

**LOCH  
LOMOND  
& THE TROSSACHS  
NATIONAL PARK**



**LIVE PARK**

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR NATIONAL PARK



# Youth engagement and input to the Main Issues Report consultation (Part 2)

**September 2014**

**POST MAIN ISSUES REPORT DOCUMENT**

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# 1 – Summary of Young People's Inputs

**The young people who took part in the engagement activities overall expressed a desire to see greater opportunities and amenity in the built environment – both for their own age group as well as for other age groups. They often expressed a desire to balance opportunities for residents against those of visitors to the Park, however at the same time recognising the unique nature of the Park and the opportunities that that can offer. In general there was strong support for the provision of more (and more affordable) housing; however the participants expressed a variety of views as to where such housing could be situated.**

Young people have suggested that they would like to see an improvement to the transport links provided throughout the Park especially cycle and bus links to town centres and schools as well as between villages. The participants also showed a high level of support for more housing developments throughout the area along with greater provision of local amenities such as shops, cafes, outdoor play areas/social spots for young people and opportunities for businesses to boost employment opportunities.

The participants also discussed changes that would benefit older generations. They believed that older age groups would also benefit from better transport links as well greater civic amenities and infrastructure, for example, community centres, libraries, social meeting places and parks. The younger people believed that there was a need for leisure centres, bowling clubs, accessible shops and housing for the older generation.

In response to questions about what new housing developments should happen in the Park, the participants expressed a desire for a mix of housing, for example, greater provision for young people and families and greater provision of flats. Many participants would like to see housing that is more affordable, but also housing that blends in with the Park's landscape and is eco-friendly. The young people felt that more housing would encourage tourism; however they would like to see a balance between resident and tourist needs. There were opposing views on where the housing should go (i.e. in or out of existing centres) however there was an agreement that housing and transportation should be planned together.

When asked what they felt about the landscape of the Park, participants said that development should respect the natural environment and maintain the quality of the existing landscape. They felt that the landscape is flexible and should encourage different uses of the land such as encouraging water sports and outdoor activities within the natural landscape. The young people believe that to access the landscape better transport is required, and the role of forestry should be considered for creating more walking and cycling paths.

# YEP! (Youth Engagement in Planning) Youth Visioning Events – Key Points

## 2.1 – Visioning sessions at Callander Youth Project on 17 May 2014

Please see Appendix 1 'Youth Visioning Events' for further information about how these events were run.

