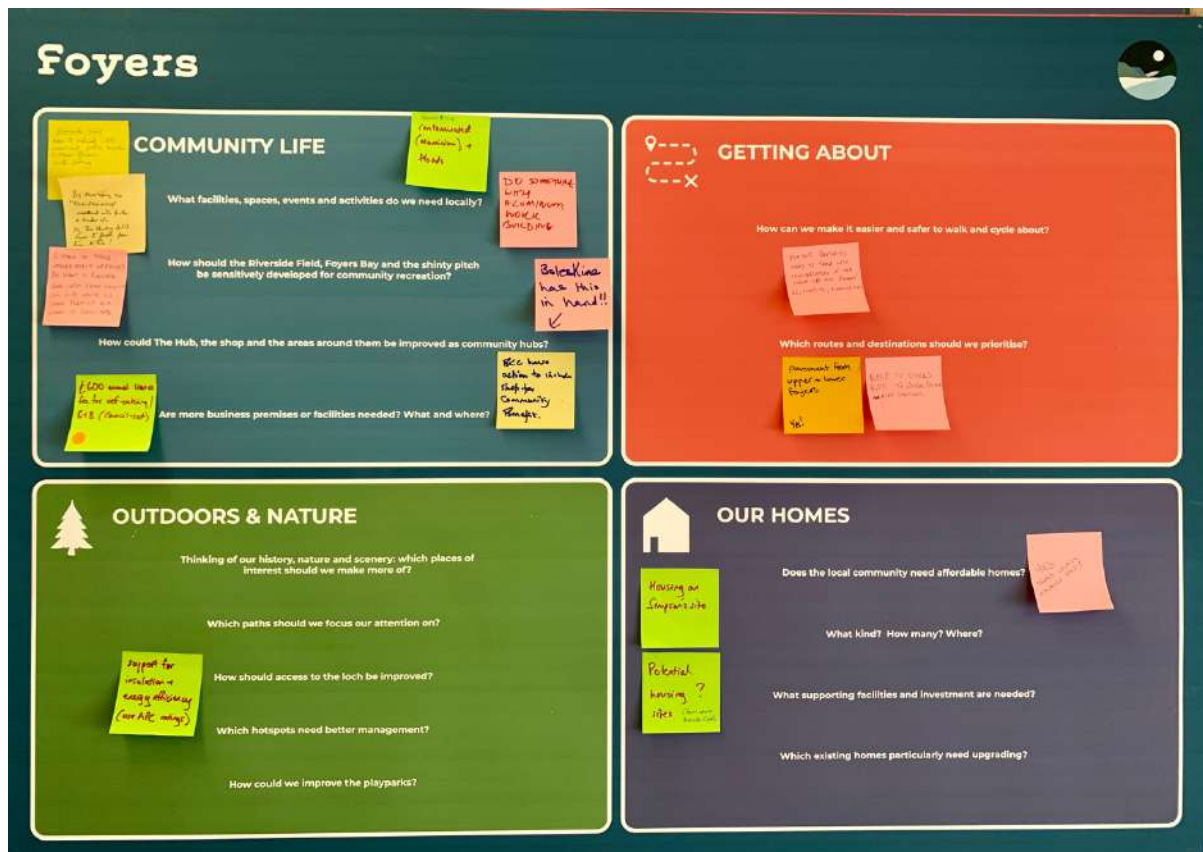
What supporting facilities and investment?

- *[no comments]*

Which existing homes particularly need upgrading?

- *[no comments]*

2.2 FOYERS



COMMUNITY LIFE

What facilities, spaces, events and activities do we need locally?

- [no comments]

How should the Riverside Field, Foyers Bay and the shinty pitch be sensitively developed for community recreation?

- *Riverside Field: keep it natural with woodland paths, benches, outdoor fitness, limit parking*
- *By developing an "eco-friendly" woodland with paths and benches etc. PS the shinty pitch tends to flood from time to time!*
- *Listen to those immediately affected by what is planned. Good input from locality will give insight on good practice and what is required.*
- *Shinty pitch is contaminated (aluminium factory) and floods*
- *Do something with aluminium works building*

How could The Hub, the shop and the areas around them be improved as community hubs?

- *Boleskine Community Care has this in hand!*
- *BCC have action to include shop for community benefit*

Are more business premises or facilities needed? What and where?

- *Help with new Council-set £600 annual licence fee for self-catering / B+B. [+1]*

GETTING ABOUT

How can we make it easier and safer to walk and cycle about?

- *Major projects need to take into consideration of the impact on our roads! E.g. campsite, Riverside Fields*

Which routes and destinations should we prioritise?

- *Pavement from upper to lower Foyers. [+1]*
- *B862 to Dores, B571 to Gourag Bridge and Dalcrag*

OUTDOORS AND NATURE

Which paths should we focus our attention on?

- *[no comments]*

Thinking of our history, nature and scenery: which places of interest should we make more of?

- *[no comments]*

How could access to the loch be improved?

- *[no comments]*

Which hotspots need better management?

- *[no comments]*

Where best to put a playpark? What should it be like?

- *[no comments]*

OUR HOMES

Does the local community need affordable homes?

- *Yes. Owned locally, managed fairly.*

What kind? How many? Where?

- *Housing on Simpson's site in Lower Foyers (previously proposed)*
- *Farm above Riverside Field*

What supporting facilities and investment are needed?

- *[no comments]*

Which existing homes particularly need upgrading?

- *Support for insulation and energy efficiency – use EPC ratings*

2.3 GORTHLECK



COMMUNITY LIFE

What facilities, spaces, events and activities do we need locally?

- Need health incentive: keep fit, running club, diet and exercise
- Shop, gym (could be centralised)
- Swimming pool [+1]
- Gym and indoor meeting room attached
- More outdoor meeting spaces

How could the hall and area around be improved as a community hub?

- Why have improvements to Stratherrick Hall taken so long? Hall important.
- Solar panels > warm area for everyone
- Improve hall
- Shop

Are more business premises or facilities needed? What and where?

- Essential items / local produce in vending machine or weekly van

Other comments

- Move forward with ideas please

GETTING ABOUT

How can we make it easier and safer to walk and cycle about?

- *More road improvements please*
- *Bike storage (lock) for school bus*
- *No street lighting! Dark skies area*

Which routes and destinations should we prioritise?

- *[no comments]*

OUTDOORS AND NATURE

Which paths should we focus our attention on?

- *[no comments]*

Thinking of our history, nature and scenery: which places of interest should we make more of?

- *[no comments]*

How could access to the loch be improved?

- *Parking to allow access to loch*

Which hotspots need better management?

- *[no comments]*

Where best to put a playpark? What should it be like?

- *Close enough to Stratherrick school to walk to*

OUR HOMES

Does the local community need affordable homes?

- *Community housing*
- *Affordable homes for young people*
- *Yes, affordable homes for young people*

What kind? How many? Where?

