

2020-2025



Trossachs

Community Action Plan

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The Trossachs Community last completed an Action Plan at the turn of the century under the Community Futures initiative.

It led to:

- ➡ The rebuilding of the village hall of which the community is very proud.
- ➡ Road signs which included the distance to Brig o' Turk.
- ➡ The snow closure signs on the Dukes Pass.
- ➡ Road resurfacing work.
- ➡ A heritage map as well as the Bicycle Tree Village Magazine.

After nearly twenty years of continuous and incremental change a new plan was overdue and new legislation, if nothing else, necessitated that this work was done to ensure that the voice of the community would be heard across the National Park, local & national Government.





Our Community Our Voice

This Action Plan was developed by a wholly volunteer group of people living in the Trossachs Community Area, including members of the Community Council the Community Trust & the Welfare Association, with the assistance of the Community Partnership. We are a small community of around 150 people. Our survey prompted 38 responses with over 2,000 comments, we also held two open days which were attended by 31 people.

The Conundrum defined in the Trossachs Community Futures report is as relevant today as it was then:

"We recognise that we're trying to balance a number of competing needs. By encouraging more visitors to come to the area, we hope to create more jobs for local people."

"At the same time increased visitor numbers have an impact on the environment which is a concern for many of us. We're not always going to get it right, but by being conscious of the impact these different needs have on one another, we hope to plot a sensible and productive course towards the future".



38

**SURVEYS RETURNED
FROM 150 POPULATION**

2,000

COMMENTS

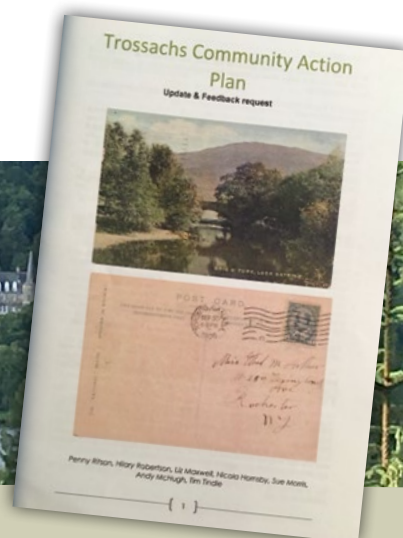


31



**PEOPLE ATTENDED
TWO COMMUNITY OPEN DAYS**

*Thanks to everyone who
participated*



Our Community Now

Location

The Trossachs community is located in an area which has long been recognised as one of outstanding natural beauty and is part of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. It stretches from the east end of Loch Venachar to the west end of Loch Katrine with a stunning landscape of mountains, lochs and forests. The main settlement in the Trossachs is the village of Brig o' Turk. The village is approximately 20 miles north west of Stirling, 50 miles north of Glasgow and 60 miles north west of Edinburgh.

Population

The total resident population in June 2019 was 153. This is a decrease of 15% since the 2011 census and perhaps a reflection of the changes in housing ownership. Approximately 20% of the resident population are aged over 60, this has remained static since the 2001 census. There has been a significant drop in the number of under 16 year olds from 19% in 2001, to 14% in 2011 to 7% in June 2019 which is much lower than the Scottish average of 17% in 2011.

Housing

There have been significant changes to housing tenure in the last 20 years. The community today has a higher than average number of properties which are owned. In 2011 this accounted for 73% as opposed to the 62% nationally. There is a small amount of private rental property locally but no social housing is available for rent in the area. In June 2019, approximately 30% of properties were either second homes or holiday lets. In 2000 there were 31 tied houses, in 2019 there are 3.

Local Employment and Economy

The Trossachs area has a higher number of economically active people (78%) than the national average (69%). According to the 2011 census, almost 14% of those were self-employed – double the number in 2001. The 2011 census also showed that 49% worked from home and 78% of those travelling to work, travelled by car. The largest employment sector (39%) is in the Accommodation & Food Services sector. Notable employers in the area are the Sir Walter Scott Trust, Tigh Mhor and the Woodland Trust.