### Comments from Balfron High students

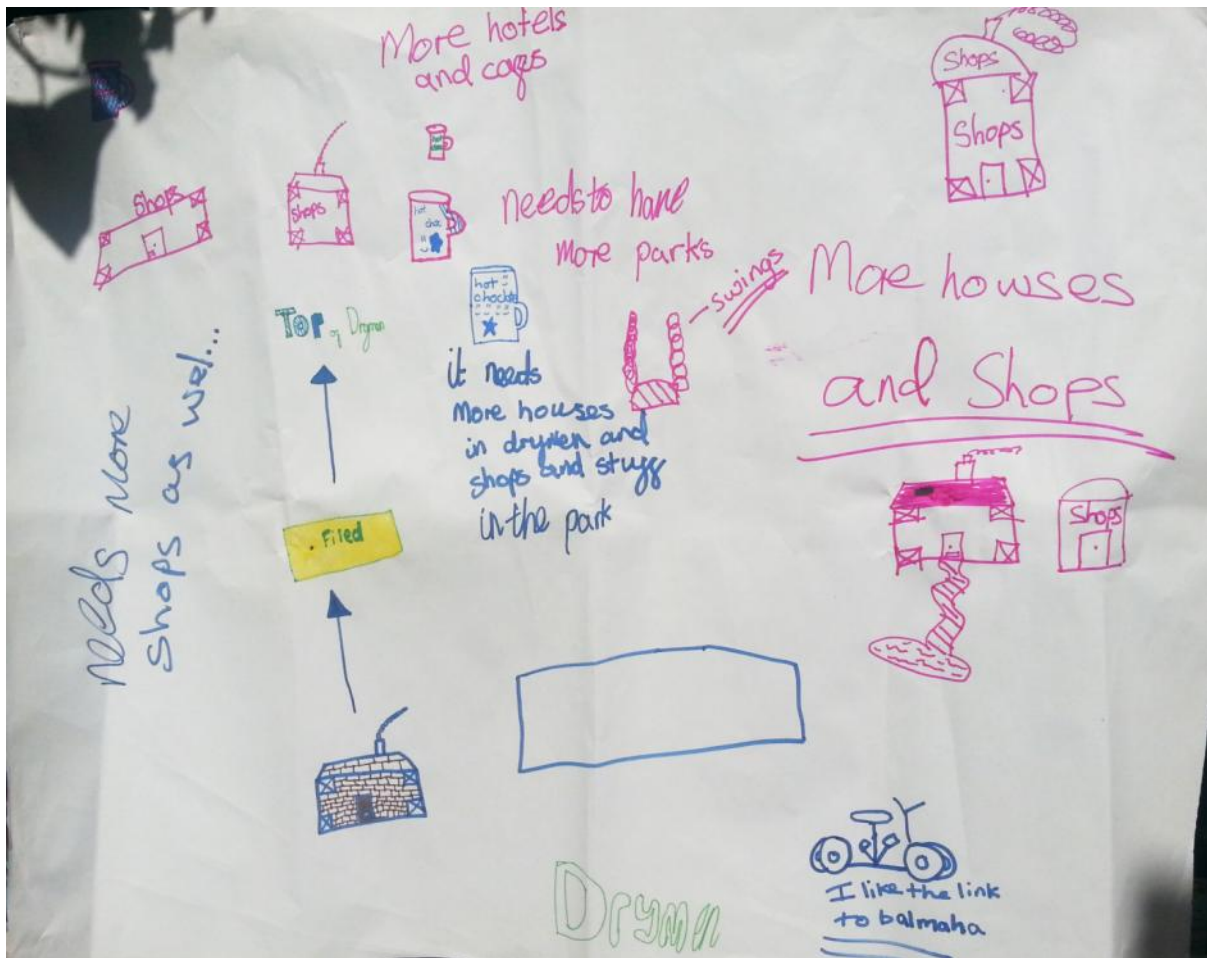


This group from Balfron High considered issues around sustainable transport, which relate to the Main Issues:

- Support for provision of paths to improve walking and cycling access (*Main issue: infrastructure and services*)
- Support for greater provision of public car parking
- Support for car parking which including places for bicycle parking and bicycle hire (*Main issue: visitor experience*)



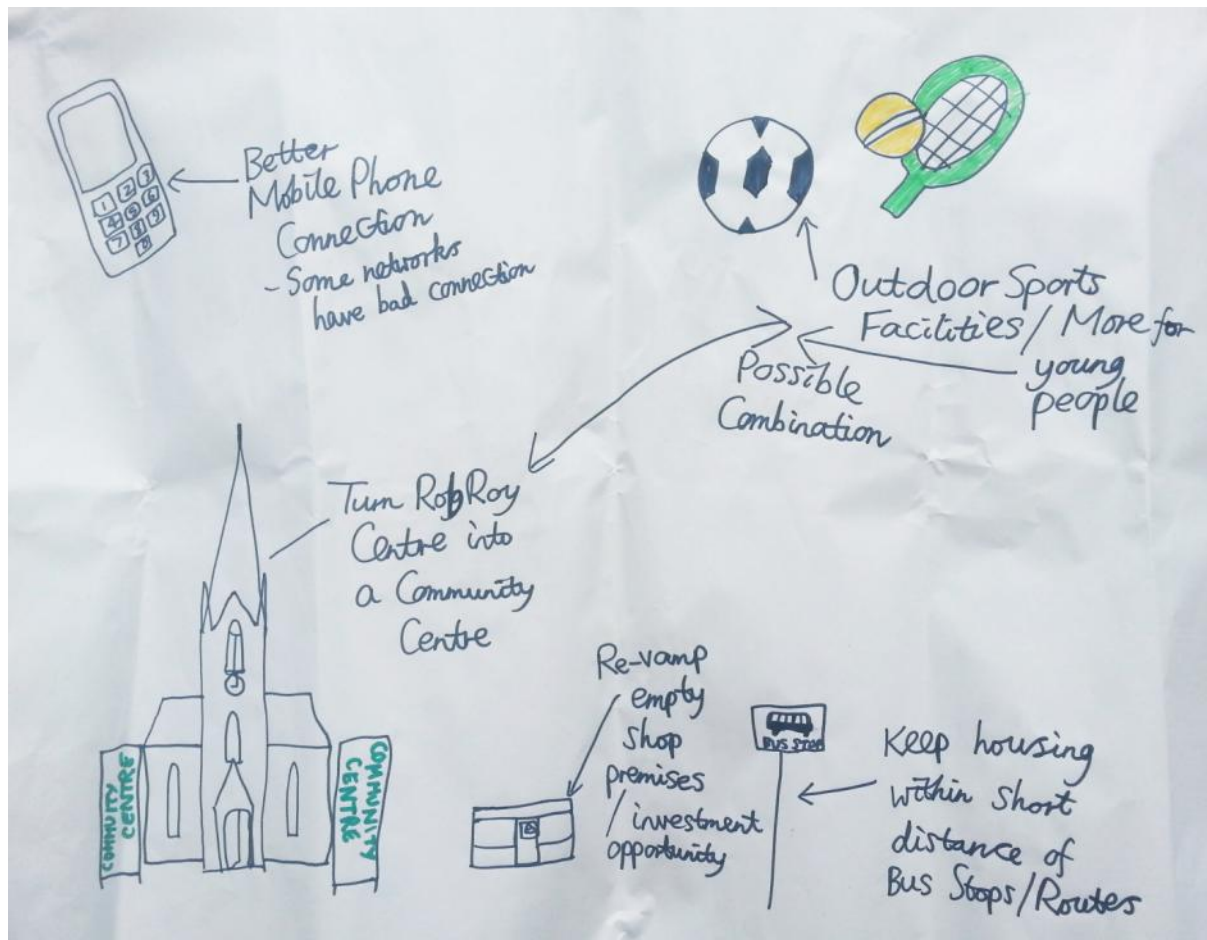
## Comments about Drymen



This group discussed ideas for Drymen on what they would like to see in the future. This includes:

- Support for greater provision of retail (*Main issue: rural economy*)
- Support for amenities that will benefit tourism e.g. hotels, cafes (*Main issue: visitor experience*)
- Support for more housing in Drymen (*Main issue: housing*)

