

# **STRATHERRICK AND FOYERS COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PLAN  
JULY-AUGUST 2021

## **CONTENTS**

---

- 1 Introduction
- 2 How the consultation took place
- 3 Consultation responses: objectives
- 4 Consultation responses: action areas
  - 4.1 Introduction
  - 4.2 Support for action areas
  - 4.3 Comments on action areas
- 5 Young people's barbeque
  - 5.1 Big Ideas
  - 5.2 Youth Club
  - 5.3 Draft Community Action Plan

# 1 INTRODUCTION

---

A summary of the draft Community Action Plan was shared with local community during July and August 2021 for comment. This report outlines how the consultation took place and summarises the responses.

The consultation responses have been useful in refining the content of the Community Action Plan in a number of ways:

- They have confirmed that the objectives and action areas suggested in the draft plan generally reflect community aspirations.
- A small number of detailed changes have been made to the objectives in response to comments (particularly the need to enhance our natural environment as well as conserve and futureproof it, an added emphasis on health and wellbeing, and that community development should support all of those in need, not just those most in need).
- Consultation comments have contributed to more detailed content for the twenty action areas included in the plan (for example, more focus on history and heritage in the Paths and Places action area, expanding Safe Walking and Cycling to community hubs as well as schools, and making Broadband not only available to everyone but also affordable).

## 2 HOW THE CONSULTATION TOOK PLACE

---

The consultation related to the draft proposals for the Community Action Plan, which were split into:

- 3 suggested [objectives](#) (click on the link to see the objectives)
- 20 suggested **action areas**, divided into five themes (click on the links below to see the action areas by theme):
  - [Community life](#) (containing 5 action areas)
  - [Outdoors and nature](#) (containing 4 action areas)
  - [Getting about](#) (containing 3 action areas)
  - [Our homes](#) (containing 5 action areas)
  - [Organising ourselves](#) (containing 3 action areas)

The objectives and action areas were made available in a number of ways:

- On the dedicated interactive [consultation website](#) from 22 July 2021 onwards, with opportunities to comment. The consultation officially closed on 23 August 2021.
- Staffed interactive displays at the community summer fair on 24 July 2021 and a young people's barbeque on 3 July 2021, with opportunities to ask questions, discuss the draft plan, and rank and comment on the suggested action areas.
- An unstaffed display of the suggested objectives and action areas in the Wildside Centre at Whitebridge from early August 2021.

The interactive website was promoted as the main channel for information and comment, using a postcard delivered to all 350+ households in the area, emails to a database of around 200 recipients, the monthly community newsletter, a local social media campaign, posters, flyers, cascading information out through community groups, and word of mouth.

240 separate users visited the consultation website during the month that the consultation was open. There were 101 responses to the suggested action areas, and 20 responses to the suggested objectives.

55 people engaged with the staffed display at the summer fair on 24 July 2021, and 13 young people engaged with the staffed display at the young people's barbeque on 3 July 2021.

All publicity materials also encouraged people to contact Nick Wright by phone, letter or email if they preferred. One person who did not have online access telephoned to discuss the plan.

### 3 CONSULTATION RESPONSES: OBJECTIVES

---

[Three draft objectives](#) were suggested for the Community Action Plan, and people asked (via the website) how well those draft objectives matched the challenges and aspirations expressed in response to questions 2 and 3 of the [community survey](#) undertaken in February and March 2021.

A slider was provided enabling people to score 1 (thumbs down), 2 or 3 (thumbs up). Fifteen people responded, giving an average score of 2.3.

Nine people chose to provide comments, which are transcribed below:

