Appendices

Struan Community Action Plan

Appendices

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1. Additional Background

Deprivation

The graphic on the next page details Struan's relative deprivation in comparison to other areas of Scotland, measured in 2020. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation is a relative measure of deprivation across data zones. The population of a data zone varies but is usually between about 600 and 1,000 people. The meaning of "deprived" in this context can relate to low average incomes but can also mean fewer resources or opportunities. The SIMD looks at the extent to which an area is deprived across seven domains: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime, and housing.

The SIMD is the Scottish Government's standard approach to identify areas of multiple deprivation in Scotland. It can help improve understanding about the outcomes and circumstances of people living in the most deprived areas in Scotland. It can also allow effective targeting of policies and funding where the aim is to wholly or partly tackle or take account of area concentrations of multiple deprivation.

The SIMD ranks data zones from most deprived (ranked 1) to least deprived (ranked 6,976). People using SIMD will often focus on the data zones below a certain rank – for example, the 5%, 10%, 15%, or 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland.

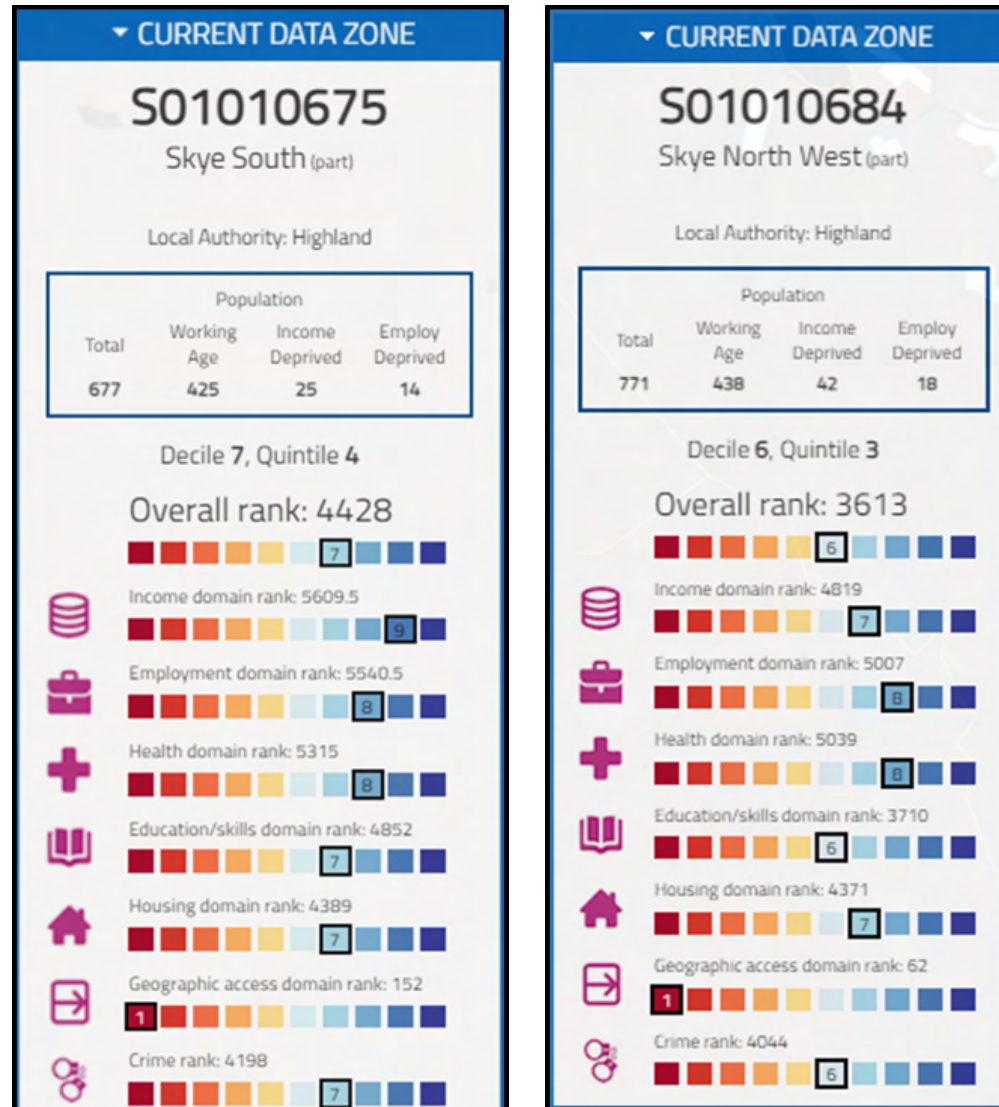Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation rankings for Struan:

Figure 1: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation rankings for Skye North West and Skye South data zones

The SIMD is an area-based measure of relative deprivation; not every person in a highly deprived area will themselves be experiencing high levels of deprivation. By the same token, individuals can experience deprivation even in areas defined as less deprived.

It is possible to access the core data used to rank a data zone against all seven categories by going online and searching the SIMD website.

The following graphic colour codes Struan's data zone according to its relative overall deprivation. The colour displayed shows in which overall decile (level of 10% increments) a data zone's deprivation is ranked relative to the overall national picture.

The data zone covering Struan and surrounding areas is ranked 4,428th in Scotland (7th decile). This means that overall, Struan finds itself in the top half of relative deprivation in Scotland (blue colouration).

The data indicates that nearby data zones, including those to the northwest and parts of Portree, are considered more relatively deprived, being ranked in the 4th and 5th deciles.

Struan Community Council boundaries straddle two SIMD datazones: Skye South and Skye Northwest. Exact SIMD data congruent with the community of Struan is therefore not available. However, the data rankings for both SIMD data zones which Struan straddles are all in the upper 6th-9th deciles, apart from access to resources.

While it should be noted that neither SIMD dataset provides exact data for the SCC ward boundaries, it can be noted that the overview statistics on the previous page indicate that 25 of 677 people are considered income deprived in the South Skye data zone, and 14 people are considered employment deprived.
South Skye is comparatively less deprived than average in six domains (income, employment, education, health, crime, and housing), ranking particularly highly in regards to income. According to Engage Highland's Skye & Raasay Area Profile, the region has a lower percentage of people experiencing in-work poverty or receiving out of work benefits compared to the Highland average.
However, Struan ranks in the bottom decile for access to services. In fact, with a rank of 152 in this domain, it can be said that Struan is in the top 3% of areas most deprived of geographic access to services in all of Scotland. [1]

Struan's 'Very Remote Rural' classification comes with higher living costs and less access to transport, food, fuel, employment, and socialisation opportunities.

Although it has increased in recent years, broadband coverage, especially ultra-fast coverage, still lags behind the Highlands and the rest of Scotland. As of 2021, Skye had 70.8% super-fast broadband coverage, lower than the Highland average of 82.5%, and 6.9% ultra-fast coverage, significantly less than the Highland average of 23.7%.[2]

Struan does not have super-fast broadband coverage, however. There is no fibre between Carbost (to the south) and Roag (to the north). The net result is that there is effectively no hard wired broadband service anywhere in Struan. The antiquated BT Openreach exchange that exists in the village cannot deliver more than about 2mbps, and no service providers other than BT will now provide a service. Many local residents have turned initially to 4G broadband services (from EE, Vodafone) but performance over these links has now deteriorated significantly as visitor numbers have increased to pre-pandemic levels and beyond, and their performance is similarly becoming unacceptable. Some residents are now starting to move to other alternatives such as Starlink.

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[1] The Geographic Access to Services data is based on a calculation rooted in mean travel time (in minutes) to key services, by car or public transport. Key services include: GP, Petrol Station, Post Office, Primary School, Retail Centre, Secondary School.

[2] Ofcom Connection Nations Report (2021).
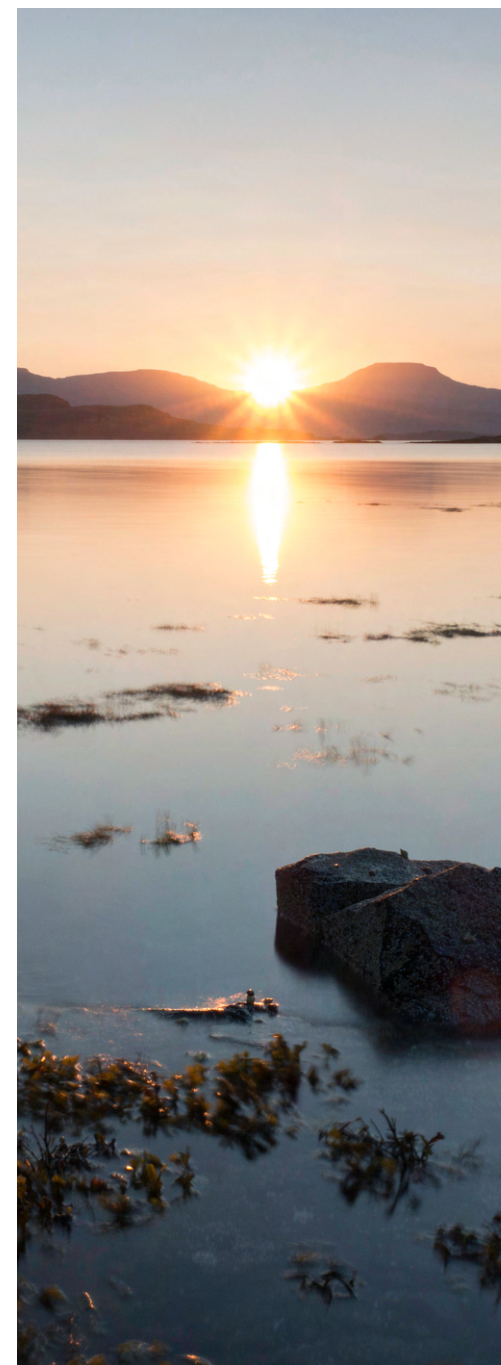
Transport