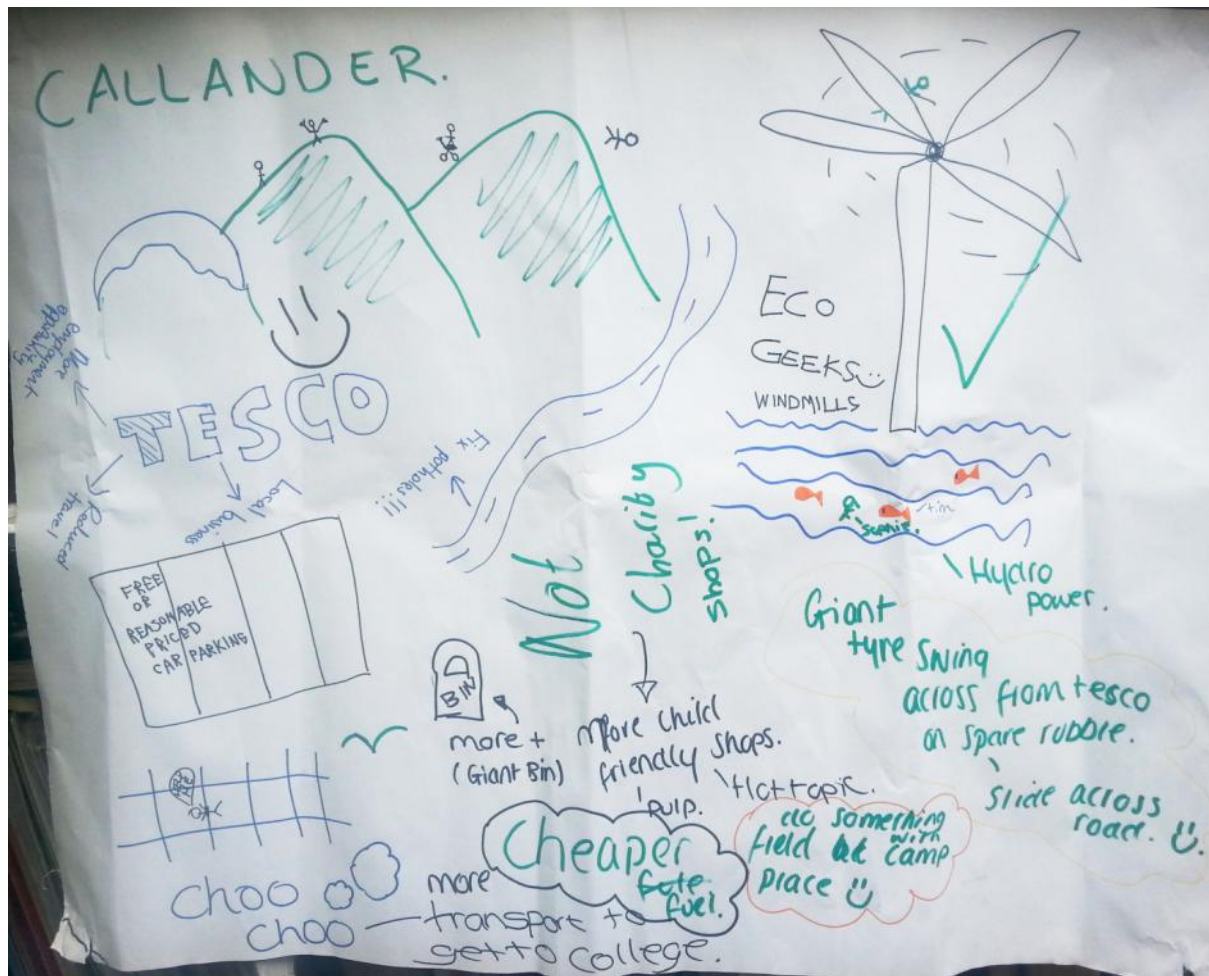
## Comments about Callander #1



This group thought about ways to improve Callander, including:

- Support for better digital connectivity (*Main issue: infrastructure and services / rural economy*)
- Support for more community facilities, including a community centre and sports facilities – and questioned if the two could be combined (*Main issue: infrastructure and services*)
- Support for greater focus on improving retail, particularly empty shops (*Main issue: rural economy*)
- Support for new housing to be well served by public transport (*Main issue: housing*)

