Struan

Community

Action Plan

February 2024

Struan Community Action Plan

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the community groups and many local residents, all of whom committed so much energy and enthusiasm to produce this plan.

Front, inside and rear cover photos:
Pictured at the iconic Struan view with Diddley's memorial bench in the background, some of Struan's finest with 256 years of experience, memories & stories between them. All those pictured were educated in Struan Primary School and worked or work in their local community.

Front cover:
- Neil Macleod of Ebost; Donald MacCusbic of Totarder; Neil Mackinnon of Ullinish.

Inside cover:
- Younger generation, all following in the footsteps of their forebears (L-R): Neil Macleod, Peter MacCusbic & Jamie Mackinnon.

Rear cover:
- Younger generation looking forward to the future

Photography credits:
- Front, inside and rear cover photos, courtesy of John and Susan MacKinnon.
- Photo on page 30, courtesy of Paul Ede.
- All other photos throughout the document, courtesy of David McGough.

Community Action Plan commissioned by:
The Struan CAP Group (Struan Community Council, Struan Community Trust and Struan Community Development Group).

"A community action plan will set out what we intend to do in the next 5-10 years hopefully with all members of the community working closely together."

Acronyms

A select list of commonly used acronyms in this document.

- CAP Community Action Plan
- EV Electric Vehicle
- PAS Planning Aid Scotland
- SPS Struan Primary School
- SCC Struan Community Council
- SCDG Struan Community Development Group
- SCGC Struan Community Gala Committee
- SCT Struan Community Trust

"Well done and a big thank you to you and all the team! Two really good sessions - at least so far as getting Struan residents to come and get involved/inspired - and it was great to hear the buzz on both days."
Sarah Illingworth, CAP group member

Endorsements

Struan Community Trust
The Struan Community Trust has participated in the Community Action Plan (CAP) group since the summer of 2022 when it was formed. In early 2023 Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) with Paul Ede and his team was commissioned to facilitate the production of this plan with funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Struan Community Trust. Throughout the following months local groups and individuals participated in a series of workshops to ascertain what people wanted to see in the Action Plan.

This completed document is the result of that hard work and the Struan Community Trust fully endorses the first ever Struan Community Action Plan and hope that as many residents as possible continue to offer their support and get involved with new initiatives as we go forward.

Struan Community Council
The Struan Community Council having been represented on the Community Action Plan Steering Group from the outset, we fully endorse the process that has been undertaken to produce Struan's first Action Plan, in conjunction with Paul Ede and his team at PAS.

We believe to the best of our abilities the Community has been and has had the opportunity to engage in the process to provide a framework to move the Community forward to the benefit of all both young and old over the next 5 to 10 years.

Appendices

If you are reading a hardcopy version of this report, and are interested to read the Appendices, please download them by using the following QR code.

Or visit the following web page:
www.struancommunity.co.uk/struan-action-plan

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Welcome and introduction

Struan is our home and our place, with a storied history and many deep connections for everyone here. We all have a vested interest in making sure it thrives into the future. But caring for our community and stewarding our place takes investment and time. Making a place work for all requires intentional, shared will. But it's in the midst of that work that the bonds of relationship that we so value really grow and entwine. Making a small community like ours work requires a plan to work towards and a commitment to relationship as we walk that path together.

Facing the possibility of a new windfarm at Glen Ullinish, leaders of Struan's community groups realised that an Action Plan laying out our aims for the future was required. But such a vision needed to emerge collaboratively with wisdom from the whole community. This report is the result of such a process. It details our vision for Struan in 2033 and beyond, and lays out a framework for how we are planning to get there, together.

1. Introduction

Overview of brief

Struan Community Council, along with Struan Community Trust, agreed to prepare a CAP to provide a way forward for the community. [1] This was seen as the best vehicle to secure the views, opinions and ideas of residents, community groups & other stakeholders to take this forward. Representatives of each group formed a six-strong CAP group to co-ordinate the process.

The CAP group decided to develop a plan that:

1. is strategic, coordinated, objective and clear. Its vision, aims and objectives are to be informed and owned by the community and residents of Struan.
2. facilitates best use of available resources in Struan (human, natural and financial).
3. identifies the objectives of the different groups and individuals in the community.

Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) was secured to serve the community to develop the plan.

Why develop a Community Action Plan?

As a community, Struan has been in receipt of Wind Farm Community Benefit Funds from Vattenfall for just over 10 years. These funds are distributed through Struan Community Trust, which was set up to distribute funds to community groups, individuals or groups that provide a service to the community. At approx. £40,000 per annum, the funding received is modest, and not at a level that could fund major value projects.

However, moving forward Muirhall Energy are preparing to submit a planning application for the Glen Ullinish II Windfarm. This is now likely to consist of 40 to 50 turbines on a site 4km north of Struan. If successful, Muirhall could provide a community benefit fund for the communities of Skye in the region of £2million/year for the 30-year life of the windfarm. Discussions are ongoing with Muirhall about the allocation of funds, and the mechanisms for local distribution.

This Community Action Plan aims to:

- Help initiatives by the local community to tap into funding and support by showing how their work fits the context of wider community aspirations.
- Enable the local community to work together towards a common purpose.
- Enable the community to deploy resources towards widely supported projects.
- Help the community focus on the challenge to reduce its carbon emissions.
- Demonstrate to stakeholders and funders how the community's vision for Struan ties into wider regional and national government priorities.
- Provide a context for dialogue between local community members who own land and the wider community.
- Indicate to wider stakeholders how they can support the goals of the community.

The plan is a guide for what we as a community want to achieve over the next 10 years. The initiatives detailed here provide a menu of options that cover a wide range of topics – some will be easier to realise, others will take much longer and require many different people to come together. But being mentioned in the plan doesn't mean that they will all be realised: it is for this reason that many initiatives have been designated as "proposed" at this stage. This is because delivery never happens in a straight line: it 'zig-zags', dependent on funding opportunities, local capacity and a variety of other factors. Additionally, community needs and priorities can change over time, which is why we have built a review process into this plan.

Structure of the Plan

This plan is in five parts:

1. The Introductory chapter includes an executive summary, with an overview of how the plan was prepared, its key aims and priorities for action.

2. The Context chapter describes the history of our community and our current context.

3. The Vision and Aims chapter contains our vision for the future of our local community in 2033: what's important to us and what we want to achieve.

4. The Actions and Initiatives chapter details 31 initiatives across 13 action areas organised according to 5 themes. Each initiative aims to deliver our vision, with some already in the pipeline and others being proposals for the future.

5. A final chapter called Making it Happen: Implementation explains how we as a community will work together and collaborate with others to turn our actions into reality. It contains the additional theme 'Organising Ourselves' and several further initiatives.

The Appendices give additional background, full information about engagement process that was used, information about how the plan relates to other plans influencing decisions in Struan, details of the surveys we undertook, an evaluation of the process and a bibliography of sources.

What was said by the community

Quotations made directly by community members during the process about their feelings and aspirations have been scattered throughout the plan, such as:

"Struan's strength is its community: local events are really well supported. You can't buy that."

"Struan is full of characters of all generations trying to keep old traditions and values alive whilst moving with the times"

How to get involved

If you would like to get involved with any of the proposed initiatives in this plan, or if you have any queries about this document, please contact the Struan CAP group on cap@struancommunity.co.uk

Executive Summary

The Community of Struan

On the west of the Isle of Skye, Struan is a small, scattered community, comprising the main village of Struan along with the smaller surrounding townships Meadle, Gesto, Coillore, Totarder, Balgown, Ullinish, Ose, Caroy & Balmeanach with approximately 250 to 300 residents. The local economy, like most of Skye, is heavily supported by tourism, fishing and crofting. Struan has a small local grocery shop, two churches, an outdoor shop; a small number of food outlets and a primary school, which is now closed. The ultimate goal would be the community gaining ownership of the School by way of a Community Asset Transfer.

How we developed our Action Plan

Over five months from May 2023 to September 2023 we issued two questionnaires, hosted six face-to-face workshops and public gatherings, and held a variety of other informal conversations to develop this plan.

The Community Action Plan in Numbers

The following graphic spells out the different ways that the community worked together to construct this plan from the bottom up.

Figure 1: Infographic detailing the Struan Action Plan process in numbers

Spreading the word

17 Social media posts

50 # people signing up to the community mailing list

9 # community newsletters sent

145 # households contacted with initial mail-drop and hardcopy of main survey

Having conversations

7 # public discussion events held
- 1 soft launch for community leaders
- 3 visioning workshops
- 3 action planning workshops

25 attendance at soft launch (9.5%)

45 attendance at visioning sessions (17%)

45 attendance at action planning workshops (17%)

Gathering data

3 # surveys undertaken

82 # respondents to the main survey and school survey

65 online

17 hardcopy

30% response rate (approx.)

21 # respondents to the survey about attracting younger generations to Struan

31 actions proposed for the Action Plan

Community Survey Overview

A community survey ran in June 2023 to gather an evidence base of insights from the community. 82 responses were received. 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 be 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.

Full details of the survey results can be found in Appendix 4. The full Community Survey Summary Report is also available for download.

"Rural but not too remote: it's good for travelling around Skye. Struan is perfectly located within easy reach of Portree, Carbost and Dunvegan."

Attracting younger generations to live in Struan

A dedicated survey was run in October and November 2023 to gauge the needs of young people connected to Struan. 21 respondents, more than two thirds under the age of 35, replied to our survey.