- *I feel the objectives sum up my feelings about our community.*
- *Develop our community: Do we only support '...those MOST in need'? What about those in need?*
- *I think definitely putting in measures that support working families, long term could also support the younger generation as they don't feel the need to permanently move away.*
- *I hope that under "nurture our environment" there are projects included to better able to walk & cycle the area safely.*
- *Conserve & future-proof our natural environment. Green spaces must be respected and not built on. We need to reduce our environmental impact and protect for future generations. Respect our rural identity - built up rural areas does not fit with rural identity.*
- *I'm glad to see that key objective is to nurture our environment but think the description of this objective should include more emphasis on enhancing as well as conserving nature. I also think the actions suggested for this objective need to include more focussed wording on conserving AND enhancing nature given the overwhelming community feedback was that the nature of the area was one of the things people most enjoyed and wanted to protect.*
- *Not sure if this is the right place for this comment but we could do with a petrol station in Foyers or thereabouts as would save having to go to Inverness or fort Augustus for fuel. Think there was one in Gorthleck before.*
- *Does the machinery exist to ensure that actual actions match those identified? Is this the official channel?*
- *The suggested objectives seem very sound and commendable. But there is no substance or action points to comment on as yet. Some aspirations may create conflict.*

## 4 CONSULTATION RESPONSES: ACTION AREAS

---

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

The twenty action areas were described on the website, grouped into [five themes](#) which had been developed through Community Assemblies and community workshops over the preceding months in response to the initial [community survey results](#). Each theme page (such as [this example page](#)) contained links to blog posts which charted the process of developing the themes and action areas, including videos of online community events.

From each of the five theme pages, people could click through to a page relating to each action area (such as [this example](#)) which described its action area in very simple terms and invited people to respond by:

- Clicking a button to show their support.
- Sharing ideas, suggestions or example to help take the action area forward.
- Leaving their name, email address and interests/skills if they wished to be involved.

### 4.2 SUPPORT FOR ACTION AREAS

People were asked which action areas they supported in different ways:

- On the website this was done by clicking a heart symbol next to any of the 20 action areas. People could click as many action areas as they wished.
- At the Summer Fair and young people's barbeque, had people were given 5 buttons to place in cups; each of the 20 action areas had its own cup.

The results are shown on the pages 6 to 8, with the action areas ordered according to the level of support shown on the website and at the two events. Please note that these tables should not be taken as statistical evidence for decision-making purposes; they simply give an indication of the relative level of support for different action areas from different samples of people.

In addition, 14 people provided their name and contact details, and offered to be involved in delivery of at least one action area.

**TABLE 1.1: ACTION AREAS ORDERED BY WEBSITE SCORING**

*Click on underlined links for more information*

Number of 'Likes'  
on website

	Number of 'Likes' on website
<b><u>COMMUNITY LIFE</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Retain Post Office and Shop</u></a>	40
<a href="#"><u>After-school/nursery care</u></a>	26
<a href="#"><u>Local community hubs</u></a>	25
<a href="#"><u>Foyers leisure &amp; sports facilities</u></a>	24
<a href="#"><u>What will local education look like in the future?</u></a>	12
<b><u>OUTDOORS AND NATURE</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Paths and places</u></a>	30
<a href="#"><u>Playparks</u></a>	21
<a href="#"><u>Community woodland</u></a>	24
<a href="#"><u>Community ranger squad</u></a>	17
<b><u>GETTING ABOUT</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Better roads maintenance and signage</u></a>	22
<a href="#"><u>Community transport initiative</u></a>	17
<a href="#"><u>Safe walking &amp; cycling to schools</u></a>	15
<b><u>OUR HOMES</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Broadband for all</u></a>	24
<a href="#"><u>Zero-carbon homes for all</u></a>	22
<a href="#"><u>Affordable community-owned homes</u></a>	19
<a href="#"><u>Planning &amp; public services that meet our needs</u></a>	14
<a href="#"><u>Specialist accommodation: elderly   care   respite</u></a>	14
<b><u>ORGANISING OURSELVES</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Help people into work</u></a>	14
<a href="#"><u>Support volunteering &amp; volunteer groups</u></a>	14
<a href="#"><u>Improve community communications</u></a>	13

**TABLE 1.2: ACTION AREAS ORDERED BY SUMMER FAIR SCORING**

*Click on underlined links for more information*

Number of buttons  
(55 visitors,  
5 buttons each)