## Comments about Callander #2

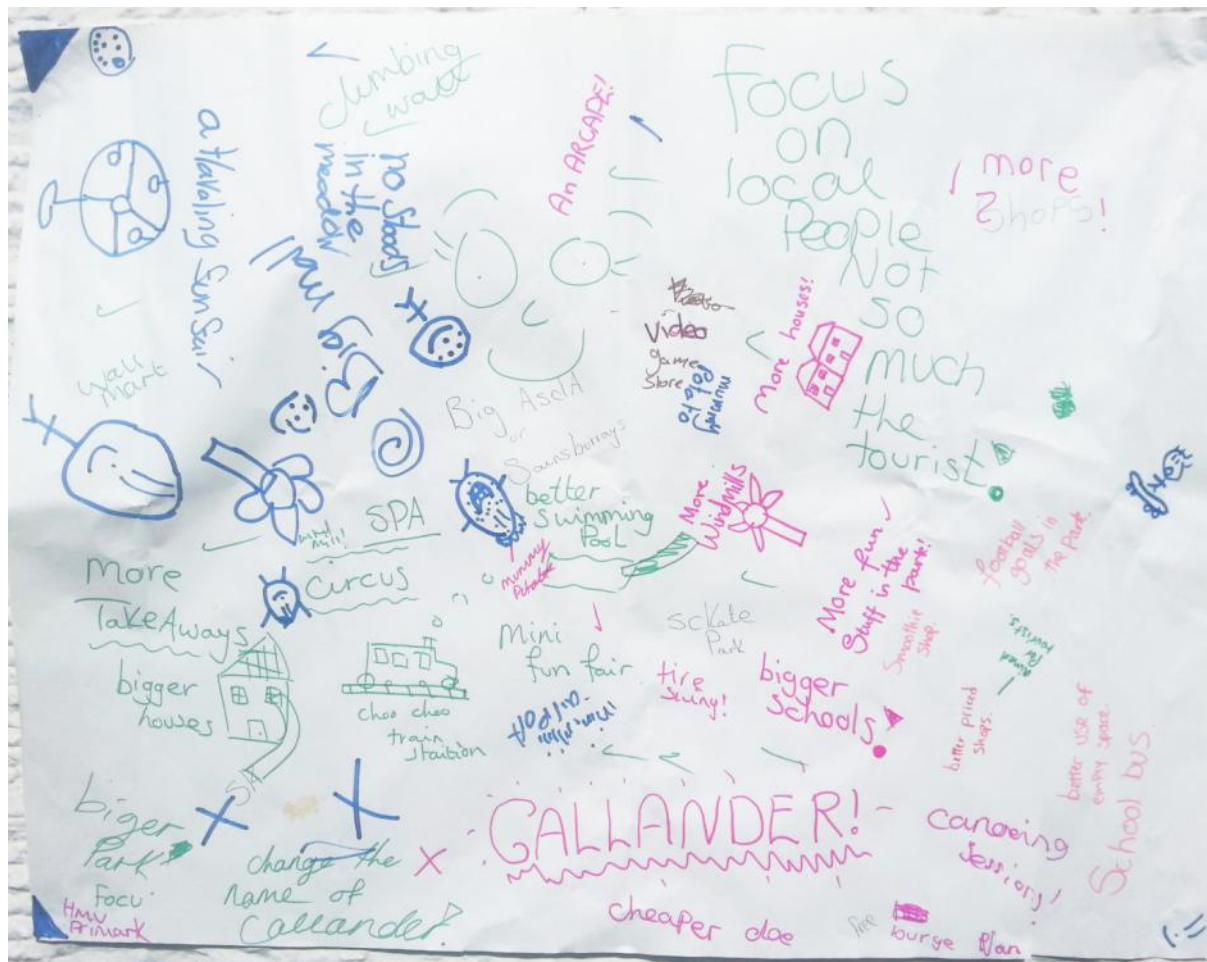


This group considered improvements to Callander:

- Support for greater employment opportunities, whether through local businesses or larger retailers. The group suggested this would reduce the need for people to travel as far to work. (Main issue: rural economy)
- Support for more civic infrastructure, from bins to car parks to play facilities (Main issue: infrastructure and services)
- Support for better transport links, particularly for young people to get to further and higher education (Main issue: infrastructure and services)
- Support for the possibility of more sources of renewable energy in the Park



### Comments about Callander #3



This group discussed a wide range of issues relating to Callander:

- Support for greater focus on Park residents as opposed to tourists (*Main issue: rural economy*)
- Support for the provision of more civic infrastructure and amenities for local residents including supermarkets (*Main issue: rural economy / infrastructure and services*)
- Support for better transport links, including to and from schools. (*Main issue: infrastructure and services*)
- Support for the possibility of more sources of renewable energy in the Park (*Main issue: infrastructure and services*)