- Around half of these (9) considered that they would need access to affordable housing if they were to stay in Struan or return to Struan for the long term.
- In descending order of priority, respondents indicated that the following additional factors beyond housing access would attract them to live in Struan.
  - Local shop with acceptable range of basic goods
  - Provision of suitable superfast broadband
  - Public transport to Portree/Dunvegan
  - Local Community Centre
  - Post Office available locally
  - Childrens nursery available locally
  - Employment opportunities in crofting
  - Work units for small businesses/enterprise
  - Apprenticeships available for local work
  - Facilities for access to the sea (for leisure or business)
  - Employment opportunities in tourism/fishing

Full details of the survey results can be found in Appendix 5 and is available for download.
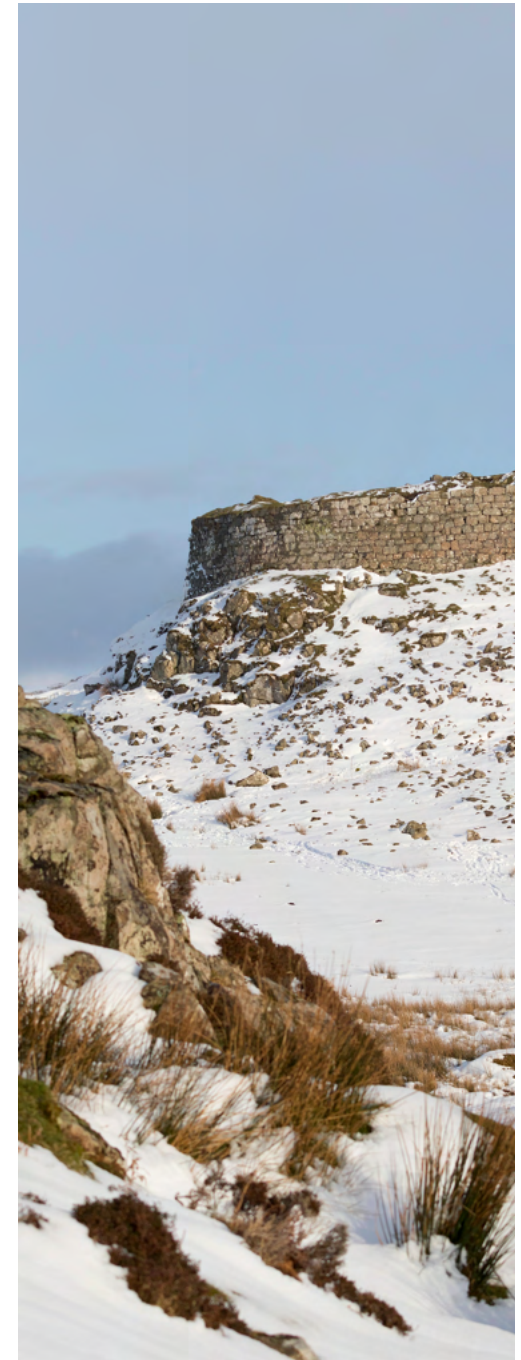
Vision for Struan in 2033 and beyond

Struan in 2033 has become a **thriving**, well-integrated and more **independent** community that has deliberately developed **local skilled employment** opportunities and where everyone feels **comfortable** and **happy** to live.

We have a **common goal** to work together for a better Struan.

All residents have access to the facilities, services and social activities that they need, including a **vibrant community hub** which also **welcomes visitors**.

These include **accessible housing** for **young** and **old** alike, and local **transport** and **communication** services that meet our needs and are **fit for the 21st century**.

Struan continues to **appreciate** and celebrate the **knowledge, skills and heritage** within our community and all those that have contributed to making it what it is today.

Figure 2: Vision for Struan in 2033 and beyond
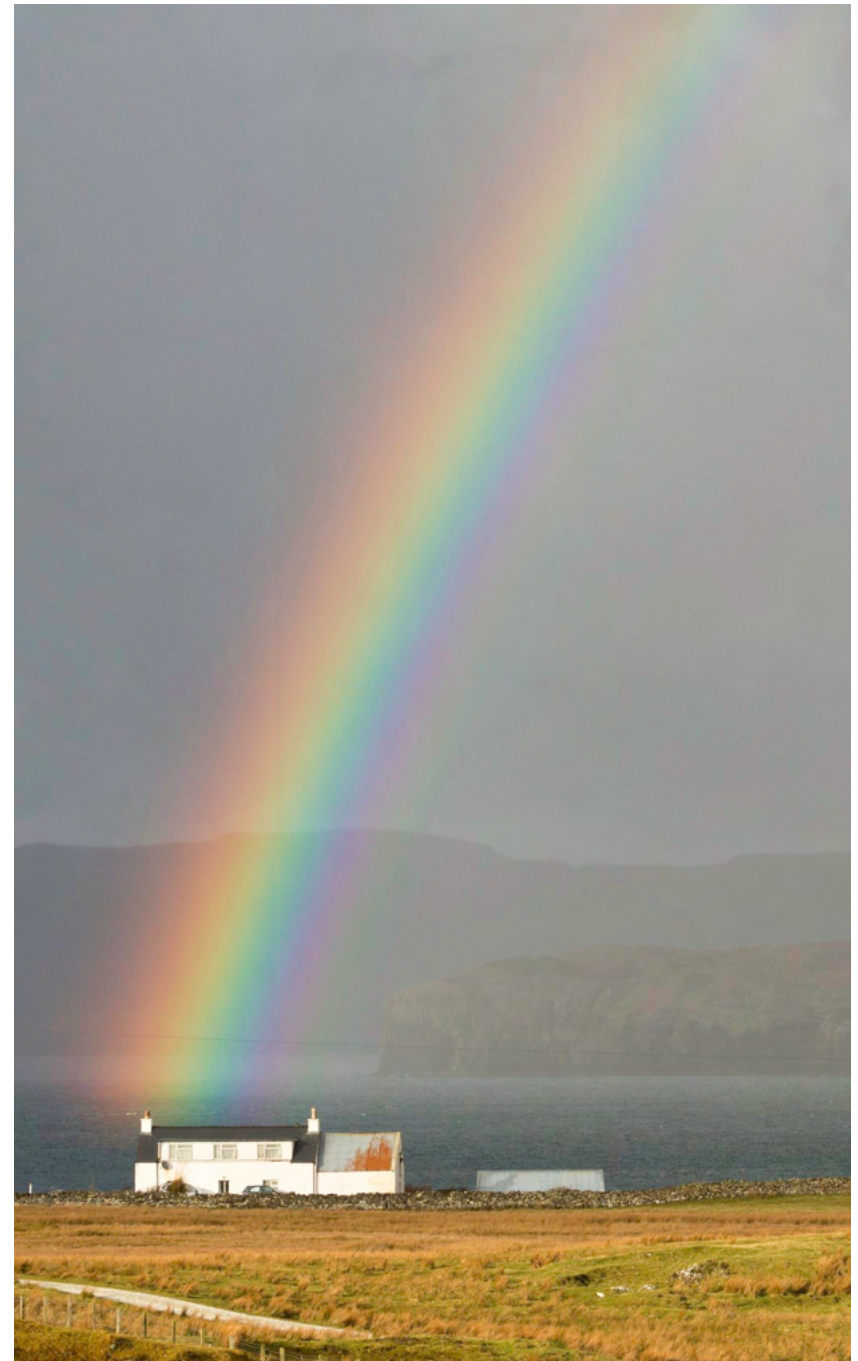
How we will achieve our vision: Action Areas

To achieve this ambitious vision, over the next 10 years we have developed a plan for action that covers thirteen different areas of our life together, arranged according to five themes.

A 10 year-time frame could involve delivery of a wide variety of actions to deliver our goals – some of which we haven't even imagined yet! But from our perspective in 2023, we have come up with 31 potential initiatives that might help us deliver our vision, and these are laid out in more detail in chapter 4. Some of these are already in process, some of them remain just the germs of ideas for now. But all of them together represent the collective ambition and hopes of what we can aim to achieve in this time frame.

Action Areas by theme

1. Community Life Together

A The School
B Connecting to the land and sea

2. Housing

C Housing provision
D Zero-carbon homes for all
E Specialist accommodation

3. Transport

F Community transport
G Improved public transport
H Safer, improved transport network

4. Economy and Communications

I Enhanced, faster Broadband Service
J Local services
K Providing accommodation for local businesses

5. Organising Ourselves

L Making things happen
M Improving community communications

Table 1: Action Areas for the Plan

Starting our journey

Our focus will begin with the School and our aim to turn it into a vibrant community hub. As we start out, we want to build our confidence and relationships with one another as neighbours, making sure everyone feels they have a stake in what develops on the site.

To this end, we will launch the plan at a gathering at the School in February 2024.

For a season after this, we aim to build a regular rhythm of gathering at the School. possibly sharing food, to build our friendships and community together. At the same time, there will be an invite for residents to come and use the building for whatever purpose you have energy to make happen! Birthday parties, craft groups, a simple Community Cinema showing popular films with some popcorn and hotdogs, or pottering in the community garden are just some of the things that could easily happen in these early stages.

We hope to also run some practical "barn-raising" activities to enable us all to work on the fabric and interior of the building (for example painting): working together always helps build togetherness.

Overview of Actions

The following table lays out the 13 Action Areas and 31 Initiatives according to five overarching themes: Community Life Together, Housing, Transport, Economy and Communications and Organising Ourselves.