Health & Social Care

Trossachs residents have a range of services in Callander including GP and medical services, dentists, opticians and pharmacies. The main hospital for the community is in Larbert about 50 minute drive away. There are no social services in the village. Residential care homes are available in Callander but appropriate care may have to be accessed further afield. There is a Lunch Club for older residents that meets twice a week in Callander Kirk.

Community Facilities & Activities

Community facilities are limited. Brig o' Turk Village Hall provides a place for local activities and events such as film nights, talks and annually a ceilidh, bulb show and carol singing. Regular events include country dancing, yoga and coffee mornings.

There is also a Post Office in Brig o' Turk and Trossachs Kirk at Loch Achray. The mobile library visits once a fortnight.

There is no public transport but the DRT service provides some access to transport locally at low cost.

Shops, garages, sports facilities, library and recreational classes & clubs for all ages are available in Callander. The U3A has in excess of 20 courses running in Callander and further afield.



Education

Trossachs Primary School closed in 2019 and the local catchment school is now Callander Primary School which is 7 miles away. Children also travel to Aberfoyle and Strathyre Primary Schools. The local secondary school is McLaren High School in Callander.

Outdoor Recreation

The Trossachs provides a variety of opportunities for outdoor pursuits. There are numerous footpaths and trails for differing abilities which are suitable for walking, cycling and running.

- National Cycle Network Route 7.
- The Great Trossachs Forest Path.
- The Three Lochs Forest Drive is accessible to vehicles during the summer months.
- Cycle Hire and boat trips on Loch Katrine are available from Trossachs Pier.
- There is a sailing club and an open water swimming club at Loch Venachar.
- The area is becoming increasingly popular for organised outdoor sporting events such as cycling and triathlon.
- Ben A'an is very popular with tourists as a relatively easy climb with a great view.

Environment

The Trossachs is renowned for its scenery of lochs, mountains forests and dark skies. Bens Venue, A'an & Ledi and Lochs Achray, Drunkie, Katrine & Venachar are all in the immediate area. There is an abundance of ancient woodland and sites recognised for their significance locally and more widely. There is also a variety of wildlife to be seen. An increase in visitor numbers is putting pressure on the local environment and problems with erosion, parking and litter are increasing with them.

Parking facilities are particularly inadequate at Ben A'an at peak times. Forest & Land Scotland and the Woodland Trust are major land owners locally, managing significant areas of land and access to it. Camping in the area is now controlled with designated campsites and permits

Heritage

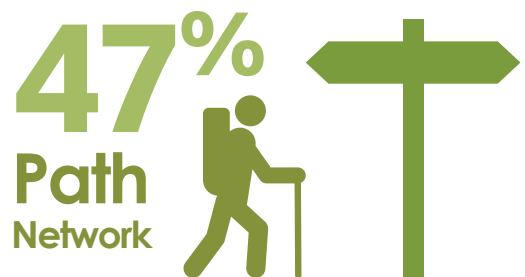
From the ancient royal hunting ground in Glen Finglas to the remains of World War 2 ammunition dumps at the roadside, the heritage of the Trossachs is varied and found everywhere.

- The old buildings, bridges and graveyards all have stories to tell.
- A more industrial history is seen in the Victorian engineering works at Loch Katrine and the building of the dam at Glen Finglas.
- The Trossachs is said to be the place where tourism began and has seen a host of well known visitors.
- The area was popularised by Sir Walter Scott in "The Lady of the Lake".
- The poet Wordsworth & art critic and social thinker Ruskin visited, as did various artists including Millais and the Glasgow boys.
- Queen Victoria was also an early visitor and is reputed to have said that Trossachs Kirk was the most beautiful church she had ever seen.
- Rob Roy McGregor had links to the area too. His home was on the site of Glengyle House on Loch Katrineside and he paid rent on a property in Brig o' Turk.

There are many more stories and heritage assets in the Trossachs. The challenge is to make sure they are not lost in the future.



Community Views Survey Likes



What we said about our top likes.