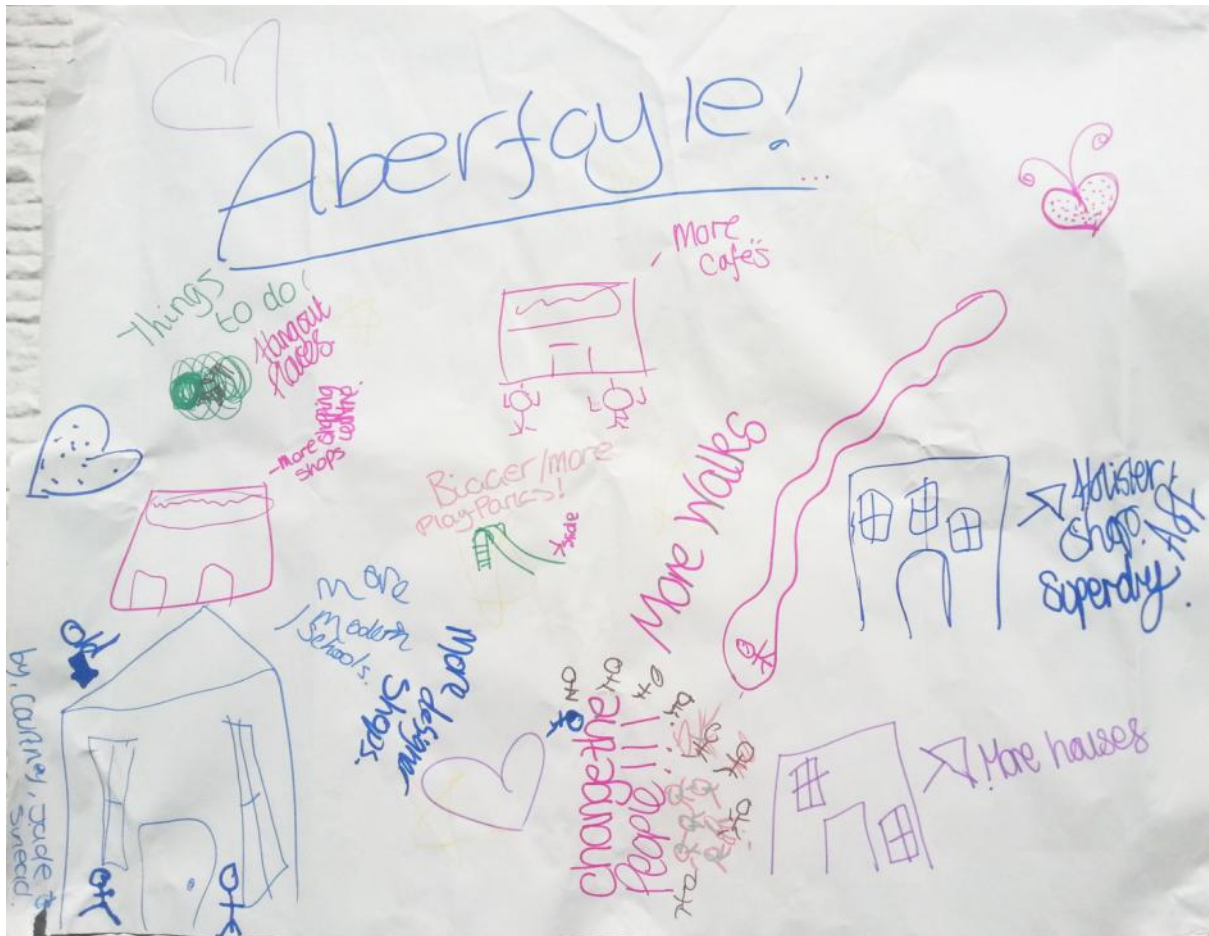
## Comments about Gartocharn



This group discussed possible improvements to Gartocharn, including:

- Support for provision of more amenities for young people, such as a skate park or improvements to existing park facilities (*Main issue: infrastructure and services*)
- Support for more walk and cycling paths (*Main issue: infrastructure and services*)
- Support for new housing to be located away from main road (*Main issue: housing*)
- Support for more retail and business e.g. shops or canoe hire facilities by the water (*Main issue: rural economy*)

## Comments about Aberfoyle



This group considered changes to Aberfoyle, including:

- Support for more housing (*Main issue: housing*)
- Support for more retail facilities (*Main issue: rural economy*)
- Support for greater provision of amenities, particularly for young people in Aberfoyle (*Main issue: infrastructure and services*)

## 2.2 – Visioning session at Hermitage Academy on 2 June 2014

How can more of the thoughts of young people (on the Main Issues Report) be collected?



Where do they think it should go? What should it be close to? What type of housing should be built - flats, terraced, large individual houses?



What do they feel should stay exactly the same? Are there parts they feel should change and how?

## **Feedback: Helping all ages enjoy and live in the National Park**

### **Young people's views on what young people need in the Park:**

- Better digital connectivity is important; broadband and Wi-Fi provision
- More leisure facilities including more sports facilities
- Better parks and outdoor space, with more opportunities for outdoor activities
- More social spaces for young people such as youth clubs and cafes
- More opportunity to benefit from the Loch e.g. water sports
- Younger children would benefit from more child play areas
- Better retail offer – more shops and amenities e.g. cinema
- Better transport connections i.e. improved bus services
- More education opportunities within the Park

### **Young people's views on what older people need in the Park:**

- Greater leisure and community amenities e.g. bowling clubs, cafes
- Greater civic amenities/infrastructure e.g. community centres, places to meet, public libraries, parks, public toilets
- Better transport e.g. bus services
- More shops
- Space for social interaction
- Accessible housing, especially for those with reduced mobility
- Enjoyable civic space

## **Feedback: Building houses**

### **Young people's views on new housing**

- Balance needs to be struck between resident and tourist needs
- More mixed housing e.g. provision for young people and families, provision of flats
- More affordable housing
- More housing is important so that young people can still live in the Park when they grow up
- Potential to encourage more eco-housing
- More housing to encourage more tourism and to accommodate more people working in the area
- Some opposing views on where new housing should go, either within or outside existing town centres
- Housing should blend in with the environment and respect scenic views
- Housing and transportation should be planned together



## Feedback: Keeping the landscape beautiful

### Young people's views on landscape

- There should be more shops, but provision of new shops should be sensitive to the landscape context
- Development in the Park should respect the natural environment and maintain the quality of the existing landscape
- More could be done to encourage water sports and outdoor activities within the natural landscape of the Park.
- The landscape is flexible and should encourage different uses of the land
- More walking and cycling paths needed. Activities such as water sports and hill walking should be encouraged.
- Consider the role of forestry within the Park
- Better housing that sits more comfortably with the landscape – for residents not only tourists
- Accessing the landscape requires better transport links
- Thinking about how wildlife fit with our use of the landscape

## 3.1 – Social Reporting at YEP (Youth Engagement in Planning)! Youth Visioning Events

Using digital social reporting methods, the Young Placemakers took part in the two YEP events! Youth Visioning exercises to find out more about what their peers thought about issues relating to the Park.

