



Community Partnership

Supporting communities in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2 0 1 4 - 2 0 1 9



Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui

Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui Community Action Plan 2014-2019

This Community Action Plan is a tool for change; a means of helping Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui achieve their aspirations and to make it a better place to live, work and visit now and in the years to come.

You will find information on:

- what it is like to live in Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui now;
- how we feel Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui could change in the future;
- what things matter most to the people who live here;
- what our priorities are and how we will make things happen.



This will be our guide for what we - as a community - will focus on achieving over the next five years.

The community of Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui has prepared this second Community Action Plan with support from the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Community Partnership. A local steering group was formed bringing together representatives of the Community Council, Community Development Trust, members of clubs and community groups and other interested residents.

Our previous Action Plan has been instrumental in helping us develop community projects over the last 10 years, such as the construction of our Three Villages Hall.



Local people have their say

The Action Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement carried out over a four month period from January 2013 – April 2013. We are grateful for the work of our local Community Agent, Sue Williams who worked alongside the steering group and Community Partnership to ensure everyone in the community had the opportunity to share their views.

The process of gathering and prioritising the views of the community involved:

- stakeholder interviews and meetings - with different groups and individuals representing all aspects of the community;
- carrying out a community survey, which was delivered to all households;
- organising a schools survey for all primary and secondary school children in the area;
- updating our community profile detailing facts and figures about the community;
- organising a Community Open Day to help identify key community priorities.

Household survey forms were delivered to all 400 properties within the area.

22 stakeholder meetings and interviews were held with local groups, businesses, and support organisations.

Thanks to everyone who took part.



Our Community Now

We have summarised below the main facts and figures from the Community Profile and some of the views from the Community Views Survey. Full copies of these reports are available from the Community Council or Community Development Trust on request.

Location

The Community Council area of Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui has one of the most spectacular landscape settings imaginable. Although the vast majority of its small population live practically at sea level, the area is framed by dramatic mountain scenery on all sides and is linked by a piece of land that connects the fjord-like sea loch, Loch Long and the largest fresh water loch, Loch Lomond. It lies at one of those vital cross roads in Scotland where the routes to the west and north divide.



It has seen fishing, cattle-droving, railways, military roads, forestry, steamship tourism, hydro-electric energy, the defence industry and the Vikings! Tourism and hospitality are now the main employment sectors in the area. People live in three main settlements, Arrochar, Tarbet, and Ardlui.

Population

In the last two hundred years, the population has fluctuated between 500 and 1500, having dropped back to about 700 in the 1930s. The Census for 2011 indicates the population has declined in the last ten years by about 150 to 854. This figure reflects a pattern of younger people leaving to seek work or affordable accommodation elsewhere and their places being taken by second-home owners, self-catering accommodation and older or retired people moving in, attracted by the community setting and the opportunity to gain at least part of their income through running B&B accommodation.



Housing

It is estimated that there are 405 houses in the area, with some recent housing developments aimed towards the higher end of the market. An increasing number of properties are used as second or holiday homes. This, coupled with the purchase of formerly rented accommodation, has led to a lack of affordable accommodation for young families and first-time buyers. This demand has been met, in part, by the construction of a small number of new housing association properties. 72% of properties are owner occupied, with 16% of housing socially rented by the Council or a housing association.



The desirability of the area for commuters, second homes and holiday lets and the resultant rise in house prices makes it difficult to cater for local housing needs.

Our Community Now

Health, Wellbeing & Safety

The Police, based at Helensburgh, cover the area of Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui. The area has a Fire and Rescue unit with retained staff, an Ambulance Station and a Mountain Rescue Post.



There is no sheltered accommodation within the community. There is a doctor's surgery in Arrochar with an on-site pharmacy, offering a range of services and more recently a community youth outreach project.

Spiritual wellbeing and pastoral support is provided by St. Peter and St. Paul's Catholic Church and Arrochar Parish Church.

Employment & The Local Economy

The major employers in the area are hotels, shops, pubs and restaurants, and local services such as building, plumbing, joinery and boat cruises. There are over twenty B&B and guest house operators and up to five campsites/caravan parks. There are four farms in the area, with one tenant on Luss Estates land.



