


Strathfillan Community and BLS Community:

Travels in Community Place Plans

Kelly Clapperton, Development Officer



Overview: Balquhiddar, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Area

- 2019: Open Days held in Strathyre and Balquhiddar.
 - 2020: The pandemic and removal of the Community Partnership stalled the process.
 - 2020: Steering Group re-established with the Community Council.
 - 2020: Online survey based on the Place Standard issued.
 - 2021: Online Zoom sessions with Focus Groups and Primary School consulted.
 - 2021: Currently working on collating the data and pulling the document together.
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Overview: Strathfillan Community

- 2019: Independent Steering Group established with support from the Community Partnership.
- 2019: Consultations held in Tyndrum, Crianlarich, and the Primary School.
- 2020: The pandemic and removal of the Community Partnership stalled the process.
- 2020: Strathfillan Community Development Trust took over the process.
- 2021: Held a series of online Zoom Focus Group Sessions.
- 2021: Collated and analysed the data and produced final draft.
- 2021: Issued to graphic designer for publishing – aim to launch Sept 21.



Challenges Faced:

- Steering Groups
 - Consultation Methods
 - Funding and Support
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Steering Groups

Problems

- Those interested already involved in the community.
- Very few people willing to give up their time.
- Steering Group will fall apart if participants are not enthusiastic.

Solutions

- Make sure those on the Steering Group want to be there.
- A mix of Community Trust and Community Council might be your best bet.
- Have a dedicated person to support the Steering Group and process.

Consultation Methods:

Open Days

□ Pros:

- Good for getting a quick snapshot of the community.
- Hosting in a popular spot, such as a local pub/café, can increase footfall.

□ Cons:

- Will not get the whole community to take part.
- Cannot base the Place Plan on one session.

Online Surveys

□ Pros:

- Allows people to put forward their thoughts and ideas in an anonymous setting.
- Can be filled in at a time that suits.
- Provides a wider snapshot of the community.

□ Cons:

- Needs quite a lot of effort to advertise and promote.
- Can be off putting for some.
- Not suitable for those without internet access.

Consultation Methods

Focus Group Sessions

□ Pros:

- Using the data to identify gaps and groups helps make sure that quieter voices are heard.
- Provides a forum for people to discuss the community as a whole.
- Helps to finalise and 'polish' data gathered and flesh out priorities or actions identified.

□ Cons:

- It could become dominated by one or two loud voices.
- It is good to keep numbers manageable: 12-15max.
- It might be off putting to those who don't feel comfortable in a crowd.



Funding and Support

- Funding is crucial to the whole project.
- Having a paid person to support and help deliver the Place Plan is essential.
- A dedicated pot of money to support communities creating Place Plans should be available – it should not be competitive.
- Communities should be able to contract in assistance if they do not have a Development Officer.
- Government agency support is very important.

Conclusions

- ❑ When establishing a Steering Group be realistic on who will or won't join.
- ❑ Develop consultation methods that suits your community and use a variety to make sure different groups and demographics are heard.
- ❑ Have a dedicated and paid person to manage and support the delivery of the Place Planning process.
- ❑ Easy access to funding is crucial.
- ❑ Agency support is essential.