The average travel time to key services by both personal transport and public transport in Skye is almost double the Highland average. [3]

Skye and Lochalsh is the regional centre with the longest journey times to the central belt of Scotland, and the only major population centre in the Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership area from which a day trip to the central belt is not possible. There is significant tourist traffic in the form of private cars and coach tours. Ferry traffic has also increased steadily in recent years. [4]

There are no public bus services which pass through Struan. It is a 25-minute car drive to Portree and 15 minutes to Dunvegan.
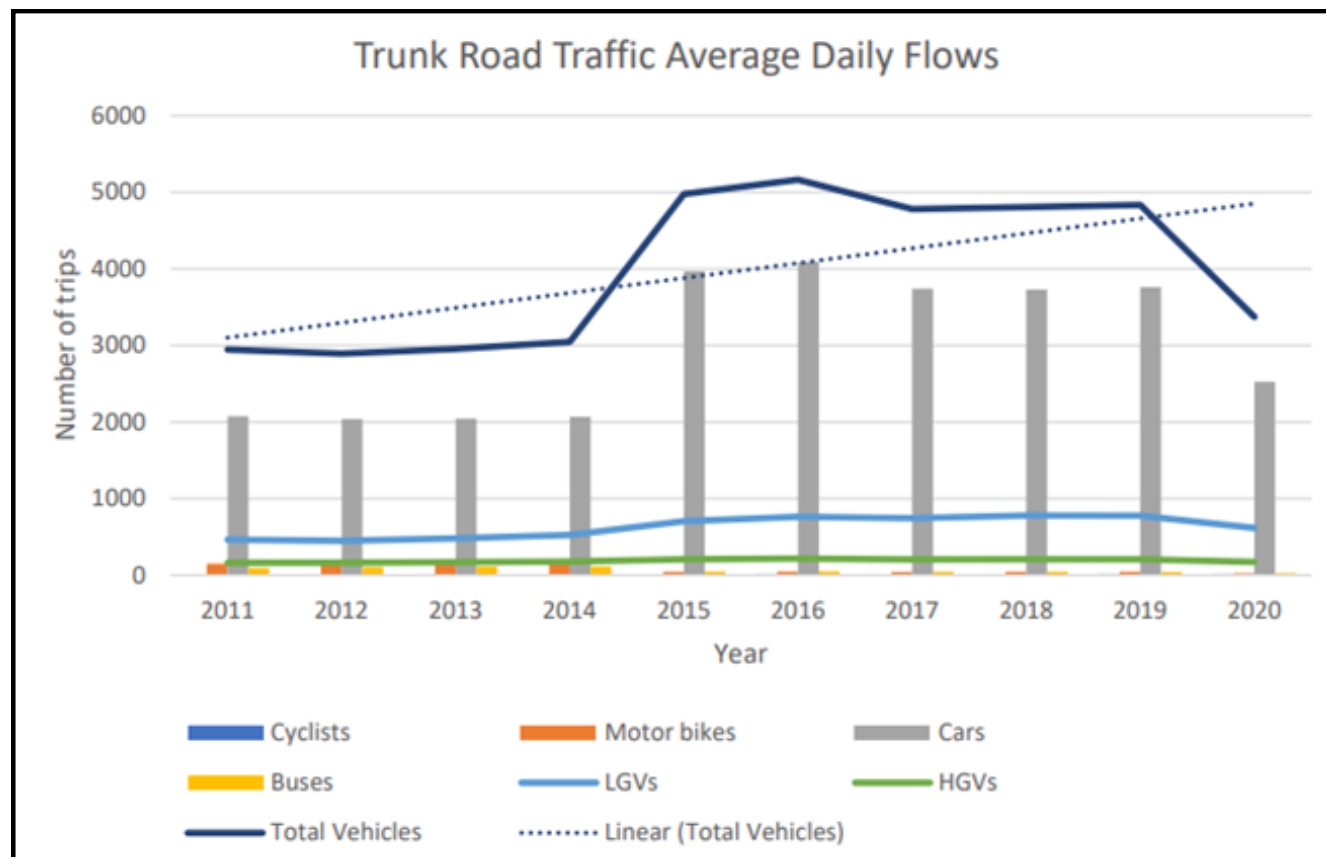
Figure 2: Trunk-road flows based on data from the Kyleakin Roundabout at the entrance to the Isle of Skye. Source: Road traffic statistics - Local authority: Highland (dft.gov.uk)

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[3] Engage Highland, Skye & Raasay Area Profile (2021).

[4] Tourist traffic comes in the form not only of private (many hired) cars and coach tours, but increasingly, camper vans and minibuses. Camper vans were already coming in significant numbers pre-pandemic, but since 2020 their numbers have significantly increased.

Climate Change

Climate change means that all areas of the world will experience increasing extremes of weather and temperature with a wide range of effects in both summer and winter. Regarding rainfall, climate change means that Scotland will experience warmer, wetter winters, with more intense rainfall events. By 2050 under a low emissions scenario, average winters are projected to be around 8% wetter and 1 degree warmer. By 2080 under a high emissions scenario, average winters are projected to be around 19% wetter and 2.7 degrees warmer. Scotland will also experience hotter, drier summers, with greater extremes. By 2050 under a low emissions scenario, average summers are projected to be around 1.2 degrees warmer and 7% drier. By 2080 under a high emissions scenario, average summers are projected to be around 3 degrees warmer and 18% drier. [5]

The Highland Council declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2019 and recommitted to achieving a carbon neutral Highland by 2025. In 2021, the Isle of Skye & Raasay Committee introduced a new place-based investment framework for Skye & Raasay called "Skye & Raasay Future" (SARF). Key outcomes outlined in the plan include Climate Resilience and Diverse and Green Economy.

To better understand the scale of the challenge in achieving a net zero Highland, the Council commissioned a study in 2020 to baseline emissions across the region, broken down into the areas of responsibility for the Council's Executive Chief Officers. This included a specific report for Skye & Raasay which assessed emissions arising from the following key sectors, which are priority areas if the islands are going to support this transition":

- Residential property energy use
- Transportation
- Agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU)

They highlighted the following as critical:

- Heat for residential buildings
- Transportation

In terms of coastal impacts, the Climate Central mapping resource indicates that while Struan itself is unlikely to be affected by sea level rise in the near term, by 2050 the nearby beaches and the banks of the Amar River will lie within the flood zone. Struan may experience coastal erosion in the coming decades. The map projection below (from Dynamic Coast) shows that inland Struan is considered slightly resilient to coastal erosion while the coastal areas are considered slightly vulnerable.
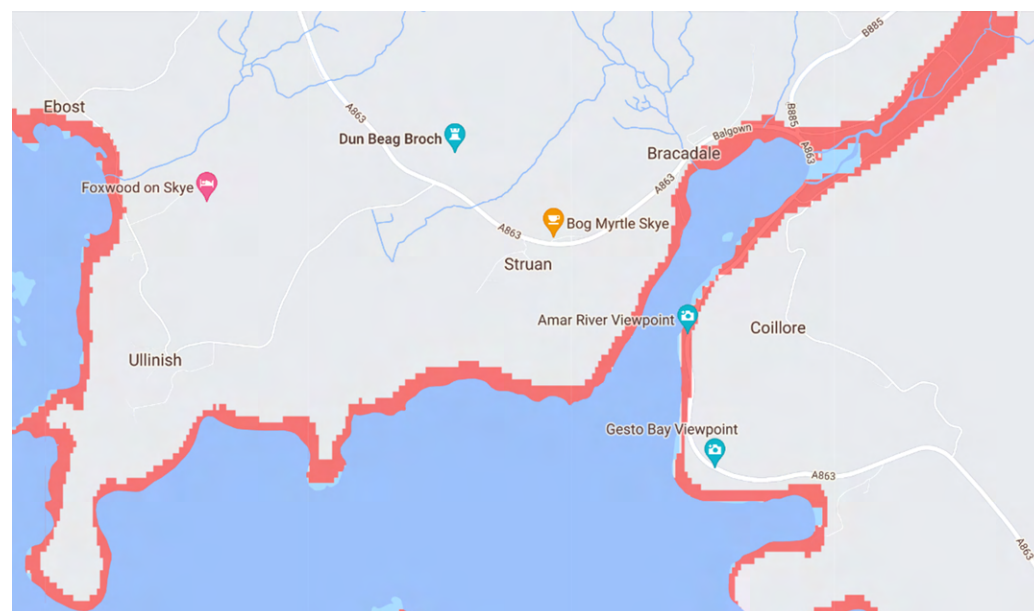

Figure 3: Projected coastal impacts - areas shaded red are projected to be impacted by combinations of sea level rise, tides, and storm surge by 2050.

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5   Historic Environment Scotland.

Unlike those living in densely populated urban areas, residents of Struan will not have to endure extreme heat island effects. These effects are what happens when the built environment elevates temperatures in a built-up area compared with its surrounds. The map below shows Struan in the context of the greater Loch Bracadale region, where only Carbost is expected to experience significant heat island effects. However, as can be seen in the map opposite, there will be some degree of increased temperature in the areas around Struan's main buildings compared to the surrounding countryside.

Figure 4: Vulnerability to Coastal Erosion.