- *Eco-friendly house designs for young people and families, affordable homes*
- *Small croft plots, resulting in more local produce*
- *Affordable family homes*
- *Angus Fraser yard, Gorthleck*
- *Warden assisted bungalows/flats*
- *Affordable houses to rent, 2-3 bed*

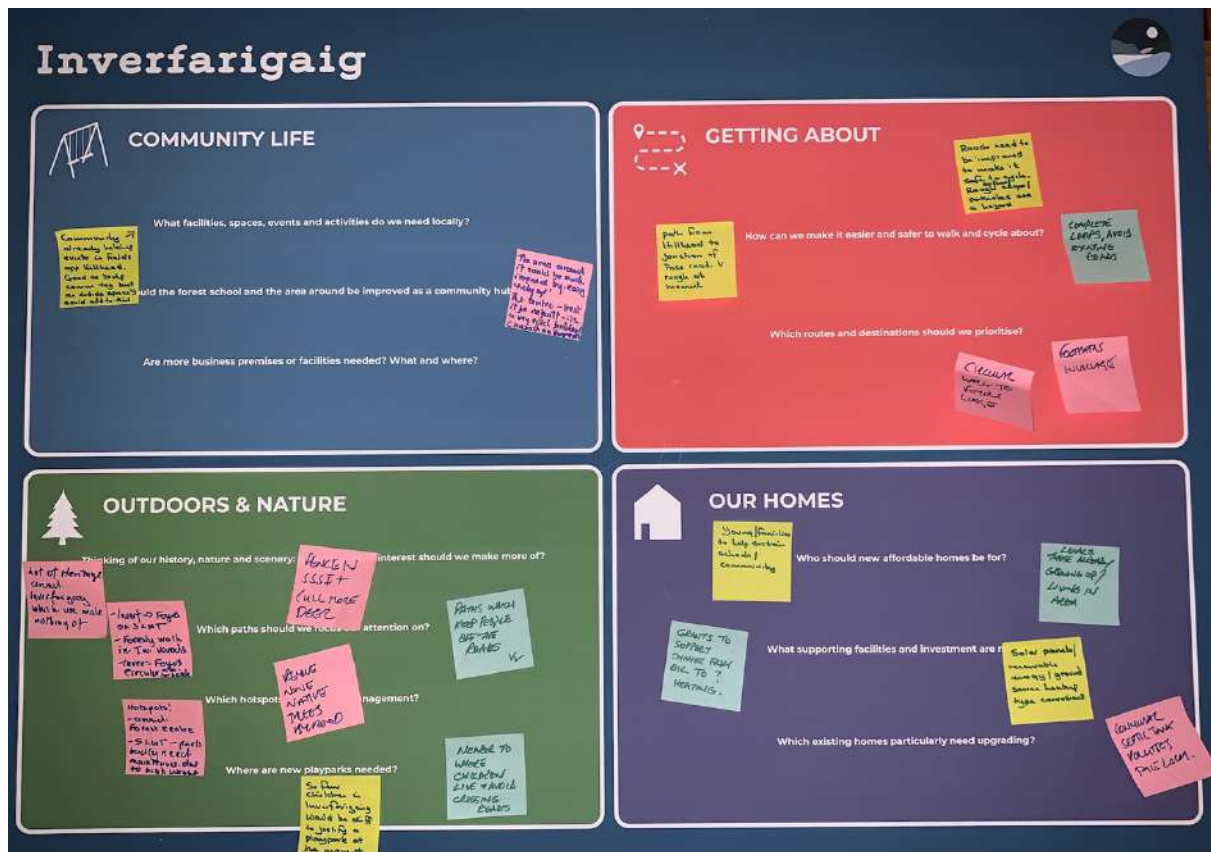
What supporting facilities and investment are needed?

- *[no comments]*

Which existing homes particularly need upgrading?

- *Older traditional buildings, as they are of historical importance to the area*

2.4 INVERFARIGAIG



COMMUNITY LIFE

What facilities, spaces, events and activities do we need locally?

- *Community already holding events in fields opposite Hillhead*

How could the forest school and area around be improved as a community hub?

- *Good to [...] but an inside space would add to this*
- *The area around it could be much improved by easy tidy up. The centre – best it be rebuilt – it's a very [...] building [...]*

Are more business premises or facilities needed? What and where?

- *[no comments]*

GETTING ABOUT

How can we make it easier and safer to walk and cycle about?

- *Roads need to be improved to make it safe to cycle. Rough surfaces / edges / potholes are a hazard.*

Which routes and destinations should we prioritise?

- *Complete loops, avoid existing roads*
- *Footpaths in village*
- *Circular walk to Foyers Lodge*
- *Path from Hillhead to junction of Pass road. Very rough at moment.*

OUTDOORS AND NATURE

Thinking of our history, nature and scenery: which places of interest should we make more of?

- *Lot of heritage around Inverfarigaig which we make nothing of*

Which paths should we focus our attention on?

- *Inverfarigaig > Foyers on South Loch Ness Trail*
- *Forestry walks in Inverfarigaig woods*
- *Inverfarigaig – Foyers circular on lochside*
- *Paths which keep people off roads [+2]*

Which hotspots need better management?

- *Around forest centre*
- *South Loch Ness Trail – paths badly need maintenance due to high [usage?]*
- *Fence in SSSI, cull more deer*
- *Remove non-native trees by road*

Where are new playparks needed?

- *Nearer to where children live and avoid crossing roads*
- *So few children in Inverfarigaig would be difficult to justify a playpark at the moment*

OUR HOMES

Who should new affordable homes be for?

- *Young families to help sustain schools / community*
- *Those locals already growing up / living in the area*

What supporting facilities and investment are needed?

- *Solar panels / renewable energy / ground source heating type conversions*
- *Grants to support change from oil to ? heating*
- *Communal septic tanks pollutes the loch*

Which existing homes particularly need upgrading?

- *[no comments]*

2.5 TORNESS



COMMUNITY LIFE

What facilities, spaces, events and activities do we need locally?

- [no comments]

How could the shooting club and area around be improved as a community hub?

- [no comments]

Are more business premises or facilities needed? What and where?

- [no comments]

GETTING ABOUT

How can we make it easier and safer to walk and cycle about?

- [no comments]

Which routes and destinations should we prioritise?

- [no comments]

OUTDOORS AND NATURE

Thinking of our history, nature and scenery: which places of interest should we make more of?

- [no comments]

Which paths should we focus our attention on?

- *[no comments]*

Which hotspots need better management?

- *Bins could be provided especially around Loch Ceo Glais which is popular for locals and visitors. Litter picking. Take litter home signs. Bins.*
- *All Torness signs need updating / renewed.*

OUR HOMES

Does the local community need affordable homes?

- *Yes!*

What kind? How many? Where?

