

APPENDIX 2

Summary and Analysis of Consultation Responses including National Park Response Strathard Framework

November 2021

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1. Introduction

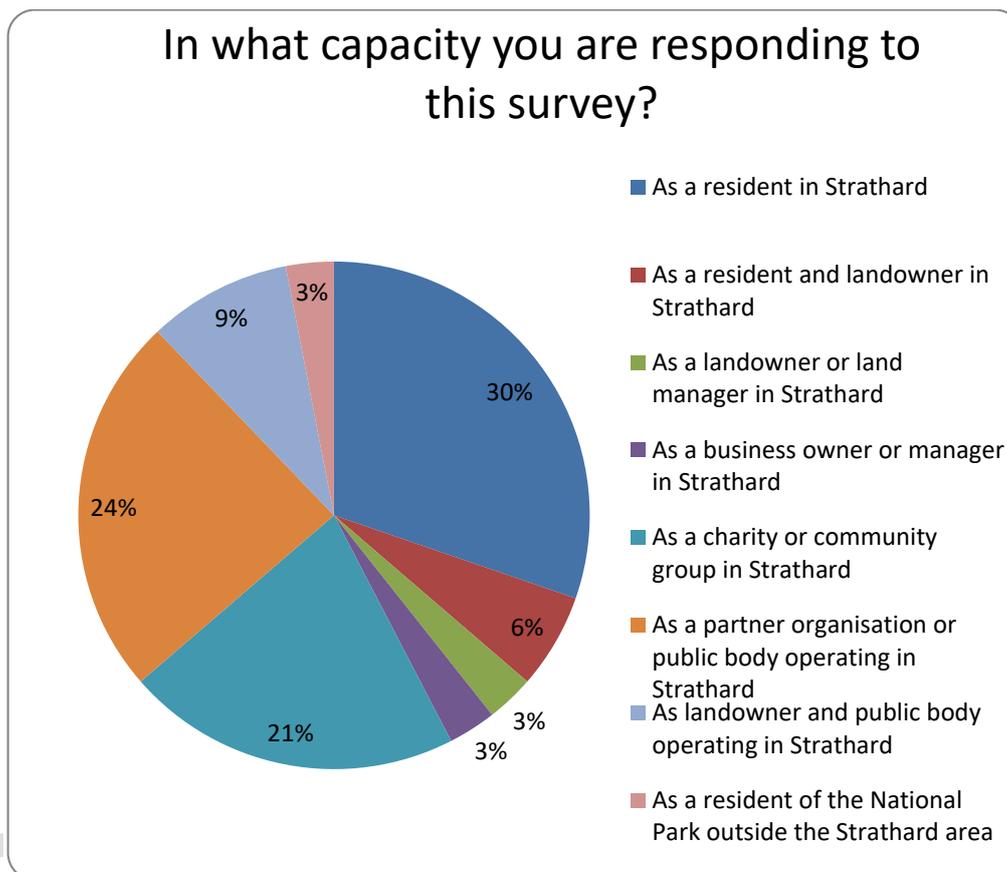
- 1.1 This report provides information and a broad summary of the responses received to the consultation on the Strathard Framework, draft SEA screening and draft HRA screening. A separate report containing verbatim comments is Appendix 1 as presented to committee. This report provides a summary of the representations, a National Park Authority response and a steering group response then a recommendation of the amendments to be made to the Framework.
- 1.2 The draft Framework provides development and land use management advice for the Strathard area.
- 1.3 The consultation of the draft Framework lasted for 6 weeks and ran from May 2021 to June 2021. A variety of methods were used to promote the consultation, inform people about the draft Framework and encourage responses to it. These included a formal launch via the press release and on social media. Social media was used to promote wider awareness of the consultation including short video presentations. All stakeholders that attended the workshops or were invited to the workshops were informed by email of the consultation. The community council and trust also promoted the consultation via their email networks and social media accounts. This was followed by posters being put up at various locations in Strathard to promote the survey and an online webinar and this was ran nearer the end of the consultation period to enable any questions to be asked of the project officer (this was instead of the usual drop in session at the village hall as we could not run this due to Covid restrictions).

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2. Consultation numbers and profiles

2.1 We received a total of 30 representations on the Strathard Framework, many of which are very detailed but some that are very short and are in general support. Of these:

- 12 were from local residents of which 2 were also landowners,
- 1 landowner not living in Strathard,
- 1 member of the public who visits Strathard,
- 8 from public bodies,
- 6 from community group/charity/community council and
- 1 business responded (Sir Walter Scott Steamship) although the Kinlochard Village Hall is both a community group and a business.



2.2 Of the key partners and stakeholders we received detailed comments from Strathard Community Trust, Strathard Community Council, Forest and Land Scotland, NatureScot and RSPB and a joint response from Stirling Council Transport Development, Public Transport, Countryside Access, Development Planning, EV development teams.

2.3 Of the 33 responses we received lengthy responses from around 17-20 respondents for each of the questions. There was no comments from Marine Scotland and SEPA, Scottish Water, Transport Scotland provided high level support for the Framework noting they are pleased to see focus on certain topics and a couple of specific points from Stirling Council Housing team which are included in the analysis of responses below.

2.4 In terms of age group of respondents, there were 8% age 25-34, 15% age 45-54, 38% age 55-64 and 30% over 65 and the rest preferred not to say. There was no respondents in the age 16-24 category. Of the respondents 62% were female and 38% were male.

2.5 A thematic analysis approach was taken for all qualitative data submitted, rather than attempting to quantify. As a guide, however, and to provide an indication of the strength of feelings expressed, we have noted in brackets the number of respondents expressing a point. Also, where a comment was made by the community council, who have referenced the Life Plans which set out the opinions of the community then this has been indicated. If there is no number in brackets then this can be read as being from a single respondent.

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3. Introduction/Context of the Draft Framework

Park Authority's summary of responses

There were a number of general comments regarding the introduction and context section that was not covered by the survey.

Context

There was commendations that the section contained ample reference to natural heritage, visitor management and tourism but failed to set the context in relation to housing and economic diversification (non-tourism business). There was also a couple of respondents who wished context on the ageing and declining population and lack of affordable housing and the text to be amended so that these two issues were not linked. A suggestion was made that it could highlight national trends vs Strathard trends on population.

How the framework will be used

One respondent in response to the point regarding individual owners and managers making final decision, said that the decisions do not rest with individuals and rest with the democratically responsive and accountable powers of the planning authority.

Decision-making framework

There was also concern about the decision making framework (page 8) in relation to point (ii) *any open market or commercial elements of the proposal help cross subsidise the delivery of gains*. The community council felt it is important, that this is not an 'escape' clause to allow support to be given to proposals that conflict with the Framework.

Another respondent was very concerned about this statement feeling it was going to be used like a 'trump' card to allow any proposal to come forward.

Strategy summary

Clarification is needed of the meaning of "with support for community facilities and greater infrastructure to support visitors whilst not attracting greater numbers".

Response to Comments - National Park Authority

Context

The comments regarding the population and housing are noted. It is recognised that there are many constraints to delivering affordable housing. **Minor Modifications** to amend page 9, 7th bullet to separate the two issues of population decline and affordable housing. See tracked changes.

The comments regarding the context section containing no reference to the issues of the economy are noted.

Minor Modification to add a new bullet in Context section in relation to home working:

- *"There are more opportunities to work from home but there is a low wage/unstable seasonable employment resulting in people seeking careers elsewhere, particularly young people."*

Decision-making Framework

The comments regarding the cross-subsidy arrangement are noted. As explained in the committee paper the benefit of the Framework holistically looking at land use and

development is that there can be links made between the two. The decision making framework is worded to provide the opportunity for limited development that would otherwise not accord with the Framework or the Local Development Plan (LDP) Strategy if it would help finance gains for natural capital and biodiversity. An example is development such as modest open market housing or commercial development not supported at a certain location by the LDP but could be supported where it complies with all other LDP and Framework requirements and demonstrates it would finance positive large-scale land management, visitor management or biodiversity enhancement opportunities identified in the Framework. It is however recognised that this is not clear enough within the decision making framework and it could be construed as accommodating an undesirable housing proposal where they were offering a small/medium scale biodiversity enhancement such as tree planting. This is not the intention of the exception and it is envisaged it would only be used in exceptional circumstances. Therefore we propose an amendment as follows:

Existing Wording

Use of the Strathard Framework as Planning Guidance Development proposals within the Strathard Community Council area will be guided and determined by using the following planning policy approach:

- (a) Development proposals will be supported where they accord with the policies in the Local Development Plan, or*
- (b) That will help fulfil the area based strategy established in this Framework (Section 6) or the detailed sub-area strategies (Section 8)*
- (c) Where a proposal represents a departure from (a) or (b) above, support may be given, where the proposal demonstrates:*
 - (i) That there are positive land management, visitor management or biodiversity enhancement gains that will be delivered as identified in the strategy; and*
 - (ii) That any open market or commercial elements of the proposal help cross subsidise the delivery of the gains.*

Either a planning condition or obligation may be used, depending if gains are being delivered on or off-site and whether proposals need to be tied. All proposals should support the long term objectives of decarbonisation of the area, climate change adaptation and tackle biodiversity loss in accordance with Local Development Plan Overarching Policies; One: Strategic Principles and Two: Development Requirements . New development should firstly seek to redevelop existing buildings and brownfield (previously developed or used) sites, then aim to be 'net zero carbon (1) ' development – i.e. use less.

New Wording

Development proposals within the Strathard Community Council area will be guided and determined by using the following planning policy approach. Development proposals will be supported where they:

- (a) accord with the policies in the Local Development Plan, and*
- (b) help fulfil the area based strategy established in this Framework (Section 6) or the detailed sub-area strategies (Section 8).*

If a farm or estate requires additional finance to support a land use or biodiversity enhancement project, that would deliver significant landscape scale benefits for nature and climate, then consideration will be given in as to whether a development proposal, that does not meet (a) or (b) is acceptable. It must be demonstrated that the development would provide cross-subsidy and the project would otherwise be unviable and financial assistance is not available from another source.

Either a planning condition or obligation would be used to tie the proposals. All proposals should support the long term objectives of decarbonisation of the area, climate change

adaptation and tackle biodiversity loss in accordance with Local Development Plan Overarching Policies; One: Strategic Principles and Two: Development Requirements . All proposals must also comply with the natural environment and historic environment policies. New development should firstly seek to redevelop existing buildings and brownfield (previously developed or used) sites, then aim to be 'net zero carbon (1) ' development – i.e. use less.

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4. Pathway Diagram Page 6 of the Draft Framework

Questions Pathway to Change (Page 6)

1. Do you think we have captured the main changes on the pathway diagram (Page 6) that need to happen to decarbonise the area and increase the population so it is sustainable and thriving?
2. Do you have any other suggestions for key milestones to include here or any milestones
3. What are your views on any risks or unintended consequences of this pathway?
4. Please add any other comments about this section of the draft Framework

Summary of Responses

47% of respondents agreed we had captured the main changes expected on the Pathway diagram. A number of additions and amendments were suggested to the pathway. In summary the comments included:

General comments:

There were a few general comments supporting the pathway and concern that population growth was a target and this was not explained. One respondent asked why an increased population would make the community sustainable and thriving. There were three requests for more explanation on how these changes will impact on the lives of residents and visitors over the next few years including reference to new and diversified local employment opportunities.

Development path

There was a number of responses in relation to supporting of sustainable transport options being too far down the timeline and should also mentioned sustainable water based transport– i.e mobility hub (post 2025) and active travel routes gaining signage and e-car/bike charging (2024) and renewable energy (2030) (Note: 4 separate representatives). Also one respondent wanted clarity around car free and what does this mean for residents and another wishing this target for car free destination to be brought forward. Another asked if the north shore road at Loch Katrine could be mentioned in terms of safeguarding as an active travel route. Another point was made in relation to steps being added in relation to how we decarbonise existing buildings and improving information and options for getting to and from Aberfoyle without a car.

There was comment that the pathway, in relation to affordable housing, should not mention 'Future Homes Standard' as this was an English assessment and it should mention how new build, reusing empty homes, providing seasonal worker accommodation, reverting holiday homes, and other change of use would provide affordable housing.

One respondent was concerned about the engineered flood scheme and that this would use lots of concrete and use carbon.

Clarification was requested in relation to what is meant by a car free and include steps on how this will be achieved.

There were a number of respondents who did not consider the statement regarding car ownership decline to be accurate and therefore are seeking its removal. A respondent said that electric cars ownership will increase and therefore same car ownership.

There were additions suggested in relation to water filling stations, phasing out of oil/gas boilers, more bins for recycling, mention of the new deposit return scheme in 2022 and projects that mentioned working with neighbouring communities – visitor management,

flooding, protecting woodlands. There was also a suggestion that a milestone is needed for gaining access for residents during times of flood. Also a milestone in relation to delivery of new visitor facilities and accommodation.

Land use path

There was support for this pathway and action on invasive species, herbivores overgrazing and peatland restoration. One respondent wanting a link between herbivore management and woodland sites gaining favourable status.