Around 66% of the economically active population in the area work full-time. It is estimated that a high proportion of these individuals commute to Glasgow and other local towns. Local knowledge indicates that much of the workforce employed in the tourist and hospitality industry are foreign workers who live at their place of work. A significant proportion of residents are employed by the Ministry of Defence and local government. The availability of suitable work space for small business within the area is limited.

Since the last Action Plan was published a number of local businesses have struggled to thrive whilst new enterprises in areas such as care, retail and hospitality have moved to the area. In 2010 the bank closed and was replaced by a mobile unit, the community has also recently lost the local Registrar and Village Attendant.

Education

Arrochar Primary School is based in Tarbet. Its roll has remained relatively constant over the past five years, with a pupil roll of 62 in August 2012. The Primary School recently achieved an excellent Inspector's report, and provides a stimulating and varied curriculum, including focus on health and sport, heritage and the environment.



The nearest Secondary School is the Hermitage Academy in Helensburgh, 35 pupils from the area are in secondary education. A school bus is provided to transport children to and from Helensburgh. A small number of pupils attend the fee paying Lomond School in Helensburgh.

Our Community Now

Community Organisations, Events and Facilities

Arrochar and Tarbet Community Council aims to bridge the gap between local authorities and communities, and helps to make public bodies aware of the opinions and needs of the communities it represents.



Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development

Trust aims to support the local community, to respond to identified community needs. On behalf of the community, the Trust owns and operates the Three Villages Community Hall and Three Villages Café, which provide a range of facilities, activities, hospitality and employment opportunities.

There is an annual Village Gala, which is organised by a local Gala Committee. The Gala draws a large number of visitors to the area as well as provides an entertaining event for the community. The annual Succoth Family Fun Day brings together local families for fun, food and sport. Both events raise funds to support other local activities.

The Community Council recently raised funds and developed the play park at Tighness and is currently working to re-develop the play park in Tarbet, and hopes to develop the ball park at Succoth. There is an active Parent Toddler Group. There appears to be a lack of facilities specifically targeted at teenagers in the villages apart from the Cadets, Youth Club, Youth Partnership, Explorers, and some sports clubs (e.g. karate and badminton).

Heritage

The region has a rich heritage and social history, including a Viking boat portage route, a post-medieval farming landscape, drove routes, military roads, Victorian steam-ships, the West Highland Railway, a torpedo range industry, a fishing industry and much more. The first large scale hydro-electric scheme in north of Scotland opened at Loch Sloy on 18 October 1950, by Queen Consort, Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother, providing electricity to Arrochar as one of the first connections.



There is an active heritage group and a community archaeology project currently working with the community and professionals to investigate and promote the historic landscape.

Transport

Roads - Tarbet is situated at the junction of the A82, a trunk road that runs beside Loch Lomond heading North to the Highlands, and the A83, which leads to the Clyde Sea Lochs region. Ardlui is located on the A82 at the head of Loch Lomond, along a notoriously dangerous road that is due to be upgraded. Arrochar is located at the junction of the A83 and the less busy A814, which runs south alongside Loch Long to Helensburgh. The communities of Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui are about one hour by road and rail from Glasgow, and 30 minutes from Dumbarton and Helensburgh, the main centres for shopping, with Ardlui being about one and a half hours from the same destinations.



Public Transport — a limited but valuable local bus service provides links to local urban transport hubs such as Helensburgh. A regional service is available linking the community to destinations such as Inverness, Campbeltown and Glasgow. The West Highland rail line connects Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui to destinations throughout the UK. This public transport service is let down by time restrictions and limitations on services.