One Young Placemaker took part at the drop-in sessions at the Gala day at the Callander Youth Project on 17 May 2014 and another Young Placemaker participated at the half-day workshop at Hermitage Academy on 2 June 2014.

### Young Placemakers at the Gala day at Callander Youth Project



Click to find a playlist of audio interviews from the Gala day at Callander Youth Project, including social reporting from Young Placemaker, Louise Gallacher.

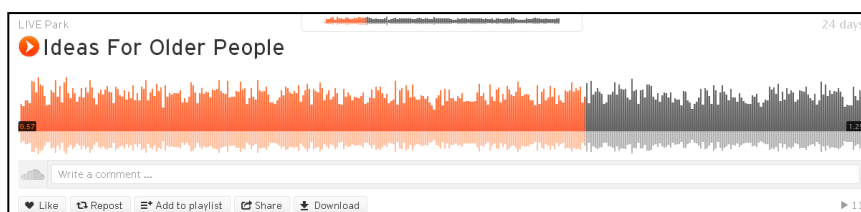
### Young Placemakers at the Hermitage Academy workshop



Read the LIVE Park blog about the event [\[click here\]](#) and see videos [here](#) and [here](#) from Young Placemaker, Ella Jackson.



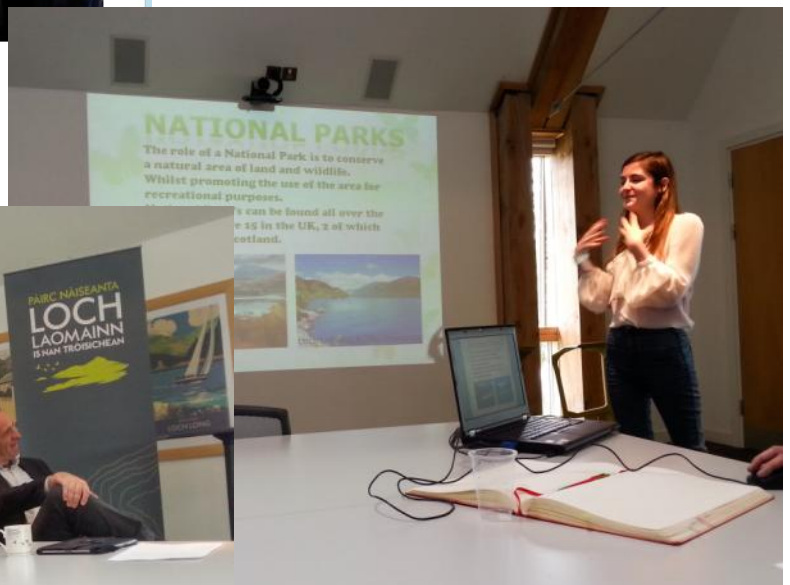
Social Reporter Emily Dodds also interviewed Andrew Hutchison, Principal Teacher of Curriculum, Hermitage Academy about the youth projects for LIVE Park [\[click to watch video\]](#)



Click [here](#) to listen to an audio interview with some of the participants from Dumbarton Academy

## 3.2 – Young Placemaker Project – Louise Gallacher

Young Placemaker Louise Gallacher shares her thoughts with Park Board Members at a feedback session at Park HQ on 24 June 2014.



On the following pages is a presentation created by Louise Gallagher as part of her Young Placemaker project.

# Our Park



By Louise Gallagher - Young Placemaker

## NATIONAL PARKS

**The role of a National Park is to conserve a natural area of land and wildlife.**

**Whilst promoting the use of the area for recreational purposes.**

**National Park's can be found all over the world. We have 15 in the UK, 2 of which are found in Scotland.**



The Cairngorms



Loch Lomond & The Trossachs



# Opportunities

Having National Parks bring many different opportunities to the communities around them.

For example, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park brings many things to the area, such as many transport links to surrounding areas.

Whilst also making use of The beautiful land and water we have for a wide range of outdoor activities. But one of the main positives of having a National Park being educated about what is going on and have your say.



**As a Young Placemaker with LIVE PARK I intend to engage the younger people of our local area and involve them in the planning of their National Park.**

**I plan on doing this through communicating with teenagers , and educating them about our local area and National Park whilst giving them assistance in putting forward any ideas and opinions they may have.**



**Climate change is a lasting or significant change to the Earth's overall weather, and is something that will one day effect everyone's day to day life on planet Earth.**

#### **WHAT IS GLOBAL WARMING?**

Global warming is often misunderstood to imply that the world will warm . In fact, an increase in average global temperature will also cause the circulation of the atmosphere to change, resulting in some areas of the world warming more, others less. Some areas can even cool.

Unfortunately, although it significantly misrepresents what really happens, the term 'global warming' is still often used by media and others to describe climate change.

I plan on educating the young people about Climate change and the effects it has on how we live our lives, whilst encouraging them to do something about it.