<b><u>COMMUNITY LIFE</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Foyers leisure &amp; sports facilities</u></a>	27
<a href="#"><u>Retain Post Office and Shop</u></a>	25
<a href="#"><u>Local community hubs</u></a>	10
<a href="#"><u>After-school/nursery care</u></a>	5
<a href="#"><u>What will local education look like in the future?</u></a>	1
<b><u>OUTDOORS AND NATURE</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Community ranger squad</u></a>	14
<a href="#"><u>Paths and places</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>Community woodland</u></a>	11
<a href="#"><u>Playparks</u></a>	8
<b><u>GETTING ABOUT</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Better roads maintenance and signage</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>Safe walking &amp; cycling to schools</u></a>	11
<a href="#"><u>Community transport initiative</u></a>	8
<b><u>OUR HOMES</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Specialist accommodation: elderly   care   respite</u></a>	20
<a href="#"><u>Affordable community-owned homes</u></a>	14
<a href="#"><u>Broadband for all</u></a>	9
<a href="#"><u>Zero-carbon homes for all</u></a>	5
<a href="#"><u>Planning &amp; public services that meet our needs</u></a>	4
<b><u>ORGANISING OURSELVES</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Help people into work</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Support volunteering &amp; volunteer groups</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>Improve community communications</u></a>	0

**TABLE 1.3: ACTION AREAS ORDERED BY YOUTH BARBEQUE SCORING**

*Click on underlined links for more information*

Number of buttons  
(13 visitors,  
5 buttons each)

<b><u>COMMUNITY LIFE</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Foyers leisure &amp; sports facilities</u></a>	7
<a href="#"><u>Retain Post Office and Shop</u></a>	6
<a href="#"><u>What will local education look like in the future?</u></a>	4
<a href="#"><u>After-school/nursery care</u></a>	1
<a href="#"><u>Local community hubs</u></a>	0
<b><u>OUTDOORS AND NATURE</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Playparks</u></a>	7
<a href="#"><u>Community woodland</u></a>	5
<a href="#"><u>Paths and places</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>Community ranger squad</u></a>	0
<b><u>GETTING ABOUT</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Better roads maintenance and signage</u></a>	6
<a href="#"><u>Safe walking &amp; cycling to schools</u></a>	4
<a href="#"><u>Community transport initiative</u></a>	2
<b><u>OUR HOMES</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Affordable community-owned homes</u></a>	4
<a href="#"><u>Planning &amp; public services that meet our needs</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Specialist accommodation: elderly   care   respite</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>Zero-carbon homes for all</u></a>	1
<a href="#"><u>Broadband for all</u></a>	0
<b><u>ORGANISING OURSELVES</u></b>	
<a href="#"><u>Support volunteering &amp; volunteer groups</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Improve community communications</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Help people into work</u></a>	2

### 4.3 COMMENTS ON ACTION AREAS

96 comments were left by people on the action area webpages. These are reproduced below.

THEME: COMMUNITY LIFE

#### RETAIN SHOP AND POST OFFICE

- *Acquire and run the shop/ cafe meeting place and post office for the community and also use to develop hospitality and service training to widen the labour pool and provide employment.*
- *A shop for local people run by local people similar to set up on Isle of Harris would be fantastic.*
- *Again, a shop in Gorthleck too.*
- *...new neighbours have blocked access for deliveries to rear and banned parking in lay-by - the very opposite of the community spirit this consultation is about.*
- *Discuss with the people who know what they're talking about. Look at similar communities that already have a community run shop i.e. Raasay.*
- *Purchase it!*
- *Great potential to extend cafe area, create local jobs & sell local produce. Could be run as a cooperative. Holiday lets from the upstairs accommodation would create income & extra jobs.*
- *I think there is a reason why the shop has not sold privately, perhaps not a profitable business, I think community should concentrate on plans already on the go and get those finished before starting with more plans*
- *We were in Skye recently, and met the wife of the project organiser for Ardvasar Community shop. He would be happy to meet on site with representatives to explain how they went about it and any pros and cons. The shop itself was well laid out, had a wide range of goods, and they will get in anything people ask for. I was very impressed with it. One wall was covered with clear plastic containers containing all sorts of dried goods from which customers could fill containers with the amounts they required. There is a list (surprisingly Ardvasar isn't on it!) of community owned shops at this url: <http://communityretailing.co.uk/shops.html>*
- *I'm sure there are lots of good examples of community owned shops in the Highlands. Perhaps speaking to other communities where it's worked well to see how best to implement.*
- *Foyers Stores and post office is at the heart of our community, with no other shop for miles in any direction. It has a paypoint for electricity, post office for banking and sending items and a shop well stocked with the basics for our community. To lose this would effect everyone in the area. As well as a popular spot/community revenue for visitors. With the current owners looking to sell/retire, the future of the shop needs to be secured going forward. I would like to see the Trust purchasing the shop if a suitable buyer does not come forward shortly. This will secure the shop and post office going forward and could incorporate more local goods from local companies, as well as a greater variety of produce. The only way to guarantee that the shop remains a retail outlet for food, electric and post office services is for the community to purchase it themselves and retain it as such.*