For ease of reference, actions can be referred to by their action area letter and/or reference number. So action A1 is "start using the school/hub as soon as possible" and action L26 is "sharing the load."

Table 2: Overview of Actions

1. Community Life Together

A - The School

1 Start using The School as soon as possible
2 Develop activity programme at The School
3 Research funding
4 Progress Asset Transfer Process
5 Renovate building
6 Men's shed
7 Services for Tourists
8 Hire out space in Hall

B. Connecting to the land and sea

9 Polytunnel and Allotments
10 Revitalise Jetties (Struan, Caroy)

2. Housing

C. Housing provision

11 Set up Housing Working Group
12 Carry out housing needs audit for Struan.
13 Develop a finance system for younger people to get on the property ladder
14 Housing for the future

D - Zero-carbon homes for all

15 Future-proofing our homes

E - Specialist accommodation

16 Explore provision of specialist housing for older people

3. Transport

F. Community transport

17 Volunteer driving pool
18 Access (or partner with) existing North-West Skye Minibus service

G - Improved public transport

19 Lobby to reinstate public bus service loop from Portree to Dunvegan, including Struan

H - Safer, improved transport network

20 Lobby council to improve road maintenance
21 Lobby council to improve roadside pedestrian paths

4. Economy and Communications

I - Improve Broadband Service

22 Explore Community Broadband service

J - Local services

23 Explore options for a Community Shop

K - Providing accommodation for local businesses

24 Explore option of provision of work units/workspace

5. Organising Ourselves

L - Making things happen

25 Community Development Worker
26 Sharing the load

M - Improving community communications

27 Ongoing culture of consultation and opportunities for involvement
28 Continue to expand community email list
29 Set up a community newsletter online and offline
30 Encourage use of Community Website
31 Make full use of community noticeboard

Struan

2.1 Struan is located on the west coast of the Isle of Skye between Dunvegan to the north and Carbost to the south. It is situated 11 miles west of Portree in Ward 10 (Skye) of the Highland Council. Struan has a current population of 263 people. [2] Like the rest of Skye, it is defined as "Very Remote Rural". [3]

2.2 People have lived in what is now known as Struan since the Neolithic period, and many archaeological sites remain in the area, most notably Dun Beag Broch. Struan has long been a crofting community and remains so, although tourism has increasingly become a feature of the economy.

2.3 Struan is part of the North-West Skye "Special Landscape Area". [4] There are several existing and planned wind farms nearby, one of which has become a source of income for the community.

2.4 Opposite is a map of the boundaries of the Struan Community Council Area. It is located in a wider area known as Bracadale Parish, a designation linked to historic boundaries in use prior to the formation of the Highland Council Authority.
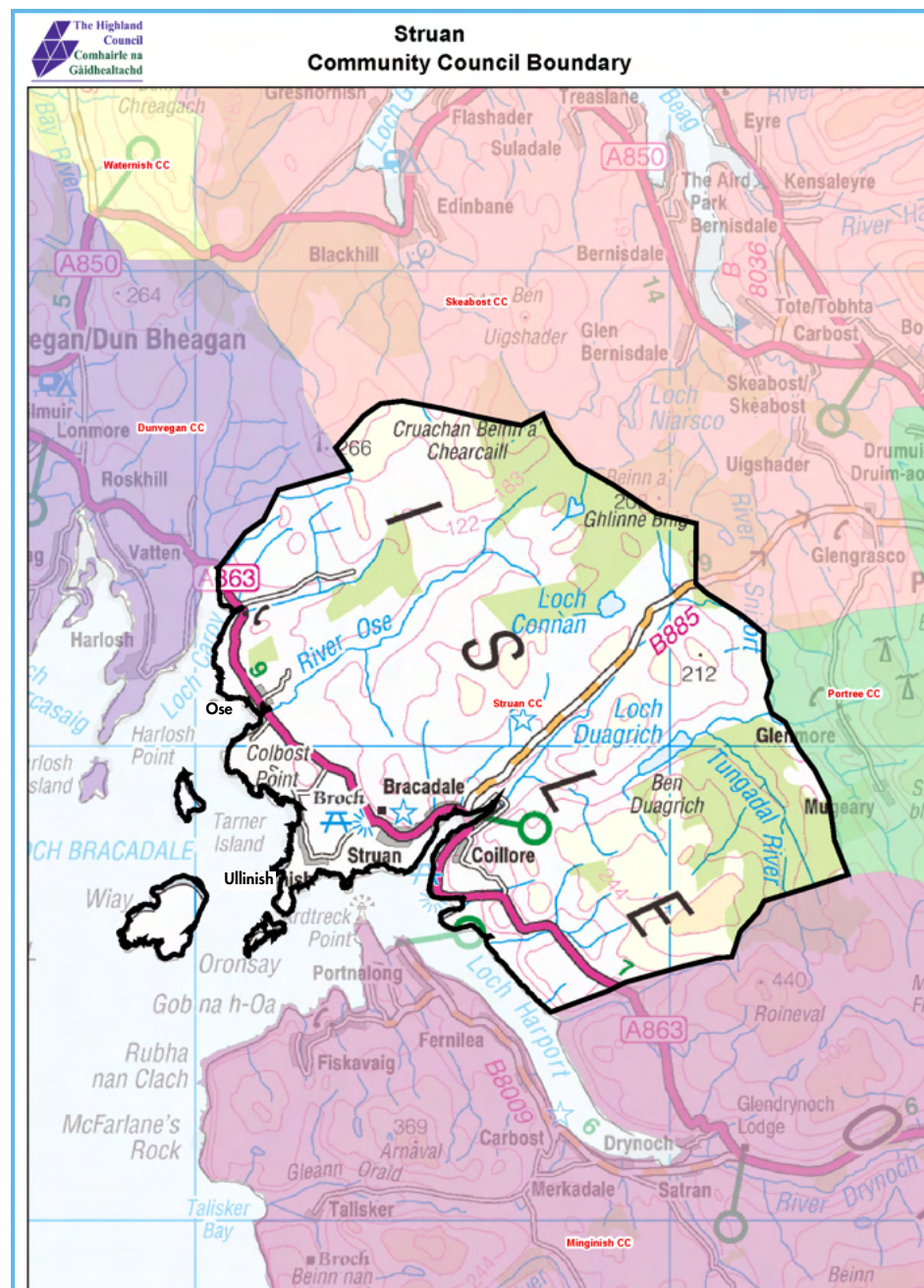
Figure 3: Map of Struan Community Council Area from the Highland Council.

[2] 2020 HC Development Planning data. Current estimates by local groups suggest a population of around 250.

[3] Scottish Government 8-fold Urban Rural Classification (2020).

[4] Highland Council Open Map Data (2023).

Demographics

2.5   Recent population statistics for Struan (2020) are shown below, in the context of other wards in Ward 10 (Skye). [5]

2.6   While overall between 2011 and 2020 Struan's population has declined by just 1%, the demographic shift towards residents aged over 65 plus has been significant. In this period, Struan Primary School has been closed and is not currently being used for teaching. There has been an outflow of residents under 64 years of age.

Community Council	Ward	Rural	2020 Pop. Estimates (HC Development Planning)						Pop Change 2011 - 2020			
			Age 0-15	Age 16-64	Age 65+	Area (sq km)	Total Pop Est	Pop. Density	Under 16	16 to 64	65 and over	Total Pop
Broadford and Strath	10	1	220	968	402	235.4	1590	6.8	-18%	0%	44%	5%
Dunvegan	10	1	53	323	179	99.5	555	5.6	-46%	-17%	34%	-11%
Glendale	10	1	36	229	118	102.6	383	3.7	3%	1%	25%	8%
Kilmuir	10	1	55	207	88	64.2	350	5.5	-11%	-2%	37%	4%
Kyleakin and Kylerhea	10	1	64	230	101	41.1	395	9.6	-13%	-3%	60%	6%
Minginish	10	1	57	354	162	264.0	573	2.2	-28%	9%	27%	8%
Portree	10		431	1668	671	129.3	2770	21.4	-16%	-6%	44%	1%
Raasay	10	1	31	133	73	73.1	237	3.2	-15%	58%	69%	44%
Sconser	10	1	10	41	22	45.4	73	1.6	-4%	-26%	39%	-10%
Skeabost	10	1	209	708	276	177.8	1193	6.7	-1%	-3%	45%	5%
Sleat	10	1	131	538	269	172.3	938	5.4	-6%	-7%	57%	5%
Struan	10	1	26	155	82	111.9	263	2.3	-8%	-14%	44%	-1%
Uig	10	1	65	245	104	59.3	414	7.0	38%	-8%	-2%	-1%
Waternish	10	1	26	157	92	66.5	275	4.1	47%	12%	18%	17%

Table 2: Highland Council Demographic statistics for Ward 10 (Skye) by Community Council Area

[5] 2020 HC Development Planning data. A CAP group leader has stated the following however: "Struan's population has declined significantly over the last 12 years, as can be demonstrated by the figures on the Electoral Register. Despite 16 and 17 year olds being added to the register in 2014, total numbers have dropped from 263 adults (18 years +) in 2008 to 255 (including 16 and 17 year olds) in 2022).

This is particularly relevant as the housing stock has probably increased by some 10% over that period of time. In particular I know that the current population of Raasay is between 160-170, nothing like the figure of 237 given here for 2020."