Forest and Land Scotland (FLS) highlighted an error regarding the target native woodland expansion which is higher than the national target of 18,000 and tree planting along Loch Katrine road. Also FLS felt that good ecological status of water bodies might not be achievable due to underlying geology which is acidic so shouldn't be a target. And there were separate comments in relation to recognising the restoration of salmonid fish and their main spawning grounds.

RSPB noted an error in relation to goat culling consultation as this is an ongoing and contentious subject.

Some respondents were concerned about terminology which they did not understand – e.g. climate resilient planting, good ecological status, ecosystem led design, natural capital.

There was a comment that natural flood management should come before the engineered flood scheme or in parallel. There was also a comment that there was only a milestone for gaining funding for rhododendron and NFM but no milestone for when these would be completed.

Response to Comments – National Park Authority

We welcome the detailed comments received in relation to the pathway.

In response to the point regarding population increase, this was considered a good target as it provided a focus for what makes a place more sustainable. Without the people then a place can die. However, it is fair point that the population only needs to be sustained and become stable rather than increase to be sustainable. It should however be noted that this population increase is very modest, bringing the population back up to 2011 census population of around 1,230 residents. It has been estimated, using population projections (mid 2019 based) that it has declined to 1,100 residents since 2011. In addition the strategy states on page 12 that places like Stronachlachar and Inversnaid needs a modest increase in population to support it becoming more self-sustaining and needs working people to meet the demands of the local economy.

Minor modification proposed amend end of timeline to read “*By 2050 Strathard Population returns to 2011 levels @ 1,230*” instead of “*By 2050 Strathard Population increases @ 1,230*”

It is noted that more explanation is needed on how the pathway will impact on the lives of residents and more reference to diversifying local employment opportunities.

Minor modification proposed amend pathway to add in between 2025 and 2030 “*Green jobs increase and help to reduce carbon emissions in energy, building, waste, transport and land use sectors.*”

It is noted that many of the terms used under the both pathway are not understood by the general public and that we require a glossary – e.g car free, mobility hub, eco-system

design, agro-forestry, green lung, green jobs and so forth. **Minor modification** to add a glossary of terms (see glossary proposed in the tracked framework Appendix 3).

Development pathway

In response to comments on actions on active travel, shuttle bus, renewable energy and mobility hub being too far down the timeline, it is recognised that we need to move swiftly on these actions. There was also clarity required around car free area Taking each action in turn:

- Shuttle bus feasibility/survey work/trial completed by around 2022. This timeframe is adequate to allow time for the patronage on buses to return to normal levels following the pandemic. It is noted that this is not mentioned again, so in relation to public realm/mobility hub at around 2026/2027 then shuttle bus should be added. So **minor modification** to *“Public realm/mobility hub improvements in Aberfoyle inc shuttle bus realised”*
- Mobility hub/public realm project is to be completed by 2026/27 as even though initial sketches have been prepared via the charrette process, funding needs to be raised and engineering drawings prepared, and a consultation with the community needs to take place (all details of this are set out in Appendix 1, delivery plan) before the works happen on the ground. 2026/27 are considered realistic and if this was to be moved forward as suggested to 2022 then this would be unachievable. It might be possible by 2022 to achieve some small steps towards reaching this goal but the complete overhaul of the public realm is a large scale project. **No modification proposed** to where this appears on the timeline.
- E-car/bike charging points and active travel routes get boost from signage are currently around 2024 and this is considered to be an appropriate timescale so **no modification is proposed** to where this is located on the pathway. Other minor modifications are proposed to the EV charging milestone below.
- New renewable energy/heat networks is at 2030 as the Scottish Government target is for 35% of heat for domestic buildings by 2032. This is in line with this target. It is accepted that there are a number of steps to achieve all buildings moving to renewables but this is unknown at present and the details will be developed as part of the delivery plan. **No modification** is proposed.
- It is agreed that sustainable water based transport solutions are important and currently not mentioned. **Minor modification** proposed to add just after 2025 *“Increase in water-based transport across Loch Lomond and on Loch Katrine after steamship is saved”*.

The reference to car free is in relation to eco-destination and it is agreed that further clarity is required around this, hence the reason for suggesting this is included in the glossary. It refers to visitors not residents, enjoying the area car-free, so visitors explore by bike, e-scooter, e-taxi, shuttle bus, e-bike or another sustainable mode. There would be knock on benefits to the community who would also benefit from the increase availability of these services and networks and reduced traffic on the roads but it is not expected that the community would be car-free as it is recognised that most people will switch to e-cars. It is hoped the area could be operated in a similar way to the other car-free eco-destinations worldwide where visitors receive a pass to use all the various modes of transport. Further work is being undertaken by the National Park's Sustainable Transport team in relation to solutions across the whole park.

There were many useful suggestions for additional milestones as listed above, such as increase water filling stations that are considered to be too detailed for the pathway and we also have a limited space to add in additional milestones. There were a few that have been recommended and these are listed below.

Various minor modification proposed to development pathway (see revised version in Appendix 3):

- Remove reference to Future Homes Standard and change wording as follows *“Affordable housing delivered via new build, regeneration of existing buildings following housing needs assessment”* Note: reference to who would undertake the housing needs assessment is being proposed to be added to the delivery plan.
- Delete “Car ownership declines to 40% as ban on petrol and diesel car sales by 2032 and but retain and add cycling to the read *“Car based journeys within Strathard significantly reduced as majority of visitors use improved bus and cycle connections to travel within the area.”*
- Amend E-car/bike charging to read *“E-car/bike charging points put in across Strathard in line with ChargePlace Scotland network”*
- Add a milestone on *“Community/visitor EV car share scheme up and running”* at just before shuttle bus feasibility at around 2022/23.
- Add a milestone relating to waste and recycling *“Recycling increases and businesses operate on closed loop production processes”*.
- Add a milestone on visitor management *“Joint Visitor Management Strategy launched for Strathard and adjoining communities”*.

Land Use pathway

The comment on natural flood management is noted. This currently comes before the engineering flood scheme and therefore **no modification is proposed**.

It is noted that there is no mention of when rhododendron removal and natural flood management will be completed, only when they gain funding. **Minor modification** to add the following text after 2030 *“Natural flood mitigation projects completed on the Duchray catchment”*.

In terms of rhododendron projects this is likely to be an ongoing issue and therefore no modification is proposed.

We note the comments in relation to “Water bodies achieve good ecological status” and salmonid fish. Good ecological status refers to Scottish Environment Protection Agency’s (SEPA) classification of water bodies status and it is recognised that this classification is limited and does not take the whole river ecosystem into account. It is derived from the Water Framework Directive and assesses quality elements – biological, oxygen and nutrient levels, water flows and levels, condition of banks and continuity of fish migration. It does not consider the riparian edge in its entirety and whether there is active invasive non-native species control in place or the number of fish found during electro-fishing surveys.

Minor modification to remove reference to SEPA’s classification and amend text to read *“Water bodies are considered in good health. Condition takes into account the whole riparian ecosystem, and includes the restoration of salmonids spawning grounds and invasive non-native species control”*

We agree that to achieve favourable status for woodland sites by 2030 that this will depend on successful and swift collaborative action on herbivore management in the next couple of years. **No modification proposed**.

We note comments from regarding goat culling and it is understood that this will not take place.

Minor modification to remove milestone regarding goat culling consultation.

Other suggested **minor modifications** that is proposed for the land use pathway:

- Amend target for woodland that states 20,000 hectares to read "*Expansion of native woodland continues, with Strathard contributing around 10% to National Park's target of 2,000 hectares by 2023.*" and move to just after 2025.
- Amend "Forest is diversified with alternative conifers to sitka spruce and broadleaves" to read "*Forest is managed using an ecosystem led design approach*"

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5. Vision (P11)

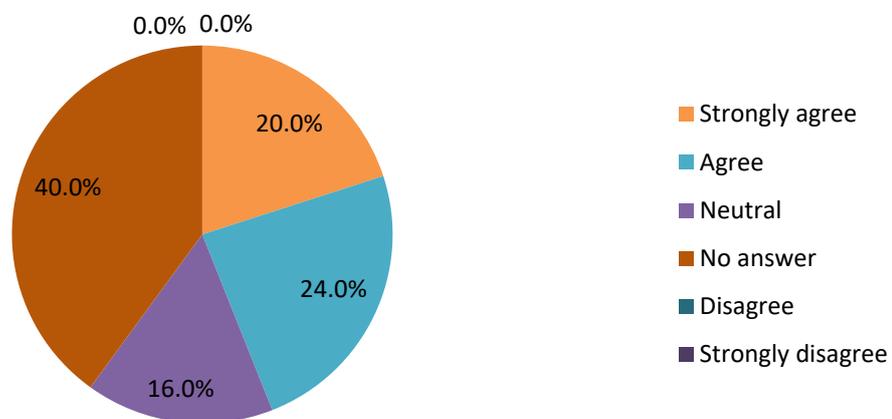
Questions Vision (page 11)

The proposed vision is: *“Strathard is a tranquil landscape and climate resilient place of outstanding natural beauty, with strong cultural heritage and cohesion. The area acts as a carbon sink while supporting biodiversity, recreation and local communities’ self-sufficiency. Outdoor access and eco-tourism work alongside a balanced visitor management approach and a diverse local economy to support the protection and promotion of this diverse and connected eco-system and the well-being of local people and visitors. Nature based solutions are used to manage flooding, improve and enhance infrastructure and facilities.”*

Do you agree with the wording of this vision? Have you any comments?

Summary of Responses

The proposed vision:



As can be seen by the above response, 44% who responded agree with the vision and 30% neither agreed nor disagreed. It was not clear from some responses where comments were given if they agreed or disagreed and this has been recorded as ‘no answer’.

There were a number of comments in relation to formatting and wording but the majority agreed with the vision. And similar to the comments on the context section some respondents felt that even though the vision reference self-sufficiency, the vision it is not borne out in the strategies and priorities. Supporting of community entrepreneurship and enterprise – community self-sufficiency - are core elements of the Vision and Life Plans but not the Framework’s strategy, only its vision.

Respondents welcomed mention of nature-based solutions, outdoor access and eco-tourism, climate change recognition, reference to economic development, link to Community Life Plans and succeeds at bringing together what people value about living here. It was felt that to achieve this vision that a significant amounts of funding would be needed.

Definition is needed in relation to nature based solutions and clarity needed around balanced visitor management as this could mean different things to different people.

Some felt the vision omitted an issue such as active travel, increase in physical activity, wildness and re-wilding areas, community land ownership, role of the production forest in the area in terms of sustaining the Scottish wood processing industry.

One respondent thought the illustration should be replaced with something that relates to Strathard and its vision. Make the hill recognisable as Ben Lomond and remove cliffs, conifers, huts – more about young families living in homes.

Suggested re-wording to acknowledge local people themselves are part of protecting and it puts the local people in the forefront of the vision:

The local people and a diverse local economy support, promote and protect the diverse and connected ecosystem.

Effective management of outdoor access, eco-tourism and visitors ensures the wellbeing of local people

Suggest cutting the word “Promotion” it is inappropriate and is a major threat to the eco-systems. Suggest:

Outdoor activity and eco-tourism work alongside a balanced visitor management approach, a diverse local economy – and robust, informed and community-responsive authorities – to protect and enhance Strathard’s natural and cultural assets.

Response to Comments – National Park Authority

The comments in relation to the vision are all noted and the following **minor modification is proposed** as follows:

*Strathard is a tranquil landscape and climate resilient place of outstanding natural beauty, with **rich cultural heritage and strong community cohesion**. **The area’s woodland and peatland** acts as a carbon sink while supporting biodiversity, recreation and ~~local~~ **communities’ self-sufficiency**.*

*Outdoor **activity** and eco-tourism work alongside a balanced visitor management approach and a diverse local economy to support the protection ~~and promotion~~ of this diverse and connected eco-system and the well-being of local people and visitors.*

Nature based solutions are used to manage flooding, improve and enhance infrastructure and facilities.

Minor modification to design – Remove the image on the vision page and replace with an appropriate alternative.

6. Area wide strategy – map (page 15) and Area Wide Strategy (page 16-17)

Questions Strategy Map and Priorities

Does the map capture all the strategic change needed in Strathard? Please add any comments to explain your answer. Please provide any suggested changes to this map. Do you agree with the priorities for the overall area?

If you disagree, please tell us why.

Please add any other comments about these priorities or any changes you may also wish to see.

Summary of Responses

Strategy Map

There were a number of comments in relation to the overall strategy map on page 3 of the Framework.