*"Tourism is not new it will only grow
- we need to harness it to revitalise our
community not complain about it"*

*"A place where you know and talk to
everyone"*

"I feel safe"

"we love living here"

"it's a quiet peaceful village"

"the village is generally caring"



Community Views Survey

Dislikes

37%



Inconsiderate

Parking & Driving

60%

Tearoom
Closure



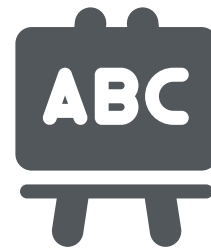
90%

Lack of
Broadband



32%

Lack of
Mobile
Phone
signal



23%

School
Closure



23%

Lack of Community

73%

Litter



79%

Too many
Holiday homes



What we said about our dislikes.

"the lack of broadband limits working opportunities"

"it's a shame that people in cars, trucks and vans think it is OK to chuck litter out of their vehicles"

"Everyone used to go to everything now too many people stay at home"

"Buses driving in the middle of the road"

"the roads are congested with cars, buses and bicycles during the tourist season"

"I would like to see the NP and Forestry more proactive in management and provision of litter bins and signage"



Trossachs Community

Our Vision

Our vision is:

- ➔ A sustainable and inclusive community where people feel welcome and safe.
- ➔ A community with excellent services and facilities appropriate to our rural setting.
- ➔ A community that respects and protects its natural beauty and landscape.
- ➔ A green community that considers the environmental and social impact of its actions and developments.
- ➔ A community that encourages sustainable work and economic development.

Main Themes and Priorities

These are the main themes and priorities the community will focus on over the next 5 years, in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

THEME 1: Community

THEME 2: Environment

THEME 3: Heritage

THEME 4: Economy & Work

THEME 5: Roads, Transport and Parking

THEME 6: Access, Infrastructure and Services

Our top priorities are:

- ➡ Access to good broadband.
- ➡ A community-backed plan for the acquisition and development of the school to deliver direct benefit to the community.
- ➡ Provision of more sustainable transport solutions.
- ➡ Progress towards a plastic free, carbon neutral, greener community.
- ➡ Increasing the benefit to the community from the tourist economy.
- ➡ An increase in the number of walking and cycling paths in the area.

Theme 1: Community



ATMOSPHERE

- ➔ We must maintain the quiet, peaceful & safe ambience of the area and ensure our dark skies stay dark.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- ➔ Building upon what is already happening in the community, we should develop and organise more social, cultural and outdoor events for the enjoyment of both residents and visitors. We should develop a series of winter events to make the long evenings pass faster. These should be promoted to a wider audience to encourage attendance.

VILLAGE HALL

Our village hall is physically and emotionally at the centre of our community. We should explore further uses for the village hall.

➔ Communication

A village single web page or Facebook page should be developed and used as our community portal. We should ensure that all village events are "marketed" to residents and visitors.

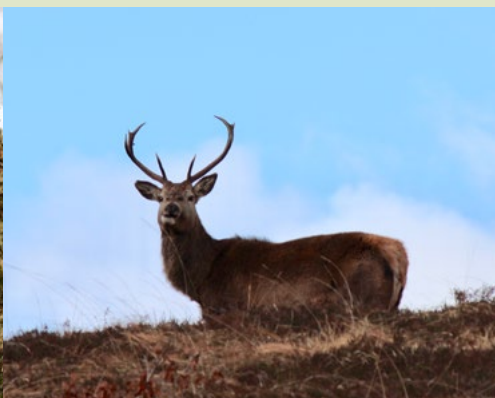
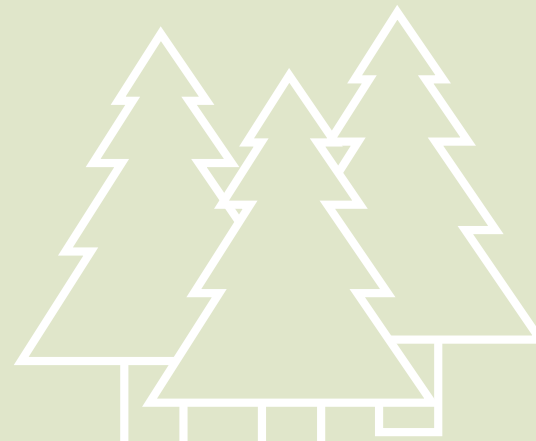
➔ Skills and Tools

We have an immense number of skills, and tools, within the community and should look to share these where possible.