## **AFTER-SCHOOL / NURSERY CARE**

- *We have 1 pre nursery ... and 1 primary - I work from home on a permanent basis, husband's hours/days are varied; family live too far away to offer any support. For us to have local childcare and after school care would be amazing, with the childcare being on ad hoc basis*
- *Nursery after school club for all ages but it will need fully employed and qualified individuals somewhere like Wildside or Stratherrick hall would be ideal, could this be linked in with the school in anyway or involve their staff?*
- *Wouldn't mind paying for it. Maybe school could help or contribute. Also a holiday child care service would be great too with maybe outings etc similar to ones in Inverness*
- *I don't have young children, but I was surprised there were no summer clubs for the children. As well as helping working families they could get children interested in their environment building skills and friendship with other children.*

## **LOCAL COMMUNITY HUBS**

- *We already have numerous hubs in the area such as Wildside, Gorthleck hall and Errogie church along with BCC. A new BCC building/ facilities would be beneficial. Building on green space by the loch on Riverside field would have a catastrophic effect on the view from the Loch and would ruin a precious and much needed green space. We do not need another building or hub in Foyers as we already have enough hubs and meeting places in Stratherrick and Foyers.*
- *Don't forget Gorthleck Hall, it is right in the middle of our community and should be a community hub. Too much development in Foyers and Whitebridge could strip our community of its identity. It also means unnecessary long journeys and is less green travelling longer distances. It worked in the past, having community activities at the hall. This should not be transferred to Whitebridge. It is far from far and less green to have to go up there.*
- *There is already a community transport scheme that needs more use and volunteer drivers. It comes under the BCC umbrella. A direct effect of the pandemic has seen a loss of older drivers for the scheme. Taking this scheme forward and growing it would be good for the community.*
- *The Hall in Gorthleck could certainly do with a revamp for use by Boleskine. Personally, I don't feel there is the need for another village hub (alongside Wildside/Errogie) and don't want to see development for the sake of it.*
- *Just ensure you have enough volunteers and permanent staff to support this lot. Does the Trust have capacity to process all the applications for funding this lot produces?*
- *We have enough already and it is debatable whether they do anything to make the community more cohesive. Another structure in Gorthleck would be pointless, the Hall, a building of character and history, could be sensitively brought more up to date.*
- *I find it unbelievable that through this whole process I have seen nothing mentioned or planned for the younger generations. There are currently at least 12 teenagers wandering around Lower Foyers with absolutely no where to go and nothing to do. Whilst the whole community action plan goes on I see no focus for these children. With the huge reserves that this Trust has can we not at least provide something for this crucial age group.*

## **FOYERS SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITIES**

- *Noisy watersports will be controversial and dangerous in proximity to other loch users. Suspect it should be moved well out of the immediate area. Remember that the elderly of the*

future will not have the same views/preferences as the elderly of the past - problems of the Woodstock generation.