- *All. Loads. Everywhere!*

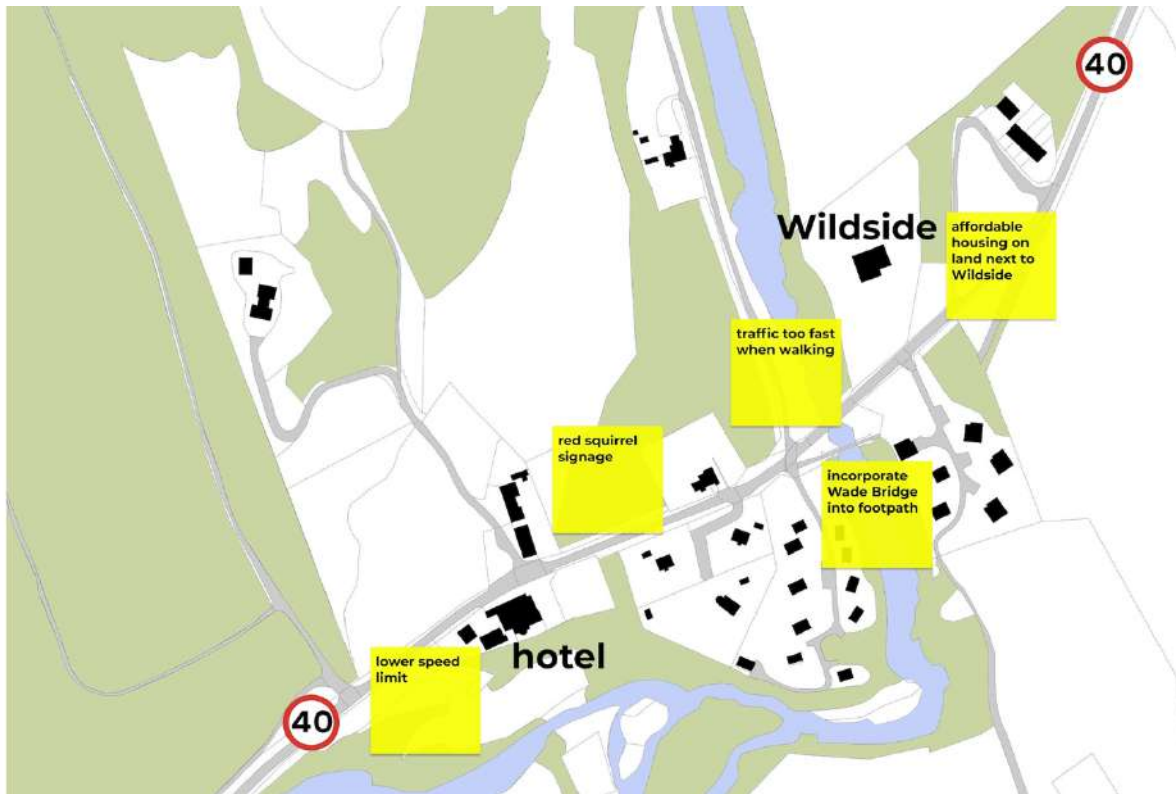
What supporting facilities and investment are needed?

- *[no comments]*

Which existing homes particularly need upgrading?

- *[no comments]*

2.6 WHITEBRIDGE



Whitebridge

COMMUNITY LIFE

What facilities, spaces, events and activities do we need locally?

- A shop outlet or van.
- SHAP
- Wildside - more shops space, better lighting
- Extend Wildside to a wedding & conference venue

How could the Wildside and the Hotel be improved as community hubs?

- Wildside - more shops space, better lighting
- Extend Wildside to a wedding & conference venue

Are more business premises or facilities needed? What and where?

- A shop outlet or van.
- SHAP
- business units for local entrepreneurs

GETTING ABOUT

How can we make it easier and safer to walk and cycle about?

- Speed bumps
- Texti frames from night out service
- priority gaiting
- grit bog
- from Miller Road and to Train Rd
- cycle proficiency leader
- one cycle space for kids to learn to ride
- re-surface Dell Road
- 30 mph (20%) speed limit in Whitebridge
- Need a footway for Miller Rd
- Planned one-way Whitebridge Centre to Whitebridge Hotel
- Whitebridge - can be made and parking is a real nuisance

Which routes and destinations should we prioritise?

OUTDOORS & NATURE

Thinking of our history, nature and scenery: which places of interest should we make more of?

- Wildside at Whitebridge is 100% to 2025 - maybe Apple and other local history (and legends)
- one local LA/Museum project

Which paths should we focus our attention on?

- Wade bridge
- path from Hotel to Train Rd
- path (off road) Whitebridge to Train Rd - Temporarily closed!!

Which hotspots need better management?

- Maintenance of South Loch Trail

Where are new playparks needed?

- Playpark at Wildside

OUR HOMES

Does the local community need affordable homes?

- Red Cabalges SARE? GET ON WITH IT!!
- Is there a need in Whitebridge? What about Gortnacree? A local authority?
- Train Rd as many as possible
- Affordable housing on land next to Wildside

What supporting facilities and investment are needed?

Which existing homes particularly need upgrading?

- Can SHAP buy the 5/6 Train Rd and fix it up for affordable homes?

COMMUNITY LIFE

What facilities, spaces, events and activities do we need locally?

- *A shop outlet or van*
- *Holiday clubs for kids*
- *A shop outlet / local co-operative*
- *Shops*

How could the Wildside and the Hotel be improved as community hubs?

- *Wildside – more storage space, better internal lighting*
- *Extend Wildside to a wedding and conference venue*

Are more business premises or facilities needed? What and where?

- *Business units for local entrepreneurs*

GETTING ABOUT

How can we make it easier and safer to walk and cycle about?

- *Speed bumps*
- *Taxi home from night out service*
- *Priority gritting*
- *Grit bins*
- *Cycling proficiency leader*
- *Safe cycle space for kids to learn to ride*

Which routes and destinations should we prioritise?

- *30 (20?) mph speed limit in Whitebridge (Killin Road end to Thain Road), Gorthleck and Errogie – as with Foyers*
- *Need a footway from Killin Road into and through Whitebridge*
- *Pavement from Wildside Centre to Whitebridge Hotel [+1]*
- *Whitebridge pavement – from Thain Road to Wildside Centre, cross road, across Wade Bridge, past main chalets entrance, up hill opposite old PO, same side of road as hotel and car park*
- *Whitebridge – be careful about path in, don't suburbanise*
- *Re-surface Dell Road*

OUTDOORS AND NATURE

Thinking of our history, nature and scenery: which places of interest should we make more of?

- *Wade Bridge at Whitebridge is 300 in 2032 – fragile, despite recent repairs – needs major investment (and interpretation)*
- *Wade Bridge*
- *Our local landscape hills and mountains*

Which paths should we focus our attention on?

- *Path from Hotel to Thain Road*
- *Path (off-road) Whitebridge to Foyers, must be cyclable!*

Which hotspots need better management?

- *Maintenance of South Loch Trail*

Where are new playparks needed?

- *Playpark at Wildside*

OUR HOMES

Does the local community need affordable homes?

- *For goodness sake? Get on with it!*
- *Is there a need in Whitebridge? What about Gorthleck to support school?*

What kind? How many? Where?

- *Thain Road. As many as possible.*
- *Affordable housing on land next to Wildside.*

What supporting facilities and investment are needed?

- *[no comments]*

Which existing homes particularly need upgrading?

- *Can SFCT buy nos. 5/6 Thain Road and 'do-it up' for affordable homes?*

2.7 COMMUNITY-WIDE



COMMUNITY LIFE

How should we foster community spirit?

- Equality for all!
- A less officious SFCT
- Encourage people to be physically active. Liaise with surgery.

What should village community hubs offer? How might they complement each other?

- Social and service activities are both essential to a charity to function
- Learning opportunities – music, history/heritage etc

Are more business premises or facilities needed? What and where?

- Workshops to rent

GETTING ABOUT

How can we make it easier and safer to get about without a car?