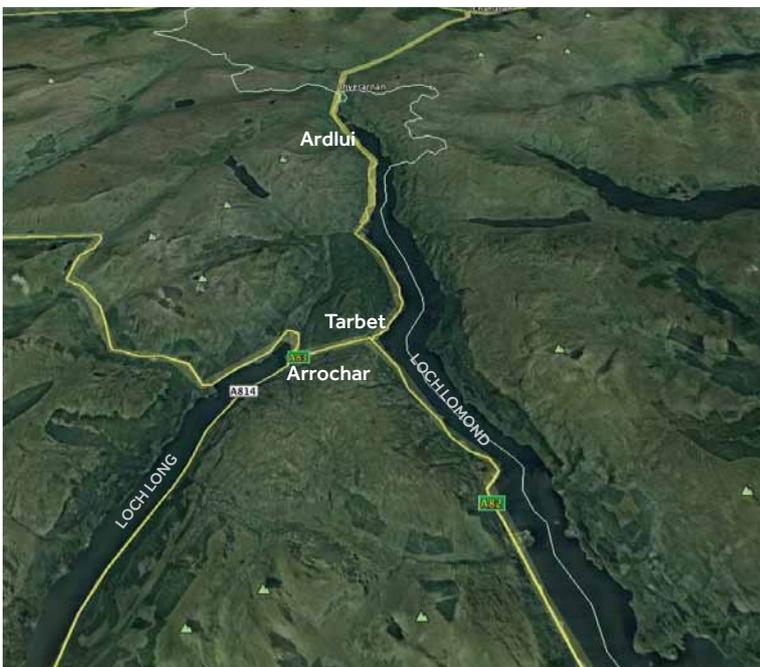
Our Community Now

Environment

The three villages of Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui are situated at the gateway to the Argyll Forest Park, within Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park with Arrochar at the foot of the Arrochar Alps, with Tarbet and Ardlui situated on the banks of Loch Lomond; all are located within an area of rich cultural and natural heritage. The area's internationally-renowned scenery is largely due to its position just north of the Highland Boundary Fault created hundreds of millions of years ago when the harder rocks from the north collided with the softer rocks from the south leaving the three villages officially in 'The Highlands'.



Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui are all situated on major through-routes with HGVs and cars being prone to speeding through the villages creating pollution and a sense of danger. As a result, the village's built environment can sometimes appear run down. The litter in Arrochar created by passing traffic and marine currents at the Head of Loch Long is unsightly and unsafe and has recently become more of a problem due to the loss of the Village Attendant. Litter left by visitors on the shores of Loch Lomond and Loch Long is a continuing problem.



Groups and Clubs

There are over 30 non-profit clubs and societies active in the area. This is a dramatic increase over the past five years and the community sector is strong, vibrant and growing, in part due to the development of the new Three Villages Community Hall as a venue and meeting place.

Groups and clubs active within the Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui area include:

- Arrochar and Tarbet Playgroup
- Arrochar Primary Football
- Arrochar Primary School PTA
- Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui Heritage Group
- Bingo and a Blether
- Book Club
- Cadets
- Carpet Bowls
- Ceilidh Dancing
- Christian Fellowship
- Cinema Club
- Computer Classes
- Camera Club
- First Arrochar & Tarbet Brownies
- First Arrochar & Tarbet Scouts



Community Views Survey

Likes

What we like about living in the area

% of responses



The comments below reflect what was said about these issues.

What people said:

Community ethos/ spirit

...the go ahead attitude of the village to improve...
...the community village "feel"...

Facilities and built environment

Vibrant, quality community hall and community activities
...local facilities (eg school, doctors, shops, community hall)

Countryside, nature and wildlife

It's peaceful and quiet, the scenery is great!
...The outstanding beauty that surrounds us...

Location/ setting

...Good place to bring up kids, with fresh air and a good school...
...So much beauty on our doorstep but still close to main towns/city...

Recreational opportunities and activities

...Ease of access to good walks and the countryside...
...many local clubs and community events with related social opportunities and potential...

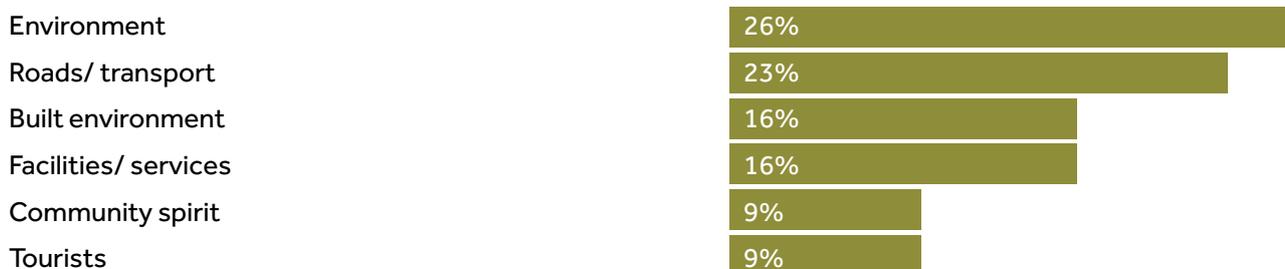


Community Views Survey

Dislikes

What we dislike about living in the area

% of responses



The comments below reflect what was said about these issues.