- Would prefer this to be a smaller scale development that recognises that many local people currently make use of and enjoy the open space and lovely meadow that is currently present.
- As a ... patient for the last 8 years, I desperately wanted to be able to go to a ... gym for an Adaptive recovery program. It was so difficult time wise and in the recovery a hefty travel time wasted on journeying to Inverness. With the local area providing multiple running trails and space for my own weight training I bit the bullet. However I brought up the idea of an Outdoor Gym Trail with the benefits agency and posing options to different equipment providers... I believe provided in other local communities for people to use. I do think with the areas in question so far away from Fort William and Inverness that it would be very beneficial and could be paid for by carefully integrating the end user timetables. It was so hard to speak to anyone about this type of future initially...so I do hope that things come to fruition. As with anything it requires good planning and investment not just financially, but in effort and cooperation.
- Would be great to have course for kids/adults to learn to sail, cycle, ski, fish etc and have holiday camps etc for this in the holidays
- Why is a swimming pool, missing from this list? There are a lot of people who would like one and it would be used by all ages from babies to elderly. To go to Inverness to swim takes up half a day with travelling and not everyone can spare that amount of time or afford it. Swimming is excellent for people's health, both mental and physical, and a pool could also be used by the schools. It would create employment and give people somewhere to exercise and socialise during the winter.
- No disagree button or way of expressing the degree to which a respondent agrees or otherwise. This is an error in the methodology. I disagree.
- Don't strive for huge unattainable plans. Start small, for example, allow residents access to the fish farm for storage facilities whilst it's being developed rather than it sitting empty & overgrown
- Sports facilities will never be allowed on the Foyers Field!
- A club house would be good for social and training purposes i.e. teaching theory and safety of water sports as well as showering and changing facilities for these activities.
- Sports and recreational facilities should only be placed by the old fish farm by the Loch / bay as this is already a hardstanding area.
- Riverside field should not be built on, we should only enhance the natural environment with recreational facilities that encourage nature to preserve this special free space for future generations.
- I think a sensitive approach is vital. Some residents in Lower Foyers (I don't live there myself) are concerned about increased traffic on the minor road, and that the facilities would be seen as an extension to the caravan park, and would be used (and possibly abused) by visitors there.

## **WHAT WILL LOCAL EDUCATION LOOK LIKE IN THE FUTURE?**

- Merkinch in Inverness have just completed a fantastic new primary school that incorporates; early years, child development, before and after school clubs. Something that could incorporate all the needs of young children would be a great asset to our area and encourage

young families to stay. It could also provide training opportunities for those interested in childcare/education.

- The Primary Schools need outdoor sports facilities - this should be high on the list of projects for developing the Riverside Field. Also a facility for outdoor classes that can immerse the children in nature and the outdoors.
- Could Foyers school be used as the nursery setting and Stratherrick as the Primary, thereby not losing either facility within the community. For those with pupils in both then maybe a community bus could link the two if required.
- Linking wrap around childcare with school would be great
- Use wind farm money to offer extra-curricular courses and teaching. Start a music school for children.

## THEME: OUTDOORS AND NATURE

### PLAYPARKS

- Any attractions local attractions to be build should be done in Stratherrick as they have more green space and less traffic. The back of the Wildside Centre would be ideal for this. It is not beneficial to have more traffic going in to Lower Foyers. It would be great to have the MUGA built at the land at the back of the Wildside Centre"
- For developmental / outdoor play parks etc resources such as 'My World Outdoors' and 'Out to Play' are great. These could link well into potential provision of childcare etc.
- The existing playparks in this area need to be maintained and / or expanded. The comment regarding Gorthleck is very pertinent in as much that there was one which was much used by members of the community, but it was sadly vandalised by a certain faction in the village, Highland Council then deemed it unsafe, and the whole park was eventually dismantled and dispersed. Gorthleck needs a replacement fit for the village. With regards to an attraction to attract local kids, visitors and families from outwith the area, the example quoted of the Wyvis Adventure Play Park at Garve should certainly be studied and copied - I recently visited it with great-grandchildren, who were absolutely enthralled with the options available. Could we also look at going one stage further, and possibly look to creating a maze at Riverside Field - this would be a truly unique attraction not only for this community, but also for the whole Highlands. We should be aiming high! "
- What's wrong with children exploring the environment where they live rather than going to nature playparks. We are surrounded by nature, children in the Strath have always played in what is around them. This need to travel in fuel guzzling non green cars to meet up at a playpark is very urban and has no place in the countryside. To create an attraction for people outwith this area is ridiculous. It is promoting unnecessary journeys and increasing the traffic on our roads. Keep our roads quiet and green. These sort of schemes to attract people are unnecessary. What we already have in this are should attract by itself. Urbanising the countryside is like shooting yourself in the foot! Maintenance of what we already have is a good idea, but I have seen money wasted in the past on the Gorthleck scheme. I remember a big opening ceremony and then it all went downhill.
- Maybe we could do something like The Abriachan Community, but we could make it a destination forest school adventure playground area. It might also kill several birds with one stone potentially. Re bike trails exercise environment re Wilding etc. Abriachan community purchased 540 hectares of forest and open hill ground from Forest Enterprise. Since then, as a social enterprise, the Abriachan Forest Trust has managed this land to create local employment, improve the environment and encourage its enjoyment by the public through a

network of spectacular paths, family suited mountain bike trails, innovative outdoor learning as well as health and well-being opportunities. <http://www.abriachan.org.uk/>