Figures 5 and 6: Scottish Government Heat Map data.
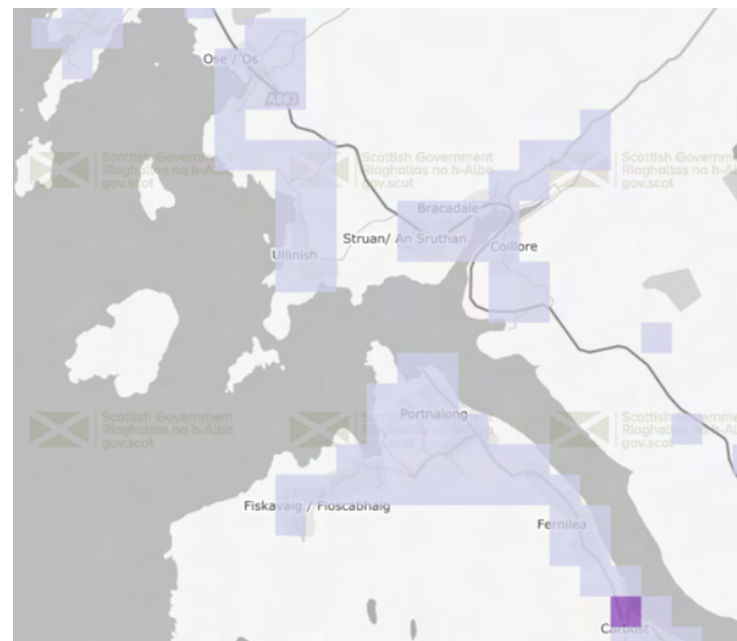
Energy

Last year, energy prices soared, fuelling a cost-of-living crisis. Understanding Struan's existing energy consumption provides a starting point for exploring local energy generation solutions for the area.

The three key areas that require energy in Scotland are heating, transportation, and other uses of electricity. Progress has been made on the latter in terms of decarbonisation, with significant domestic electricity demand now being met from renewable sources.

Residential heating, however, remains a persistent source of greenhouse gas emissions, especially because heating is required for a majority of the year in a place like Skye.

In Skye & Raasay, oil central heating is the most common heat source, with 34% of households relying on this method, followed by electric central heating at 28% of households. [6] Heat demand statistics for Struan, available from the Scottish Government, indicate that Struan uses around 236.23 MWh/y.

The SARF report highlights the fact that a much higher percentage of residential buildings rely on oil or solid fuel than average in the Highlands. To meet the national net zero target, all buildings in Scotland must have significantly reduced their energy use, and almost all buildings must be using a zero-emissions heating system, by 2045. This creates a significant challenge for many buildings on Skye. High levels of fuel poverty exacerbate the issue. In 2017-2019, 33% of Highlands households experienced fuel poverty (defined as required fuel costs > 10% of income) compared to 24% for Scotland as a whole. [7] This figure represents a decrease from 2016-17, when 52.1% of Highlands households were in fuel poverty. This was 21.4% more than the overall rate for Scotland at the time (30.7%). However, the current cost-of-living crisis has likely worsened the situation once more.

According to the SARF report, "households in Skye and Lochalsh were found to pay around £1,000 a year more on energy bills than an average sized home in Scotland – a 76% premium."

To support the region's decarbonisation, upgrades to the electricity grid are needed. Moreover, the SARF report recommends that tailored solutions to car dependency (e.g. battery storage, dynamic load management, renewable energy) may be required to overcome challenges in areas of future demand (e.g. electric vehicle charging points).

Method of Domestic Heating	Skye and Raasay % of households	Highland Council Area % of households
No central heating	7	3
Mains gas central heating	0	34
Electric central heating	28	24
Oil central heating	34	24
Solid fuel central heating (wood & coal)	11	5
Other central heating	11	1
Two or more types of central heating	10	5

Primary Heating Type	Average Energy Bill*	Difference to Scottish Average
Electricity	£1,621	£363
Solid Fuel	£2,176	£918
LPG Gas	£2,357	£1,099
Oil	£2,519	£1,261
All heating types	£2,218	£960
Scottish average energy bill**	£1,258	

Tables 1 and 2: Statistics, Skye and Raasay Future (SARF)

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[6] Skye & Raasay Future (2021).

[7] The Highland Council Corporate Plan 2022-27.

2. How the Plan Was Prepared

Community aspirations

June 2023

- Ask everyone for their ideas about the future of the community using an online and postal survey.
- Connect across the whole community using word-of-mouth, website and social media.
- Desktop research to understand current trends in the community.

Developing a shared vision for Struan

July 2023

- Develop a set of possible future scenarios (rooted in current trends) as to what forces could affect Struan in the next 10 years.
- Explore challenges and opportunities identified.
- Develop and review a Vision for Struan in 2033.
- Agree key areas to discuss together during the next phase of Action Planning.

Planning actions to deliver for the community

August 2023

- A series of community conversations (public gatherings) focussing on different key areas of concern for the community, to plan initiatives and actions to deliver what we want to achieve together in the next 10 years.

How can I get involved in the Struan Community Action Plan?

Two gatherings at Struan Primary School.

1. **Community Conversation 7-9pm Friday 14 July**
2. **Community Conversation 1-3pm Saturday 15 July**

All welcome, no booking required. Facilitated by the Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) team.

SAVE THE DATES!

Additional community conversations at Struan Primary School – details TBC.

1. **Friday 11 August**
2. **Saturday 12 August**

Further information on timings will be available from the CAP Group and the Struan Community Website. Facilitated by the PAS team.

Figure 7: Community Engagement schedule delivered to every home in Struan.

Foundations and Marketing

This stage involved working with the CAP group to surface expectations around the process, PAS understanding more about the community through a site visit, thinking through how best to let the wider community know about the whole process, and designing the initial community survey. The PAS approach is to take time to allow engagement processes to emerge according to the instincts and ideas of local people. Conversations about the best methods and tools to connect local people and the issues they wanted to talk about started here.

A simple marketing strategy was designed which involved using existing social media channels (Struan Community Council Facebook page), setting up a dedicated page on struancommunity.co.uk and sharing information about the project through local community group mailing lists. A mail-drop to every home in the community was organised with a one-page explanation of the process and a clear timeline of how to get involved (see figure opposite). The website, Facebook page and community Notice Board were continually updated with information about forthcoming events.

Community Aspirations

This stage involved sending out a paper copy of the initial community survey to every home in Struan. The survey was designed to deliver a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) of the community. There was an awareness generally that communication across households and residents in Struan could be improved and so the survey also asked about people's preferred communication methods. A decision was taken to use the opportunity presented by the CAP to not only set up a mailing list for the CAP itself, but ensure this same list could be used beyond the lifetime of the project. Around eighty local people have so far signed up to this new mailing list, leaving a valuable resource for the future.

The stage ended with the results of the community survey and desktop analysis being shared to all those on the community mailing list.
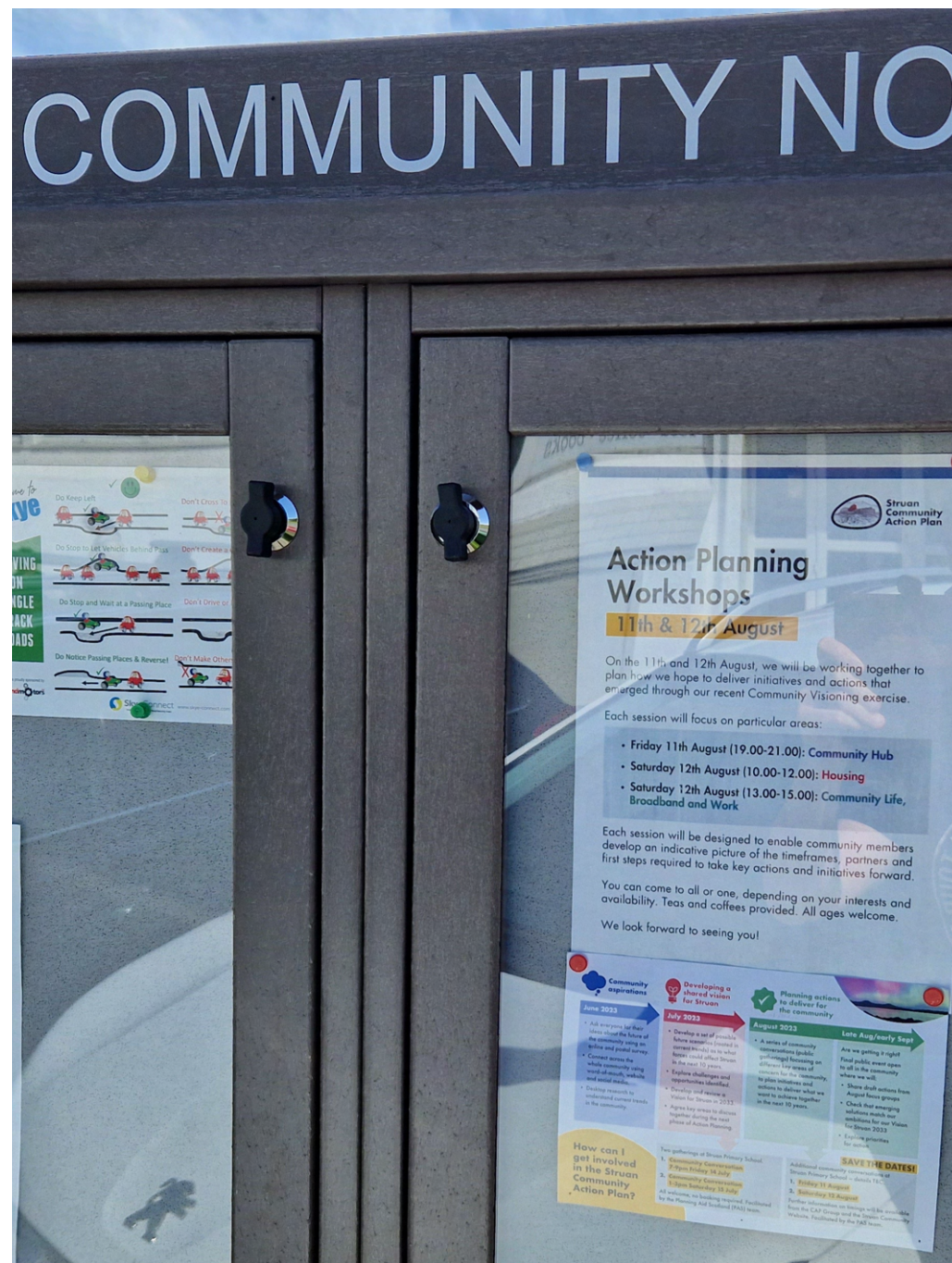
Developing a Vision Together

Using the results from the community survey and information from an analysis of desktop data undertaken by PAS, in July workshops were designed and delivered to help the community imagine what Struan might need to look like under four different possible scenarios. Potential variables like "a tourism boom" or "ageing demographic" were taken into account and the types of solutions and changes that each would require were imagined and thought through by participants. The results of these sessions can be found in the Vision and Aims chapter. We hope these results can continue to be a helpful analysis tool moving into the future.