- Community taxi service
- BCC are funded by Highland Council to provide a 'community transport scheme'. This could be expanded upon. Volunteer drivers are reimbursed for fuel.
- BCC transport scheme exists, should be developed – new scheme not needed
- More flexible bus times

- *Safe cycle routes and footpaths*
- *Produce a map of the many local walking tracks*

Which routes and destinations should we prioritise?

- *Connect area with Fort Augusts. Finish the loch circuit.*

OUTDOORS AND NATURE

How can we protect our rural identity?

- *Focus more on off road paths that connect communities*
- *Sensitive road 'furniture', less intrusive. [+1]*
- *No bollards like Errogie corner.*
- *By creating/branding a unique identity based around sustainability and zero carbon footprint etc*

Thinking of our history, nature and scenery: which places of interest should we make more of?

- *Dun Deardail old fort, Inverfarigaig old Wade bridge, Inverfarigaig Telford pier, Inverfarigaig*
- *Invest and care for our outdoor spaces*

Which paths should we focus our attention on?

- *Old bridge at Lower Foyers to be put right for people to walk across, also if the river rises the bailey bridge may not be able to be used and people of Riverside etc will be cut off.*
- *The South Loch Ness Trail and connecting paths*

Which hotspots need better management?

- *Forest school (Inverfarigaig) – Gaelic walks/history, bobbin mill, forestry... [+2]*

Where are new playparks needed?

- *[no comments]*

OUR HOMES

What kind of homes are most needed?

- *Affordable, but also pet friendly with good parking for work sized vehicles – for young/mature single person homes.*
- *Need to consider background and employment of tenants.*
- *Plots, woodland plots, small crofts*
- *Small crofts, plots*
- *Sheltered housing may release larger homes.*
 - *Been tried.*

Where are they most needed?

- *Revisit site at Gorthleck now drainage issues have been solved.*

3 COMMENTS BY THEME

This section contains the posters for each of the five themes in the Community Action Plan, together with the comments left on those posters in response to questions on the posters. Some of the settlements also have maps with comments, and there is a 'community-wide' poster too.

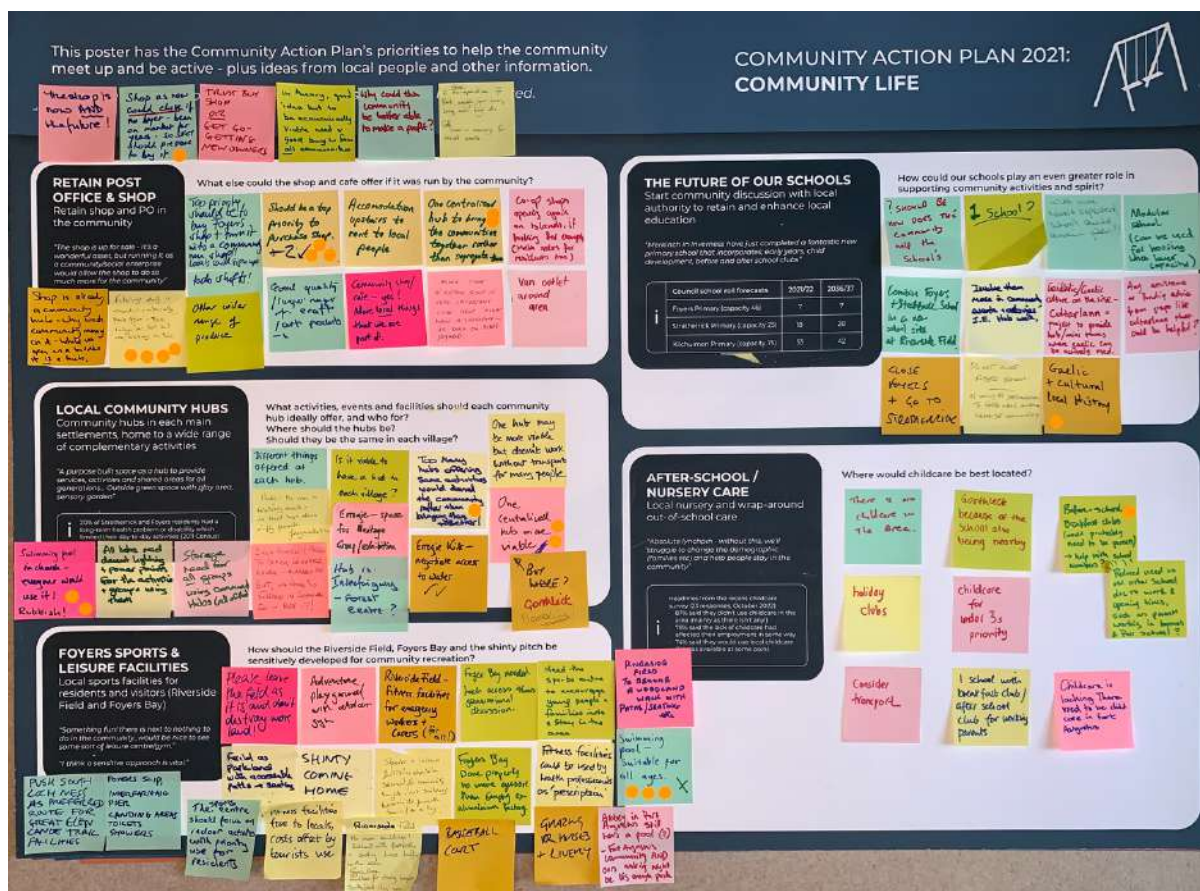
Each theme poster is reproduced on subsequent pages in its original format. The handwritten sticky notes are people's responses to the questions posed on the posters. For ease of reference, all comments on the posters have been transcribed beneath the images for ease of reference, and the comments on the maps have been typed and transcribed onto fresh maps.

Larger images of each poster and map, with comments, can be viewed online at www.communityfuture.net/posts/52

The five Community Action Plan themes are:

1. **Community Life** – including retaining the shop and post office, local community hubs, the future of our schools and after-school / nursery care (see page 21)
2. **Getting About** – including a safer road network, community transport and safe walking/cycling to school and community hubs (see page 24)
3. **Organising Ourselves** – including helping people into work, supporting volunteering and groups, improving communications, and planning and public services (see page 26)
4. **Our Homes** – including affordable homes, specialist accommodation, zero-carbon homes and affordable broadband (see page 28)
5. **Outdoors and Nature** – including paths and places, playparks, community rangers and community woodland (see page 31)

3.1 COMMUNITY LIFE



RETAIN POST OFFICE AND SHOP

What else could the shop and café offer if it was run by the community?