### COMMUNITY WOODLAND

- *Should we not be aiming for a much larger scale in order to provide enough fuel for a significant part of the community?*
- *Disagree*
- *Unit at the moment.*

### PATHS AND PLACES

- *Some of the trails are used more by cyclists than hikers & this can cause some erosion problems & make the trail less accessible for hikers. Could we have a maintenance programme?*
- *Bins attract rubbish, this has been seen in the past. Carrots and sticks don't work either as the outcome and cost of prosecution makes it unlikely. The key is education.*
- *Disagree*
- *This all needs to be done very sensitively to fit in with nurture nature objective, conserving environment and not losing rural identity of area. Would prefer to see any improvements to paths/facilities done in small scale way that doesn't encourage hordes of visitors to descend and turn us into Drumnadrochit!*
- *As above. Get some good signage on place and agreement from landowners to allow good easy access.*
- *Improved access to lochs needs to consider potential for disturbance for nature. Any improved access should be limited to big lochs such as Loch Ness where this is less of an issue.*
- *Surely the statement should include minimal fencing which can be restrictive or just spoil the experience.*
- *Foyers is the only place along this side of the loch (after Dores) that is down near the loch side, however it seems very unwelcoming lately for anyone trying to get down to see the loch and shores, e.g. the caravan and camping site with the unwelcome No Parking signs and the area which is meant to have the Slipway, now fenced off with locked gates and similar No Parking signs. Also now that Foyers Pier has been bought, it also is very unwelcoming, with huge boulders and chains and signs saying No this and No that. If I was visiting the area I would feel most unwelcome!*
- *Incorporate a funded sculpture trail into this with local artists*

### COMMUNITY RANGER SQUAD

- *As the objective is to nurture nature this role should include proactive conservation work - educational and practical sessions to enhance local/ visitors awareness/ appreciation of environment and enhance local species and habitats.*
- *I have not seen anything addresses the wild camping in the area to help protect or local environment.*
- *The rangers should be local from South Loch Ness.*

## THEME: GETTING ABOUT

### BETTER ROADS MAINTENANCE AND SIGNAGE

- *All forced passing places to be enlarged and tarmacked*
- *We need a footpath on the main road between Lower Foyers junction & Upper Foyers*
- *Correct repairs to road from Whitebridge to Fort Augustus.*
- *Have a local road squad with enough equipment to repair potholes, keep ditches clear, repair verges/edges of tarmac. They could work in conjunction with the Council, but also be partly funded by it. Local squads is how it used to work...*
- *Strongly agree that roads should not be upgraded to double track but better maintained.*
- *The so-called improvements in Errogie are horrendous, complicated, difficult to use and very dangerous as visibility is restricted. Please do not use this as an example of good practice. The turn off for the pass is atrocious. The road edges are tyre shredding and appalling for cyclists. The road between Errogie and Coulanour need properly widening as there are no houses on this stretch. It is lethal for cycling just now and dangerous for cars as people are constantly forcing others off the road. We need proper educational signs and properly maintained passing places, plus a big campaign aimed at tourists as well as locals to promote proper use of passing places. I ... need to go down the Pass of Inverfarigaig to get to the doctors. I am constantly confronted by ignorant drivers ignoring passing places. There will be a fatality unless this is sorted.*
- *Better signage for passing places and how to use them. Better maintenance of roads and filling in passing places.*