2.7 Of note also is that Struan is one of the least densely populated community council areas in Skye.

2.8 To the right is a comparison of population and employment figures for both Skye & Raasay as a whole and the wider Highlands area. [6]

2.9 According to the Highland Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27, Skye and Lochalsh is predicted to lose 136 people, or 1.0% of its population, between 2018 and 2040. This figure was revised downward since the previous Corporate Plan (2019-22), which predicted a 11.8% increase in population – an addition of 1,551 people – during roughly the same period. This is again in contrast to other parts of the Highlands, whose population estimates were revised upwards.

2.10 The prevailing trend across the Highlands is an ageing population. In Skye & Raasay, the percentage of the population over 65 rose by 40.2% from 2010 to 2020. [7] This age group now represents 26.2% of the total population. During the same period, the percentage of the population aged 0-15 years decreased by 10.8%. They now represent just 14.2% of the total population.

2.11 This general trend is borne out in Struan, where the 75+ and "pensionable age" populations are rising rapidly. Meanwhile, working age and young populations are stagnating or in gradual decline.

2.12 For context, below are Highland-wide population projections by age group (sourced from the Highland Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27).
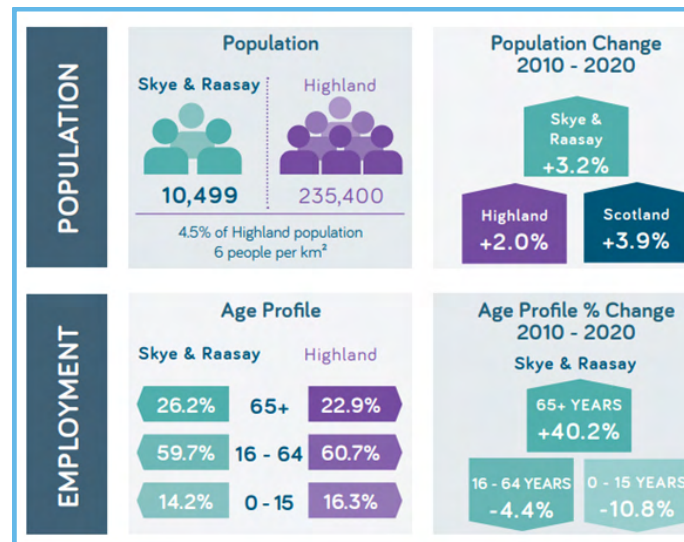
Figure 4: Comparison of population and employment figures from the Highland Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27
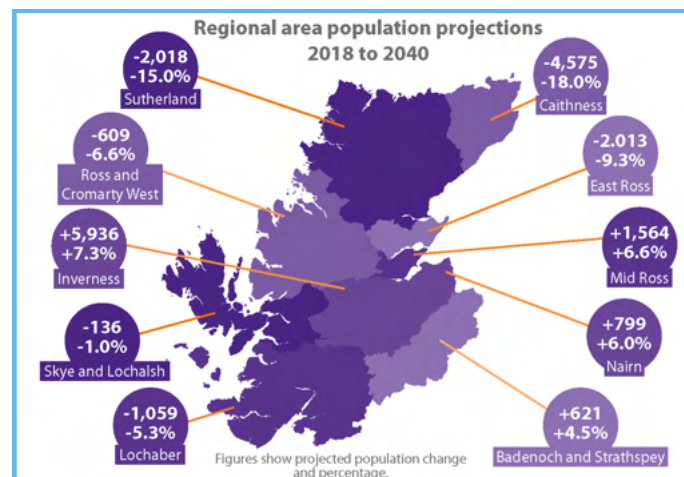
Figure 5: Regional area population projections 2018 to 2040 from the Highland Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27

"We need somewhere for the older generation to live comfortably: care homes or adapted accommodation."
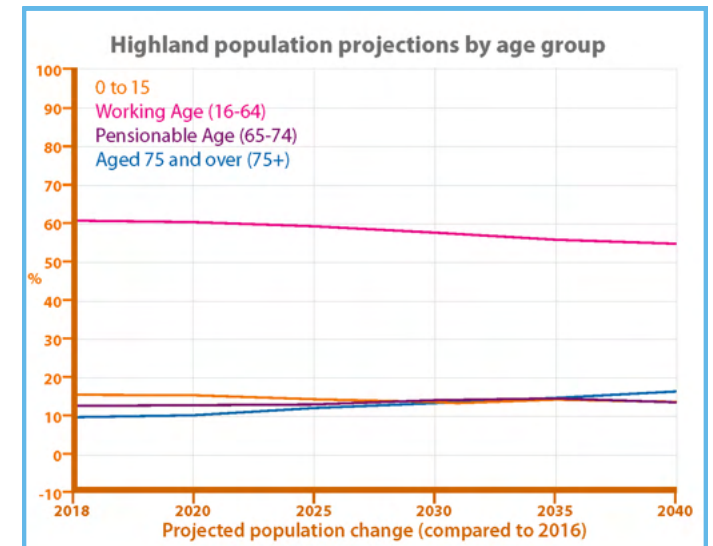
Figure 6: Highland Council population projections by age group

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

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

Heritage

2.13 Human habitation in Struan dates back to the Neolithic period. The prominent archaeological record present throughout the area tells the story of its settlement.

2.14 During a walkover survey undertaken 15-16 May 2019, a total of 46 historical sites were identified, including the ruins of post-medieval farmsteads and ancillary structures and a prehistoric hut circle and field systems. [8]

2.15 Chief among the archaeological remains is the site of Dun Beag, comprising a broch, a fort and a cairn as well as the foundations of the houses and stock enclosures of an old croft from a later period. [9]

2.16 The Dun Beag Broch is one of the best-preserved Iron Age brochs in Scotland. It was excavated in 1920, producing an "an interesting assortment of relics in stone, pottery, glass, and metal." These findings were presented to the National Museum. The cairn is considered "of national importance because of its potential contribution to the understanding of prehistoric burial and ceremonial activities" due to its atypical form.[10]

2.17 Other sites of archaeological and historical interest include the Dun Mor fort and the War Memorial. In nearby Ullinish there is a chambered cairn, a former farmhouse and historic hotel, and an earth-house and the remains of other structures at Knock Ullinish.

[8] National Record of the Historic Environment. This survey work was actually commissioned and carried out by AOC Archaeology for Struan Community Development Group in 2019, as part of the Stage 1 activities for the Dun Beag Visitor Centre project.

[9] "Report on the Excavation of Dun Beag, a Broch Near Struan, Skye" by J. Graham Callander, Director of the National Museum in Proceedings of the Society, 14 February, 1921.

[10] Historic Environment Scotland.

Economy and Tourism

2.18 Pre-pandemic, the unemployment rate in Skye & Raasay was less than 2%, lower than regional (2.5%) and national (3%) averages.[11] ONS employment data show that in 2018, accommodation and food services accounted for 24% of employment in Skye & Raasay, compared to 11% across the Highlands and 8% nationally. The region boasts a higher-than-average share of employment in arts, entertainment and recreation (4.2% compared to 2.8% nationally). Health, education, retail, and construction are other key industries. SMEs account for a higher proportion of private sector employment (74%) than regionally (67.7%) and nationally (50.6%).

2.19 Tourism has played a significant role in Skye's economy for decades, but its share of economic impact has grown dramatically in recent years. Approximately 650,000 visitors came to Skye in 2019, resulting in a six-fold increase in population during peak tourist season (from 10,000 to 60,000). Prior to the pandemic, the industry supported 2,850 jobs and brought in £211 million in annual revenue. Skye & Raasay contributes approximately 11% of visitors and 11% of estimated visitor spend in the Highland region.[12]

2.20 Struan's stunning views; accessible location on the A863; sites of archaeological and historical interest; and proximity to areas of natural beauty such as Oronsay Island, the Cuillin Hills, MacLeod's Table, and various golden and black sand beaches make it an appealing stopping point for tourists. However, a lack of even the most basic tourist infrastructure such as toilets is hindering its ability to do so.

2.21 There are several highly-rated accommodations in the area.

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[11] Skye & Raasay Future (2021).

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

Farming and Crofting

2.22 Struan is often identified as a crofting community. According to the Scottish Crofting Federation, crofting is "a land tenure system of small-scale food producers unique to the Scottish Highlands and Islands. It provides tenants with security provided they pay their rent, live on or near their croft, and work the land." According to the Scottish Government's most recent report,[13] another benefit of crofting is that it "contributes to population retention in our rural and island areas."

2.23 On Skye, crofts are typically quite small, between 0.5 and 15 hectares. Over 75% of holdings in Bracadale parish are less than 20 ha, but the average (mean) holding size is 50-100 ha, larger than anywhere else on Skye. There are several grassland fields along the coast south of Struan and larger fields to the west of the village. [14]

2.24 By the Scottish Government's estimate, 10- 20% of Skye's population is employed in agriculture.[15] Many crofts on Skye do not provide a full-time income and instead are worked on a part-time basis. [16]

2.25 In Bracadale parish, average standard output (estimated farm-gate worth of crops and animals without taking into account the costs of production) in 2016 was less than £100 per hectare. This places it in the least productive category in Scotland, along with the rest of Skye.

2.26 Skye's agriculture consists mostly of sheep and beef cattle production as the soil and climate are poorly suited to other activities, such as growing cereal crops. [17] These production systems in turn contribute to maintaining biodiversity.

[13] Economic condition of crofting: 2019 to 2022.

[14] Scottish Crop Map (2019).

[15] Scottish Government agricultural maps.

[16] "Die Crofter auf der Insel Skye - Kleinbauern im Nordwesten von Schottland" by E. Harsche (1998).