- The shop is now and the future
- Shop as now could close if no buyer - been on market for years - so SFCT should prepare to buy it [✓ 1]
- Trust buy shop OR get go-getting new owners
- In theory, good idea but to be economically viable need v good buy-in from all communities
- Why could the community be better able to make a profit?
- Shop: a co-operative for food, weigh your own, bring your own bags etc. Café: open in evenings for social events.
- Top priority should be to buy Foyers shop and turn it into a community-run shop!! Locals could sign up to do shifts!
- Should be a top priority to purchase the shop [✓ 2]
- Accommodation upstairs to rent to local people
- One centralised hub to bring the communities together rather than segregate them [✓ 2]
- Co-op shops opening again on Islands, if looking for examples (make [...] for residents too)
- Shop is already a community hub - why waste community money on it - while it's open as a business it is a hub
- Retaining shop is essential especially Post Office - BCC recognises this and are working on this [✓ 4]

- Other wider range of produce
- Good quality / larger range of craft / art products
- Community shop / café – yes! More local things that we are part of.
- Shops doesn't need to offer greater range – already ok. But we need to ensure its survival. So - buy it!
- Agree that to retain shop is very important. Local help might make a difference – i.e. save on staff payments.
- Van outlet around area.

COMMUNITY HUBS

What activities, events and facilities should each community hub ideally offer, and who for?
Where should the hubs be? Should they be the same in each village?

- *Swimming pool in church – everyone would use it! [✓ 1] Rubbish! [✓ 1]*
- *All halls need decent lighting and power points for the activities and groups using them*
- *Storage need for all groups using communal hubs (all of them)*
- *Different things offered at each hub*
- *Hubs – the area is relatively small – do local hubs alone simply promote fragmentation?*
- *Is it viable to have a hub in each village?*
- *Errogie – space for Heritage Group / exhibition*
- *Hub in Inverfarigaig – forest centre?*
- *Too many hubs offering same activities would divide the community rather than bringing them together! [✓ 1]*
- *Errogie Kirk – negotiate access to water [✓ 2]*
- *One hub may be more viable but doesn't work without transport for many people*
- *One centralised hub more viable [✓ 2]*
 - *But where?*
 - *Gorthleck*
 - *Boleskine*

FOYERS SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITIES

How should the Riverside Field, Foyers Bay and the shinty pitch be sensitively developed for community recreation?

- *Field as parkland with accessible paths and seating*
- *The sports centre should focus on indoor activities with priority use for residents*
- *Adventure playground with outdoor gym*
- *Fitness facilities free for locals, costs offset by tourist use*
- *Riverside Field – fitness facilities for emergency workers and carers*
 - *For all!*
- *Please leave the field as it is and don't destroy more land!*
- *Riverside Field to become a woodland walk with paths/seating etc*
- *Need the sports centre to encourage young people and families into and stay in the area*
- *Sports and leisure facilities should be balanced for community benefit – not building business to promote tourism / as a key*

- *Swimming pool - suitable for all ages [✓3,✗1]*
- *Abbey in Fort Augustus has a pool (?) – Fort Augustus community AND ours asking might be a big enough push*
- *Fitness facilities could be used by health professionals as ‘prescription’*
- *Basketball court*
- *Grazing for horses and livery*
- *Riverside Field – no more building! Parkland with footpaths and seating, less traffic to the area. Foyers Bay – facilities for storing kayaks. Shinty field – play area.*
- *Foyers Bay needed. Loch access is/was generational discussion.*
- *Foyers Bay done properly no more eyesore than empty ex-aluminium factory*
- *Push South Loch Ness as preferred route for Great Glen canoe trail facilities*
 - *Foyers slips, Inverfarigaig pier, land areas, toilets, showers*
- *Shinty coming home*

THE FUTURE OF OUR SCHOOLS

How could our schools play an even greater role in supporting community activities and spirit?

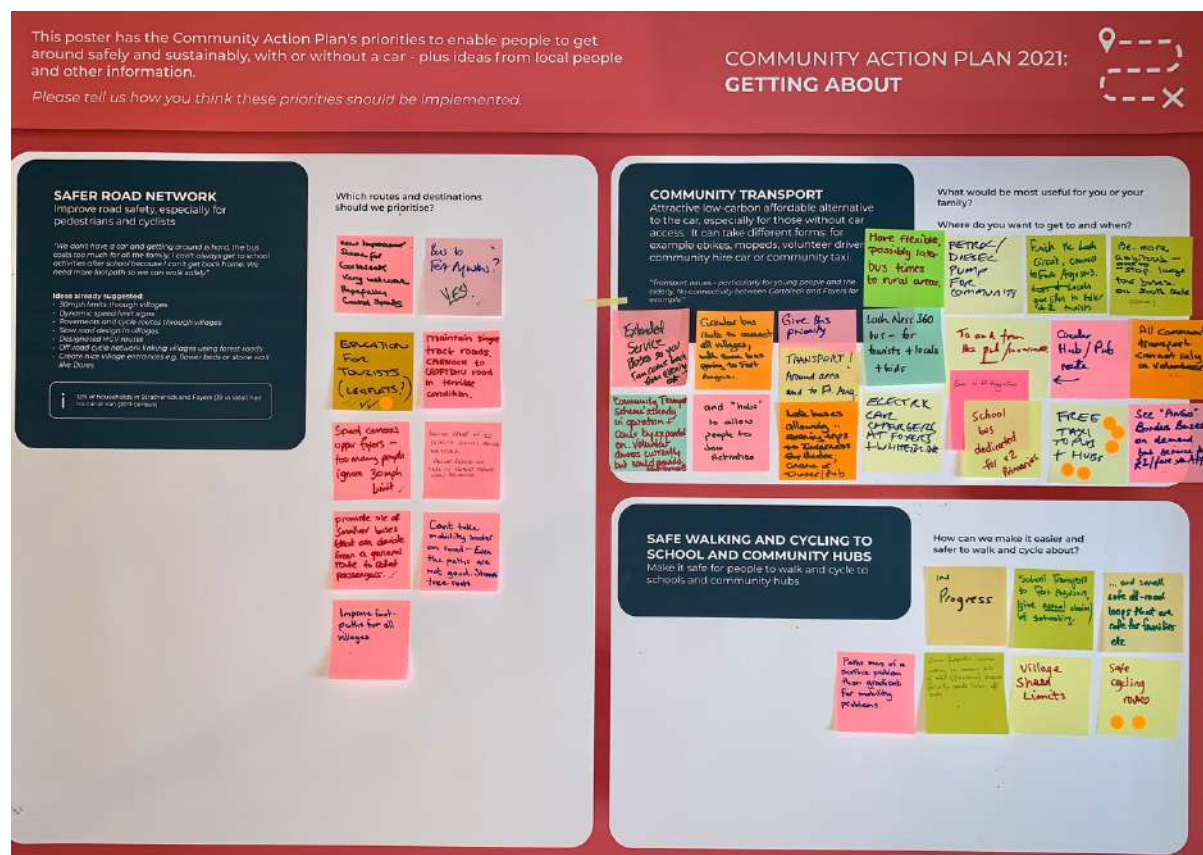
- *? Should be how does the community help the schools*
- *1 school?*
- *With more homes expected, school should remain open!*
- *Modular school (can be used for housing when lower capacity)*
- *Combine Foyers and Stratherrick Schools in a new school site at Riverside Field*
- *1 school with breakfast club / after school club for working parents*
- *Involve them more in community events and activities i.e. hub walk*
- *Gaidhlig/Gaelic culture on the rise – Cultarlann = project to provide hub / mini towns where Gaelic can be actively used*
- *Any assistance or funding advice from groups like Cultarlann that could be helpful?*
- *Close Foyers and go to Stratherrick*
- *Do not close Foyers School – it would be detrimental to Foyers and the overall lochside community*
- *Gaelic and cultural local history [✓1]*

AFTER-SCHOOL/NURSERY CARE

Where would childcare be best located?