The results of the first workshop were then synthesised by the steering group into a Preferred Future Vision for Struan in 2033. This was tested and refined with community participants at a second workshop to produce a vision and set of objectives.

Action Planning

In August 2023, a second series of workshops took place in which the community articulated detailed steps to achieve the vision and objectives developed in July. Presentation boards detailing the preferred future vision and objectives were displayed during these sessions to enable comment and feedback.

Participants discussed and outlined the first steps, partners and likely timeframes that may be required to deliver various initiatives. The opportunity also presented itself to think through how best to try and deliver these actions in a way that could ensure that climate change issues were addressed as delivery occurs. Most but not all proposed actions were covered in detail.

Discussions at these workshops were fruitful and covered a significant amount of ground. A broad consensus around how and what to commit to came forward. Clear priorities (especially the development of the community stewardship of The School emerged). The CAP group therefore decided that further conversations would not be required, and proceeded directly to expanding the detail within the action plan, covering estimates of timescales and costings as required.

Launch

For different reasons, including a decision to close down Struan Community Development Group as an entity, the original timescale for completion was pushed back to 2024. A launch event was organised for February to which all members of the community were invited.

3. Relationship to Other Plans

The following is a brief summary of the core policy goals of key national and regional documents which govern the delivery of services and development in Struan. Connections to the goals of these policies emerge through the Vision and Action Plan articulated in the rest of this document.

Community Planning Policy Framework

National Performance Framework
See information presented in the Monitoring and Evaluation section of Chapter 5.

Highlands Outcome Improvement Plan (HOIP) 2017 to 2027
The Highland Community Planning Partnership (CPP) brings together public agencies, third sector organisations and other key community groups to work collaboratively with the people of Highland to deliver better outcomes. The Partnership works at a Highland level but also at a local level through our nine Community Partnerships which are located across the Highlands. Of these, Struan falls under the Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross Community Planning Partnership.

The Highland CPP has been tasked with the development of the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan (HOIP). The HOIP outlines aspirations for Highland and the specific actions that will be undertaken to deliver them. The HOIP's main ambition is to tackle the issues that lead to inequalities. The goal is to make the Highlands a fairer place, so that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of the region.

The five core HOIP outcomes are as follows:

Poverty Reduction
- More people in Highland will live a life free from the experience of poverty.

Community Participation & Dialogue
- People in Highland will be more involved in decisions that affect their lives.

Infrastructure
- Fewer people in Highland experience transport and digital connectivity as a barrier to accessing opportunities.

Community Safety & Resilience
- People in Highland will benefit from living in stronger, safer and more resilient communities.

Mental Health & Mental Wellbeing
- People in Highland will benefit from good mental health and wellbeing.

The cross-cutting themes are:

- Employability, employment and skills development – this recognises the importance of providing economic opportunities to communities as a way of addressing inequality.

- Community Investment and development – this promotes inclusion and builds strong communities.

- Digital Inclusion – ensuring that people have the knowledge and confidence to actively participate in the use of digital technology.

- Equality of opportunity and inclusion – recognises that certain groups within our communities are more likely to experience inequality than others.

Skye and Raasay Future

A series of Area Place Plans (APPs) are being brought forward Highland-wide to deliver on commitments agreed in the Future Highlands Strategic Partnership (FHSP) report of December 2021. Informed by the Place Principle, the Christie Commission, the Community Empowerment Act and the council's own localism agenda, it was agreed to develop Area Place Plans (APPs) for each of the Area Partnership Areas (APAs) in the Highlands. These plans generally have a higher-level, district-wide focus dealing with future infrastructure and regeneration needs, among other issues. APA boundaries are roughly the same as CPP boundaries in most cases.

The Skye APA developed an early prototype Area Place Plan which helped mobilise support for their implementation across the rest of the Highlands. Skye and Raasay Future (SARF) is a shared statement of the values, ambition and priorities for partners to work together to improve outcomes for everyone across the area. The Skye and Raasay Area Committee adopted SARF on 30 August 2021 and agreed to an ongoing collaborative process with stakeholders for delivery and monitoring for this plan. SARF outlines how current and future actions and investments can help to address these priorities and is intended to act as an investment portfolio, creating a credible and robust case for seeking future funding.

Transportation Policy Framework

The National Transport Strategy 2 sets out an ambitious vision for Scotland's transport system for the next 20 years to 2040. It articulates a vision for a sustainable, inclusive, safe, accessible transport system, helping deliver a healthier, fairer and more prosperous Scotland for communities, businesses and visitors. The vision is underpinned by four priorities: Reduces Inequalities, Takes Climate Action, Helps Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth and Improves our Health and Wellbeing, each with three associated outcomes.

To reduce inequalities the goal is a transport system that will provide fair access to the services we need, will be easy to use for all and will be affordable to all. Taking climate action will involve helping to deliver our net-zero target, adapting to the effects of climate change, promoting greener, cleaner choices. Helping deliver inclusive economic growth means developing a system that will get people and goods where they need to get to, will be reliable, efficient and of high quality, and will use beneficial innovation. Finally, a transportation system is envisaged that will improve our health and wellbeing by being safe and secure for all, enabling us to make healthy travel choices, and helping to make communities great places to live.

Spatial Planning Policy Framework

Spatial planning documents provide a policy and legal framework for further development in Struan and its surrounding waters as part of rural development and placemaking priorities.

Fourth National Planning Framework
The Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) Scotland 2045 was adopted in 2023. Its section on National Spatial Strategy lays out key spatial principles for Scotland and identifies five regional spatial strategy areas with specific priorities. Struan is located within the coverage of the North and west coast and Islands (see p22 and p 122, Annex 3). Among other policies there is strong support for affordable housing and mechanisms to reverse population decline in small rural communities:

"There is a clear need for affordable housing provision across the region to improve choice and access to homes, to support local economies, and in some areas to help offset the impact of second home ownership and short term lets on the market. Local solutions may include key worker housing, temporary homes for workers in remote areas, and self-provided homes including self-build and custom-build. Continued innovation of holistic place-based solutions, such as the Rural and Islands Housing Fund, will be required to create homes that meet diverse community needs, including homes for an ageing population and to help young people to stay in or return to their communities.

Greater efforts to ensure young people have more influence in decisions that affect their future places could support this, as well as helping more people access land and crofts and the reuse of abandoned sites where appropriate.

To reverse past depopulation and support existing settlements, planning can help to sustain communities in more peripheral and fragile areas in a way that is compatible with our low carbon agenda and resilient to climate change impacts. Further action should be taken where appropriate to encourage economically active people to previously inhabited areas."

Key policies in NPF4 that have relevance to the aims of this plan include:

Policy 17 Rural homes
This policy intends to encourage, promote and facilitate the delivery of more high quality, affordable and sustainable rural homes in the right locations. It acknowledges a need for improved choice of homes across tenures so that identified local needs of people and communities in rural and island areas are met.

Of particular note is that development proposals for new homes in remote rural areas will be supported where the proposal:
- i. supports and sustains existing fragile communities;
- ii. supports identified local housing outcomes; and
- iii. is suitable in terms of location, access, and environmental impact.

Figure 8: National Planning Framework 4 (2023), pg 14

These policy hooks should enable proposals for housing in Struan to be justified more readily than perhaps was achievable previously.

Policy 29, Rural Development

This policy intends to encourage rural economic activity, innovation and diversification whilst ensuring that the distinctive character of the rural area and the service function of small towns, natural assets and cultural heritage are safeguarded and enhanced.

Goals include ensuring that rural places are vibrant and sustainable and rural communities and businesses are supported to attain a balanced and sustainable rural population

To this end, development proposals that contribute to the viability, sustainability and diversity of rural communities and local rural economy will be supported, including:

- farms, crofts, woodland crofts or other land use businesses, where use of good quality land for development is minimised and business viability is not adversely affected;
- diversification of existing businesses;
- essential community services;
- essential infrastructure;
- reuse of a redundant or unused building;
- small scale developments that support
- new ways of working such as remote working, homeworking and community hubs

For more detailed insight into how NPF4 aims to enable affordable housing and rural revitalisation, please see excerpts on this and the previous page.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

RURAL REVITALISATION

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to retain and increase the population of rural areas of Scotland.

The spatial strategy reflects a wide range of proposals for development in rural areas, supported by national developments that recognise the potential and need to expand key sectors including renewable energy, sustainable transport and green infrastructure.