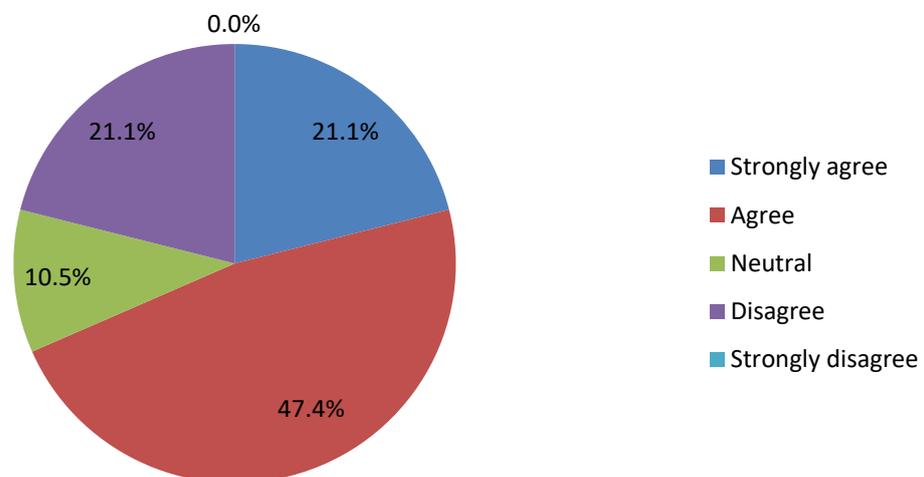
The majority of comments were in relation to visitor infrastructure (toilets/parking/provision for low impact water recreation) not being shown and that the wider sustainable travel networks radiating from Aberfoyle are not clear enough and water based transport is missing. Suggestions made about adding location of parking proposed, route of shuttle bus and the route of potential cycle route to Stirling (as mentioned in delivery plan) and highlighting the Loch Katrine north road as an important active travel link alongside route of the steamship. One respondent specifically wanted to see tourism opportunities mapped on the strategic map, with land identified at Kinlochard.

In terms of land use, there were suggestions that a buffer zone should be shown along rivers to highlight the improvements needed to the riparian edge. And in relation to woodland the map should not only mention woodland expansion but existing woodlands and restructuring of the Queen Elizabeth Forest. Respondents stated that natural tree regeneration plays a critical role in expansion and connectivity between native woodlands.

One respondent said herbivore issues do not exist or are limited in the Loch Ard area and should not be a priority here. And a respondent requested further information on the process for identification of woodland expansion opportunities.

Priorities

Do you agree with the priorities for the overall area?



The above chart illustrates that around 80% of respondents agree with priorities or are neutral with only 21% disagreeing with some elements of the priorities. There were support for many of the priorities, particularly the natural heritage ones and renewable energy, mobility hubs and consideration of climate change. One respondent wanted more emphasis on climate change. It was felt that breaking the priorities into type will help with funding.

Self-Sufficient/Economic Diversification

The main issue raised by both the community council and the community trust and two other individuals is that the section is bias towards natural heritage and visitor management (but support noted for natural heritage priorities). It misses the core principles and priorities of the Community Life Plan – self-sufficiency/economic diversification, also noted that it does not mention affordable housing and non-tourism businesses, despite being mentioned earlier in the Framework. It is difficult not to read as a ‘green tourism’ agenda. There is actually a shortage of labour in the community not the other way around. There is a shortage of light industrial units, many of our entrepreneurs work out of their houses. There is a lack of broadband to the hinterland of Aberfoyle and is impeding economic development. Crucially the area should not be totally dependent on a tourism economy.

It was considered that there needs to be a priorities on how community land acquisition might be the best mechanism to bring about changes outlined in the framework, far deeper, wider and longer lasting and democratically driven stewardship of Strathard’s resources and assets.

Therefore, a number of respondents requested an additional priority that is around self-sufficient, economic diversification, broadband, community ownership, enterprise, energy and housing. Focusing on how the community will be made vibrant, active and sustainable. Environmental priorities should be more clearly link to economic opportunities. This would link to the Community Life Plans.

Ranking

The numbering of priorities through the Framework suggests a rank ordering. Also it suggests on Page 7 that all stakeholders involved in the development of the Framework support the ranking. It was suggested all numbering is dropped and the title for sub-areas should be the same as priorities for overall area making the heading for all priority pages the same and giving greater consistency.

Tourism Accommodation

There was a general comment that there should be more support for new visitor accommodation.

Agriculture

It was also mentioned that agriculture, namely livestock farming is virtually ended and there are no livestock on Comer, Drumlean and only horses at Frenich. Ledard is the last sheep farm though Kirkton in Aberfoyle has winter B-face hogs. This change has impacts on the land use and landscape and should be mentioned.

Priority 1 Visitor Management and Infrastructure

Most respondents agreed and welcomed this priority. Some stated that existing parking provision is inadequate and how would this be addressed.

A suggestion was made that this priority was renamed ‘sustainable visitor management and infrastructure’ and there should be mentioned of active travel for journeys not just recreation and mention of EV car and van sharing, ev cargo bikes and EV charging.

There was clarification sought regarding ‘opportunities to promote community access and recreational use of woodlands’.

One respondent felt that the problem of inadequate roads - for heavy plant traffic and tour buses to and from Inversnaid – should be mentioned and that the Life Plans resist the widening of the road (though there is a plea for more passing places). A suggestion was made that a gondola could solve these issues, instead of a shuttle bus it was felt it would be quicker than driving, views of the countryside, very quiet and unobtrusive, green if electric, not affected by flooding, cheap compared to rebuilding the road, employment.

Priority 2 – flood management

Generally this priority is welcomed. There was support from one respondent about the wetland and another couple of respondents said it is of highest priority given the effect flooding has on tourism and the economy is severe. Also, there was a comment regarding wood debris dams saying that evidence was sought to how effective they were in holding back water.

See ranking comment.

Priority 3 – Woodland Management and Creation

Two respondents highlighted that opportunities within native and commercial woodland to promote skill development and to support the local economy could be made here. Some suggestions included off-grid/on-site forester management and/or wood craft/produce housing and also management of small-scale recreation hutting.

A comment was made that compared to red deer, goats are in much fewer numbers and are less of a problem but control over excess male kids is important.

Priority 4 – Landscape Tranquility, Recreation and Dark Skies -

There was concern about the wording “opportunities to consolidate and enhance facilities at Loch Chon and Loch Ard” and how does that meet the priority of tranquility and comments on where the opportunities exist to consolidate facilities at Loch Ard. Some felt that any further opportunities would damage the place – cause traffic issues, anti-social behavior, environmental damage and littering. Others stated that there was opportunities but not originating from the village or west of the loch as there was concern over the community field which was overwhelmed and that FLS land to east end of the loch would add to the unsustainable traffic problem in Kinlochard and on the B829. Others stated that as visitors are impacting on the village then an alternative site should be developed to attract them, displace them away from the village and Loch Chon was suggested as an obvious candidate. One respondents highlighted that this is linked to Priority One and Loch Ard should be removed as being a mini-active travel hub and Loch Chon added.

A request was made that angling be included as a recreational activity.

Priority 5: Community Resilience and Adaptation to Flooding

The effect flooding has on tourism and economic development is severe as well as impacts on locals. Roads have been washed away in and bigger culverts have been put in. The trial wood debris dam doesn't seem to hold back significant amount of water even when Aberfoyle is hit by a severe flood.

Investigating an alternative access needs to be mentioned in the Kinlochard priorities.

FLS in their response stated that they had already have arrangement to allow access and egress for emergency services – what is meant here is use of the forest road for other users during flood events.

It is not enough to equate community resilience with a plan for when the road is flooded. Resilience goes far deeper and the Park can play a part in helping to enable the development of resilience into an active community resource.

Priority 6 Improve Water Quality

As per comment on the pathway, the same comment was made regarding good ecological status. There are difficulties of us of the status under River Basin Management Plan as it is spatial, very wide and does not capture the requirements at species or habitat levels very well. A more defined criteria is needed which is based on rivers being able to support a suitable level of fish species against a national benchmark e.g. via the national electrofishing programme for Scotland.

One respondent felt this could be expanded to pick up the current and future potential role of lochs as recreational and water based transport assets.

Priority 7 Peatland Restoration

A couple of comments that this should be expanded so that the holistic benefits to people and nature are made clear. Also benefits to economy if local contractors are used.

Priority 8 – Renewable Energy

Broaden out to not just be Renewable Energy but tackling climate change. It needs to be linked to the 'Just transition' thinking – lower heating bills and transport costs and new economic opportunities. Many businesses and homes have renewable energy systems and Stirling Council are v.active on climate change but we need to link 'broadband' coverage to climate change – it allows people to work from home, businesses to grow locally to save people travelling.

Priority 9 Farm and Estate Diversification

There was clarity sought over what was meant by 'make the most of the tranquil environment and dark skies'.

Response to Comments – National Park Authority

Self-Sufficient/Economic Diversification

It is recognised that this section does not have a clear priority on self-sufficiency and economic diversification which is stated within the Vision. It is noted that broadband is not mentioned in this section and the benefits it will bring to the economy and climate so a new priority would allow this to be picked up .**Minor modification to add another priority** with priority 5 on flooding also being amended. See below.

Proposed wording of new priority three:

Community self-sufficiency, economy and affordable housing

Promote the development of low impact live/work spaces, workshops, affordable and local workers housing, apprenticeship schemes, shared community workspace/hubs, high speed broadband, childcare facilities to diversify the economy away from tourism, retain young and working age people and help the community become more self-sufficient. Details of opportunities are identified in the sub-area section of the Framework.

Climate change

Some respondents felt the climate change should be a priority in its own right. These comments are picked up in response to community resilience and also renewable energy.

Ranking

The priorities are numbered and it is agreed that it could be read as being ranked in order of priority. This clarified on page. 14 where it says “*the priorities are not shown in any particular ranking of importance.*” No modification is proposed.

It is also noted that reference to the priorities being agreed on page. 7 should be modified to delete the text “*that were agreed through engagement and discussion with key stakeholders*”, because although workshop attendees were asked to prioritise, this was later amended based on other evidence.

Tourism Accommodation

It is recognised that there is scope for some limited tourism accommodation development in the area as shown on the sub-area maps but it is not considered a priority that should be highlighted in the area strategy. **No modification** is proposed to the current priorities to add in tourism accommodation.

Agriculture

It is agreed that changes to livestock grazing will have a significant landscape impact and this is referenced in the Framework in the context section and page 13 where it states that although farming has declined, farming still shapes the landscape and several of land managers are engaged in active farming on varying scales, predominately a mixture of extensive hill sheep and cattle grazing. **No modification proposed.**

Priority 1 Visitor Management and Infrastructure and Active/Sustainable Travel

The comments are noted in relation to active travel and links an a **minor modification is proposed** to add an additional priority called

Sustainable and Active Travel

A new shuttle bus serving the Strath with the creation of a network of mini travel hubs across Strathard is needed with the priority being a new mobility hub¹ in Aberfoyle (see further details in the Aberfoyle sub-area strategy) where visitors can find a variety of facilities including but not inclusive of - e-charging, bus shelters, drop off points for e-bikes/e-scooters, storage boxes, toilets, bike maintenance. There is opportunities to develop e-car/bike clubs, increased cycle/walking networks and bus frequencies to allow people to get between key places such as the school and outwith the area such as Stirling and Glasgow.

Loch Katrine shall continue as an active travel route as it is not suitable for being upgraded for public use. The B829 should be improved in terms of new passing places, road surface and could gain pedestrian/cycle friendly status once a shuttle bus is operational. In some sections the single track road may need maintained to protect the character of the area. Details of opportunities are identified in the sub-area section of the Framework.

Priority 1 should also be amended as follows to focus on visitor management only:

*Address ~~immediate~~ visitors pressures **by developing a Visitor Management Strategy for the area and the adjoining areas.** ~~created as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and more people visiting the area due to restricted travel outwith Scotland.~~ **Improve visitor infrastructure and management focusing on signage, seating, traffic management measures, fixed variable messaging signage, toilet and changing provision and also sustainable and active transport (see Priority 2).** ~~Aberfoyle become a mobility hub (3) (see~~*

¹ Mobility hubs are spaces designed specifically to support public transport, alongside, active and shared mobility modes whilst improving the public realm. The redesign and reallocation of space from the private car, is intended to enhance the experience of visitors as well as benefiting local residents and businesses.

~~further details in the Aberfoyle sub-area strategy) and create a network of mini-active travel hubs for visitors at Loch Katrine, Inversnaid, Stronachlachar, Loch Ard/Milton (south-east) and possibly at Comer (for mountain bikers) across Strathard, where visitors can find a variety of facilities including but not inclusive of e-charging, bus shelters, drop off points for e-bikes/e-scooters, storage boxes for drop off and pick up of recreational items (paddle boards, wetsuits), toilets, bike maintenance, launching (more info under each sub-area). There is also the opportunity to grow and develop recreational walking and cycling routes with links to heritage, such as developing a long-distance mountain bike route via Comer to Loch Lomond, **gravelfoyle routes** and **improving develop** the Aqueduct trail, alongside continued maintenance/enhancement of hill paths such as Ben Venue. Opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with the community, and to promote community access and recreational use of woodlands.~~

Priority 2 – flood management

We agree this is an extremely important issue for the area given the severity of flooding that is already impacting on the area. In terms of the comment on wood debris dams, FLS have stated that the trial has just ended and the information from the trial will be available to the public in terms of the success or otherwise of the dams in holding back water. Also note comments on Priority 5 and it is recommended that these are merged. See **modification proposed** below as this becomes **Priority 6 – Community Resilience, Flood Adaptation, Mitigation and Management** and will read:

“Flood adaptation is a priority to ensure community resilience within the Strath and at Aberfoyle where access is blocked during flood events. Investigation is needed over alternative access and egress points via the forest during such events. In terms of flood mitigation, the priority is to develop natural flood management solutions e.g. wood debris dams, timber bunds and tree planting, in the upper Duchray, particularly at Comer as shown on Map 2. Wetland areas could also be created in collaboration with key stakeholders. Around Loch Katrine the priority is to stabilise the land and protect the road from landslips by tree planting. . The priority for Loch Katrine road is for controlled access for residents to continue to be allowed during flood events.”