- *There is no childcare in the area*
- *Childcare for under 3s priority*
- *Childcare is lacking. There used to be child care in Fort Augustus.*
- *Gorthleck because of the school also being nearby*
- *Holiday clubs*
- *Before school breakfast clubs (would probably need to be parents) and help with school numbers? Reduced need to use other school due to work and opening times, such as parents working in Inverness and Farr schools?*
- *Consider transport*

3.2 GETTING ABOUT



SAFER ROAD NETWORK, ESPECIALLY FOR PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS

Which routes and destinations should we prioritise?

- New improvement scheme for Gorthleck very welcome, hopefully control speeds
- Can't take mobility scooter on road - even the paths are not good. Stones, tree roots.
- Improve footpaths for all villages
- Education for tourists (leaflets?) [✓5]
- Maintain single track roads. Carnoch to Croftdhu road in terrible condition.
- Speed cameras Upper Foyers - too many people ignore 30mph limit. [✓1]
- Regular upkeep of all satellite routes around the strath. Regular repairs will save on lengthy repairs when neglected.
- Promote use of smaller buses that can deviate from a general route to collect passengers [✓1]

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

What would be most useful for your or your family? Where do you want to get to and when?

- Give this priority
- More flexible, possibly later bus times to rural areas
- Bus to Fort Augustus?
 - Yes!
- Extended service buses so you can come back from evening out
- Late buses allowing evening trips to Inverness for theatre, cinema or dinner/pub

- *Free taxi to pub and hubs [✓5]*
- *To and from the pub / Inverness*
 - *Circular hub / pub route*
- *Bus to Fort Augustus*
- *And hubs to allow people to join activities*
- *Transport! Around area and to Fort Augustus*
- *Circular bus route to connect all villages, with some bus going to Fort Augustus*
- *Finish the Loch circuit, connect to Fort Augustus. Locals give lift to folk / tourists [✓1]*
- *Loch Ness 360 bus – for tourists, locals, kids*
- *School bus dedicated for 2 primaries*
- *See 'Pingo' Borders Buses on demand bus service for £2 fare via app*
- *All community transport cannot rely on volunteers*
- *Community transport scheme already in operation and could be expanded on. Volunteer drivers currently but could provide employment*
- *Electric car chargers at Foyers and Whitebridge*
- *Petrol/diesel pump for community*
- *Be more ambitious – move to stop large tour buses on south side. [✓1]*

SAFE WALKING AND CYCLING TO SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY HUBS

How can we make it easier and safer to walk and cycle about?

- *In progress*
- *School transport to Fort Augustus (give actual choice of schooling)*
- *...and small safe off-road loops that are safe for families etc*
- *Paths more of a surface problem than gradient for mobility problems*
- *Some footpaths involve walking on narrow bits of road (Boleskine). Assess footpaths, create links of roads*
- *Village speed limits*
- *Safe cycling routes [✓2]*

3.3 ORGANISING OURSELVES

This poster has the Community Action Plan's priorities for how we work together to create opportunities for people and make things happen - plus ideas from local people and other information.

Please tell us how you think these priorities should be implemented.

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2021: ORGANISING OURSELVES

HELP PEOPLE INTO WORK
More local jobs, apprenticeships and work experience.
"Local jobs and apprenticeship schemes in environmental, sustainability etc. as well as tourism and hospitality"

If you're looking for work, what would help? If you're a business, what support do you need to survive and thrive? Are more business premises or facilities needed? What and where?

PLANNING AND PUBLIC SERVICES
Work with public sector to ensure their plans and services reflect community aspirations.
The Local Place Plan will help to achieve this, as it will influence Council plans and services.
Are there any other messages, not covered elsewhere, that should be included for the Council and public services?

SUPPORT VOLUNTEERING AND GROUPS
Enable volunteers to enhance their skills and satisfaction, retain and enhance volunteer capacity.
Community hubs (see Community Life) and communications need to provide groups and volunteers what they need. Does your group have access to what it needs?

IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS
Co-ordinated printed and online community information accessible to all.

When the Community Action Plan was prepared in 2020, we set up an online Ideas Bank. Lots of exciting ideas were put forward about places and buildings. Put a sticky dot against any which you think would be good for the community!

Community projects and ideas listed on the right side of the poster include:

- Disabled friendly forest paths
- Use hotels as community hubs
- Off-road cycle network linking villages by forest roads
- Eagle centre
- A maze as a unique tourist attraction
- Rope bridge across the Falls of Foyers
- Community tree house and walkways
- Activity trail and obstacle course at Foyers Bay
- Food lenders and library books in Inverferrige and Torness
- Arts/music venue in old aluminium factory
- Cinema club
- After-school club
- Space for teenagers
- Park or sensory garden in Whitebridge
- Pump bike track
- Natural adventure playpark like Abriachan or Garve
- Vending machines in community hubs
- Disabled friendly forest paths
- Nice entrances to villages like In Doras

HELP PEOPLE INTO WORK

If you're looking for work, what would help? If you're a business, what support do you need to survive and thrive? Are more business premises or facilities needed? What and where?

- More priority to projects for whole community - and more local Trust staff.
- Identify needs for local work e.g. someone with excavator.
- Enhance village - e.g. maintenance, wardens.
- Targeted funding for retraining e.g. pay for forestry training for people being made redundant to change career to suit locality.

SUPPORT, VOLUNTEERING AND GROUPS + IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS

Community hubs and communications need to provide groups and volunteers with what they need. Does your group have access to what it needs?

- Trust comms with volunteer groups need to be much improved. [✓2]
- 'Enabling volunteers to enhance skills' - what is the Trust doing in this respect? - not clear.
- Storage! Dry and vermin proof.
- Please make sure trust info is up-to-date on the website as well as Facebook.
- Valuing and appreciating your volunteers. Involve them in planning as they are your great asset.

PLANNING AND PUBLIC SERVICES

The Local Place Plan should influence Council, plans and services. Are there any other messages not covered elsewhere that should be included for the Council and public services?

- *Planning Department seems to ignore objections – e.g. 18 objections on the Stratherrick Field Plan – Council didn't take note of these. Pay attention to local needs.*
- *Community benefit from hydro schemes?*
- *Another small village shop*
- *Greater effort to involve folk from Inverfarigaig and Torness in community communications and activities*

IDEAS BANK

An online Ideas Bank was created during the Community Action Plan community consultation in 2021. It contained many suggestions from local people. Those ideas that received more than one public 'like' in the Ideas Bank were shared at the community events, and people asked to place a dot against ideas that they supported.

The results are shown below. Written comments added by participants are in italics.