**EDUCATE**

**RESEARCH**

**CONSERVE**

**CARE**

## **John Muir Award**



**Discover Explore Conserve**



# DISCOVER

**As the first part of their John Muir Award, the kids where to discover a wild place. They chose Haldane Burn ,as it is local to the project.**



***"The clearest way to the universe is through a forest wilderness."-John Muir***

# EXPLORE

**For part two, the task was set to explore the burn, we saw grass, leaves and species of wildlife. As a group, we had great fun looking for some beasties and also learning lots of factors about how the burn was formed and the wildlife that rely on it.**



***"Going to the woods is going home."-John Muir***



# CONSERVE

**In the park we all went litter picking in order to look after the delicate landscape we live in. We picked up plastic bottles, bags, cans and crisp packets in order to keep our area, clean and tidy while protecting the wildlife that live there.**



**"When we tug at a single thing in nature, we find it attached to the rest of the world."**

***-John Muir***

## Thank you for watching!



**"Do something for wildness and make the mountains glad"**

***- John Muir***

## Appendix 1 – Overview of public engagement

Planning Aid for Scotland undertook a series of public engagement activities on behalf of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park in relation to its Main Issues Report (MIR) consultation between April and July 2014. The engagement coincided with publication of the MIR and its statutory public consultation period. The key outputs from the youth engagement activities are included in the main body of this report. The following appendices give detail about the structure of the various events.

The engagement activities were as follows:

- **Three briefing sessions for Community Councils** and other community groups in advance of the publication of the Main Issues Report. These events were held in Arrochar, Gartocharn and Callander in April 2014. The purpose of the events was to help communities to understand the role of the Local Development Plan within the planning system, to understand the importance of engaging at the Main Issues Report stage and the value of raising awareness with their wider community to take part in the MIR process.
- Young people across the Park were encouraged to become **Young Placemakers**, undertaking projects to gather the views of their peers on the Main Issues in relation to the Park. An orientation event was held in April 2014 in Balloch, followed by continued involvement of the Young Placemakers in other events (community events and YEP! events).
- Two **YEP! (Youth Engagement in Planning) Youth Visioning exercises** were held in May and June 2014. The first was run as a series of drop-in sessions at the open day of the Callander Youth Project. The second was an afternoon event at Hermitage Academy, bringing together S3 and S4 students from three high schools (Vale of Leven Academy, Dumbarton Academy and Hermitage Academy).

This package of activities supplemented other consultation work undertaken directly by the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park team in relation to the MIR, such as publicity/awareness-raising and meetings with local groups.

The basic intentions of the consultation package were to:

- Raise awareness of planning system and how it works
- Encourage people to make representations to the Main Issues Report.
- Target young people as a group who do not normally engage with conventional public consultations on planning issues.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Participants</b>
<b>Community Briefings</b>	Arrochar	3 April 2014	11
	Gartocharn	9 April 2014	9
	Callander	15 April 2014	7
<b>Young Placemaker Orientation</b>	Balloch	22 April 2014	3
<b>YEP! Youth Visioning Exercises</b>	Callander	17 May 2014	30
	Helensburgh	02 June 2014	25
		<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>

## **Appendix 2 – YEP! (Youth Engagement in Planning) Youth Visioning Events**

YEP! is Planning Aid Scotland's Youth Engagement in Planning programme. It is an engaging education project and has been delivered in secondary schools, colleges and youth groups across Scotland. YEP!™ enables young people to understand what the planning system is and how to get involved in planning and place making as they move into adulthood. It encourages and empowers students to become involved in shaping their communities at a local level.

YEP! provides clear routes to the development of inter-disciplinary learning, project work, team working, confidence and many outcomes from both the Social Studies and Health and Wellbeing aspects of Scottish Government Curriculum for Excellence.

PAS designed and delivered two YEP! Youth Visioning events to a total of 55 young people. This included a series of drop-in sessions at the Callander Youth Project open day on 17 May (30 participants) and a half day workshop at Hermitage Academy on 2 June for three schools (25 participants).

PAS contacted all high schools and key youth groups in and around the park to encourage participation in these events. Again, examinations overlapped with the MIR consultation period and this had some impact on the numbers able to participate.

Please see the main body of the report for ideas that emerged from these events.



## **Youth Visioning – Drop-in sessions**

### **Gala Day, Callander Youth Project, 17 May 2014**

Please see the main body of the report for the young people's inputs into the Main Issues Report that were recorded from these events.

#### **Participants**

- 30 participants (including 8 students from Balfron High participating in the first session)
- 2 PAS staff/volunteers
- 1 x Young Placemaker
- Emily Dodds (Social Reporter)
- Support from Park staff

#### **Drop-in session summary**

- PAS ran three one-hour sessions at the Gala Day at the Callander Youth Project, encouraging young people to consider recent changes in where they live and what they would like to see change in the next five years.
- Participants reflected on how Town Planning influences their lives and the impact of content in the Main Issues Report for their area. Captured their thoughts, on topics from more housing to open gyms in parks and more mobile phone masts, in “rich picture” format and attached these pictures to formal response forms (6 in total) to feed into the Main Issues Report consultation stage.

## Youth Visioning – Schools Workshop

### Hermitage Academy, 02 June 2014

Please see the main body of the report for the young people's inputs into the Main Issues Report that were recorded from these events.