Priority 3 – Woodland Management and Creation

We welcome the support for the statement within this priority about linking woodland to skills development. We note the suggestions listed but do not consider that this level of detail is required in the Framework. **No modification proposed.**

We note the comments regarding the herbivore grazing issues. We recognise that goats are less of a problem but they still require culling annually. **No modification proposed.**

It currently says” Enhance the quality of productive and native woodlands by reducing the grazing impact of deer and feral goats, and continue work to remove invasive non-native species such as rhododendron. Encourage expansion of native woodland as shown on Map 2. Consider opportunities to promote skills development as well as diversification to develop services that support the local economy, through both tourism and enterprise.”

To align better with TWS and to response comments re water habitat

Modification to read:

“Continue to the diversification and enhancement of the existing productive conifer woodlands by restructuring to form a sustainable woodland habitat network with creation of additional areas of open ground and native woodland to link existing woodland or riparian zones. Enhancing native woodland, particularly the key temperate rainforest, with the focus on invasive non-native species control, herbivore management and controlling diseases. Further details are in the Trees and Woodland Strategy. Encourage expansion of native woodland as shown on Map 2. Ensure the continued economically important

production of sustainable high quality timber and other wood products and consider opportunities to promote skills development as well as diversification to develop services that support the local economy, through both tourism and enterprise.”

Priority 4 – Landscape Tranquility, Recreation and Dark Skies -

We note there was strong concern regarding the wording regarding Loch Ard given the pressures the Kinlochard community have found themselves under due to issues (as listed above) caused by increasing visitors. We also agree with some of the statements that the pressure is only at the village and the loch itself has capacity at the south edge. We therefore do not feel it is necessary to remove Loch Ard completely from this statement but rather clarify where enhancement and consolidation could take place. To clarify enhancement and consolidation does not mean new facilities, it means that existing facilities such as Loch Ard Sailing Club or Go Country, have opportunities to improve their offering – this could mean providing facilities that support the activities listed. **Minor modification proposed** to delete current wording - *“There are opportunities to consolidate and enhance facilities at Loch Chon and Loch Ard to support low impact recreational activities such as camping, kayaking, paddle boarding, open water swimming, fishing and picnicking.*

The comment regarding angling and fishing is already listed, so no modification is proposed.

Priority 5: Community Resilience and Adaptation to Flooding

There were a number of points raised about community resilience section and the title and content.

In order to respond to the various points a **minor modification is proposed** that Priority 2 and 5 are proposed to be merged and amended to read:

“Community Resilience, flood adaptation, mitigation and management

Flood adaptation is a priority to ensure community resilience within the Strath and at Aberfoyle where access is blocked during flood events. Investigation is needed over alternative access and egress points via the forest during such events. In terms of flood mitigation, the priority is to develop natural flood management solutions e.g. wood debris dams, timber bunds and tree planting, in the upper Duchray, particularly at Comer as shown on Map 2. Wetland areas could also be created in collaboration with key stakeholders. Around Loch Katrine the priority is to stabilise the land and protect the road from landslips by tree planting. The priority for Loch Katrine road is for controlled access for residents to continue to be allowed during flood events.”

The points made in relation to the road and active travel are to be captured in the proposed new priority in relation to active travel networks.

See above the new priority on economy and community.

Priority 6 Improve Water Quality

There are similar comments relating to this issue for the pathway diagram and the suggested change to referring to good ecological status. Therefore also at this location in the document we propose a **minor modification**:

Change existing wording: *Improve water quality of Duchray Water, Loch Ard and Loch Chon from ‘moderate’ to ‘good’ ecological status by working with key stakeholders to reduce diffuse pollution.*

To

“Water ecosystems and supporting utility infrastructure”

Improve water quality and ecological value of all water bodies by working with key stakeholders to restore salmon spawning grounds, tackle invasive non-native species, improve riparian edge by creating permanent native woodland habitats along the banks of

burns and rivers, reduce diffuse pollution and improve foul drainage systems including Scottish Water assets and private waste treatment.

Priority 7 Peatland Restoration

To respond to comments, a **minor modification** to expand text as follows:
Restore peatlands via the Peatland ACTION project to help reduce impacts of climate change, as well as for the benefit of people, fishing, farming, biodiversity and flood management. Also the benefits to the local economy should be realised through appointment of local contractors.

Priority 8 – Renewable Energy

We note the comments regarding broadening out this to by a climate change priority but other priorities tackle climate change such as peatland restoration, broadband, active travel and woodland creation and renewable energy is just another mechanism to reduce climate change. Therefore, there is no alteration to be made to this priority but it is noted that broadband has been missed as key priority, which is listed in many sub-areas but not here. Therefore a minor modification is proposed to priority 1 to add in broadband. See above.

We note the comments in relation to a 'just transition' ensuring fuel poverty is eradicated. **No modification is proposed.**

Priority 9 Farm and Estate Diversification

There was a comment regarding what was meant by making the most of the tranquil environment and dark skies in relation to diversification opportunities. This is referring to opportunities to bring the constellations to life by enhancing locations to view the skies but it could also mean businesses creating games and activities around the dark sky. **No modification is proposed.**

7. Landscape qualities and important views (P18)

Questions Landscape Qualities and Important Views

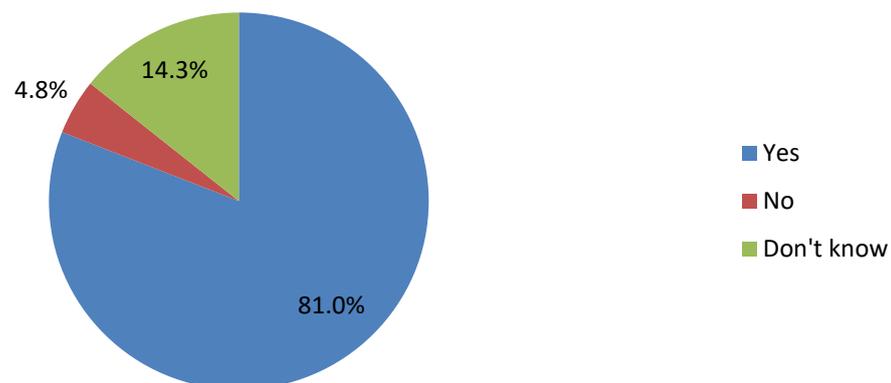
The Framework has set out how views will be considered when a development proposal is being made – i.e. development in the foreground and middle ground of a view should not be overly intrusive, unsightly or prominent to the detriment of the view. Proposals in the background of the view should not harm the composition of the view in the context of landmarks – for example Ben Lomond or Church spire in Aberfoyle. For land use changes such as new woodland, where existing views will be unavoidably lost, other views should be identified and opened up. Do you agree with this approach? Please add any comments to explain your answer.

The views have been collated from OS maps, visitor leaflets, walking guides, local knowledge and social media. Are there key views that need amended or removed or any key views that should be added?

Summary of Responses

The majority of respondents agree with the views management approach, with only one respondent disagreeing.

Do you agree with the approach to views management?



There were 81% of respondents in support of the landscape management policy and general support from the community council and community trust. There were some specific comments from respondents regarding how the viewpoints were identified and evaluated and what status is given to them. There were some who were concerned that that approach omitted some views and included ones of very little value. There was also concern about how this might be used in terms of consulting the community. For instance, what is the approach for adding and removing viewpoints and would the community be consulted and another respondent asking if the community would be consulted on proposals/changes affecting viewpoints.

The response from the community council and a few other individual responses highlighted that the Community Life Plan for Stronachlachar and Inversnaid had identified Loch Arklet view as iconic view that should never be lost and this should be highlighted as such. Also Loch Katrine view was also mentioned as being iconic and should have more weight afforded to them than other views.

Clarity was sought regarding the statement “not all views are managed or require to be managed but all are publically accessible and enjoyed by the public” and another respondent wanting clarity on what views needed management.

Those that disagreed with the approach as if the Victorians used then much of the infrastructure and housing in the area would not have been developed. Also concern that land management change is very transitional and retention of views can place a financial burden on a landowner – maintaining/cutting back regenerating trees and loss of productive ground. Another was concerned about maintaining views and how this could impact on biodiversity.

One responded wanted to ensure the local cultural and historical knowledge will be considered as a significant part of the aesthetic experience and therefore of any evaluation of the view.

Forest and Land Scotland (FLS) noted that all views used in the Forest Plans were agreed with stakeholders but not all have been included.

One respondent said it was worth remembering that many visitor management issues result in the interest/value being discovered and promoted widely through social media and the Park itself and it is no surprise that many do not want to share their special views to ensure there protection.

Specific comments on views to be added

- The view where the forest track crosses the Bruach Caorainn burn is iconic and on a good day you can see right down the Strath, past Stirling Castle and on to the Forth.
- The view from the forest behind Gartenerichnich should be added. It affords views to Ben Lomond in the SW and down Loch Ard. The views and angles they afford are unique and cannot be achieved from any other vantage point.
- Seems light on north road of Loch Katrine.
- A key viewpoint above Trossachs Pier is missing – the historic Roderick Dhu Watchtower view where poets and artists gathered to inspire their work on the appreciation of Trossachs landscapes which led to the birth of Scottish tourism. It is widely chronicled in paintings and postcards. The reinstatement of the path and improved lookout currently subject to a planning application.

Response to Comments – National Park Authority

We are pleased that there was general support for listing viewpoints and providing a criteria for assessment of proposals and land use change that affect views.

The community were generally very keen to get involved in the view management. This process needs to be considered and discussed with the community council. **No modification proposed.**

We have also explained how the views have been selected but recognise that further clarity could be provided. It is therefore proposed that there is a **minor modification** to the map to include further details about each view, why it was selected and what is important about the view. This can also be used to capture the iconic views such as Loch Arklet and Loch Katrine. As this requires further consultation it is proposed that this modification is made following consultation with key stakeholders and the community council. **The list of additional views is included in Appendix X – modification to the maps.**

In terms of additional views these have been included in the **Appendix X list of views** and again they will be consulted upon to ensure they have been captured correctly.

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8. The Forest (P20-23)

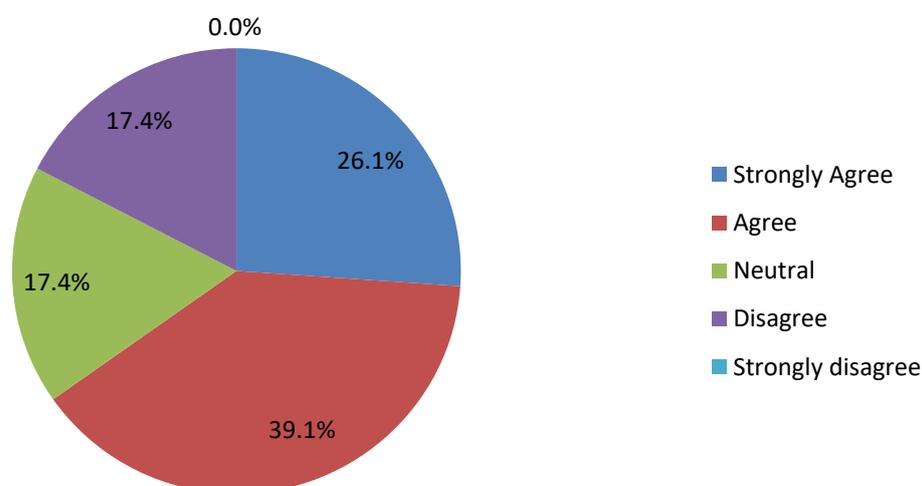
Questions Forest

Do you agree with the top 3 priorities for the Forest? Please add any comments to explain your answer

Please suggest any changes you would make to these priorities

Summary of Responses

Do you agree with these top 3 priorities for the Forest?



The comments show a lot of support for this section of the Framework with respondents feeling it aligned well with the Life Plans and the focus on active travel, nature-based solutions, outdoor recreation and heritage was very welcomed. There was slight disagreement about some of the priorities and comments were given.

Comment re Loch Ard Local History Group being involved and more bins including recycling bins available in the forest.

Error was noted on page 22 that Forest and Land Scotland do not own the forest but are the *Scottish Government agency responsible for managing Scotland's' national forests and land.*

Priority 1 – active travel

There was concern about the promotion of gravel bike routes and new signage promoting specific routes as it was felt this could conflict with other users.

There is a lack of longer routes suitable for equestrian use.

One respondent asked if this could be re-named as seems to cover recreation rather than travel. It is important to consider sustainable travel to and from Aberfoyle. And another respondent said this wasn't a priority.