If you would like to get involved with any of these initiatives highlighted then please contact the Trossachs District Welfare Association at lizmaxwell2aol.com



Theme 2: Environment



CLIMATE CHANGE

We will pursue becoming the first green community in the National Park by:

- ➔ Measuring our progress towards becoming a carbon-neutral community.
- ➔ Exploring sustainable transport initiatives to reduce dependence on carbon fuelled cars.
- ➔ Developing initiatives to reduce waste through recycling, reusing and sharing resources.
- ➔ Developing mechanisms to influence both land and water use.
- ➔ Pursuing a community food production initiative.
- ➔ Ensuring all new housing is built to the highest environmental standards.
- ➔ Expanding the neighbourhood food initiative in the village.
- ➔ Co-ordinating supermarket deliveries.

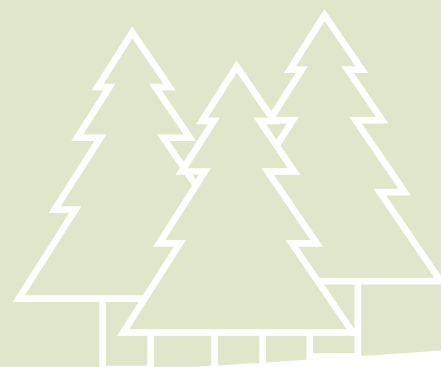
LITTER

- ➔ We will lobby for further agency action on litter prevention and collection including human and dog waste. We will continue to organise community litter picks.

CONSERVATION

- ➔ We will respect the natural beauty and landscape of the area as a first principle for all actions and support the maintenance of natural fisheries as well as the conservation of wildlife and habitat.

If you would like to get involved with any of these initiatives highlighted then please contact the Trossachs Community Trust at TrossachsCT@gmail.com



Theme 3: Heritage



PRESERVE

- ➔ We should aim to preserve and celebrate the unique heritage and culture of Brig o' Turk and the Trossachs.

MUSEUM & TRAILS

- ➔ We should develop an educational Museum showcasing Trossachs' life and history and combine it with a heritage trail across the Trossachs.

TEAROOM

- ➔ We should keep a watching brief on the Brig o' Turk Tearoom and to have concern for the heritage it represents given it is seen as a significant part of the identity of Brig o' Turk by many visitors and residents alike.

COMMUNITY ASSET REQUISITION

- ➔ Ensure the Trossachs Community Trust (TCT) is the appropriate community body, compliant with all relevant legislation, to allow the community to acquire property such as the school building and tearoom, by asset transfer, negotiated purchase or community buy-out, should the opportunity arise and should the community support such a move as a way to preserve, celebrate and/or sensitively develop community assets for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

If you would like to get involved with any of these initiatives highlighted then please contact the Trossachs Community Trust at TrossachsCT@gmail.com

Theme 4: Economy and Work



HOMWORKING

- ➔ We should ensure that the level of digital connectivity in the community is sufficient to sustain a thriving and expanding home working sector. Resident artists & crafters should be encouraged, for instance, by open studio events. The existing business hub facilities in the village hall should be reinstated, improved and promoted.

TOURISM

This is the largest industry in our area and is only going to grow as our natural capital becomes more highly prized. It is clear from the input and feedback throughout the CAP process that there is a community desire to see services retained and added to, as well as local jobs created.

An increase of local spend by tourists and a larger percentage going to the community is key to delivering this. This must be done sensitively because we want to maintain the serenity of our area and not reduce the quality of life of residents (a theme park is neither wanted nor required!) Success in the projects listed below would lead to permanent and seasonal jobs for local residents in our community.

➔ Asset transfer of school and its development

We should acquire the school building for the community and develop a community-led social enterprise offering a range of facilities and amenities for the benefit of the community and visitors. These might include (but are not limited to): Tearoom, book shop, arts and crafts pop up shop, museum, local produce sales, bunk-house community shop, a joint community allotment and camping pods.