[17] Producing food in a fragile food system – a case study on the Isle of Skye, Scotland" by A. Bruce et al. in Justice and food security in a changing climate (2021).

Farm type by agricultural parish, 2016

Parishes have been assigned the farm type that has the largest Standard Output (SO) within the parish. Where LFA cattle and sheep is the dominant type, the map shows whether the parish is mainly specialist sheep, specialist cattle or mixed cattle and sheep.

Legend:
- Cereal
- General Cropping
- Sheep (LFA)
- Beef (LFA)
- Other cattle & sheep (LFA)
- Dairy
- Horticulture & permanent crops
- Pigs
- Poultry
- Lowland Cattle & sheep
- Mixed
- Forage
- Unclassified

Source: Scottish Government RESAS, October 2016
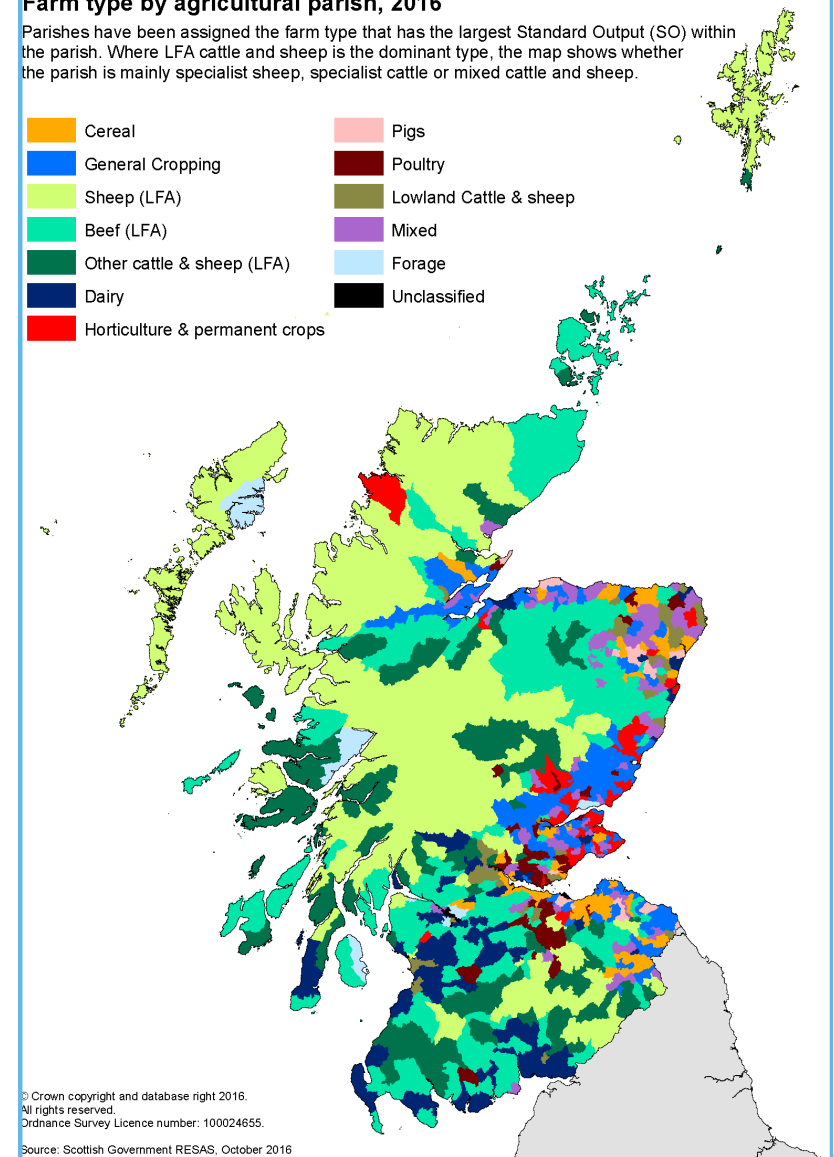
Figure 7: Farm type by agricultural parish 2016: Scottish Government's agricultural maps archive

Housing

2.27 The Skye housing market has become increasingly dominated by people from outside the area, with fewer than half of houses being sold to locals in recent years. [18]

2.28 Average house prices in Skye and Lochalsh increased from £100,000 in 2003 to £198,712 in 2018-19. In the Highlands as a whole, the average house price in 2018-19 was £181,990. Sales to buyers from the local area averaged £168,704, while those to buyers from England averaged £208,840. The figure for the rest of Scotland was £209,000 and for international buyers it was £238,998.

2.29 Housing completions have not increased to meet demand, having instead declined slightly over the past 10 years.

2.30 The number of people on the Highland Housing Register (HHR) increased nearly 50% in the six years from 2015-16 to 2020-21. Seventy percent of all Highland Housing Register applicants naming Skye & Raasay as their first choice location require a one-bedroom property. However, only 29% of available stock are units with only one bedroom. This supply shortage has led to longer waiting times.

Figure 9: Highland Housing Register statistics for Skye and Raasay

Figure 8: Housing completions on Skye and Raasay

Location	Listings	As share of Scotland
Scotland	35,000	100%
Edinburgh	13,200	38%
Glasgow	3,800	11%
Inverness	1,300	4%
Isle of Skye	1,000	3%

Table 3: Top four areas for listings in Scotland on Airbnb on 1 January 2019, from Airbnb's submission to the Scottish Government 2019 consultation on short-term lets

2.31 In 2018, Struan Community Development Group (SCDG) reported the results of a survey they undertook to determine whether there was a need for affordable housing in Struan. The response rate was 27%. Seven of those who responded had housing needs, although only one had previously registered this with the council or the Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association.

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[18] Skye & Raasay Future (2021).

2.32 SCDG shared their report with potential housing partners, including Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association and the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust, with a view to potentially include affordable housing at the site of a planned community visitor centre.

2.33 Between 2019 and 2022, there were nine property sales in Struan recorded on Rightmove, the UK's largest real estate portal. The mean price of these sales was £231,000.

2.34 Notably, the most expensive house sold during this period was £425,000 in 2019, while the least expensive was £125,000 in 2021-22. This level of price disparity suggests a great degree of housing inequality within Struan.

2.35 Skye is the fourth most popular Airbnb location in Scotland after Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness. Given that Skye's population is a small fraction of those cities', this implies there is a very high proportion of short-term lets on the isle.

2.36 Indeed, it has been estimated that secondary lets actively listed on Airbnb accounted for just over 1/10 of all dwellings on Skye.[19] This means that short-term lets may be more profitable for landlords, reducing the supply of private rented sector accommodation. Moreover, high rents for short-term lets may attract speculative investors. The resulting reduction in the supply of permanent housing can result in knock-on effects like fewer amenities, antisocial behaviour, and a loosening of the social fabric of the community.

According to data collected and maintained by Struan Community Development Group, there are some 187 premises in Struan, of which 176 are classed as residential. Of these, as at May 2023, 139 are permanently occupied, with the remaining 33 (roughly 19%) being used as either commercial holiday lets or holiday homes (i.e. those generally used on an occasional basis by one family and their friends). This is likely a relatively low percentage of holiday properties compared with some other communities on Skye.[20]

2.37 The Scottish Government conducted research on these potential negative externalities in 2019. Survey participants from Skye suggested that there was a considerable problem sourcing workers due to the lack of available residential housing. Many also mentioned that the problem is exacerbated by the fact that there are few viable housing alternatives in remote rural communities due to the travel distances involved.

2.38 Under legislation approved by the Scottish Parliament, local authorities were required to establish a short-term lets licensing scheme by 1 October 2022, and in the Highlands existing hosts and operators have until 1 October 2023 to apply for a licence. Local authorities have also been given powers to designate control areas to manage high concentrations of short-term lets.

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[19] Short-term lets: licensing scheme and planning control area legislation, Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA), Scottish Government (2021).

[20] Source: SCDG records.

Local Assets

2.39 The Struan Community Website is a central online resource for Struan residents. Its purpose is to provide the community with information and updates about local news and events, as well as the activities of the Struan Community Council, the Struan Community Trust, and the Struan Community Development Group. There is also a Facebook group for the Development Group, Community Council and Gala Committee.

2.40 The following businesses and facilities have been identified so far, but please contact us to be added to these lists.

Businesses

2.41 The following shops and restaurants are found in Struan:

- Struan Shop is the only shop in the community. It is limited by its small size and opening hours.
- Bog Myrtle Skye is a café and bakery. Its recent renovation was featured on the BBC Two show Designing the Hebrides.
- The Old Byre is also a small family run gallery and café situated on the main road in Ose.
- Ullinish House, previously known as Ullinish Lodge and operated as a "Restaurant with Rooms", has just reopened as a Guest House, providing only Bed & Breakfast for guests (no evening or lunchtime meals).

- Cioch Outdoor Clothing is a family-run outdoor clothing manufacturer, which has been in operation since 1988.
- The Crofters' Bite is a takeaway serving homemade food from a van two nights a week. The family behind it have been running the Struan garage and related businesses in the area for several generations.

Facilities

2.42 The following core facilities are found in Struan:

- Struan Post Office is contained within the Struan Shop
- Bracadale Free Church
- Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland
- Struan Primary School was "mothballed" by the Highland Council with effect from Easter 2022, and is currently subject to a process which is expected to lead to its permanent closure in Spring 2024.