Policy 17 promotes the development of rural homes, to ensure the needs of communities are met in a sustainable way. Similarly, **Policy 29** encourages development that will contribute to rural economies and communities. Development proposals that contribute to the viability, sustainability and diversity of rural businesses are supported while ensuring planning policies take into consideration local characteristics. Both policies support development in previously inhabited areas in a way that is guided by LDPs. Greater constraint will be applied in areas of pressure whilst in rural areas with fragile communities, a more enabling approach has been taken to support communities to be sustainable and thrive. LDPs are required to set out an appropriate approach to development in areas of pressure and decline informed by an understanding of population change and settlement characteristics and how these have changed over time as well as an understanding of the local circumstances including housing and travel.

Many policies will also play an important role in supporting rural communities and population growth. Some focus on supporting sustainable development in key sectors for rural areas such as **Policy 30** on tourism, which aims to ensure community, environmental and business considerations are fully taken into account. **Policy 32** encourages sustainable aquaculture, whilst **Policy 10** supports development in coastal areas that takes into account future vulnerability to climate change. **Policy 11** supports opportunities for renewable energy development whilst **Policy 24** will support the delivery of digital infrastructure to support investment and population growth in rural areas.

Care has been taken to ensure policies reflect the specific needs and constraints of rural areas. **Policy 13** ensures that in assessing the transport impacts of development, the area's needs and characteristics are taken into account. **Policy 15** aims to promote local living in broad terms, including through 20 minute neighbourhoods where practical, recognising varying settlement patterns and the particular characteristics and challenges of different areas in applying these principles in practice. **Policy 28** also recognises the importance of retail facilities for rural communities and economies.

Alongside this, recognising that environmental quality is a key asset for rural areas, Policies **3**, **4**, **5** and **6** ensure that natural assets are protected and enhanced.

Figure 9: National Planning Framework 4 (2023), pg 18

4. Community Survey Results

Overview

The full Community Survey Summary Report is available for download on the Struan Community Website. It details the evidence base gathered in June 2023. The Survey was commissioned by the local Community Action Plan (CAP) Group, consisting of Struan Community Council (SCC), Struan Community Trust (SCT) and Struan Community Development Group (SCDG) alongside Planning Aid Scotland (PAS). The Survey is intended as an initial step in an ongoing process to understand the needs and desires of the community in Struan, with a view to developing a full Community Action Plan in the next season.

The CAP survey asked the following questions:

1   What is your age?

2   What is your connection to the community in Struan?

3   For roughly how many years has Struan been a home for you?

4   What do you like about living in the Struan area?

5   Is there anything you don't you like about being in Struan?

6   What are Struan's strengths, as a community and place?

7   What challenges are faced by the community right now?

8   What do you think are the challenges that may be faced by the community in 5-10 years' time?

9   What opportunities do you see in future that we can make happen by working together?

10 How do you currently find out what is going on in Struan?

11 How do you think communication can be improved so we can all know what's going on?

Questions 5-9 are designed to supply a traditional SWOT analysis of the community: Strengths (Q6), Weaknesses (Q5), Opportunities (Q9), and Threats (Qs7-8).

The opportunity was also taken to survey support for the proposal to take ownership of the school into community hands, with the following questions:

12 Do you support the idea of the community taking over the school site and buildings after it has been officially closed?

13 If you answered yes to the above, what purposes would you like to see the building and site put to?

14 If the community were to take over the school, how do you think we should ensure that the facility becomes a sustainable enterprise (able to support itself through its own income generation)?

Every household received a paper copy with the option to fill out online.

The CAP group was delighted with the strength of response to the survey (which closed 18th June 2023). 82 responses were received, with all but 17 completed online. This data was used to inform and design the public workshops that happened in July and August 2023.

The pie charts on the following page break down the characteristics of respondents, by age and residency. Information has also been included regarding responses to the question of how best to communicate across the community and the level of support for potential community control and/or ownership of the local primary school.

The response data for the CAP survey has been analysed according to the following categories, which are taken from the national planning tool called the Place Standard: Moving Around; Public transport; Traffic and parking; Streets and spaces; Natural space; Play and recreation; Facilities and amenities; Work and local economy; Housing and community; Social contact; Identity and belonging; Feeling safe; Care and maintenance; Influence and sense of control. A final 'other comments' question was also included.

Who replied to the survey?

Age of respondent

- 18 - 24 — 3%
- 25 - 34 — 6%
- 35 - 44 — 4%
- 45 - 54 — 18%
- 55 - 64 — 29%
- 65-75 — 22%
- 75 or older — 11%
- Prefer not to say — 7%

Connection to the Community of Struan

- I have a residence in Struan and another residence elsewhere. — 3%
- My permanent home is in Struan — 87%
- My permanent residence is outside Struan. — 2%
- no answer — 7%
- Other connection — 1%

Years that Struan has been a home for you (respondent)
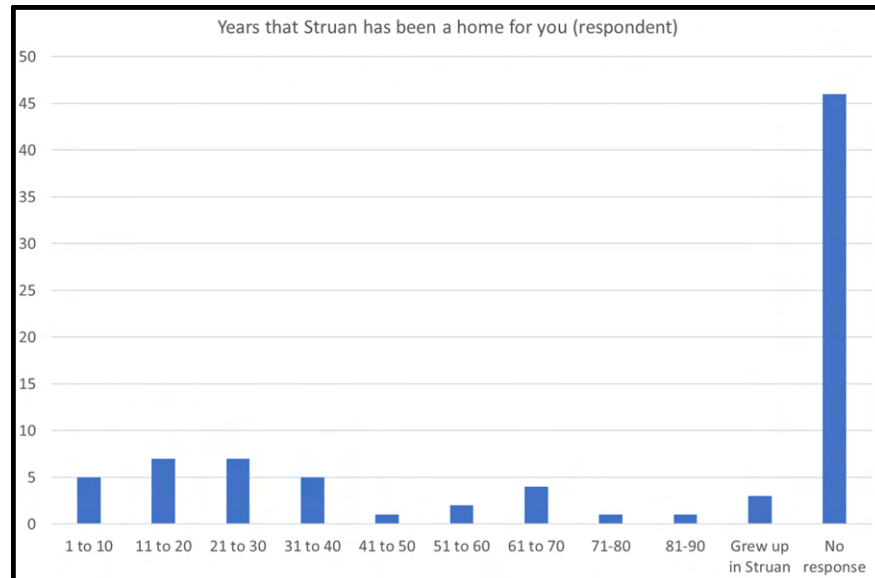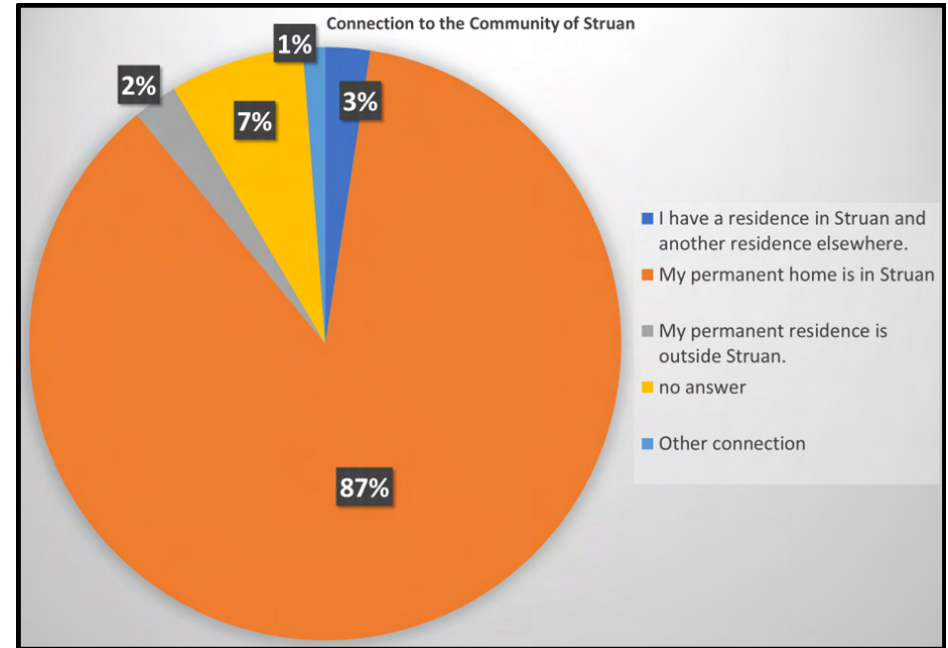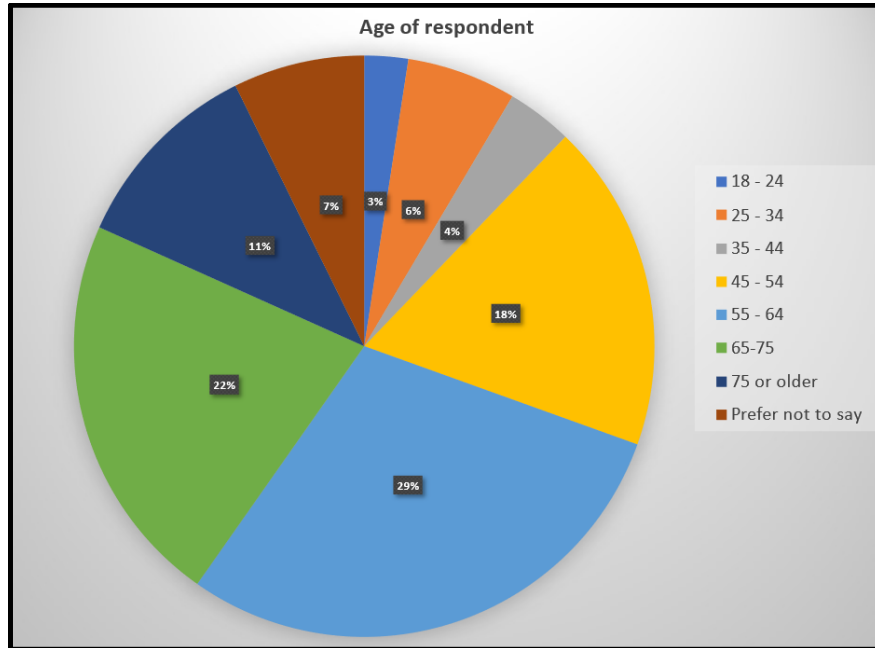
How do you currently find out what is going on in Struan? (Question 10)

How do you find out what's going on?