Priority 2 – Heritage Paths/Aqueduct/Signage

Most respondents welcomed this priority, although one said it wasn't a priority and a minor issue. A respondent highlighted there is an educational opportunity too to engage – encourage map use – combined with cultural and natural heritage interpretation boards/leaflets in appropriate places.

There were three concerns raised about the need for signs although it was understood that the forest is disorientating and a closed environment. The concern was that signs increase dependency, non-engagement and stops people using maps. It was requested that consideration is needed to the purpose and effects of the signs as not all roads and tracks need sign posting and only a few directional posts might be needed

It was noted by the Loch Ard Local History Group that they are not developing a museum. Revised words:

Develop and promote heritage paths in the area with a specific focus on an Aqueduct pathway connecting it to Loch Katrine to Milngavie. Link this into the Strathard Heritage Digital archive managed by Strathard Community Trust and Loch Ard Local History group. Also improve the signage in the forest with focus currently being on gravel bike signage, but further review and signage plan is required.

Priority 3 – Renewable Energy

There was specific concern about run of river hydro schemes in relation to this section but the comments are relevant to all priorities on renewable energy. The concern was in relation to ecological impacts and not enough information available on the impacts of the existing schemes. One respondent said this was not a priority yet others felt it was needed.

There was also one respondent concerned about the impact of biomass.

Land Use Priorities

There was general support for the land use priorities – natural flood management and peatland restoration but most respondents wanted this section expanded. See the following comments:

- Water - It was felt that wetlands as well as rivers should be mentioned and a priority being that buffer zones should be created using broadleaf species to add to biodiversity and slow the flow.
- Woodland/Forestry planting - There was concern that none of the priorities were about forest or woodland management although recognising that the Forest Plans cover the area in more detail. Respondents wanted the new priority to reflect tree species diversity, more native species, and making the forest more resilient to climate change. It should also mention reducing the impact of herbivores and enhancing the existing woodland. This priority could also explain how local communities can get involved in Forest and Land Scotland Forest Plans. One respondent asked if there could be a ban on non-native and whether Forest and Land Scotland could plant more hardwood plantations.
- Wildness - One respondent felt that a top priority should be maintaining or reintroduction of wildness alongside other priorities such as beaver reintroduction to help flood management.

Other opportunities – tourism accommodation

Forest and Land Scotland said that the statement that there is limited opportunity for tourism development given it is a commercial forest is not justified. Example Strathyre cabins.

Another respondent said there is a chronic lack of accommodation. Large chalet/apartment blocks could be built in the forest with minimal impact on the environment. Even for camper vans, which are becoming increasingly popular, there are very limited facilities at camp sites for emptying cassettes, water replenishment, showers, or laundry.

There was two respondents concerned that medium to large scale tourism accommodation will not protect the natural and cultural heritage of the area and put added pressures and demands on the area. And more emphasis is needed on delivering sustainable tourism.

Response to Comments – National Park Authority

In response to error regarding FLS a **minor modification is proposed** as follows:
*“The forest area is dominated by the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park (established in 1953 and under the ~~ownership~~ **management** of Forestry and Land Scotland) and managed for commercial forestry and recreation.”*

Also a **minor modification is proposed** to the Vision to highlight the commercial element of the forest :

Vision – *The forest is a place with important woodland, wetland habitats and recreation opportunities for both the local communities of Strathard and Scotland to benefit from. Continuing a strong heritage of managing resources **such as timber**, the place provides clean air, habitat for wildlife, and livelihoods for people. The area offers watershed protection, prevents soil erosion and mitigates the impacts of climate change both locally and nationally. The area is recognised as a carbon sink, acting as green lungs for Scotland and climate adaptation assets.*

In response to FLS comment regarding there be scope for tourism development then a **minor amendment** is proposed to the Key Characteristics regarding the Forest to read:
*There is limited scope for ~~further~~ **tourism** development ~~mainly due to~~ **and the main considerations would be** vehicle access, conflicts with forestry operations, topography, protected **and ancient** woodland, and ~~lack of~~ servicing (water, drainage).*

Sustainable and active travel

The comments are noted and it is considered that way marking has the potential to reduce conflict between mountain bikers and walkers.

It is not considered this covers recreation as it is referring to the proposed active travel routes between the communities – namely Kinlochard and Aberfoyle. However, it is noted that this could be strengthened and a **minor modification** is proposed to amend text to mention the active travel routes to The Lodge and also out to the school. Additional text will also be added to refer to sustainable travel and the title change to Sustainable/Active Travel. Also the text regarding way marking shall be moved into priority 2.

Existing wording:

Improve off-road waymarked active travel link from Aberfoyle to Kinlochard. This link will not be tarmacked but be a good surface and follow existing forest roads. Use way marking and signage to resolve any potential conflict between recreational users, e.g. mountain biking and walking. Link this into the development of wider heritage path network to provide walks of interest within the area, and connect to longer routes

Proposed text:

Sustainable and active travel

Improve active travel links through the forest to connect communities and key visitor destinations including, but not inclusive of, Aberfoyle to Kinlochard via the school, Aberfoyle to the Lodge and Kinlochard to Stronachlachar/Inversnaid. These routes shall preferably be either tarmacked sealed surface or a gravel sealed surface and follow existing forest roads where possible. The Aberfoyle to Kinlochard route is indicated on the map. These routes shall be connected to sustainable travel hubs at Milton and Kinlochard where users are able to rent bikes or interchange from bike/foot to a shuttle bus or taxi. See overall priorities for area.

Visitor management and infrastructure

As highlighted above, this section covers recreation in the forest and both the heritage routes and the mountain biking routes need mentioned here as the priority, alongside the aqueduct path. A **minor modification is proposed** to the title - Heritage paths/aqueduct path/signage - to align with key priorities to read "Visitor management and infrastructure".

It is recommended that this priority is edited to provide clarity and respond to the comments. The edit will also respond to the point made by the Loch Ard Local History Group and the reference to signage removing conflict shall be removed with the addition of interpretation boards.

Existing wording

Develop and promote heritage paths in the area, with a specific focus on an Aqueduct pathway connecting Loch Katrine to Milngavie. Link this into the Strathard Museum initiative being led by the Kinlochard Local History Group. Also improve signage in the forest with focus currently being on gravel bike signage, but further review and signage plan is required.

Visitor management and infrastructure

Develop and promote heritage paths in the area with a specific focus on an Aqueduct pathway connecting it to Loch Katrine to Milngavie. Link this into the Strathard Heritage Digital archive managed by Strathard Community Trust and Loch Ard Local History group. Also improve the signage in the forest with focus currently being on gravel bike signage, but further review is required to identify if interpretation boards or finger posts are required at key locations to interpret cultural and natural heritage and provide direction.

Woodland management and creation

We note the comments regarding forest management and woodland creation. As explained on page 21 this is covered by the Forest Plans prepared by FLS. However it is important that the conservation issues, as highlighted in the overall priorities are highlighted and also the need to ensure collaboration of key partners and working with the community. **Minor modification is** therefore proposed to add a new priority under on woodland management.

Woodland management and creation

Enhance the quality of productive and native woodland by encouraging land managers to work collaboratively to develop plans on invasive species control and peatland restoration and ensuring forest plans deliver on restructuring of the productive conifer woodland, continuing to manage deer numbers and enhance of riparian edge in line with the Trees and Woodland Strategy. These should be developed in collaboration with the community to identify opportunities for diversification to develop the local economy.

Alignment with Key Priorities

Also in this section the titles Natural Flood Management has been amended to match the key priority on flooding and a new priority on Water ecosystem has been added as looking after the water vole population is project relevant to this sub-area.

Tourism accommodation

In line with the amendment to the Key Characteristics and to respond to FLS comment regarding there being scope for tourism development this opportunity it a **minor modification is proposed** to read:

Tourism accommodation ~~—There are limited opportunities for tourism development given it is a commercial forestry, with extensive recreational activity (i.e. potential conflict of development with cyclists/walkers) and sensitive ancient woodland. However, There may be opportunities for low impact and off-grid development that supports recreational activities within the forest, such as south Loch Ard, subject to a suitable access point and biodiversity benefits. The Visitor Experience Policy 1 of the Local Development Plan also supports a strategic tourism opportunity in the Aberfoyle area and the land around Duchray Castle may offer an opportunity for this type of medium to larger scale tourism accommodation subject to having no adverse impacts.~~

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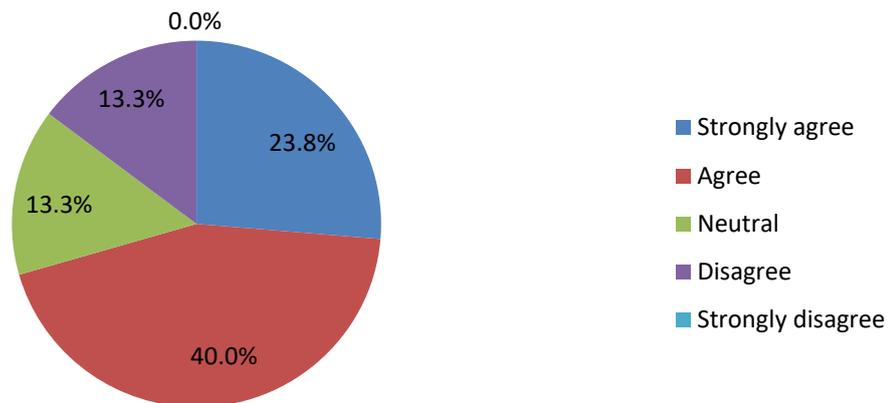
9. Aberfoyle (P24-27)

Questions Aberfoyle

Do you agree with the top 3 priorities for Aberfoyle? Please add any comments to explain your answer.
Please suggest any changes you would make to these priorities

Summary of Responses

Do you agree with these top 3 priorities for Aberfoyle?



There is general support for the priorities in the Aberfoyle section 64% with only 13% disagreeing. Comments in support said they were pleased with the proposal about the hub and recognising the architectural vernacular. The main areas of disagreement relate back to the key points made about the strategy in terms of the lack of priority regarding the local economy and the community and that Aberfoyle was not just a tourist hub, although it was recognised this did play a key part in Aberfoyle's economy.

Therefore, quite a number of respondents were looking for a new priority and suggests that it was called a 'Thriving village' and cover things like community growing spaces, allotments, workshop space, diversifying the facilities and one person highlighted that the need to upgrade the playpark and consider views and aspirations of younger people should be added.

One respondent wanted a priority around the promotion of Aberfoyle's rich history and heritage and its tranquil character and nature. Another mentioned a priority should be a sculpture park which was identified in the Aberfoyle Life Plan and it could be an attraction and should be added to the map.

Other points raised were to highlight that the river offers excellent angling opportunities and a concern that improving public transport to Stirling and Glasgow is very ambitious but welcomed.

Priority 1 – Mobility/Visitor Hub

This priority was welcomed by most of the respondents (around 9 comments specifically welcoming this priority) and some wishing it would happen really quickly and funding prioritised, particularly for a shuttle bus and the car park surfacing/maintenance. A suggestion that developer contributions may help fund this. There were some minor points

such as artwork/mini play park was not raised by residents in the Life Plan. A request to make it clear that the hub would provide for both a shuttle bus for the local area and services to the Stirling and Glasgow. A plea for long term investment in public transport. One respondent said that additional car parking capacity is needed and it should be identified, possibly not at the hub but an overflow car park. And another said that campervan provision needs to be highlighted as vans currently using overspill/woolen mill car park.

Priority 2 - Flood Management

Very few comments apart from clarity needed over the blue hatched area on the map and that there are nature-based solutions to consider downstream of Cobeland. One respondent welcomed ambition to create a new wetland to accommodate flood waters, providing multiple benefits.

Priority 3 – Affordable Housing

There was a number of comments mainly about concerns relating to affordable housing but those in support said housing was vital to ensure young and working age people can live and work in the area and a number of respondents highlighted their support for a further needs analysis.

A couple of respondents mentioned the quality being important and the need for eco-friendly homes and a plea from one respondent that they should not be off-grid, that they need to be connected to the relevant infrastructure inc broadband.

There were a couple of respondents concerned that new build needs justified and the priority should be re-purposing existing buildings, building on brownfield land and controlling short-term letting rather building on easier sites.

One respondent highlighted that there is not just a shortage of affordable homes but larger, more valuable open market homes and the village should welcome incomers to bring wealth to the area.

Stirling Council advises that a new bridge will be needed on Manse Road or next to it to enable active travel, new wetland and cope with increased traffic to housing developments. Some funding could come from developer contributions but other funding will be needed. If Braeval is developed for housing it needs a good crossing and connection to the NCN route with some funding possible via developer contributions. Possibly also raise contributions from tourism development for infrastructure and environment.

NatureScot noted that the 3 sites identified for housing will need to go through the SEA process.

Land Use Priorities - Ecological enhancement

Respondents were in strong support of this priority with one respondent saying that the woodland needs to be emphasised more and the links into it.

Other opportunities

There were no comments regarding renewable energy. And comments on economic development only related to the need to mention small workshop space similar to the Stronachlachar priorities.

Response to Comments – National Park Authority

Priority 1 – Mobility/Visitor Hub

We are pleased to see such support for a mobility hub and also detailed comments regarding sustainable transport.