Wind Farms

2.43 There are two existing wind farms (Ben Aketil, 12 x 100m turbines, operational since 2006, and Edinbane/Struan, 18 x 100m turbines, operational since 2010), plus one or two individual large turbines (Meadle, Sumardale).[21] There are now applications in various stages of planning for nearly 150 large turbines, up to 80 of them 200m to the blade tip. The Glen Ullinish 2 wind farm consists of forty seven 200m turbines.

Of the current applications, two of them are for the repowering of the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane windfarms (replacing the existing 100m turbines with 200m turbines). The others are all for new wind farms. There are calls for a public enquiry to cover the combined effects of all the individual applications.

One of the biggest issues is that the construction of these is all dependent upon completion of SSE Network's 'Skye Reinforcement Project', the rebuilding and upgrading of the power line from Skye to Fort Augustus, without which there is no further capacity available to export power generated on the island. This was originally planned to be operational by 2022, but has still not been approved. Assuming it does get consented, then all the wind farm builds and upgrades will be virtually concurrent and result in an extended construction period of some 3-5 years, during which time, apart from the normal HGV traffic associated with big construction projects, will require the movement of over 1000 AILs (Abnormal Indivisible Loads) up the only main road on the island, which is expected to severely disrupt both local and visitor traffic, to the detriment of the tourism industry.

Some of the proposed windfarms (notably Glen Ullinish 1 and Ben Sca) are already consented, with construction only being delayed pending approval and construction of the power line.

Most, but not all of the relevant developers are offering some form of Community Benefit Funding, but negotiations regarding these are ongoing. The developers are also promising payments to those landowners and crofters directly affected by the developments.

"Rural but not too remote: it's good for travelling around Skye. Struan is perfectly located within easy reach of Portree, Carbost and Dunvegan."
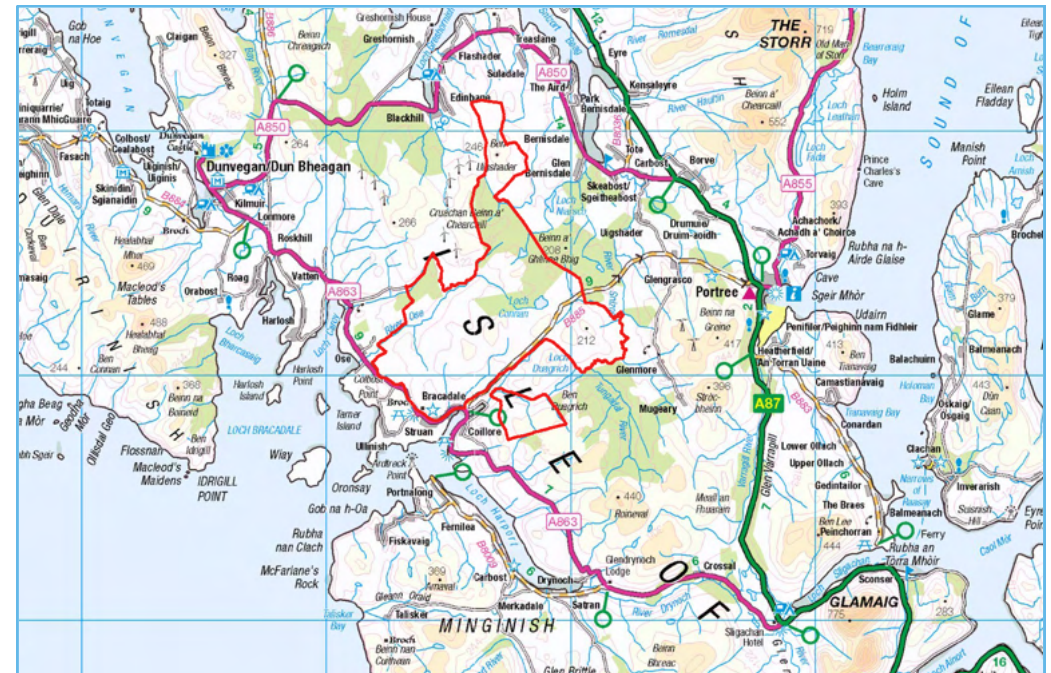
Figure 10: Boundaries of the Glen Ullinish 2 Wind Farm proposal

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[21] Other, smaller wind farms in operation near Struan include Sumardale Croft (800 kW) and Meadle Farm (330 kW). Source: Highland Council Open Map Data.

Struan Community Action Plan

Background

On 14th and 15th July 2023 a total of 45 participants (17% of Struan's population) worked to explore what we wanted and needed Struan to look like in 2033. In the first session, four groups considered a set of assumptions that could affect Struan in the next decade. The goal was to design a vision of what Struan could look like if it was able to thrive under those conditions. The assumptions were rooted in desk-top research, the recent community survey (82 responses), and the reflections of the Community Action Plan (CAP) group.

The four scenarios are described below.

Electric Paradise

We imagined there had been a tourism boom, but took seriously that there would be a loss of petrol/diesel vehicles in favour of electric vehicles.

Social Struan

We imagined there had been a tourism downturn, and that fossil fuel energy prices continue to increase.

Rejuvenating Struan

We imagined that house prices continued to increase (no central funding for provision of affordable housing) but that community land purchase became more available.

Integration across the generations

We imagined that Government investment in digital infrastructure had increased, but that the demographic of Struan had continued to grow older.

Vision 2033

PAS and the CAP group then created a fifth preferred vision which combined the best elements of all these ideas, entitled Vision 2033. This Vision was revised to take account of feedback received from the community during a second session on 15th July. Groups also began to consider what steps might need to be taken to achieve their vision of the future. We have gathered together all these insights into a separate board, which imagines "How do we get there?"

Opportunities for more input regarding how we can reach our vision will continue as we move into more detailed Action Planning in August 2023.

Scenario

We imagined there had been a tourism boom, but took seriously that there would be a loss of petrol/diesel vehicles in favour of electric vehicles.

Community Hub & shop | EV charging | Visitor centre | Cycle network | Free local electricity | Affordable housing | Better connectivity
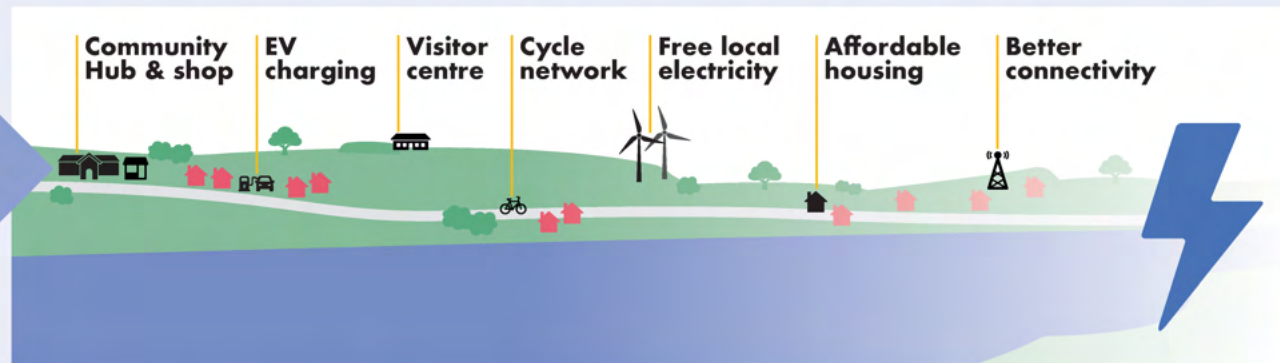
Local view

- The house next door becomes an Airbnb, more opportunities for work in tourism, but petrol vehicles phased out.
- How to maximise benefits of tourism but make sure Struan remains liveable?

Key questions

- What impact might increasing tourism opportunities have locally, both good and bad?
- How to adapt to electric vehicle revolution?

Electric Paradise

- Free electricity (which is locally sourced).
- EV charging.
- Community Hub.
- Broch visitor centre.
- Better connectivity (i.e. better roads, cycle network and broadband).
- Affordable/accessible housing (which is accessible to locals).
- A shop.
- Intergenerational community (bring people back).

Scenario

We imagined there had been a tourism downturn, and that fossil fuel energy prices continue to increase.

Community Hub & shop **Minibus** **Employment** **Jetty**
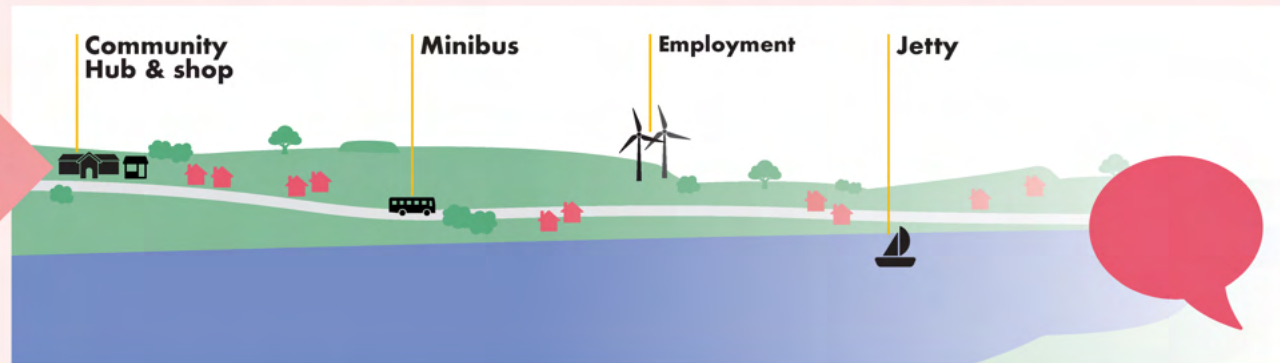
Local view

- Market for accommodation and tourism services contracts.
- Fewer jobs, fewer absentee landlords. But it becomes more expensive to travel and buy food.