➔ Paths

We should engage with landowners and agencies to encourage the development of walking and cycle paths to deliver (a) a circular walk around the Glen Finglas dam and (b) a route from the village to Tigh Mor and Loch Katrine. We should scope the development of mountain bike trails in the area.

➔ RV, campervan, caravan & camping site

We should work with local landowners to identify and develop a low impact site with proper facilities including RV toilet emptying station outwith the village envelope.

If you would like to get involved with any of these initiatives highlighted then please contact the Trossachs Community Trust at TrossachsCT@gmail.com

Theme 5: Roads, Transport and Parking



PUBLIC TRANSPORT & COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

- ➔ We should develop a volunteer driver scheme to facilitate patient transport, hospital visiting, shopping trips etc.
- ➔ Explore the creation of a car club and/or community-led car pools.
- ➔ With the help of surrounding communities and businesses we should look to reinstate a seasonal Trossachs Trundler minibus.
- ➔ We must ensure the retention of the DRT scheme unless a full year round resident-friendly public transport solution is reinstated for those who do not drive.

PARKING

- ➔ We should push for the development of more and actively managed car parking for tourists. We should support and encourage the enforcement of parking rules to minimise the danger to pedestrians and road users through inconsiderate parking. We should lobby, with other remote communities, for local resident parking permits for Callander car parks.

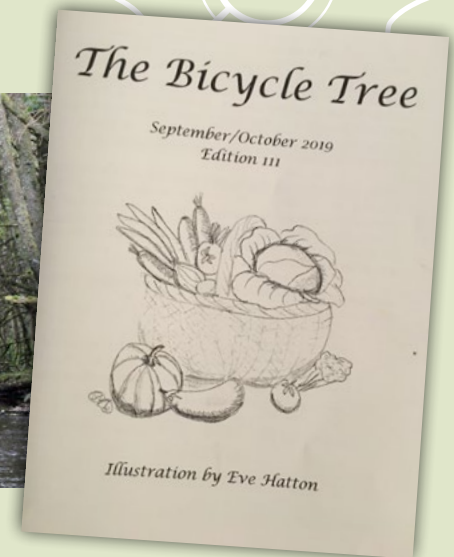
ROADS

- ➔ Convince the authorities to keep the Duke's Pass open all year and gritted/ploughed in the winter as required.

If you would like to get involved with any of these initiatives highlighted then please contact the Trossachs Community Trust at TrossachsCT@gmail.com



Theme 6: Access, Infrastructure and Services



BROADBAND

- ➔ Deliver a good broadband connection that is available to all residential and business properties in the area.

VILLAGE SERVICES

- ➔ Ensure the retention of existing services in the community including post office, library van, health and social care services, the public telephone box and defibrillator. Given our relative remoteness to emergency services we should develop a pool of first aiders and trained defibrillator users.

HOUSING

- ➔ Explore the development of sympathetic social and affordable housing both for purchase and rental with the highest eco credentials.

SIGNAGE

- ➔ Ensure village signage and interpretation is appropriate, accurate and correctly spelt.

If you would like to get involved with any of these initiatives highlighted then please contact the Trossachs Community Trust at TrossachsCT@gmail.com

Making it happen

The priorities in this action plan will be taken forward by the Trossachs Community Trust and the Trossachs Community Council.

The Trossachs Community Trust will prepare a delivery plan to guide the delivery and asset in monitoring progress on multiple fronts. This and the Action Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Trust is eagerly seeking project champions. If you would like to get involved with any of these initiatives we would welcome your involvement. For further information please contact:

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E-mail: TrossachsCT@gmail.com

Tel: 01877 376269

Acknowledgements

This Community Action Plan would not have been completed without the involvement of many individuals and organisations. To all of you a sincere thank you

- ➡ The Trossachs Community Action Plan Steering Group who prepared this community document. A special thanks to all members for all their time, dedication and baking!
- ➡ All those individuals and organisations in our community who participated.
- ➡ To the Community Partnership for their guidance and facilitation.
- ➡ To the Trossachs Community Council for funding the printing of this document.
- ➡ To the members of our community who provided the stunning photographs in this publication.