It is proposed there is a **minor modification** to amend title to match the Key Priorities and to address these minor points:

*Building on Aberfoyle's assets (bike hire, village wi-fi, bike racks, toilets, riverside picnic area, co-working space) there is an opportunity to redevelop the main street and riverside car park to address the quality of the pavements/surfacing/benches, safer crossing points, step free access, provide changing place for cyclists/bike cleaning, e-bike/car charging, one-way bike hire service, hub for bus with covered waiting space, improved planting, artwork, lockers, ~~mini play area~~, and improve the active travel links to Milton/Kinlochard along B829 and to The Lodge. **Introduce a shuttle bus to access the wider area and Strath and improve services to Stirling and Glasgow.** The location of this project is shown on the map as the Hub and Placemaking Priority and the interactive map has further details on opportunities.*

Priority 2 – Flood Management

In response to the points above, the blue hatched area on the map is clearly indicated as a wetland area and no modification is proposed. However a **minor modification** is proposed to amend the title to match the Key Priorities and reference the priority being natural flood management and adaptation rather than the engineered flood scheme. See tracked changes in Appendix 3.

Priority 3 – Affordable Housing

The comments are all noted and there is more details in the other supplementary guidance that covers all these issues in details in terms of developer contributions, design quality and climate friendly design. The Framework does not need to go into this detail however it is proposed that this priority requires amending to align with the key priorities and to bring up the importance of community self-sufficiency and economy.

Minor modification to amalgamate economy and housing to read:

Community self-sufficiency, economy and affordable housing - *Potential opportunities for three sites for affordable housing have been identified on the interactive map (see map and click on each site further details). These should provide a mix of housing types, particularly addressing the needs of young people and local residents seeking smaller sized homes. Should these sites not prove feasible other options to redevelop sites or investigate land opportunities in the neighbouring areas and within the wider Strathard area will be required. This should be informed by an audit of existing buildings/sites, local housing needs analysis, market research and discussion with stakeholders. Potential economic redevelopment sites are shown on the map – click on each site for further info. Opportunities include office space, small workshops/units for locally produced goods with opportunities to use locally sourced timber, and produce from foraging (such as gin distilling), honey etc, retail (to provide services for visitors but also the community such as a hardware store), café or restaurants. The community should also be supported in community land ownership and asset transfer, childcare facilities, improving broadband, enhancing play facilities, community growing space and allotments.*

Ecological Enhancement

The comments are noted, the priority does mention the protection of existing woodlands. And a **minor modification is proposed** to the title to align with the key priorities and to provide clarity that this refers to woodland management and creation.

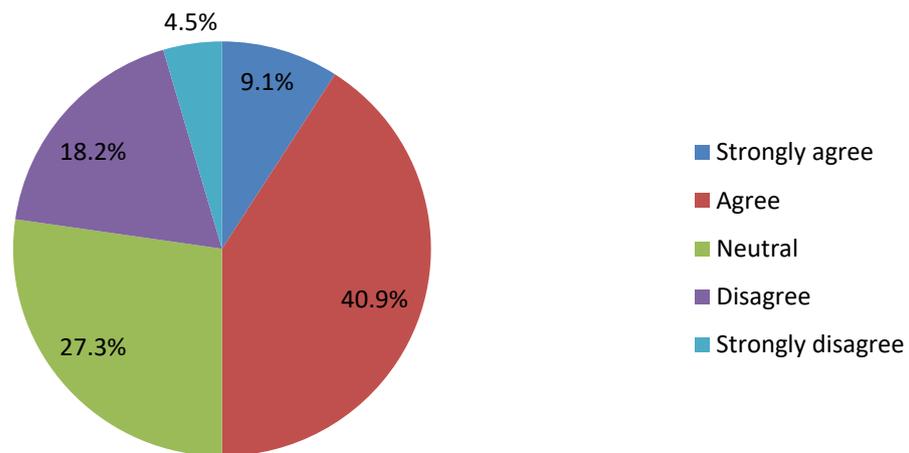
10. Kinlochard (P28-31)

Questions Kinlochard

Do you agree with the top 3 priorities for Kinlochard? Please add any comments to explain your answer.
Please suggest any changes you would make to these priorities.

Summary of Responses

Do you agree with the top 3 priorities for Kinlochard?



This graph demonstrates that there was a high level of support for the priorities – 70% with 18% disagreeing.

Those that provided comments in support welcome the vision for Kinlochard particularly focus on climate resilience, active travel and community led development.

But one respondent wished the vision to be edited to include an aspiration to improve visitor facilities and accommodation offering to create a balanced approach to managing visitors.

Key characteristics and Map

There was a number of respondents that strongly welcomed the text that stated that “new development opportunities are very limited....” And one respondent in objection to this text and sought its removal.

The council noted that an upgrade of the B829 will be required to accommodate development of any significant scale at Kinlochard.

However the community council highlighted that Exclusion Zone 2 identified in the Life Plan is not included in the map. They felt that the addition of the exclusion zone would demonstrate support for this community priority – its omission weakens the credibility of the Framework.

One respondent requested additional priority on conservation of lochside views and beauty of the place to fit with the vision for the area.

The counter argument to this was that one respondent sought the land at adjacent to Mill of Chon to be identified as a tourism opportunity with recognition of its suitability for development (As shown on indicative plans submitted). And the same respondent wished the reference to development not attracting greater visitors numbers removed and recognition given to opportunities for glamping and other forms of tourism accommodation as well as camping.

Another respondent did not agree there was a campsite opportunity to the south of the loch, where the permit area is currently located. The reason is there is enough mess and damage at this location without adding to it but they were not against all small scale tourism outwith village envelope.

General comments on priorities

One respondent said they did not understand emphasis on housing and visitor management as visitors should be redirected to Loch Chon and housing should be directed to Aberfoyle. This was also backed by a similar comment from the community council stating focus should be at Loch Chon (see Priority 1 below). A suggested priority was in relation to active travel and linking Kinlochard and Aberfoyle via the new forest road shown on the map. Also, two respondents said flooding on the B829 and community resilience should be a priority.

Priority 1 – Visitor Management

There were a number of comments regarding this priority and questions as to why this was a priority when the issue is private cars and this should be tackled in Aberfoyle, so not a priority for Kinlochard.

Another respondent states that it there is no strategy or action to how the increasing visitor numbers might be mitigated or redirected elsewhere. The community council said this priority could promote Loch Chon as a means of relieving pressure on Kinlochard to conserve the sensitive shores and maintain the tranquil nature of the village, this would make the problems resident face official which in turn may trigger mindful and corrective action within a wider visitor management strategy. There is concern it will be promoted as a tourist village when, when the community life plan states it is a thriving cohesive community independent from the tourist industry. The first principle of the Life Plan is to strengthen the community. Also another respondent saying the careful planning and management is needed to ensure Loch Ard does not lose its tranquility and natural habitats under the pressure of visitors.

One respondent strongly disagreed to the wording “opportunity to enhance and consolidate provision” as there was no opportunity to the west of the loch where Kinlochard Village Hall and community field exist.

One respondent is support but suggests the title is changed to ‘sustainable visitor management’.

Priority 2 – Affordable Housing

A few respondents felt it should come across strongly that there is limited capacity for housing development, with only the area near Forest Hills having some limited capacity. One respondent did not support housing as a priority while others welcomed this included as a priority as even though most residents oppose housing there is a need for more families.

Others had similar comments in terms of not understanding why this was a priority given there was little support in the community for housing, there are lots of constraints in Kinlochard (a congested, dangerous road that floods and lack of infrastructure) and the

focus being for housing to be in Aberfoyle. There were a couple of comments that the statement 'ruled out for consideration due to constraints' was a get out clause to support development. One respondent wished to see proper evidence for the lack of affordable housing.

One respondent was only in support of affordable housing if it was creative and sensitive to the local environment and not densely arranged min-schemes.

Priority 3 – Infrastructure

There was general support for this priority and some respondents saying it is more of a priority than visitor management and housing. There were two comments, one suggesting blue-green infrastructure should be considered and concern about mentioning the 10 house capacity at the waste water treatment works and danger this is used for open market housing.

Native Woodlands

There was general support for this priority with no specific comments.

Small-Scale Tourism

There was one response in relation to this priority stating that the camping opportunity on the map is outside the camping management zone (CMZ) and not keen on further official camping – enough mess and damage with current permit sites and policing to enforce Island as part of the CMZ. But the respondent was not against all small-scale tourism out with village envelope.

Economic Development

No comments

Renewable Energy

General support but one comment that biomass and run of river hydro are not always good.

Minor editorial points raised:

- website on page 29 is the Kinlochard Village Hall website, removal of a photo with large electric gates, need to mention recreational anglers, visitor pressure area hatching needs expanded on the map, removal of housing icon showing expired permissions, sewage works needs moved as in wrong location, minor point regarding finishing on houses does not just need to be timber but could be metal as long as imaginative and respecting Scottish style, Alskeith is no longer a hotel.

Another minor point requesting that the loch could be regulated under Bathing Water Standards to ensure they meet the best requirements for health and safety of swimmers.

Response to Comments – National Park Authority

Kinlochard - Vision

The comments are noted in relation to the vision. The strategy is clear that Kinlochard has limited capacity for development and any new development or infrastructure needs to be small-scale therefore the vision does not state that there is a need to increase the visitor facilities and accommodation offering given there is no capacity to do so.

A **minor modification** is proposed to provide clarity in the vision:

*Vision - Kinlochard is a tranquil place with the community at its heart. Community-led development, improvements to the digital connectivity and a low carbon transport and active travel network, have reinforced social cohesion. The surrounding landscape is climate resilient and has been respected and enhanced to support a ~~to support a~~ **and a** balanced*

approach to ~~managing~~ **the management of** visitors ~~se~~ **will ensure** that **both** local people and visitors are able to enjoy the tranquil recreational and scenic qualities of the area. Kinlochard has been recognised for its strong sense of community, guardianship of the environment and continued support of access to the surrounding landscape.

Kinlochard - Key Characteristics and Map

In response to the general points on the key characteristics and map, the comments of support are noted and the concerns from Stirling Council regarding the road.

Kinlochard has limited development capacity for a variety of reasons, namely infrastructure –

- Road - as highlighted by Stirling Council cannot accommodate development of any significant scale. This is likely due to the fact the two-way road is narrow along certain section, it often floods along the side of Loch Ard and in Aberfoyle near the river and there can be congestion along it and parking issues on busy visitor days. The narrow road that goes into the village also has issues of a narrow bridge and tight bend which causes concerns locally in terms of safety.
- Foul drainage – there is very limited capacity at the foul drainage treatment facility and many properties not connected to the existing facility and even though a development could provide on-site private treatment works, Natural Environment Policy 12 (of the Local Development Plan) strongly seeks development to be connected to a public sewer.

Exclusion Zone 2 was not included in the Framework, because unlike the sensitive zones, where the National Park Authority could agree there was limited capacity for development and development should generally be resisted in these zones, Exclusion Zone 2, by the communities own admission, has capacity for some limited development. The Community Life Plan states “*new builds and economic developments within and around Kinlochard village, (...not supported...) unless:*

- *It is agreed by consensus to be by the community, for the community.*
- *Increases economic value of the Village Hall and/or other community assets.”*

Text was added to the key characteristics to recognise that this area was ecologically sensitive and important to the community. The Frameworks says “*New development opportunities are very limited in the immediate village environs and the Kinlochard Community Life Plan notes the priority to conserve areas of open land, rich in semi-wild and woodland habitats*” **Proposed modification to add the zoning to the map** and also add the text after this that states “*This area has been highlighted on the map as a locally important area.*”

So in response to adding the Mill of Chon site as a ‘tourism opportunity’ we do not consider this is appropriate given the site’s sensitivities. So **no modification to add this as a tourism opportunity**. The area instead will be zoned as described above but it should be noted that the zoning does not exclude development and is not a ‘sensitive zone’ like the lochshore. The zoning will serve to highlight to any developer the importance of this area locally. Officers have undertaken a site visit to confirm that the site has ecological constraints including wet woodland and notable protected species are likely to be present. It is noted that there is an existing building on the site and the Framework highlights that the reuse of existing buildings is favoured approach.

In addition it lists what new development must contribute to – *infrastructure etc*. However it is noted that the importance of upgrading the infrastructure is a must and therefore it is recommended the wording is amended to read to remove reference to tourism

accommodation as this is not considered to address the infrastructure issues and is a form of development itself:

“Any new development should be small-scale and demonstrate how it can contribute towards improving facilities and infrastructure, in particular community facilities (for example childcare and essential shop), active travel, road condition, bus service, waste water and broadband, as well as small-scale recreational infrastructure, tourism accommodation and facilities.”

Visitor Management

It is agreed that the focus will be on Aberfoyle becoming a hub but there is a need to ensure visitor management is addressed at Loch Ard itself. It is envisaged that a separate Visitor Management Strategy will be prepared jointly with relevant stakeholders including the community council here and the adjacent community councils.

In terms of the wording “enhance and consolidate” it is agreed that this is not clear and also the intention to displace pressure away from this area which is impacting on the community is also not clear.