Key questions

- What kind of jobs do we want to create in Struan to avoid dependency on tourism?
- How can we support small businesses to thrive?
- What might increasing local energy independence look like?

Social Struan

Hub

- Café: with food and drink, and a chance to socialise.
- Polytunnel: community food source, produce sold in shop, people learn gardening.
- Electric vehicle charging points.
- Groups: e.g. knitting, keep fit.
- Services: e.g. hairdresser, doctor, nurse, chiropodist - they come in on a rotating basis.
- Sports: pitch can be hired out to local teams. Better access.
- Exibitions: local artists on a rotating basis, including

a pop-up shop; potentially historic goods too.

Employment

- Wind turbines will provide new employment opportunities for 20- 30 year olds.

Shop

- Well stocked, employment opportunities, good opening hours.

Jetty

- Develop the area. Have pontoons, electric hook up, stores and toilets.

Tourism

- Loss of tourism would result in hospitality industry shrinking.

Minibus

- Provide transport to locals unable to travel to/from the Hub, bring shopping to housebound, offer community days out for locals.

Scenario

We imagined that house prices continued to increase (no central funding for provision of affordable housing) but that community land purchase became more available.

Community Hub & shop · **Community transport** · **Affordable housing** · **Digital infrastructure**

Local view

- Fossil fuel prices continue to go up and cost of living increases, forcing you to find another source of energy to heat your home.
- Housing market remains very difficult but opportunities to buy and access land increase.
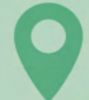
Key questions

- How can we best provide quality housing, including affordable housing locally?
- What would we do as a community if we had greater to access to local land?

Rejuvenating Struan

Vision 2033

- A local scheme has funded housebuilding allowing for shared living and ownership by local people that is affordable.
- Excellent digital infrastructure to support access to services, jobs etc, and education.
- A vibrant local hub at the school, supporting the community through activities, heritage and culture. As well as a community-run shop.
- A locally-run on demand community transport service.

How did we get there?

- A concerted effort to attract younger people and encourage skills development in the local community: a developed skills plan, where learning and development based on community needs is readily available for all age groups.
- Explored community owned housing/social rent/shared ownership/funding to self-build: housing needs survey carried out within the community; land ownership survey.
- The establishment of a community hub with events, community space, enterprise etc: a coherent community plan, and business plan for the hub; social enterprise initiatives i.e., camper van pitches, electric charging points to generate income from visitors and put back into the community.
- Better transport (within the community, i.e., a community bus).
- Better communications with residents through several mediums to suit all generations and preferences.
- Wind farm money – community turbine.
- Grant and loan system for house building changed to be flexible to needs.
- Land that could be used for housebuilding identified.
- Community land buyout, and common grazing rights purchases explored in-depth.
- A community shop, with community facilities including a community run bus.
- Support skills and qualifications in the community.
- Culture and identity are celebrated and valued.

Scenario

We imagined that Government investment in digital infrastructure had increased, but that the demographic of Struan had continued to grow older.

Community Hub | Health hub | Transport | Workshop spaces | Affordable housing & care home | Telecoms
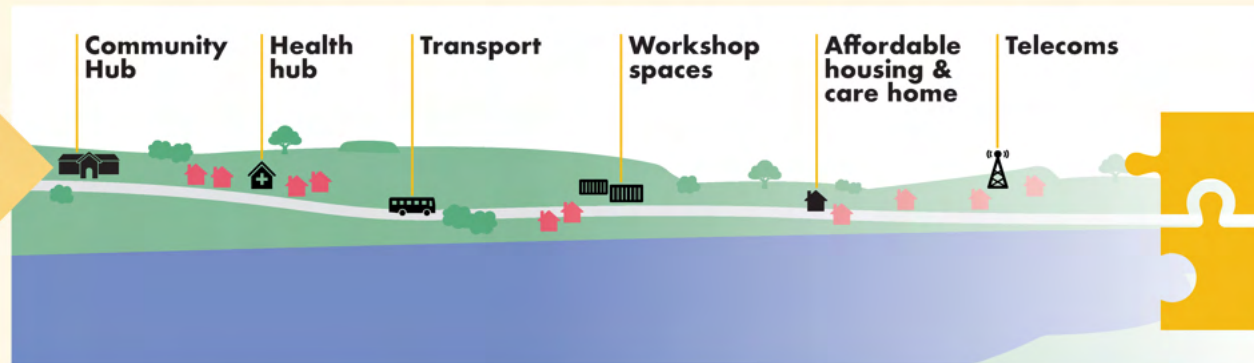
Local view

- You've got reliable access to superfast broadband but the community is getting older with all kinds of health, mobility and access issues to deal with.

Key questions

- What digital infrastructure do we need and aspire to?
- How do we care for an ageing population and attract families?

Integration across the generations

Housing
- Care home/day centre for older people.
- Local carers paid appropriate wages.
- Rental?
- Affordable community housing: 1/2 buy, 1/2 rent; 75% mortgage; smart homes; family bungalows; similar to Howard Doris Centre @ Lochcarron.

Transport
- Subsidised dial-a-bus.
- Two buses a day.
- Patient transport.
- Volunteer drivers.

Health
- Health hub with remote clinics and IT suite.

Telecoms
- 6G everywhere.
- Broadband.
- Generator.
- Jobs: working from home.

Workshop spaces
- 6-10 converted containers to start with.
- Electricity/water.

Community hub
- Meeting place to grab a coffee.
- Events calendar for all ages.
- Quiz nights.
- Public toilets.

"Struan in 2033 has become a thriving, well-integrated and more independent community that has deliberately developed local skilled employment opportunities, and where everyone feels comfortable and happy to live. All residents have access to the facilities, services and social activities that they need, including a vibrant community hub which also welcomes visitors. These include accessible housing for young and old alike, and local transport and communication services that meet our needs and are fit for the 21st century. We appreciate and celebrate the knowledge, skills and heritage within our community and all those that have contributed to making it what it is today. The community has a common goal to work together for a better Struan."

Vision 2033

How do we get there?

Community Hub

Obtain school for a hub

- Start using the school as a hub as soon as possible, run by volunteers. It is a good space as it is currently.
- Develop a plan for the hub. This should be sustainable and be developed in conversation with the community.
- Community asset transfer of primary school.
- Advertise clubs and facilities, have leaflets about the history of the area and broch.
- Secure funding.
- It could be developed further down the line – paid coordinator and named for responsibility.

- Eventually aim to have a stream of income through social enterprise activity – i.e. café aimed at boats and avoid undermining businesses (maybe have menu of full price and Struan members get 50% off) (cover days that the Bog Myrtle is closed Sun/Mon). Host classes such as Art/Gaelic/Yoga/Dance. Host a hairdresser.
- Employment opportunities.
- Create EV charging points at the hub – not free!
- Toilets/showers/campervan black waste dump/freshwater/washing machines/laundrette – charge for all the above apart from waste dump.
- Have space for doctor's consultations within the hub.
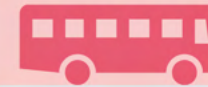
Transport

- We need a bus route - Portree has three but we have none.
- Install EV charging points.
- Community car (EV) for community use.
- Advocate for an air service to the central belt and beyond, helicopter base for emergencies.

Create on-demand bus service

- Use community bus in Dunvegan.
- Volunteer driver pool required for community bus.
- Ensure service is regular.
- Make sure everyone knows option is available.
- Buy own community bus through Trust.

Advocate for Highland Council to improve condition of roads

- Including road signage and road verges.

How do we get there?

Broadband and mobile signal

- Keep lobbying BT to install fibre broadband cables and connectivity in Struan.
- Explore comprehensive community solutions to the broadband issue e.g., setting up a community broadband scheme, starlink etc. Designed to not be reliant on a major supplier and future proofed.
- Ensure capacity is set up right in the first place i.e., able to cope during tourist seasons etc.
- 1GB/s symmetrical capacity minimum.
- Make sure that the community hub has excellent connectivity for meetings, and enterprise.
- Lobby big mobile firms to provide better phone signal.

Housing

- Aim to build two houses a year through community development avenues i.e., community owned land, resources, funding.
- Secure land through purchase (from wind farm funding, or via Scottish Land Fund).
- Explore how other communities have developed their own housing schemes and what avenues they have taken around land ownership and development.
- Carry out full needs assessment for what type of housing or accommodation the community want to build, e.g., sheltered housing, provision of care, smart and adaptable homes for all generations.
- Future proofing of homes in the community i.e., insulation, solar power, efficiency savings.
- Match funding or grants to younger people to get on the property ladder, or long-term rent to buy schemes.

Facilities

- Ensure provision of quality local general shop and post office.
- Restaurant/bar.
- Get community garden up and running, including allotments.

Revitalise Jetty
- Pontoons (permanent moorings) marine waste disposal.
- Electric charging facilities.
- Reinstate fuel and water facilities, overhead fuel tank.

Public toilets and showers
- Could initially be portaloos.
- Motor home facilities like waste water and charging points.

Investigate potential office and work space
- Plus large skips.

Attract visitors by developing the Broch
- Including information centre/mini museum to generate income.