What people said:

Community ethos/ spirit

...apathy to community activities and positive opportunities..

Lack of engagement by a large sector of the community...

Facilities and built environment

...the tired feel of the main street...lack of parking...

Reinstate the pier...it needs to be a destination, not a pass through place...

Countryside, nature and wildlife

...increase the amount of cleaning done on the main streets, roads and beaches...

...General tidiness -grass verges, dirty footpaths, potholes, flotsam on shore...

Location/ setting

...dodge city style advertising boards nailed to tree...

...make the area a proper tourist destination to improve the economy...

Recreational opportunities and activities

..improve outdoor access for locals and visitors...

..improve and strengthen access to the lochs and hills...





Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui:
Our vision for the future

“The Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui area will be a place where people of all ages thrive, the built and natural environment is respected and cherished with residents who are passionate and proud of their community.”



We will live in a community which:

- Respects local cultural and natural heritage
- Encourages young people to reach their full potential
- Respects older people and recognises their welfare needs
- Is served by an integrated public transport system
- Respects all our residents and visitors alike
- Encourages community participation and enterprise
- Provides a range of activities, facilities and services
- Thrives as a robust local economy with employment opportunities
- Supports health and well being
- Has quality housing for all
- Values quality education
- Is a safe place to live in

Main Themes and Priorities

These are the main themes and priorities the community will work towards achieving over the next five years, in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

THEME 1: Built & Natural Environment	THEME 2: Roads & Transport	THEME 3: Housing & Economy	THEME 4: Facilities & Services	THEME 5: Tourism
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Top ten priorities at a glance

A clean attractive community

Paths and cycle ways linked and well maintained

Safe and well maintained trunk road corridors through our villages, along with better transport links for residents and visitors

Better managed public car parks

Improve transport links between villages and major settlements

Improve availability of affordable housing in the villages and surrounding areas

Improve recreation opportunities and activities for tourists and visitors to support the local community

Develop a Café/Visitor Centre & Arrochar Pier

Improve play areas and activities for children and young people

Encourage and improve the range of local shops, services and employment opportunities



ACTION

Theme 1: Built & Natural Environment

The scenic splendour of the natural environment of the area should be enhanced by an improvement in the appearance of the villages. This will be achieved through the collection and elimination of litter; enhancing and improving village walls, boundaries and entrances; introducing areas of flowers and planting throughout. Improving connectivity between the villages by providing safe and well maintained paths and cycle ways is important in developing the sense of community. As is the development of clear, consistent and appropriate signage providing information for visitors and locals alike.



Activity: (What could be done)	Community Champion: (Who could lead on the activity)	Suggested action by: (How will it be achieved – Actions)	When will it be delivered: (Date)
Priority 1: A clean attractive community with litter collected and walls and entrances maintained.			
A clean attractive community with litter collected, boundary walls in an acceptable state of repair and the entrances to our villages attractive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange meetings with Argyll & Bute Council, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Luss Estates, Transport Scotland, Forestry Commission and private owners making them aware of activities they could fund. Investigate costs, challenges and practicalities relating to regular clearance of litter. Agree annual programme of maintenance. 	December 2013 January 2014 January 2014
Wind and tide borne litter at Head of Loch Long.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary Organisations. Community Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Council liaise with Argyll & Bute Council and SEPA with the aim of increasing the frequency of the removal of wind and tide borne rubbish from the Head of the Loch Long shore line. Voluntary organisations organise a twice annually beach clean. 	July 2014 (repeated annually)
Encourage more flower displays throughout Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary Organisations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate costs and look for funding to provide plants and containers on an annual basis. 	March 2014 (repeated annually)
Priority 2: Improved range, quality and maintenance of paths and pedestrian infrastructure.			
Paths and cycle ways linked and well maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry Commission Path Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By ensuring they inspect surfaces, drains and culverts on a regular basis. As funding allows create links to join up existing routes. 	Publish programme of regular inspections.
Roadside verges and pavements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argyll & Bute Council A814 Transport Scotland A82 & A83. Road Haulage Association. Police Scotland Community Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Council contact authorities responsible for this action. Look at ways of eliminating problems of juggernauts using the pavements as part of the carriageway. Weekly/fortnightly timetable agreed with Local Authority on pavement cleaning. Continue to encourage residents to report to the local authority any sight of dog fouling in order that they can take action to eliminate this habit. 	On-going. To be reviewed annually in March
Priority 3: Improved quality and coordination of signage within and surrounding the community.			
Clear Signage for visitors and locals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LL&TNP Luss Estates Transport Scotland. A&BC Community Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Council will liaise with the authorities responsible in order to provide a way ahead that will allow business to advertise but in an attractive manner acceptable to planners and land owners. Speak with Transport Scotland re trunk road signage. 	On-going. To be reviewed annually in March Alongside Transport Scotland & Local Authorities