Off-road cycle network linking villages by forest roads	13
Kayak access to Loch Mhor	12
Nice entrances to villages like in Dores	11
Repairs at Boleskine graveyard	11
Fix old bridge in Foyers	10
Mountain bike trails into the hills	10
Cinema club	8
Pump bike track	6
Use forest roads	5
Disabled friendly forest paths <i>[and for buggies]</i>	5
Eagle centre	4
Space for teenagers	4
Activity trail and obstacle course at Foyers Bay	3
Community garden on the loch	3
Community vehicle workshop	3
Rope bridge across the Falls of Foyers	3
Arts/music venue in old aluminium factory <i>[or use for sport]</i>	2
Vending machines in community hubs	2
A maze as a unique tourist attraction	1
After-school club	1
Community tree house and walkways	1
New school/youth complex	1
Outdoor murals and art	1
Park or sensory garden in Whitebridge	1
Food larders and library books in Inverfarigaig and Torness	0
Natural adventure playpark like Abriachan or Garve	0
Use hotels as community hubs	0

3.4 OUR HOMES

This poster has the Community Action Plan's priorities to give everyone in the community access to a good quality affordable home - plus ideas from local people and other information.

Please tell us how you think these priorities should be implemented.

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2021: OUR HOMES

AFFORDABLE HOMES
Affordable rented community-owned homes

I would like more affordable housing, to maybe convert rent outside or part buy option. Maybe this would encourage younger folk to stay in the area?

20 people shared their thoughts and they were very keen to see more affordable housing in the area. If possible options were available. Of those that did not respond to the survey, these were the reasons given for not responding. It would have been great to see more affordable housing in the area and they would have been happy to see more of it. It would have been great to see more of it. It would have been great to see more of it.

More already suggested:
- Affordable housing and convert some above when needed
- Affordable housing and convert some above when needed
- Affordable housing and convert some above when needed

Number of homes built in Stratherrick and Foyers (Council Areas):
- 2018/19: 48 homes per year
- 2019/20: 48 homes per year

What kind of homes are needed? Where? What supporting facilities and investment?

Affordable Rentals ✓

Self-build plots without rural housing burden

Support facilities → decent parking, some young people in serious work vehicles.

Simple more!

Eco friendly + !!!

Don't urbanise - road design!!! house design!!!

Shared Equity Scheme for existing homes

Not just a holiday home!

Affordable Housing on bus routes

SPECIALIST ACCOMMODATION: ELDERLY | CARE | RESPITE
Locally available care and respite services and accommodation

Building and running specialist accommodation is challenging with such a small population. Who do you think we should be looking to support the most?

What happened in care and elderly AT HOME? IT WAS HORRIBLE! I DON'T WANT TO GO TO CARE!

Somebody needs to provide care at home!

Self-build care is best (not residential)

Small care units in the neighborhood with local people providing care at home and respite.

Care for elderly in local care, read more.

How do you care? → young people + care at home

There is a national issue about specialist respite + care.

Local care is best for elderly. Old folk - local respite housing.

Respite care for kids!

Local care is best for elderly. Old folk - local respite housing.

AFFORDABLE BROADBAND FOR ALL
Access to affordable high speed broadband for every household

Access has been improving through Cromarty First Wireless Network, but let us know of any problem locations or cost challenges.

Starlink Sat com for equipment

Internet at home not in good place - slow and unreliable

Local care is best for elderly. Old folk - local respite housing.

Local care is best for elderly. Old folk - local respite housing.

Local care is best for elderly. Old folk - local respite housing.

ZERO-CARBON HOMES FOR ALL
Advice and grants to ensure homes are warm, well maintained, low-carbon and not lying empty

What support would be most helpful, and who for? Which homes most need improvement?

Bring back Energy Saving Grant

Help towards homes with old heating to replace

decarbon car charging at power houses - please make it a priority

Need a plan for making the older houses and streets + help!

Help for heat (oil boiler) will help reduce CO2 emissions and save money. Some have carbon on roofs/boilers.

Cheaper/ subsidised electricity/ heat for all

Even insulate grants but also windows/ doors

Help with external cladding or solar panels for all properties

Buy new cars - help with external cladding or solar panels for all properties

Buy new cars - help with external cladding or solar panels for all properties

Solar panels grants available to all

Help for heat (oil boiler) will help reduce CO2 emissions and save money. Some have carbon on roofs/boilers.

Cheaper/ subsidised electricity/ heat for all

Even insulate grants but also windows/ doors

Help with external cladding or solar panels for all properties

Buy new cars - help with external cladding or solar panels for all properties

AFFORDABLE HOMES

What kind of homes are needed? Where? What supporting facilities and investment?

- Affordable rentals. [✓1]
- Homes should be leased to tenants in order to keep housing in the community ownership. [✓1]
- Supporting facilities? Decent parking, some young people in serious work vehicles. [✓1]
- Self-build plots without rural housing burden.
- Simply more! [✓1]
- Eco-Friendly. [✓1]
- Don't urbanise [✓5] - Road design [✓2], house design [✓2]
- Build 'single' person homes to fit couples, hopes avoid single person homes, feeling like a unique flat. [✓1]
- Shared equity scheme for existing homes.
- Help to buy for locals and returners and families, offers over and deposit in return for Trust stake. [✓1]
- Small rental homes, not for sale, but kept as housing stock. [✓1]
 - Not [...] needing to be small
- Consider: study advice, decisions over lockdown, human habit based behaviour. Build homes with separate rest/sleep area to study/office spaces. [✓1]
- Not second or holiday homes!

- Why haven't you built on the Errogie corner site, the plans for two sheltered houses were prepared more than 10 years ago, and the site is owned by Highland Council. No problems, just get on and do it before funding runs out.
- Affordable housing on bus routes.

SPECIALIST ACCOMMODATION: ELDERLY | CARE | RESPITE

Building and running specialist accommodation is challenging with such a small population. Who do you think we should be looking to support the most?

- *What happened to care for elderly at home? It was very good. Not mentioned here. [✓1]*
- *Somebody needs to provide care at home.*
 - *Already done*
- *Sunflower Care do but can't recruit / retain*
- *Sunflower Care work in partnership with BCC to provide care at home and befriending [✓1]*
- *Sunflower Care provide excellent terms and conditions for carers – paying more than other care providers.*
- *Lack of carers is a nationwide issue and not specific to Stratherrick and Foyers*
- *Care for elderly a must. Local carers – need more. [✓1]*
- *Housing for carers? (and young people and single / 2 person homes)*
- *Short term respite home with full-time carer needed to support folk leaving hospital but not yet ready to be on own [✓1]*
- *Respite care for kids/carers.*
- *Innes' old yard for upgraded hall/facilities next to school. Old hall – local sheltered housing.*

ZERO-CARBON HOMES FOR ALL

What support would be most helpful, and who for? Which Holmes most needs improvement?