### SAFE WALKING & CYCLING TO SCHOOLS

- *See if can get a cycle/ footpath so it makes it safe for those in Gorthleck to get to school safely and if possible something from Errogie to Gorthleck*
- *Expand the carpool service*
- *[From experience]... there is no point in developing all singing all dancing footpath networks if they are not being used or are being neglected. Any footpath developments must be accompanied by a parallel initiative to get people active and to promote regular healthy usage, that is more important than the resource which will always be there and of more value to society and our health service. Nature, climate and overgrazing will always exceed path wear and tear by users, and as for overhanging vegetation, what are waterproof trousers for!*
- *Safe routes for children to walk to school*

### COMMUNITY TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

- *E-bikes are a great idea.*
- *Local electric charging points subsidised for locals.*

## THEME: OUR HOMES

### AFFORDABLE COMMUNITY-OWNED HOMES

- *Would need to ensure it wasn't taken over by outside authorities to house people not from the area.*
- *Develop the Errogie, Gorthleck and Inverfarigaig sites for affordable and sheltered housing.*
- *Less air-bnbs and second homes.*
- *Affordable needs to mean rent based on the average income of those needing housing not on market values.*

### PLANNING & PUBLIC SERVICES THAT MEET OUR NEEDS

- *All works carried out by the Trust should be carbon neutral, sympathetic to the natural environment, enhance flora and fauna and local wildlife*
- *Our environment is hugely affected by commercial forestry but these concerns do not communicate effectively with their neighbours.*

### SPECIALIST ACCOMMODATION: ELDERLY | CARE | RESPITE

- *This would enable older people to stay in the community in purpose built housing. It would also free up homes for younger families.*
- *The statement should be stronger and must include a reference to quality of care. BCC looked after my mother some years ago and I would like to think this standard can be, and is being, maintained.*
- *The proposed site and plans for this in Gorthleck look great. I believe it should be a carbon neutral build. The community garden on the plans looks great and helps with sustainability*
- *See housing comments.*
- *More support for existing local carers so they can expand, but also be paid what they're worth.*

### ZERO-CARBON HOMES FOR ALL

- *This also crosses over into caring. To upgrade an old house the residents will have to move out for a period. If they are elderly they will need a lot of help to do this. Help in making informed choices, too. There should be a scheme to help comply with new fire alarm regs coming in February."*
- *All these ideas sound fantastic. I would also add we should be creating community gardens in every village will orchards to help us become more sustainable*
- *Grants to improve insulation and move from oil heating to air or ground source heat pumps.*
- *People who live in the council houses in Foyers have damp running down their walls and can't afford heating as they pay an exorbitant rate by meter. This really needs to be addressed. We have fuel poverty, this is wrong. Like many people we have oil central heating, in our case plus wood fired stoves, but as we age using a wood stove can be challenging. I'd like to see ground source heat pumps or similar being installed. A grant scheme could help people change to greener energy. A cheap affordable source of wood would also be helpful. A community scheme to provide this would help.*

## **BROADBAND FOR ALL**

- *Should also be AFFORDABLE broadband...*
- *Please remember that we are still awaiting the plans for BT's superfast broadband for this area - which they will pay to install, update & improve, repair and maintain – value for money in anyone's book! And unlike a small local business, not close down unexpectedly. Or alternatively they have been offering a grant and community financial/practical support to install an upgrade for years now - although we have ignored this financially beneficial option to financially support a private business which I thought our Trust's rules precluded? Please ensure that all the costs to date, and any costs for becoming further enmeshed with the Cromarty Firth Wireless Network (which is more limited and requires leaving one's current provider as well as increased costs and also further costs to retain a landline) is discussed and agreed within the community before rushing ahead and ignoring the much more financially beneficial, safer in the longer term and more comprehensive and user friendly BT scheme?*
- *100% agree.*

## **THEME: ORGANISING OURSELVES**

### **SUPPORT VOLUNTEERING & VOLUNTEER GROUPS**

- *This is very a difficult area. The Trust controls the money so have become top dog and are tending to make decisions about things that deserve wider discussion. Perhaps this has improved as members are replaced but it will always be a danger with current structure. Aren't they supposed to be a sub-section of the Community Council?*
- *Need to remember that although volunteers are wonderful that they are not taking away the paid job of someone else.*
- *I do think there is too great an emphasis on volunteering. Some of this work could be done by paid staff needing employment.*