Theme 2: Roads and Transport

ACTION

Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui all have very busy trunk roads running through them. These roads were not built to accommodate the volume, speed, size and length of today's vehicles. Through liaison with Transport Scotland, The Road Haulage Association and Police Scotland efforts are to be made to eliminate and control drivers acting out with regulations. Work towards improving transport links and timing more suitable for village life and circumstances.



Activity: (What could be done)	Community Champion: (Who could lead on the activity)	Suggested action by. (How will it be achieved – Actions)	When will it be delivered: (Date)
Priority 1: Safe and well maintained trunk road corridors through our villages, along with better transport links for residents of our villages.			
Road safety improvements.	Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Transport Scotland concerning improvement measures and signage to reduce road traffic accidents at Tarbet Post Office corner and the Filling Station corner in Arrochar. • Move 30mph speed limit entering Arrochar from the West from present position at the Filling Station corner to the Ash Tree Burn location of the 40pmh. • Consider pedestrian crossings at busy points on the trunk roads within the village's envelope. • Address the continuous flooding and potholes on the A82 Tarbet to Ardlui. 	Ongoing To be reviewed annually in March
Pavement verges and pedestrian safety.	Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Transport Scotland / BEAR Scotland and the Road Haulage Association on the issue of Juggernauts using the pavements as passing places. • The repair of verges between Arrochar and Tarbet. • Consideration of where possible the widening of the carriageway particularly along the Arrochar / Tarbet corridor. 	Start negotiations February 2014
Better managed public car parks.	Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Argyll & Bute Council to ensure car parks under their responsibility are kept tidy and parking fees charged and collected are used to improve the standard of the area. • Investigate the purchase of land to accommodate a more central car park in Arrochar. 	Ongoing To be reviewed annually in March
Priority 2: Improved Transport link between villages and major settlements.			
More integrated public transport system.	Voluntary organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the purchasing of a community bus running at frequent intervals to link our three villages. 	October 2014

ACTION

Theme 3: Housing

Affordable Housing in our rural area is sparse and according to our results reflects a growing concern worthy of inclusion in our Community Action Plan. This is a common theme amongst many rural settlements in Scotland; it is a fact that there are very few houses available in our area for low income families and individuals. This issue needs to be addressed to ensure that people who want to stay in the local area have the opportunity to do so and are not hindered by a lack of affordable options. However, we believe that the criteria that is used to offer new housing to young applicants should prioritise the needs of individuals who have grown up in the area and want to continue living here.



Activity: (What could be done)	Community Champion: (Who could lead on the activity)	Suggested action by. (How will it be achieved – Actions)	When will it be delivered: (Date)
Priority 1: Improve availability of affordable housing in the villages and surrounding areas.			
Investigate new ways of meeting housing needs through community led solutions and partnerships with landowners and social housing providers.	Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange meeting with local authority, NPA and other influential parties including land owners) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigate costs, challenges and practicalities relating to affordable housing. - Identify suitable areas/revisit marked areas for settlement areas location. - Identify local area representative to be put forward to DHA and/or ACHA for a liaison and/or seat on their board of management. 	June 2014
Identify local communities that have been successful in obtaining affordable housing.	Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find bright stars – reach out for assistance and support in identifying key elements to successful execution of a housing plan. A small group to visit various rural housing associations and housing developments in Argyll (Inveraray & Strachur) and West Dunbartonshire (Renton, Alexandria, Haldane) to envisage and gather insight into good community progress and developments. 	June 2014

ACTION

Theme 4: Economy

Connected, Collaborative and Competitive forms the framework of the Argyll and Bute Council Economic Development Action Plan for 2010-2013. This framework can easily be transposed into drive for local economic development. There is no hiding from the fact that the UK's economic status is in need of repair and it is believed that local businesses may hold the key to breathing life back into the country's economy. Local businesses are needed to help sustain employment and to do this the community needs to support them.