- *Solar panels/grants available to all. [✓6]*
- *Solar panels for all [✓4]*
 - *And batteries*
 - *And inverters*
 - *And all builds need it!*
- *Bring back energy saving grant. [✓2]*
- *Electric car charging at people's homes – please enable [✓1]*
- *Help (grant?) for storage battery or whole system inverter.*
- *Help for locals (and families) with historically/culturally relevant old houses. Some have conditions on design/modifications.*
- *Extra installation grants, but also windows/doors*
- *Help with external cladding and other insulation for old properties*
- *Extensive installation for all homes.*
- *Help towards houses with old heating to renew. [✓1]*
- *Need a plan for insulating the older houses of Glenlin and beyond [✓1]*
- *Important - practicalities are expensive and difficult.*
- *Enable independence from the grid for each village and the area. [✓1]*
- *Buy our own turbine. [✓1]*

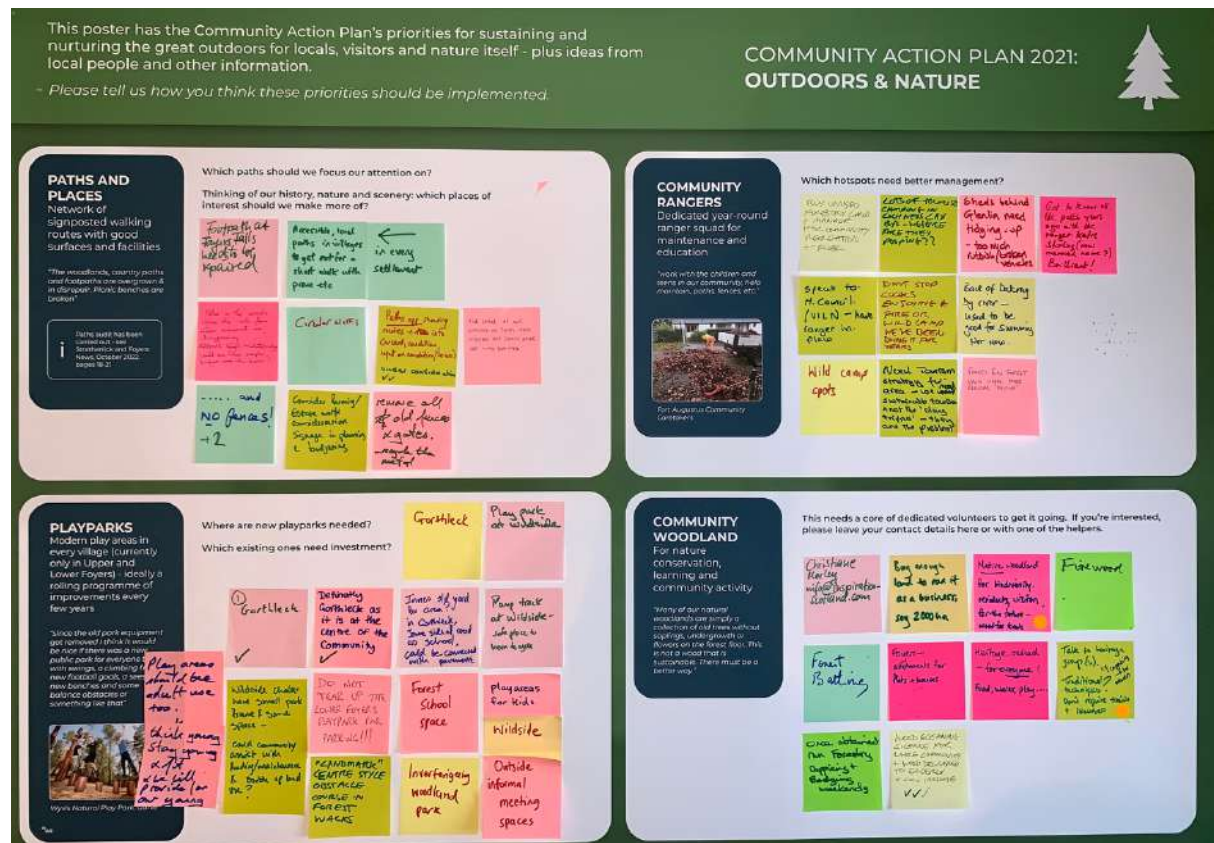
- *And provide universal energy grant to all for electric bill reduction.*
- *Hydro project on upper Farigaig*
- *Cheaper/subsidised electricity/fuel for all. [✓1]*
- *Subsidised power.*
- *Subsidised electricity*

AFFORDABLE BROADBAND FOR ALL

Access has been improving through Cromarty Firth, wireless network, but let us know of any problem, locations or cost challenges.

- *Starlink satellite grant for equipment*
- *Internet is very bad in Gorthleck – slow and unreliable.*
- *Was not able to provide in Torness.*
- *Cromarty Wi-Fi is great, but uncontactable at evenings and weekends when Wi-Fi usually goes down.*
- *Wi-Fi / Internet service must be made available to all villages, e.g. Torness!*
- *R100 coming*

3.5 OUTDOORS AND NATURE



PATHS AND PLACES

Which paths should we focus our attention on? Thinking of our history, nature and scenery: which places of interest should we make more of?

- Footpath at Foyers Falls needs to be repaired.
- Accessible local paths in villages to get out for a short walk with pram et cetera.
- In every settlement.
- Paths in the woods above the loch from Fraser monument are disappearing. Footpath from Foyers to Whitebridge. Could we have simple bridges over the burns?
- ...and no fences! [✓2]
- Circular walks.
- Consider farming/estate work, consideration, signage in planning and budgeting.
- Paths app, showing routes and info (ascent, condition, and allowing input on condition and issues)
- Under construction [✓2]
- Remove all old fences and gates - recycle the metal
- The whole of our network of paths needs upgraded and looked after. No more required.

PLAYPARKS

Where are new playparks needed? Which existing ones need investment?

- Gorthleck [✓2]

- Definitely Gorthleck as it is at the centre of the community. [✓1]
- Innes' old yard for area? in Gorthleck, same side of road as schools. Could be connected with pavements.
- Play park at Wildside.
- Wildside.
- Pump track at Wildside – safe place to learn to cycle
- Wildside chalets have a small park frame and some space – could community assist with funding/maintenance and double up land use?
- Do not tear up the Lower Foyers play park for parking!!!
- Inverfarigaig woodland park.
- Forest school space
- Play areas should be adult use too. Think young, stay young and fit, and we will provide for our Young.
- 'Landmark' centre style obstacle course in forest walks.
- Play areas for kids.
- Outside informal meeting spaces

COMMUNITY RANGERS

Which hotspots need better management?

- Buy unused forestry land and manage for community, recreation and fuel.
- Lots of tourists camping in Loch Ness laybys – where are they pooping?
- Sheds behind Glenlia need tidying up – too much rubbish/broken vehicles.
- Got to know all the paths years ago with the ranger, Katie Stirling (new married name?) Brilliant!
- Speak to Highland Council/VILN - have Ranger in place
- Don't stop locals, enjoying a fire or wild camp. We've been doing it for years.
- Back of Dalcrag by river - used to be good for swimming. Not now.
- Wild camp spots.
- Need tourism strategy for area - we need sustainable tourism and not the 'daytrippers' - they are the problem.
- Foyers Bay forest walk needs more regular 'policing'.

COMMUNITY WOODLAND

This needs a core of dedicated volunteers to get it going. If you're interested, please leave your contact details here or with one of the helpers.

- Buy enough land to run it as a business, say 2000 ha
- Native woodland for biodiversity, residence, visitors, for the future – wood for locals. [✓1]
- Firewood
- Forest bathing
- Foyers – allotments for flats and houses.
- Heritage orchard – for everyone! Food, walks, play...
- Once obtained run, forestry, composting and badging weekends.

- *Wood cleaning licence for whole community and wood delivered to elderly and low income. [✓3]*
- *Talk to heritage group(s). Traditional techniques? Don't require training and licenses. [✓1]*
 - *E.g. copper sing for weavers.*