- Word of Mouth
- Facebook group
- Struan Community Website
- Local Posters
- Emails
- Mail drops
- Other - Find out very little, usually only after it's happened, especially post covid
- Other - I live and work here!!
- Other - I find out after the event
- Other - WHFP
- Other - My mother
- Other - Minutes from SCDG
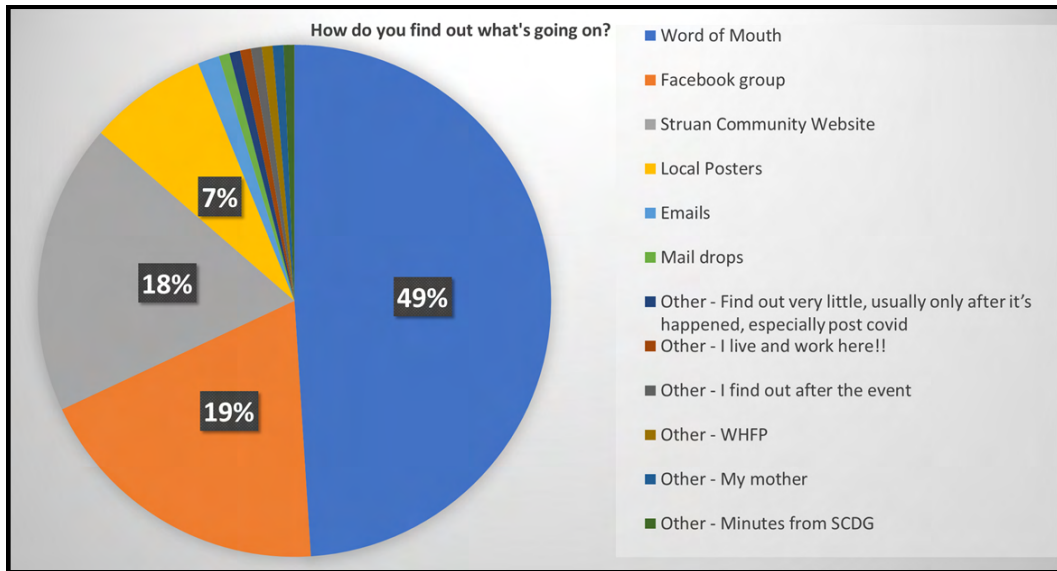
Word of Mouth	72
Facebook group	28
Struan Community Website	27
Local Posters	11
Emails	2
Mail drops	1
Other - Find out very little, usually only after it's happened, especially post covid	1
Other - I live and work here!!	1
Other - I find out after the event	1
Other - WHFP	1
Other - My mother	1
Other - Minutes from SCDG	1
Total	147

How do you think communication can be improved so we can all know what's going on? (Question 11)

Response	Count
New Community Social media page e.g. Facebook	18
Local Posters/ noticeboard	13
Community Newsletter (monthly, quarterly) online and offline	12
Other comment	11
Community Website	10
Email list	8
Communications are already good and serve my needs	7
Mail drops for folks without email	7
Encourage word of mouth	4
Improve Broadband	3
Develop Community Hub to meet, Hold public meetings	2
Create a Whats App group	1
Proactive involvement of wider community in community group plans	1
Ensure CAP report distributed to every home	1
Total statements made	98

Result

The communities top three preferred modes of communication for the future are:

• Developing new dedicated community social media pages

• Making sure all info is also posted on a public noticeboard in the centre of the village.

• Sending a community newsletter at regular intervals by email and post.

Note that a new community-wide email list has already been initiated as part of the CAP process by the CAP group.

Additional comments
Six comments indicated they didn't know there was a Community Council Facebook Page and/or Community Website before they got the leaflet about the CAP process.

Community take-over of the school site: convictions

The following chart summarises responses to question 12: "Do you support the idea of the community taking over the school site and buildings after it has been officially closed?"

Result

While some caution was expressed, 94% of respondents supported the idea of the community taking over the school site and buildings after it has been officially closed.

Two additional comments were made:

- "Not until the community sees feasibility in this project. This survey has not allowed space for a negative response. Can school be used at present e.g. history meetings, country dancing, gardening so on?"

- "It should have been retained as a school."
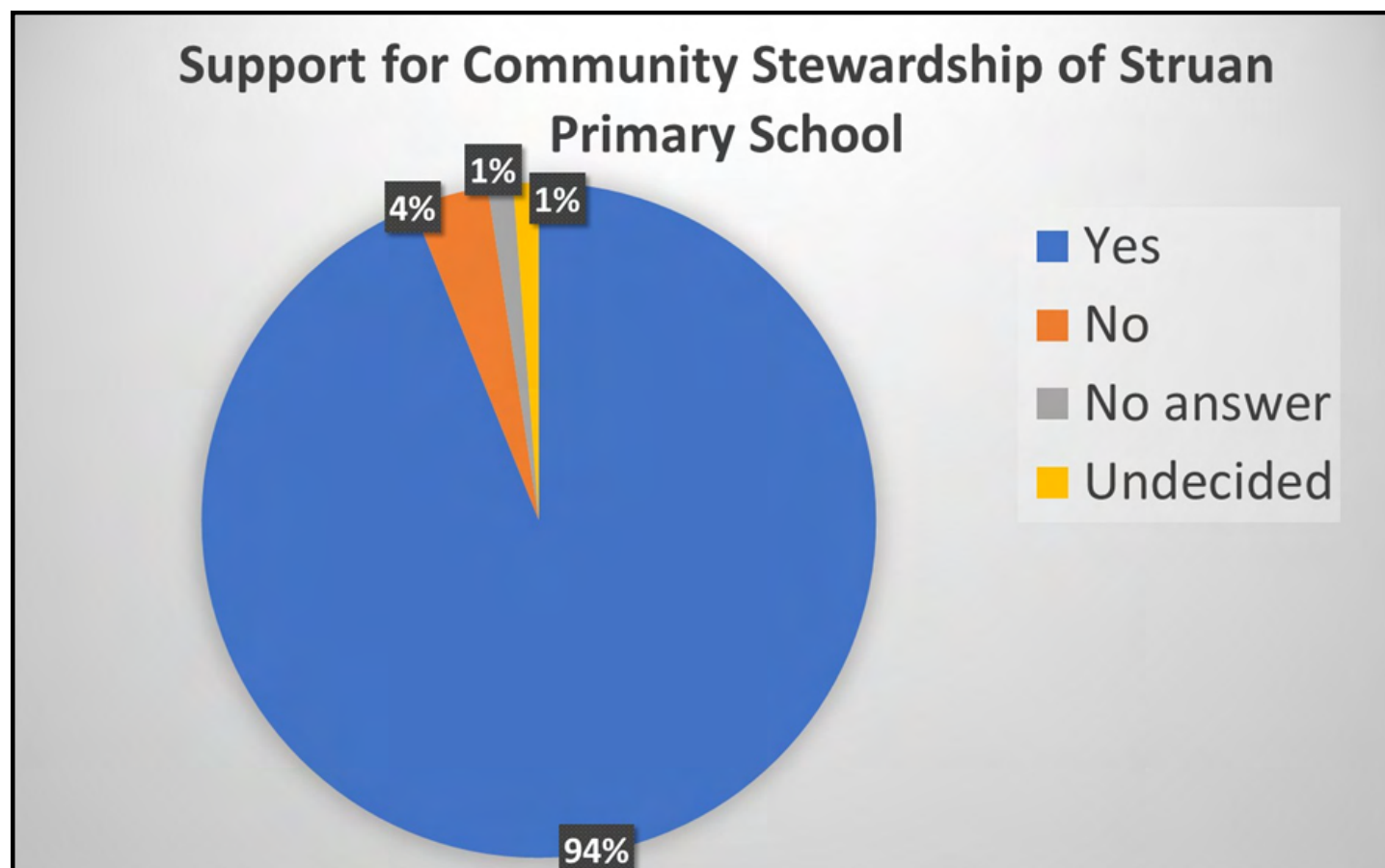
Initial diagnosis of the key issues Struan faces in the future.

On the following page, a graph displays the relative quantity of responses received around particular topic areas in Struan. The graph has been constructed using the 14 categories of the Place Standard. Specifically, it is a statistical comparison of the percentage of responses that have been received for questions 7 and 8: challenges faced by Struan in the short and long term. The graph offers an initial, high-level diagnosis of the key issues facing Struan.

What challenges will be faced by the community in the future?

	Near Future	Far Future
MOVING AROUND	0.1	0
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	5.5	6.9
NATURAL SPACES	1	0.6
PLAY AND RECREATION	0	1.1
FACILITIES AND AMENITIES	28.8	18.9
WORK AND LOCAL ECONOMY	15.5	10.8
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY	24.8	30.1
SOCIAL INTERACTION		0.6
IDENTITY AND BELONGING	2.5	1.7
CARE AND MAINTENANCE	6.9	0
INFLUENCE AND SENSE OF CONTROL	9	9.6
GENERAL COMMENT	5.4	19.9

Conclusions

The following general conclusions were drawn from the survey:

- *Likes*
  - The scenery, landscape, tranquillity and community spirit of Struan are most appreciated, and to a lesser extent the ease of travel to Dunvegan, Portree and Carbost.