### **IMPROVE COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS**

- *The Trust needs to be more transparent to build rapport and trust with local residents which has been lost over the years.*
- *There tends to be an old/young split due to different preferences in obtaining information. Personally, I have a strong aversion to Facebook and there must be others who feel the same. I can't see how the mobile network can be relied upon for this due to patchy coverage which in itself influences phone ownership.*
- *There are 3 factions in the area. SFCT, BCC & the Community Council. At present they all have their own agendas & don't work together. There's a lot of bad feelings between different groups which need to be addressed & brought together.*
- *The Community Council and the Community Trust should be working hand in hand. The Trust has veered off course over the years and has now become too big for its own boots. The Community Council needs to raise its profile and take leadership for the projects the Trust is trying to manage.*

## 5 YOUNG PEOPLE'S BARBEQUE

The young people's barbeque took place outside the Wildside Centre on Saturday 3 July 2021 between 6pm and 8pm. The event was arranged and staffed by the Youth Club, Friends of Inverness Royal Academy (FIRA) and the Community Action Plan team with support from Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust. It was the first in person face-to-face event arranged by FIRA and the Youth Club since the start of the COVID pandemic, and also for the Community Action Plan.

13 young people participated, answering three sets of questions:

1. "What's your Big Idea?" – what would you do with £50?
2. The future of the Youth Club
3. The draft Community Action Plan

### 5.1 BIG IDEAS

What would you do with £50? Each bullet point is one person's response:

1. Outdoor sports club
2. Kayaking, shooting, gorge trekking, outdoor watersports, fishing, mountain bike track, dirtbike racing
3. Zip line
4. Trampoline
5. Outdoor club
6. Bouncy castle

Example of 'big idea' response sheet

**What's Your Big Idea?!**

We want to know what you would do with £50.

What could you do with that?

Tell us something fun, creative, meaningful, exciting, inspiring, powerful!

Would you:

- Start a new project with the Youth Club?
- Use it for that cool idea you've been thinking about to make more money?
- Develop a new skill, like making jewellery, starting a podcast or learning to cook?
- Do something completely different that will blow our minds?!

**So, tell us.... what is YOUR Big Idea?!**  
Write some words, draw some pictures

zip LINE. WILL

## 5.2 YOUTH CLUB

If you were going to tell another child about the things you like doing at the Youth Club, what would they be?

Each bullet point is one person's response:

1. Kayaking, canoeing, mountain biking, outdoor skills, paddle boarding, bike care, baking, wildlife/plant identification, awards/certificates, water activities, challenges
2. Crazy golf, beach trip, walk, quiz night, night-time walk / wildlife spot, murder mystery night, locked in / problem solving activities
3. Craft, mini activities / challenges, games, music, pizza night, kitchen safety, camping, movies, customising T shirts, paintballing, archery
4. First aid, lifeguard training, sailing, bike care, outdoor activities

Example of Youth Club response sheet

This is your chance to have a voice and influence how youth club is run.

If you were going to tell another child about the things that you like doing at your youth club , what would they be ?

craft camping  
mini activities / challenges movies  
games customising t-shirts  
music  
Pizza night Paintballing  
Kitchen Safety Archery

### 5.3 DRAFT COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

A staffed interactive display of the draft objectives and action areas for the Community Action Plan was set up. Each young person given an envelope with 5 buttons to pick their top five action areas by placing buttons in a cup next to a description of each action area. Although there was also an opportunity to write comments, no comments were left.



13 young people took part. The 'top five' results were as follows:

<b>#CommunityLife</b>		<b>#OurHomes</b>	
Foyers sports and leisure facilities	7	Affordable community-owned homes	4
Retain PO and shop	6	Planning and public services that meet our needs	3
What will local education look like in the future?	4	Specialist accommodation: elderly   care   respite	2
After-school / nursery care	1	Zero-carbon homes for all	1
Local community hubs	0	Broadband for all	0
<b>#Outdoors&amp;Nature</b>		<b>#GettingAbout</b>	
Playparks	7	Better roads maintenance & signage	6
Community woodland	5	Safe walking and cycling to schools	4
Paths and places	2	Community transport initiative	2
Community ranger squad	0		
<b>#OrganisingOurselves</b>			
Improve community communications	3		
Support volunteering and volunteer groups	3		
Help people into work	2		