

Our Community ... A Way Forward

Laggan Community Action Plan 2019

A community-led survey put out to every household and business in the Laggan community area in Spring 2019, received a 29% response rate. From these responses and the Big Conversation event which was attended by 27 residents, the following priorities were identified.

Top Priorities

- A Paths (Cycle/Walking) to different parts of the community
- A Improve communication between and with the community groups
- A Keep village clean and community spaces well maintained
- A Upgrade Village Hall to serve future community needs
- A Attract and keep visitors in Laggan – marketing strategy/development of amenities & attractions
- A Create a Community Trust for projects/windfarm benefit
- A Place to meet and socialise eg community pub
- A Keep toilets open and maintained (reinstate wall mural)
- A More community events for different ages

- L Sustainable business/employment opportunities
- L Improve the roads (potholes, speed limits, safety)
- L Provision of some Public Transport
- A/L Housing to attract and keep young people and families and to keep school open

A = actionable by community L = requires agency lobbying

Other Priorities

- Maintain broadband provision
- Handyperson scheme
- Allotments
- Homecare provision
- Conservation of landscape
- Community polytunnel
- Increased provision for childcare
- Wildlife/bird feeding stations
- Handbook of local amenities and services

Additional Notes

- There were requests/suggestions for more facilities at Wolftrax eg play park, tows, sculpture trail, pump track – the community are keen to see more facilities on offer at the centre. LFT board has been made aware of the suggestions from this survey and will explore taking them forward.
- Keeping Doctor's surgery open in Laggan – the community expressed the value and importance of protecting the future of this service. Residents will look to Friends of Laggan Practice to help safeguard this, if it becomes vulnerable.

ACTIONS TO TAKE FORWARD

ISSUE 1: PATHS TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY	
The Goal	Safety, linking & recreation. Priority paths are Gergask to Strathmashie & Gergask to Catlodge
Issues/Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Landowners: financial compensation · Understanding of what outside agency support is available · Understanding community priorities · Lack of info on LFT feasibility study that Sustrans are supporting re specific cycle paths linking Strathmashie, Catlodge and Balgowan
Specific Action required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Make contact with OATS (Outdoor Access Trust Scotland) · Contact CNPA Access Officer to see what can be achieved · Understand need for different types of paths – Footpath, Cycle, Amenity and Tourism
Who will carry it out?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · LCC, LFT, LCT · Community members who signed up at Big Conversation

ISSUE 2: IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN/WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS	
The Goal	Improved communication for all to access groups. Everybody knows and has a general understanding what each group aims to do and why
Issues/Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Network coverage (WiFi) needs to be robust and affordable & access expanded · Physical infrastructure · Need a way of disseminating information
Specific Action required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Website diary & paper version · Village events – online & paper version · Group directory – group name / contact details / aims& objectives/ achievements · How can communication infrastructure be improved? · Continue SPLASH newsletter - paper & online · Facebook (who administers this?)
Who will carry it out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · LCC is tasked with contacting community groups & agencies · All community groups should consider how to improve their own communication with wider Laggan community · Community members who signed up at Big Conversation

ISSUE 3: KEEP VILLAGE CLEAN & COMMUNITY SPACES WELL MAINTAINED	
The Goal	Welcome, attractive destination/place to live that works for all ages & needs
Issues/Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Irresponsible littering in village and surrounds (not locals) · Irregular maintenance of some village open spaces · Lack of clear signage to village facilities · Dowdy exterior of public conveniences · Bad smell from septic tank
Specific Action required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Regular litter working parties · Encourage pride in our village – join Scotland in Bloom · Community organisations to ensure regular maintenance of their assets
Who will carry it out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Public toilets - Church · Open spaces – Hall and LCT · Signage - LCC (SSE funding) · New Tubs - volunteers · Community members who signed up at Big Conversation

ISSUE 4: UPGRADE VILLAGE HALL TO SERVE FUTURE COMMUNITY NEEDS

The Goal	Better used village hall
Issues/Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · More / better communication with community · Willing and suitable organisers
Specific Action required	Fact finding mission – find out what’s happening in other villages
Suggested Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Online diary & physical diary for regular bookings · Fully accessible toilets · Hearing Aid loop · Bunkhouse upstairs · Better sound system – acoustic treatment · Proper cinema screen · Annexe/extension · Upgrade heating (without red colouration) · Moveable partition · Open tour of the building for all village members
Who will carry it out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Hall committee / Events group / Consultation? · Community members who signed up at Big Conversation

ISSUE 5: ATTRACTING & KEEPING VISITORS IN LAGGAN

The Goal	More visitors visiting and staying longer in the Laggan area
Issues/Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Need better / more signage & information about the communities · Noticeboard at entrance of village: improve, update information and light up at night · Opportunities for film locations – the start of the Spey · Use heritage as a pull to bring visitors to Laggan · Use of language – ‘Laggan Community’ could encompass all the areas of Laggan · Link up with Cairngorms Business Partnership/CNPA/ local businesses, cafes, Wolftrax and accommodation providers as marketing group · Make use of ‘Monarch of the Glen’ brand
Specific Action required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Look at offering on the website Laggan.com run by the CC · Promote the 2 information points – Wolftrax & Laggan Stores
Who will carry it out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · LCC · Community members who signed up at Big Conversation · New marketing group

ISSUE 6: HOUSING

The Goal	Provide a range of appropriate housing for Laggan’s needs
Issues/Barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Identifying and securing available land · Collating evidence of housing need (Rent, Affordable, Single people, Families, Self- build etc)
Specific Action required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Start housing steering group to include community reps + HSCHT/CNPA/HC/VABS · Carry out formal housing needs survey, to gather evidence of need
Who will carry it out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · LCT/LCC in partnership with Highland Small Communities Housing Trust · Community members who signed up at Big Conversation