This could possibly be made clearer so it a **minor modification** is proposed:

Visitor management and infrastructure

There is a need to tackle the visitor pressures and promote responsible recreational enjoyment in keeping with the tranquil special qualities of the Kinlochard. Explore solutions with the community and landowners to address the pressures from visitors (area shown on the map) through a variety of mitigation methods – information and engagement, new infrastructure and services to reduce pressures on west Loch Ard within the village and regulation and enforcement where necessary. New infrastructure must be small scale and appropriate to the area, addressing the issues and focused on low carbon and active travel initiatives.

Priority 2 – Affordable Housing + Community Resilience

We welcome the comments on the priorities. It is agreed that community resilience and self-sufficiency is a key priority that is not clearly highlighted and as indicated, affordable housing is directed to Aberfoyle in the first instance so therefore it is understandable that many do not view this as a priority for Kinlochard, although one respondent was pleased to see it included as they felt the place needed more families and young people.

Therefore, in response to the points raised, a **minor amendment is proposed** to amend this priority to align with the key priorities. It is also clear that from the points above about the limited capacity for development that this should be made clear.

Affordable housing priority to be deleted:

~~*Affordable housing shall be directed to Aberfoyle as mentioned above and its surrounds in the first instance, but where sites cannot be found and are ruled out for consideration due to constraints, then consideration will be given to Kinlochard to help meet the housing needs for people living and working within Kinlochard and the wider Strathard area. This will be informed by a housing needs survey and community engagement would be undertaken to establish potential sites.*~~

Replaced with the following:

Community self-sufficiency, economy and affordable housing

New community facilities should help support more localised living and working. Affordable housing shall be directed to Aberfoyle, in the first instance, but where sites cannot be found and are ruled out for consideration due to constraints, then consideration will be given to Kinlochard to help meet the housing needs for people living and working

within Kinlochard and the wider Strathard area. This will be informed by a housing needs survey and community engagement would be undertaken to establish potential sites. Potential opportunities for small scale economic development could include small workshops/units for locally produced goods, retail, café or restaurant. Priority will be given to re-purposing existing buildings and at the Village Hall. Investment in digital connectivity (broadband), upgrading the play park and improvements to the B829 from Aberfoyle to Kinlochard There needs to be identification of and support of opportunities for community ownership to increase economic diversification and self-sufficiency.

Infrastructure

The comments are noted and the reference to the capacity of the waste water treatment works was meant to provide clarity rather than just saying limited capacity. We have no controls to ensure who would be able to access this capacity as it is on a first come first serve basis controlled by Scottish Water. It is noted that any upgrade to infrastructure should consider blue/green solutions and this is covered separately in the design and placemaking guidance.

A minor modification is proposed to this priority to pick up on issues raised by comments and building on key priority on water ecosystems to read:

Water ecosystems and supporting utility infrastructure -There are various infrastructure improvements required in relation to any new build development in Kinlochard. A review of existing septic tanks is required including an investigation of connection to and upgrade of the existing Waste Water Treatment Works (capacity currently for around 10 more houses/tourism units) or providing new private systems.

Small-Scale Tourism

It should be noted that the small-scale camping proposal was mapped at this location as it is not adjacent to the village (in terms of noise and disturbance) and is a current permit zone and a formal campsite could address the issues raised in engagement. However, it is recognised that this location may not be ideal in terms of access via the village. Therefore it is proposed this location is removed from the map and the wording is amended to be more generic.

A minor modification is proposed to read

Small scale tourism - “A potential site is identified at south of Local Ard but other locations may be suitable” to read ***“These opportunities are for light touch camping pitches to be provided, with off-grid toilet facilities to the south and east of Loch Ard within the forest.”***

Renewable Energy

The points are noted about concerns about the impacts of renewable energy and there are detailed policies in place already within the Local Development Plan and separate renewable energy guidance that ensures that these schemes do not have any adverse impacts. No modification proposed.

Minor editorial points raised:

- Priority titles have been amended to align with the key priorities.
- Page 29 – Key Characteristics - Update website to state this is the Kinlochard Village Hall website instead of ‘community website’.

- Page 30 – Map – Remove Forest Hills expired application and realign Waste Water Treatment Works to the correct location.
- Page 30 – Map – Extend Visitor Pressure blue hatched area.

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11. Stronachlachar and Inversnaid (P32-35)

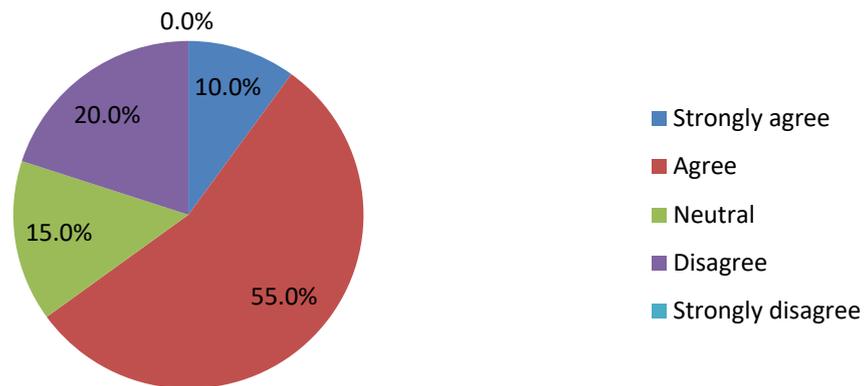
Questions Stronachachar and Inversnaid

Do you agree with the top 3 priorities for Stronachlachar and Inversnaid? Please add any comments to explain your answer.

Please suggest any changes you would make to these priorities

Summary of Responses

Do you agree with the top 3 priorities for Stronachlachar and Inversnaid?



The level of support is similar to other sub-areas, around 65% but there was slightly higher level of disagreement, 20% compared to other areas that only had 16-17% disagreement.

The Steamship company made specific comments regarding Loch Katrine. They said the vision saying would benefit from reference to sustainable and eco friendly water transport services providing connectivity with the area via Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine. Also there was an inaccurate reference to the steamship on page 33 which gives the impression that the area is dominated by tourism inc the steamship. The steamship is sadly out of action and its future is under threat. If this iconic 121 vessel did not sail again the consequences for Stronachlachar are quite significant. Securing the future of the steamship should be a priority and could be woven into the second sentence in priority 3.

The council raised the same point as with Kinlochard, that an upgrade to the B829 will be required to accommodate development of any significant scale in these communities.

NatureScot requested an amendment to the key characteristics to mention the natural environment – the native woodland of international importance, the Great Trossachs Forest National Nature Reserve and RSPB at Inversnaid.

Map

In relation to the RSPB Inversnaid Visitor Centre being highlighted as a redevelopment opportunity, RSPB said they welcomed its inclusion of RSPB as potential site for exploring further development. But the community council asked why it was identified as a development opportunity. Garrison is identified as an important thing by the community and new development should not be carried out. The opportunity only relates to the visitor centre – refitting, providing a small museum and reusing what is there. The icon on the map is not clear and should be removed.

Priority 1 – Signage Plan

A couple of respondents did not consider this to be a priority. But others in support said this was important to facilitate positive use of access rights where it may currently be misunderstood by visitors, land owners and residents and this goal should be made clear.

Priority 2 – Infrastructure

No comments. Respondents in support.

Priority 3 – Renewable Energy/ Carbon Neutral Transport

One respondent did not consider this a key priority. But there was support of the concept of the mobility hub welcoming proposals that would encourage people to access nature using sustainable travel.

Another suggested modification to the second sentence to read “*Support safeguarding the future of the historic Steamship Sir Walter Scott and promote the greater use*” instead of: *Promote greater use of Loch Katrine waterbus connecting Stronachlachar and Trossachs Pier and wider transport modes.*

Land Use Priority – Ecological Improvements

There was general support for this priority as it was seen as very important. There was some minor points made about the need for herbivore management and pressures from non-natives to be more explicit in relation to preserving existing woodland. There was also a point made about explicitly mentioning the links biodiversity has to cultural heritage (possibly this is reference to the wild goats and the links to Rob Roy) and how making these links can provide multiple benefits.

Housing/Economy

Respondents wanted more focus on the community – making housing/economy section more explicit and expanding it. This was because the respondents didn’t want to lose sight of the desire to increase the population living in these communities.

The community council cited the Life Plan stating the community is in decline with only one young family. Self-sufficient and economic diversification are critical. The stores was allowed to be housing without affordable housing despite the Life Plan expressing the building being fundamental to local social and economic rejuvenation. Any proposed development should demonstrate how it contributes towards improving community facilities, active travel, bus service, waste water and broadband if decline in this area is to be reversed. Proactive intervention is required to facilitate opportunities to live and work year round. This is articulated in the Life Plan and needs more emphasis.

Visitor Management

No comments

Stronachlachar/Loch Katrine

Viability of Stronachlachar rests on the development of small-scale glamping facility and this would make camping and motorhome provision viable. Change text to read “small-scale motorhome, camping and glamping” instead of “small-scale motorhome and camping”

Response to Comments – National Park Authority

Vision

The comments are noted regarding the vision not mentioning water transport. Also it is made clearer that there is scope for some new build in the building groupings.

A minor modification is proposed as follows:

Inversnaid and Stronachlachar are places rich in history, tranquil wilderness and community spirit. They provide year-round local economic activity through balancing

facilities for everyday use and visitors. The repurposing of disused and underused buildings *alongside some new build* has helped to provide small scale development and affordable accommodation that provides places to live and work locally?. The surrounding landscape is holistically managed, less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and provides opportunities for local self-sufficiency. Inversnaid and Stronachlachar have been recognised for their celebrated cultural and natural heritage, self-sufficiency, *sustainable and active travel via water bus and bicycle* and dark skies.

Road Capacity

The point regarding the road capacity is noted and any development would be small-scale however it is recognised that cumulatively development at this remote location could cause issues for the road network, and therefore the Framework supports alternative modes of transport, in particular access to this area for the Inversnaid ferry and also from Loch Katrine via ferry.

Key Characteristics (page 33)

The comments regarding the Key Characteristics are noted and a **minor modification is proposed** to add reference to the natural environment at the end of the first paragraph.

The natural environment including the Great Trossachs Forest National Nature Reserve and the RSPB reserve, the lochs and iconic views are the area's strength and where economic opportunities exist.

Map

The map is to be modified to include pop up descriptions for each highlighted redevelopment opportunity so this will clarify what opportunity there is for development at the Garrison in order to respond to the points made.

Minor modification to map to include further information on development opportunities:

Proposed wording for pop up at Garrison:

“Visitor centre identified in Community Life Plan as having potential to be enhanced and new uses/building re-purposed for a new use, possibly a museum about Rob Roy/Glasgow Water Scheme and car park improved.

Also, proposed wording for pop at Stronachlachar:

This disused building has permission to be demolished and new build housing to be constructed. Should this not go ahead then the building could be re-purposed for community uses. There is also potential for new build workshops in this building grouping and small-scale glamping/camping.

Signage Plan

This is a priority highlighted in the Community Life Plan, even though some respondents did not feel it was a priority, it is considered to be of importance to local residents. A number of locations are identified on the map where signs could be improved. The community life plan also highlighted that the information point for Glengyle House is overgrown with vegetation and maintenance of signs is important.

Modification proposed to align with the key priorities and to remove the emphasis on signage plan:

Visitor Management and Infrastructure

Explore opportunities to enhance visitor offering connecting to the wildlife and ecology of the area as well as its rich history (Rob Roy, Sir Walter Scott). The RSPB visitor centre and the National Park owned Rob Roy car park could be explored for further development opportunities once the new viewpoint at Loch Katrine is completed. If the aqueduct trail is

developed then there could be opportunities to promote a shorter loop via Royal Cottage and promote this area as a starting point for this longer trail. Ensure that there is adequate visitor infrastructure – in particular bins and signage. There is an opportunity to improve signage to facilitate positive use of access rights where it may currently be misunderstood by visitors to the area.

Renewable Energy/ Carbon Neutral Transport

It is noted that there was one respondent who did not support this priority but there was majority support and a comment regarding the steamship, so a **proposed modification** “Support safeguarding the future of the historic Steamship Sir Walter Scott and promote greater use” instead of: “Promote greater use of Loch Katrine waterbus connecting Stronachlachar and Trossachs Pier and wider transport modes.” Also amend title to align with key priorities.

To read:

Sustainable and Active Travel - Enhance Inversnaid and Stronachlachar as sub-mobility hubs linking to Aberfoyle, with opportunities for a one-way e-bike scheme/shuttle bus connecting to the ferry, waiting areas, storage. Develop an electric bike scheme for the area, with charging points linking to electric car charging points at key locations. Support safeguarding the future of the historic Steamship Sir Walter Scott and once saved promote greater use of ferries as a sustainable mode of transport.

Land Use Priority – Ecological Improvements

The comments are noted in relation to herbivore management and a **minor modification is proposed** to include this in reference to the woodland, align the title with the key priorities and also to reference the cultural heritage links and how this can provide multiple benefits.