#### Participants

- 25 participants including:
  - Hermitage Academy (10 participants)
  - Vale of Leven (10)
  - Dumbarton (5)
- 4 PAS staff/volunteers
- 1 x Young Placemaker
- Emily Dodds (Social Reporter)
- Support from Park staff



#### Workshop summary

- Brought together pupils from 3 local secondary schools, considered past and future change in their environment and how it linked with planning.
- Focused in on issues raised in the Main Issues Report that participants felt to be relevant to young people. Students produced a "rich picture" of their thoughts on Keeping the Landscape Beautiful, Building Houses and Helping all ages enjoy and live in the National Park. Again these were attached to formal response forms (5 in total) to feed into the Main Issues Report consultation stage.
- Discussions developed their thoughts on the balancing role that planning plays in competing desires for what should happen within the National Park between, for example, residents & tourists and communities & builders.

#### Formal responses

These sessions raised awareness of planning as an activity that impacted upon them and, as such, highlighted that their views were vital to the consultation process. Completing the formal MIR comment form has included them in an ongoing consultation process where they will continue to receive feedback and gain ongoing insight into the Local Development Plan process. From the YEP! sessions, young people submitted a total of 11 formal responses to the MIR.

## Appendix 3 – Young Placemakers

Planning Aid Scotland's Young Placemakers programme aims to create a network of motivated young ambassadors to inspire their peers to think about the places where they live and play as well as the future planning of their communities. It encourages and empowers young people to become involved in 'shaping their places' at a local level. Young Placemakers also have a key role as ambassadors for change amongst older generations.

Planning Aid Scotland's Young Placemaker Programme was used to recruit two Young Placemakers. The role of the Young Placemakers was to:

- Complete an individual project related to one of the Main Issues in the MIR.
- Act as ambassadors for planning, placemaking and active citizenship amongst their peers through other consultation events in the programme and in their local area.

PAS contacted all schools and further/higher education establishments in/around the Park to promote the Young Placemaker programme and encourage young people to sign up to the programme. Feedback from schools indicated that the timing of the MIR consultation process overlapped with the schools examination period, which resulted in a number of initially interested Young Placemakers dropping out of the programme.

### Orientation Day

Initial training was provided at an Orientation Day at Park Headquarters in Balloch on 22 April. At the Orientation Day, three young people took part, with two proceeding to continue with the Young Placemaker programme. Three PAS staff, two Park staff and Emily Dodds (Social Reporter) took part.

PAS set the scene for the Young Placemaker project, the context of the MIR and awareness of the planning system, with input from Park staff. At the session, PAS and the Park presented the Young Placemaker assignments for the Young Placemakers to then select one assignment to complete. The assignments relate to the Main Issues and were agreed in discussion with the Park. The session raised awareness of the impact town planning has on their lives and the importance of them communicating "young people's" views to the LLTNPA to balance those expressed by adults.

The Young Placemakers were encouraged to consider how changes in their lifestyle in the past five years (and in the future) are fundamental to the planning system and for the future planning of the Park. The Young Placemakers discussed how planning the future for LLTNP is currently being carried out through the Main Issues Report process but we wanted their input into this using their desired approaches to recording it.

Emily Dodds gave a presentation to introduce the idea of social reporting – something the Young Placemakers could then use in taking forward their projects. Emily introduced a range of methods they could use for recording views of other young people and a range of topics, within the Main Issues Report, for them to consider preparing a piece of commentary on.

The list of Young Placemaker assignments includes:

1. New housing
2. Visitor experiences
3. Sustainable infrastructure and services
4. Rural economy
5. Placemaking
6. Climate change
7. Engaging with young people
8. National Parks

Following the Orientation Day, the Young Placemakers received on-going support from PAS and Emily Dodds (Social Reporter) to support the Young Placemakers on their individual projects. All of the projects will inform the development of the Park's Proposed Plan.

The Young Placemakers also played a part in the delivery of the YEP! Youth Visioning exercises in Callander and Helensburgh (see subsequent section of this report).

Louise Gallacher, a Young Placemaker from Balloch shared some of her project work at a feedback day to be held at the Park Headquarters on 24 June 2014.



## Appendix 4 – Community Briefing Events

PAS designed and delivered three evening sessions for Community Councils and other community groups to explain the reasons behind both the content and the process for preparing a Local Development Plan and the key consultation role of the Main Issues Report.

These sessions highlighted the opportunities for Community Councils to get involved in the process and stressed the importance of doing so at the Local Development Plan stage due to its impact when considering a planning application. PAS encouraged participants to plan ahead on their approach to raising awareness and gathering their communities' views on the document.

Participants gave consistently positive feedback appreciating the opportunity to gain a fuller understanding of the document they were about to be consulted on. The sessions encouraged Community Councillors to consider how they could involve their communities in the plan content and in shaping their response as a group.

Discussion highlighted proactive thinking on behalf of many Community Councils on the difficulty and need to collect young people's views within the MIR consultation process.

3 Villages Hall Arrochar 3 April 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 11 participants – Community Councillors; Development Trust representatives</li><li>• 4 PAS staff/volunteers</li></ul>
Millenium Hall Gartocharn 9 April 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9 participants – Community Councillors; Development Trust representatives; RSPB representative; 1 Young Placemaker</li><li>• 4 PAS staff/volunteers</li></ul>
Callander Youth Project Callander 15 April 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7 participants – Community Councillors; community group representatives; 1 local councillor; 1 potential Young Placemaker</li><li>• 4 PAS staff/volunteers</li></ul>

**LIVE**  
PARK



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