- *Communications*
  - The overwhelming majority of people in Struan get their community news via word of mouth, Facebook and the Struan Community Website.Maximising the impact of these without excluding people who don't rely on technology for their information will be key.

- Support for *community stewardship* of the Struan Primary School property was overwhelmingly positive, with 94% of respondents supportive.

In terms of a SWOT Analysis of the Community of Struan:

- *Strengths*
  - Struan's landscape, history, tourism offer and local people (supportive networks and active citizenship) are all considered to be strengths.

- *Weaknesses*
  - The lack of public transport, poor state of the roads, poor quality broadband and lack of a local shop that meets people's local needs are seen to weaknesses.

- *Opportunities*
  - Developing the former School as a community facility, attracting younger people to remain in Struan, and taking advantage of potential wind farm income are all key opportunities on the horizon.

- *Threats*
  - Facilities and amenities and work and the local economy challenges in the short term, with the challenge of housing provision of increasing importance into the future. This appears to be because housing is considered to be so central to attracting and keeping young people in the community for a sustainable future.

Other observations:
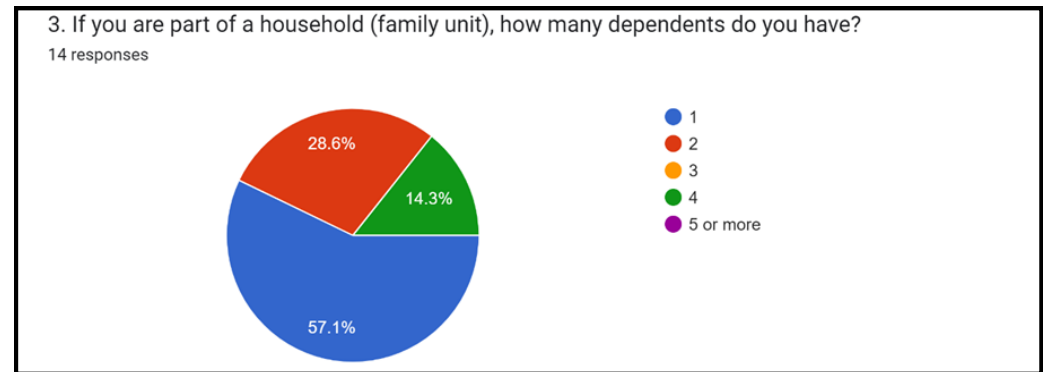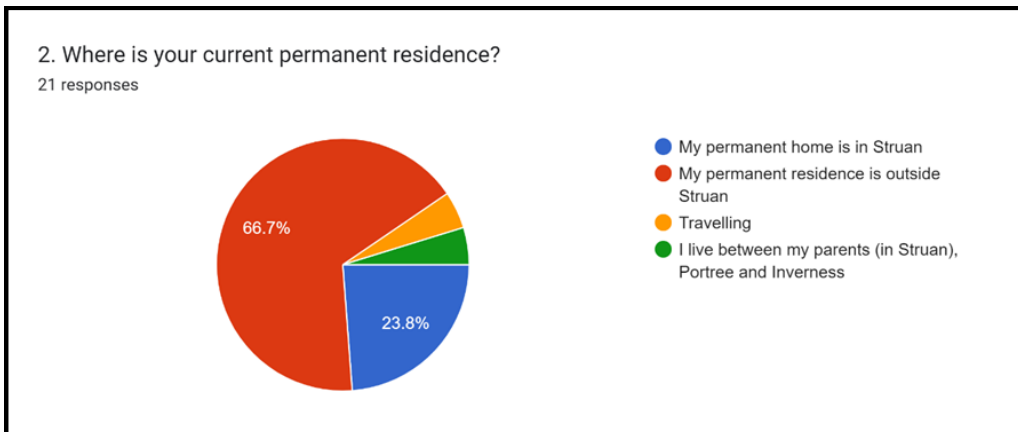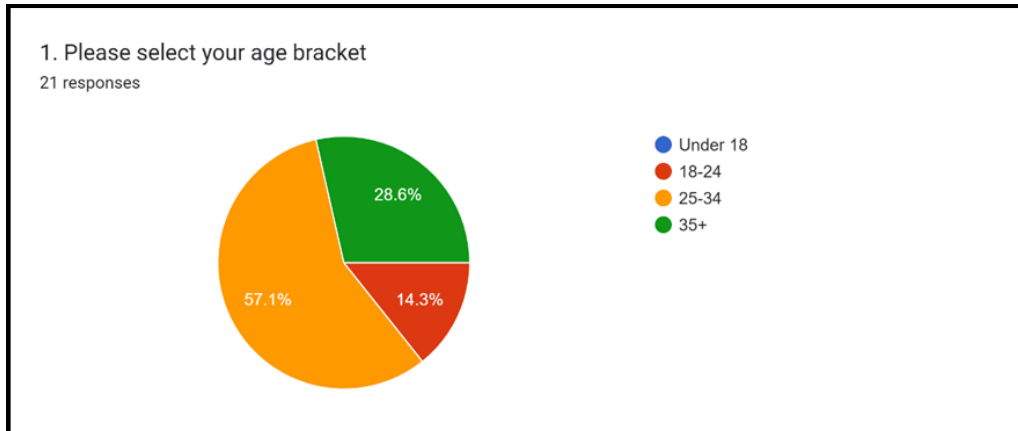- Considering the declared national and regional climate change emergency, there was a significant and surprising lack of expressed concern in this regard. Only two people mentioned the challenge of Climate Change as being a key issue over the next 10 years. It is not clear what the cause of this is: lack of awareness, concrete opposition, or uncertainty as to how to begin to address these issues locally.

5. Attracting younger generations to live in Struan: Survey results

Survey ran from 10th October until Sunday 12th November 2023. In total there were 21 individual respondents.

Part A: About the respondents

1. Please select your age bracket
21 responses

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35+

28.6%
57.1%
14.3%

2. Where is your current permanent residence?
21 responses

- My permanent home is in Struan
- My permanent residence is outside Struan
- Travelling
- I live between my parents (in Struan), Portree and Inverness

66.7%
23.8%

3. If you are part of a household (family unit), how many dependents do you have?
14 responses

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

28.6%
14.3%
57.1%

7 respondents (33%) were single, 14 respondents (67%) were part of family units with one child or more.

Part B: About the insights of the respondents

4. Have you or your household left Struan owing to lack of suitable housing that you can afford?	Count
No, my household and/or myself currently reside in Struan.	5
I/We left for other reasons	9
Yes, I myself left for this reason	4
Yes, myself and members of my household left for this reason	3

- 5 respondents live in Struan.
- 7 respondents (and in some cases their households) left Struan because of lack of affordable housing.
- 9 have left for other reasons.
- Less than half of those who have moved away did so for accommodation reasons (33% overall)

5. (If you indicated you have left Struan in question 4 above). Did any of the following reasons influence your decision to move away? (Tick multiple answers if applicable).	Count	Percentage
14 of 16 people who said they had left Struan responded with why. 2 chose not to		
Of those 14, the following reasons were additional or core motivations leading them to move away		
A need/desire to "spread our wings" and live elsewhere for a while	6	43%
A lack of suitable superfast broadband access	5	36%
A need/desire to be located closer to work	5	36%
A lack of work easily accessible from a home in Struan	4	29%
A need/desire to be located closer to education (college, university)	4	29%
An attraction to quality of life on offer in larger population centres	4	29%
A lack of work easily accessible from a home in Struan	1	7%
A need/desire to be located closer to family	1	7%
A need to start a new family	1	7%

- People also move away from Struan for a variety of reasons unrelated to accommodation.
- Work requirements, education requirements, poor quality broadband, personal development and quality of life offered by larger settlements are all significant factors that can influence the decision to move away from Struan.

6. (If you answered "no" to question 4 and currently live in Struan). Do you anticipate that you or your household may need to leave Struan at some point in the future owing to a lack of affordable housing? (Tick multiple answers if applicable).	Percentage
5 of the 21 respondents indicated they stayed in Struan	
My household and/or myself intend to remain in Struan for the long term and we don't require access to affordable housing to do so	2
Access to affordable housing would allow me to stay in Struan for the long term and this would be my preferred option	2
Yes, I myself may need to leave Struan at some point in the future owing to a lack of affordable housing	1

- 3 of the 5 respondents who currently live in Struan indicated that in future they may need to leave Struan owing to shortage of affordable housing.
- This means that one half (10/21) of respondents have been (7) or anticipate being (3) affected by the lack of suitable accommodation in Struan in terms of their options for where to live.

7. Do you know anyone else aged 40 or less who has left Struan due to a lack of affordable housing? (Tick multiple answers if applicable).
• 11 of the 21 (52%) respondents indicated that they knew of members of their own household or others friends or colleagues who have left Struan due to a lack of available affordable housing.
• 6 of the 21 (29%) indicated they knew people who had left for other reasons as well.
• 4 of the 21 (19%) didn't know anyone that this applies to.

- It is likely that lack of suitable accommodation affects a wider range of people in this age group who didn't respond to this survey. More research is required here.

8. If you answered "People I know have left for other reasons" in question 7 above, please indicate all applicable reasons that apply below. (Tick multiple answers if applicable).	Count	Percentage
17 respondents replied to this question		
A lack of work easily accessible from a home in Struan	9	53%
A need/desire to be located closer to education (e.g. college, university),	6	35%
A need/desire to "spread their wings" and live elsewhere for a while	5	29%
An attraction to quality of life on offer in larger population centres	5	29%
A lack of suitable superfast broadband access	3	18%
A need/desire to be located closer to work	3	18%
A need/desire to be located closer to family,	2	12%
Lack of affordable accommodation	1	6%
Started a family	1	6%

- Regarding additional reasons for other people they knew moving away:
  - 12 said work had been a factor
  - 9 said lack of available work nearby (and 5 of these also said they needed to be closer to work).
  - 3 said they just needed to be closer to work.
  - A lack of superfast broadband was only given as a reason for 3 people moving away.
  - The need to be nearer education was a factor for 6 folks moving away
  - For 5, a need/desire to "spread their wings" and live elsewhere for a while, and/or an attraction for quality of life elsewhere.
  - 2 needed to be closer to family.
  - 1 started a new family.
- Again, education, work and a need for quality of life or personal development were all important factors motivating people to move.