Woodland management and creation

*Focus on rhododendron removal at remaining colonies, including those at Inversnaid and Stronachlachar, preserve the existing woodland in the area **by carrying out sustainable herbivore management** and plant new native woodland/allow natural regeneration to connect woodland in Great Trossachs Woodland National Nature Reserve. **Bring to life the rich local history and heritage throughout the woodland.***

Housing/Economy and Stronachlachar/Loch Katrine

We agree that housing/economy is an important priority for this sub-area and we have addressed the issue of ranking by aligning all the sub-area priorities with the key priorities so they have equal place and are not numbered.

The comments about glamping opportunities is noted and it is proposed to modify the text under Stronachlachar/Loch Katrine to read “**small-scale motorhome, camping and glamping to provide alternative to**”

So the final priority will include the Infrastructure, Stronachlachar/Loch Katrine and Housing/Economy to read:

Community self-sufficiency, economy and affordable housing: *Promote the development of small number of low impact live/work spaces and affordable homes in and around the building groupings of Stronachlachar and Inversnaid, with a focus on re-using existing buildings and brownfield sites. There may be an opportunity to develop a shared community workspace/hub with high speed broadband to tie into the existing business hub in Aberfoyle. Sites to be confirmed through further discussion with stakeholders. Promote loch and pier and collaborate with Scottish Water and Steamship Company to enable more opportunities for active travel opportunities and small-scale expansion of local*

businesses. For example; small-scale motorhome, camping and glamping to provide an alternative to the self-catering provision already catered for in the area. The area around the existing parking area at Stronachlachar pier and the existing car parks at Inversnaid that could present opportunities. Improve connectivity including condition and reliability of road network in the area and ensure there is broadband connectivity to support local based living and working.

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12. Delivery plan

Questions Delivery Plan

Do you agree we have the correct timescales and proposed lead organisations?
Please let us know which projects (maximum 2) you think should definitely happen in the next two years.

Summary of Responses

There was general support for the delivery plan and a number of respondents in agreement with the timescales and lead organisations. Some saying they felt it brought the plan to life. Others who felt it needed to be more ambitious and timescales brought forward, as the pace of change was too slow.

There were a couple of general points, one respondent asking for the delivery plan to sit within the Framework and not as an appendix and another said that there needs to be acknowledgement of the investment of over £500,000 in the next year via the Trossachs RTIF plans. Another general comment was that if the document is to interlink land use management and development planning it will be important to ensure that the delivery plan reflects this.

In terms of funding, Stirling council asked if developer contributions going to be sought for transport or carbon offsetting (from all developments excluding affordable housing) to support the projects identified.

RSPB do not consider the Framework and delivery plan to align well. All conservation projects come under a title 'Natural Capital and Flood Management' and this title does not match the priorities in the Framework. The links needs to be clear and consistent. It is recognised that it is indicative but projects should have more detailed information as they progress and include milestones and measurable objectives. Strathard is referenced in the recent National Park Future Nature Route Map, in trialing natural capital valuation and we look forward to working with the Park to explore opportunities.

Potential leads/lists of organisations comments:

There were a number of comments regarding the list with suggestions that Steamship Trust, Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs First Bus and Strathclyde Passenger Transport, nominated community group for FLS consultation and Kinlochard Village Hall.

One respondent was concerned why has the Strathard Strategic Partnership has been identified as the overall lead organization when it has not met in some time and is not universally known within the community. And who is it accountable to.

FLS state that they should be listed against Visitor Management Pressures, aqueduct path, active travel route between Kinlochard and Aberfoyle, Peatland restoration. FLS are correctly identified as lead on natural flood management.

Missing projects

One respondent noted that there were projects missing that were mentioned in the pathway but did not specify what projects. Respondents however mentioned that a project linked to promoting economic diversity is missing as is the housing needs survey.

One respondent however did highlight that there was no project that linked to the priority of improving water quality. Forth Rivers Trust and Forth Rivers Trust and Forth DSFB are keen to support a projects on this and lead any that are applicable.

Priority projects

Responders were asked to state their top 2 projects to happen in the next two years. The summary below highlights that the mobility hub is top priority, with detailing with affordable housing, flooding and visitor pressures following close behind.

- Mobility Hub x4
- Affordable Housing x3
- Active Travel x 2
- Signage x2
- Shuttle bus x2
- Visitor pressures / management x3
- Flood management x3
- Woodland enhancement/deer management x2
- Ev charging x2
- Broadband
- Renewable energy
- Stirling-Aberfoyle Cycle Link

Development projects

There were a number of specific comments on the development projects, mainly from our key delivery partners and the community, which are provided below.

- Masterplan village centre improvements / mobility hub
 - The community council stated that the 2013 charrette design work is still relevant today and supported by the recent Aberfoyle Community Life Plan engagement as being valid. Suggest that before re-commissioning a new study that the final outputs of the Life Plan are considered later this year.
 - The Trust said that some immediate improvements are business as usual maintenance and simply require budget and prioritisation. The Trust would be happy to contribute to a steering group for longer term development work.
 - Stirling Council consider it is better for the Community Council to take forward this project in lines with work undertaken by Balfron and Gargunnoch Community Councils. At Balfron, they had funding from Sustrans to successfully regenerate their village centre. The council can then take the lead at construction phase. Funding might come from Sustrans but they are not accepting applications until Sept 2021 – this would cover 100% of design stage funding. For construction it would cover 70% and remainder could come from council budget and other sources. This is linked to visitor pressures as once they are understood fully then findings can lead to insights for mobility aspects and can inform decisions rather than designing travel improvements without fully understanding mobility patterns.
- Tourism strategy/branding
 - The Trust is listed as a lead organization, and one of our volunteers is continuing to rationalize and improve websites. Our experience is that business involvement is sporadic. The leader funded consultants ended up doing most of the work around events which was the intention. We are happy to support events but only where these are business led.
- Visitor Management Pressures in Kinlochard and The Forest
 - No comments except in support.
- Affordable housing
 - States that development sites will be investigated, but no explanation, justification, evidence or analysis – a housing needs assessment is mentioned in the pathway and Kinlochard priorities but not here, why? The

comments strongly state that this is of concern and that the audit (see below) is the nearest thing to research.

- Stirling Council ask if the LLTNPA could be the lead authority if identifying development sites. Also who would undertake the housing needs assessment, it is not mentioned here but in the pathway?
- Site and building audit
 - Strathard Community Trust are pleased to see consideration of the role of tourism accommodation. It would be helpful for this to include small scale workshops for business.

Infrastructure Projects

There were a number of comments regarding the infrastructure projects.

- Shuttle bus service (electric/hydrogen) – combined with parking management
 - Timescales need accelerated (*2 comments on this*)
 - The Strathard Community Trust welcome inclusion but why is the Strathard Community Trust (SCT) listed as lead body, as this type of project is well beyond our current capabilities, and would be better led by a statutory body.
 - Stirling Council –suggested timescales 21/22 reasonable for feasibility and due to covid, then trials could be postponed to 22/23, this would give better insight into patronage as covid may still be affecting travel behaviours.
 - One respondent felt the shuttle bus was the key project and all visitors should be required to use the shuttle bus not just optional (creation of the car-free zone for visitors but not residents, deliveries or essential workers) as it would put Strathard on the map about being serious about carbon reduction and protecting our natural heritage.
- Renewables / Heat Networks
 - This should contain mention of “community ownership of land, assets and resources required to facilitate delivery” to help encourage meaningful economic diversification.
- Signage Plan
 - This does not include any safety aspect or educational opportunity.
 - The Strathard Community Trust is happy to contribute but suggest that the Countryside Trust are more appropriately resourced to lead and suggest Bike Trossachs.
- Aqueduct path and heritage routes
 - Heritage Group would best represent interests of those interested in local history.
- Active Travel route between Kinlochard and Aberfoyle
- Aberfoyle to Stirling cycle network
 - This is urgent as it could encourage visitors not to drive to the area and encourage residents to use their bikes to go to Stirling for work or shops. The route needs to be direct, safe, tarmacked and most obvious is to build a cycleway parallel to A811 Stirling to Buchlyvie, then tarmac there to Cobleland.
 - Stirling council state that this must consider all routes via the existing track to Bucklyvie to link any future development along the A811 corridor.
 - Strathard Community Trust welcome the project but recognise the complexity and long term challenges and are happy to offer practical support.
- Network of EV charging for cars/bikes
 - No comments except in support.
- Broadband = connection for all households in Strathard

- Strathard Community Trust act as a community partner for Stirling Council and we are happy to continue in this project. This is essential to support the development of non-tourism business and cut the need to travel.

Natural Heritage Projects

A general comment was made that the natural heritage projects are disconnected from the community. Opportunities to deliver these aims in ways which also help achieve community aspirations would be helpful.

Comments were only received in relation to natural flood management and dark skies as detailed below.

- Natural Flood Management – Wood Debris Dams/Wetland Trial - FLS commented that the trial at Allt Glas is ready for a range of techniques to be installed which are designed to reduce flood peaks and further analysis of the catchment is required before NFM can be deployed over a much larger area.
- Dark Skies - The Kinlochard local working group could be expanded to Strath wide group with public agency involvement. One resident was concerned that this project was hijacking an evolving local community group with public agencies and business involvement to meet organization target and this is an example of how not to do community engagement.

Response to Comments – National Park Authority

It has been really useful to receive so many detailed comments on the delivery plan and general support for the projects listed.

In order to take on board the comments the delivery plan has been re-written and re-designed to respond to key points. See the full version in Appendix 4 to the committee papers.

It has been redesigned to reflect the Framework and not split into themes but aligns with the 10 key priorities. This should ensure the Framework and Delivery Plan better align and ensure that each priority in the Framework has a project addressing it.

We have added projects that are missing that are mentioned in the Framework itself – for instance work relating to water quality/ecosystem and land diversification.

The organisations have not been added as suggested but the list has been removed as it is easy to miss an organisation.

Any organisation that has indicated that they are not a lead have been amended.

Below are the responses to the individual points on the projects:

- Aberfoyle mobility hub – The charrette work is useful but it does not include the level of detail to implement a project on the ground. Designed engineered drawings are needed with detailed costings and this is the first step in the project, followed by consultation then implementation once funding has been found. In terms of who takes the lead in this work, Stirling Council suggest the community as this worked well elsewhere but it is considered that who is going to lead on this project still needs scoped out and will be confirmed later. The delivery plan has also be updated to reflect what has been achieved to date and what actions still need to be undertaken.

- Tourism strategy/branding – This has been removed and is a small-scale project that the community trust leads on. It is not linked to a key priority in the Framework.
- Affordable housing – We have amended this to state that a housing need assessment will be undertaken and LLTNPA will be the lead authority bringing key partners together along with RSHA. We have also edited this to bring in the site and building audit and align this with the priority on community self-sufficiency, economy and affordable housing.
- Shuttle Bus Service – This title has been amended to align with the key priority – Sustainable and active travel.
- Renewable/Heat Networks – This shall be amended to include community led renewable projects.
- Signage Plan – This is not included as a separate standalone project but will be captured under the Visitor Management project.
- Aqueduct path and heritage routes – the involvement of the local history group is noted but it is unlikely they would be the lead organization but their involvement would be key. This is captured under the Visitor management project.
- Aberfoyle to Stirling cycle network - welcome the comments and amendment will clarify the potential route and this has been added to the key priority – Sustainable and active travel.
- Natural Flood Management Amendment has been made to response to FLS comment regarding trial work and this has been included under a wider priority on flood mitigation and management.
- Dark Skies – We note concern regarding small community group being taken over by public agency but you should be assured that if a project is developed then the community group would be part of the steering group.

13. Other final comments

There were a number of final general comments about the Framework such as being generally supportive, a good solid piece of work, great to see things happening, thanking us for the opportunity to comment and congratulating the consultation process. One respondent said that the Framework has the potential to act as a vehicle to facilitate positive change in the area.

Concern that the community is small and it is hard to get everyone involved, let alone lead on things and it will be difficult for the community to take on bigger things. Another comment saying it should be more ambitious.

Any final concerns were similar to those raised throughout the comments above, with people highlighting the importance of lochs and how this is underplayed and the need to include more on the economy and community self-sufficiency. The community council were very supportive but were one of the respondents who reiterated the need for greater alignment with the Community Life Plans in respect to greater autonomy, self-sufficiency, and economic diversification for the community and by the community.

The question of ranking of priorities also was reiterated in the final comments, with one respondent strongly saying they were opposed to the numbering. (note this issue is picked up above).

Another final comment was concern that there is still a lot of detail to work through and that public consultation and engagement should continue.

Kinlochard Village Hall reiterated previous comments provided to the National Park Authority regarding Active Park, Healthy People consultation, concerned about Loch Ard. It wanted to stress that the hall will not be able to function and serve the community, if more people are encouraged to come to the area where the community assets are.

A general point was made the land use priorities should be made more prominent on their respective sub-area pages as natural based solutions will be critical to achieving net-zero.

14. Land Manager questions

RSPB were the only land manager to respond to specific questions about land management. They are generally supportive of the conservation projects. As a land manager, responsible for RSPB Inversnaid, the future success is dependent on collaborative action across both Strathard and the National Park. This will be needed to unlock funding needed for the projects.

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