Activity: (What could be done)	Community Champion: (Who could lead on the activity)	Suggested action by. (How will it be achieved – Actions)	When will it be delivered: (Date)
Priority 1: Increased range of development opportunities to support the communities long term sustainability.			
Development of small electricity generating scheme: Hydro power, wind farm or underground/air source power or solar panels on strategic public buildings or areas.	Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate new or planned sites developing community energy schemes, awaiting delivery of wind turbines...how did they make it work. 	December 2013
Small industrial units	Community Trust -Focus group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate potential site/need for units. 	March 2014
Inward investment.	Community Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local businesses to look to contribute to a flower and Christmas decorative fund to improve village appearance / gateway image and signage. 	December 2013
Priority 2: Increased and better supported job opportunities.			
Support for new startup businesses.	Local Business forum /Community Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with partnership. 	May 2014
Modern apprenticeships.	Local Business forum /Community Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify businesses that could offer/support an apprenticeship scheme? 	December 2013

ACTION

Theme 5: Tourism, Recreation and Activities

The development of a community hall has assisted the establishment of a variety of recreational activities which are suitable for all age ranges within the local community e.g. 1st Arrochar Scouts, Youth Group, Bingo and a Blether, Camera club, Cinema club and family Ceilidh's. A future aspiration for the Community Action Plan is to actively encourage opportunities for tourists and visitors to enable them to participate and use the facilities within the Local Community.



Activity: (What could be done)	Community Champion: (Who could lead on the activity)	Suggested action by. (How will it be achieved – Actions)	When will it be delivered: (Date)
Priority 1: Improved opportunities for recreation and activities for tourists and local community.			
Develop a range of events for locals and visitors of all ages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Development Trust Community Organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a range of activities for young people during school holiday times. Continue to encourage attendance to established family fun days e.g. Gala, Succoth family fun day. Investigate the feasibility of developing a three peak challenge within the area. Investigate the possibility of establishing a walking group for families. 	October 2014
			August 2018
			January 2015
			January 2015
Priority 2 Develop a Café/Visitors Centre.			
To undertake a feasibility study regarding the possibility of the development of a café/visitors centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Development Trust Community Council Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui Heritage Group Hidden Heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the following partners; Argyll and Bute Council, Scottish Heritage, National Park, identify potential funders. 	August 2018
Priority 3 Re-develop Arrochar Pier.			
Re-develop and update the Arrochar Pier for use by visitors and locals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Development Trust Community Council National Park Cruise Loch Lomond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a feasibility study. Identify potential funders. 	August 2018

Making It Happen

The priorities in this Action Plan will be taken forward by our local community groups working with a range of public, private and voluntary sector partners. The Action Plan will be reviewed at least once a year by a group of community members including representatives from the Community Council and Development Trust.

An annual Delivery Plan has been developed and will be used to guide the delivery and assist the monitoring of a number of priorities each year. Copies of the current Delivery Plan are available from the Three Villages Hall or by contacting the Community Council or Community Development Trust.

If you would like to get involved with any of these initiatives or for further information please contact the organisations below:

Arrochar & Tarbet Community Council

www.threevillages.org.uk/community/council-team/

Arrochar & Tarbet Community Development Trust

Name: Andrew Downs (Secretary)

E-mail: admin@threevillages.co.uk

Telephone: 01301 702669

Acknowledgements

Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui Community Action Plan Steering Group prepared this Community Document. Thanks to all those who shared their views and took part.

We would also like to acknowledge the work of our community agent, Sue Williams

We are grateful to the following organisations for funding and assistance:

**Loch Lomond & The Trossachs
Community Partnership**
www.thecommunitypartnership.org.uk
Tel: 01389 727762



Community Partnership
Supporting communities in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

**Loch Lomond & The Trossachs
National Park Authority**
www.lochlomond-trossachs.org
Tel: 01389 722600



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