9. Do you (and your household if applicable) require affordable housing to live in Struan for the long term?	Count	Percentage
No	11	52%
Yes, myself and members of my household	6	29%
Yes, myself	3	14%
No answer	1	5%

- This data confirms that around half of respondents (9) consider that they would need access to affordable housing if they were to stay in Struan or return to Struan for the long term.

10. (If you answered yes to question 9 above) What housing tenure type would be acceptable to you if it was available within your financial means? (Tick multiple answers if applicable).	Count	Percent
Private ownership	6	67
Self-build plots	5	56
Community-led housing with secure tenancy,	5	56
Community-led housing with a shared-ownership mortgage	5	56
Social housing with a secure tenancy (council provided),	3	33
Private rental with a long-term secure tenancy	3	33

- Of the 9 respondents who indicated they would like to be able to access affordable housing in Struan:
  - Most would prefer self-ownership through self-build or private purchase.
  - Around half would be interested in some form of community-led housing.
  - And council housing or private rental are less desired.

11. Do you know anyone outside of your household aged 40 or less who wants to live in Struan long term (including relocating back here) but would need access to affordable housing to be able to do so? (Tick multiple answers if applicable).	Count	Percentage
No, I don't know anyone this would apply to	9	43%
Other friends/acquaintances/work colleagues	7	33%
Former members of my household (e.g. former dependents)	3	14%
My Brother	1	5%

- Better public transport, access to local provisions and better broadband top the list of additional factors that would attract people back to Struan.

12. What other provision would make it more likely that you would choose to live in Struan in the long-term?	Count	Percentage
Local shop with acceptable range of basic goods,	16	76%
Provision of suitable superfast broadband,	14	67%
Public transport to Portree/Dunvegan	11	52%
Local Community Centre	7	33%
Post Office available locally,	7	33%
Children's nursery available locally,	5	24%
Employment opportunities in crofting,	5	24%
Work units for small businesses/enterprise	5	24%
Apprenticeships available for local work,	4	19%
Facilities for access to the sea (for leisure or business)	4	19%
Employment opportunities in tourism	3	14%
Employment opportunities in fishing	2	10%

13. Additional relevant comments not already expressed elsewhere:
- "I feel that there should be constraints on people retiring to Skye. I feel that priority should be given to younger people struggling to live in there own area"

6. Evaluating the Struan CAP process

This work was undertaken according to Planning Aid Scotland's (PAS) SP=EED engagement principles by a qualified SP=EED practitioner.

SP=EED (Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery) is PAS's practical guide to undertaking effective community engagement in planning, endorsed by the Scottish Government. It is also an excellent framework for Community Action Plans. The SP=EED approach provides a clear and practical framework for carrying out engagement projects. It sets out 3 levels of engagement (Informing, Consulting and Partnership) and 8 criteria by which engagement projects can be designed, carried out and assessed.

Table 3: Evaluating the Struan CAP process

SP=EED Criteria	Aim	How delivered during the Struan CAP Process
1. Transparency & Integrity	Trust is at the heart of all effective community engagement. Earn trust with communities and stakeholders by communicating clearly and openly about the purpose of the engagement and explaining the limits of what can be achieved.	Developed trusted relationships with Steering Group and nominated lead, Ali Morrison. "Soft launch" focussed on key community leaders. Two hand-delivered mail-drops to every home in Struan: timeline and dates provided for both online survey and face-to-face gatherings.
2. Co-ordination	Process isn't the opposite of people, it offers the necessary support for relationships to thrive. Committing ourselves to a well co-ordinated process challenges us to plan the detail thoughtfully, deliver in a timely way and consistently do the little things well.	Project support and design via PAS Social Enterprise Manager. Regular rhythm of planning and co-ordination meetings with Steering Group.
3. Information	There is an art to sharing complex ideas in simple ways. Language and media give us the power to share, listen, and understand, rather than impose our message, or uncaringly frustrate others.	Colourful, bright and simple A2 Presentation boards developed to display future scenarios and preferred future vision developed by the community to inform deeper action planning conversations. Dedicated website landing page, enewsletter and social media.
4. Creativity	Connection, understanding and insight are all deepened when our imaginations and emotions are stirred. Fun and celebration help us see the potential beyond the everyday. Engagement should be engaging.	Use of Community Visioning process at beginning of process to enable community to imagine various potential futures for Struan according to different trends. Launch day (February 2024) to include food and celebration. Radio interview with Radio Skye undertaken by project lead.
5. Responsiveness	Being flexible and kind as engagement processes emerge allows us to adapt to meet the needs of ever-changing places and people. Responsiveness is a responsibility.	Flexibility offered around end-date of project to accommodate local needs and volunteer availability. Initial community survey included specialised survey to explore community convictions about community take-over of the school. Site-visit co-ordinated with Scottish Minister.
6. Inclusiveness	Making sure people can be involved … and feel involved … in a way that works for them is not primarily a problem to be solved or a technique to be employed, but a relationship to be bridged. This requires humility, time and effort.	Every home in Struan received physical communications twice during the process Accessible venue (The School) used for all gatherings. Dedicated young people's survey undertaken in Nov 2023.
7. Monitoring and Evaluation	Growing in skill and confidence and working to make a difference means having processes in place to track the effects of our work. Then making the time to sit down with others and allow them to show us what has been valuable and what has not.	End of process survey shared with Steering group members.
8. Learning & Sharing	A commitment to personal and organisational reflection means we can continually improve our processes and share our learning with others.	This review page.

7. Bibliography

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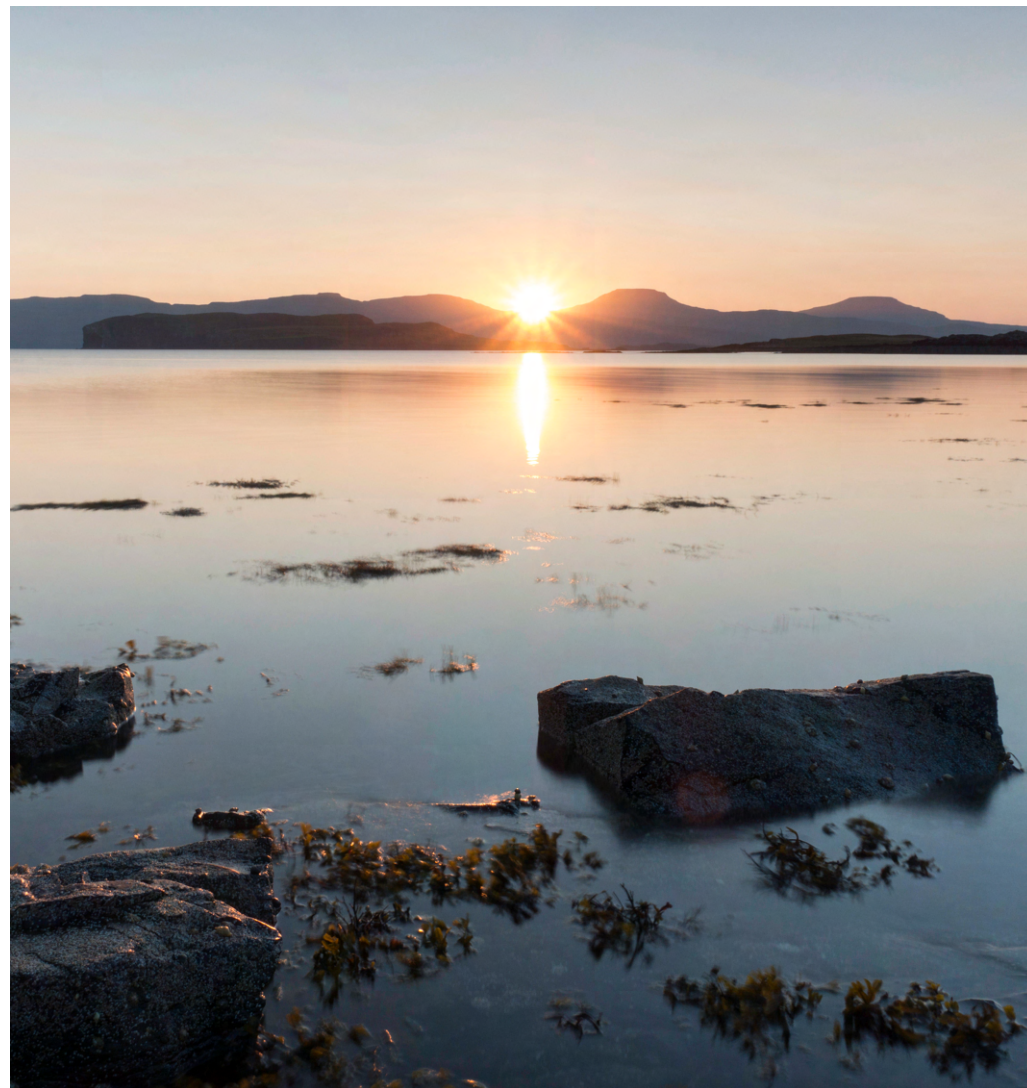Road traffic statistics - Local Authority: Highland
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Struan
Community
Action Plan
Appendices