Men's Shed
- Establish a 'Fixing' shed, e.g. electrical, carpentry, seamstress, etc.
- "Stuff" library to hire out expensive equipment or things we don't need often.

4. Actions and Initiatives

The Action Plan

Introduction
This chapter contains a variety of actions and initiatives arranged according to 5 themes and 14 action areas (see table on next page).

Each of the 5 themed sections offers specific ideas for delivering the vision for Struan in 2033 and beyond. Some are already in the pipeline and others are proposals for the future. The themes, action areas and actions themselves were developed through the community engagement process described in the appendices of this report.

Planned and Proposed Actions
Actions listed in this chapter are all designated as either already planned or currently just proposed.

- "Planned" actions are ones which community groups fed back to us during the community survey as being already planned by them. These are already "owned" by a group and have some level of momentum behind them.

- Actions listed as "proposed" have mostly been suggested through the consultation process. They remain tentative proposals at this stage and will only happen in the future if and when feasibility has been assessed, there is enough energy in the community to make them happen, and resources to do so become available.

Please note that just because actions are listed in the plan doesn't mean that they will all be realised. This is because delivery never happens in a straight line: it 'zig-zags,' dependent on funding opportunities, local capacity and a variety of other factors. Furthermore, community needs and priorities can change over time, a key reason a review process has been built into this plan.

Each action that follows is numbered for ease of reference. Each of the five themed sections follow the same layout:

Timescales, First steps, Partners and Costs
The tables under each theme identify a potential delivery lead (if known), likely timescales, potential partners and indicative first steps where they are known. Proposed timescales have been used to form an indicative table of milestones that can be found in the Implementation chapter.

Detailed Steps
Detailed steps are then laid out against those actions where such have been developed/proposed by the community. First steps indicated in the tables are highlighted again in green here.

Proposals for Combating Climate Change
This section articulates how delivery of various actions can both enable adaptation to prevent the causes of climate change and mitigate its consequences. By implementing these ideas (and others besides), the action plan can help the community move towards national net zero targets and increasing local climate resilience.

Costings
Costings noted are indicative only, each action will be fully discussed, reviewed and fully costed prior to moving forward over the next 5 to 10 years.
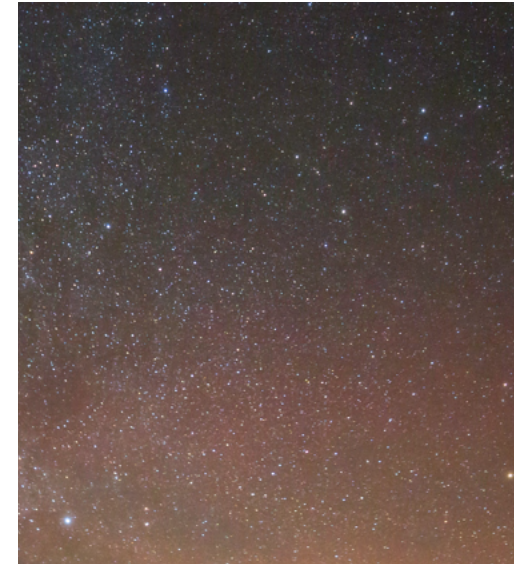
Overview of Actions

The following table lays out the 13 Action Areas and 31 Initiatives according to five overarching themes: Community Life Together, Housing, Transport, Economy and Communications and Organising Ourselves.

For ease of reference, actions can be referred to by their action area letter and/or reference number. So action A1 is "start using the school/hub as soon as possible" and action L26 is "sharing the load."

Table 4: Overview of Actions

1. Community Life Together

A - The School

1. Start using The School as soon as possible
2. Develop activity programme at The School
3. Research funding
4. Progress Asset Transfer Process
5. Renovate building
6. Men's shed
7. Services for Tourists
8. Hire out space in Hall

B. Connecting to the land and sea

9. Polytunnel and Allotments
10. Revitalise Jetties (Struan, Caroy)

2. Housing

C. Housing provision

11. Set up Housing Working Group
12. Carry out housing needs audit for Struan.
13. Develop a finance system for younger people to get on the property ladder
14. Housing for the future

D - Zero-carbon homes for all

15. Future-proofing our homes

E - Specialist accommodation

16. Explore provision of specialist housing for older people

3. Transport

F. Community transport

17. Volunteer driving pool
18. Access (or partner with) existing North-West Skye Minibus service

G - Improved public transport

19. Lobby to reinstate public bus service loop from Portree to Dunvegan, including Struan

H - Safer, improved transport network

20. Lobby council to improve road maintenance
21. Lobby council to improve roadside pedestrian paths

4. Economy and Communications

I - Improve Broadband Service

22. Explore Community Broadband service

J - Local services

23. Explore options for a Community Shop

K - Providing accommodation for local businesses

24. Explore option of provision of work units/workspace

5. Organising Ourselves

L - Making things happen

25. Community Development Worker
26. Sharing the load

M - Improving community communications

27. Ongoing culture of consultation and opportunities for involvement
28. Continue to expand community email list
29. Set up a community newsletter online and offline
30. Encourage use of Community Website
31. Make full use of community noticeboard

Community Life Together

Community Life Together Objectives

Our vision states that in 2033 all residents will have access to the facilities, services and social activities that they need, including a vibrant community hub which also welcomes visitors. We have a common goal to work together for a better Struan, and at the heart of our vision is developing our relationships and community life together. This has only been confirmed by the strong support shown for this as we put together this action plan.

We believe that community stewardship and development of The School will be at the very heart of enabling local relationships and social life to thrive. A place for gatherings, activities, support, fun and organising ourselves.

We are also aware of how much the community values the natural spaces, views and tranquillity of our location here on the west coast of Skye. Maximising our access and connection to the land and sea will enable everyone to fully experience and enjoy the beautiful gifts of the landscape and seascape we have on our doorsteps.

This section proposes ten initiatives covering two action areas:

- A. The School
- B. Connecting to the land and sea

"Creating a safe and comfortable meeting space for all of us where we can have social occasions and bring our vulnerable community members to the heart of the village for social, mental health and entertainment purposes."

"I enjoy growing my own fruit and vegetables and would be happy to give my time or donate seeds and seedlings to a community garden which could then either sell or donate to residents in the community."

No.	Action/Initiative	Proposed Project Lead	Action Type	Description/Notes	Timeframe (*)	Partners identified (actual and potential)	First or next steps to progress the project/idea	Estimated cost	Total funding already secured
					A. The School				
1	Start using The School as soon as possible	CAP group	Planned	Dependent on council permission	Quick win	• SCT • SCC local/volunteers, • Highland Council, • Highlife Highland • Archive Centre Portree • Other Hall Committees for advice/help (e.g. Seall Small Halls) • Volunteer drivers	• Ensure all facilities in working order – i.e., toilets, doors, etc • Clear unwanted items	• £18,000	
2	Develop activity program at The School	CAP group	Planned	See options in separate table below	S		• Enable people to gather informally at The School and build relationships	• No cost implication	
3	Research funding	TBC	Planned	Explore money available to fund Hub, e.g. Land pots, Coastal Community Pots, startup funds	S	Funders	• Find expert support e.g. SCVO	• No cost implication	
4	Progress Asset Transfer process	TBC	Planned		S/M	• SCT • SCC	• Check how and when the ownership could be transferred to the community	• No cost at present • £500,000+ in future	
5	Renovate building	CAP group	Proposed		M/L	• Create wider built fabric advisory group/local resource package; negotiate with local government; • Local people with specialist skills; builders; Reach out to Scottish Land Fund	• Structural survey to assess damage; look closely at fabric of existing structure • (Check drainage system, ensure building is damp-proof, check ceilings/roof)	• No cost at present • £1-2m in future	
6	Men's shed	Shed relies on group of interested men	Proposed		S	Local men	• Explore interest in idea among local men	• No cost at present	
7	Services for Tourists	CAP group initially, then Community Hall/School Committee (initial working group)	Proposed	Provide e.g. EV charging, waste disposal, public toilets, parking with facility access outside The School.	S/M/L	• CAP Group • Council • Broadford • CAMPRA		• £25,000	
8	Hire out space in Hall	Volunteers initially, Ali can manage bookings Committee will advertise Later: a funded coordinator	Proposed		S	• Janitor for heating and cleaning • Booking coordinator (currently Ali) • Council		• £10,000	
					B. Connecting to the land and sea				
9	Polytunnel and Allotments	Polytunnel group	Proposed	Bring polytunnel back into use.	S	• Community	• Clear up and begin to use polytunnel	• £10,000	
10	Revitalise Jetties (Struan, Caroy)	Jetty committees	Proposed		L	• Struan & Carbost Jetty Users Group	• Existing users to be consulted	• £25,000	

* Timeframe:
Short (0 < 12 months)
Medium (>12 months <3 years)
Long (>3years)

Detailed Steps

A. The School

Start Using the School/Hub as soon as possible

- Ensure all facilities in working order – i.e., toilets, doors, etc
- Clear unwanted items
  - Give books to charities (e.g. for overseas/ESL children?) or recycle; keep some books and toys for children's corner
- Ask people to bring in extra plants from their gardens to put in planters in front of school.
- Set up community Hall/School Committee
  - Set-up group of volunteers (keyholder, admin).
- Insurance, liability, fire and health and safety checked and carried out.
- Secure copies of relevant council records
  - Establish what it can and can't be used for.
- Policy documents created (templates online).
- Publicise availability and use within the community.
- Update basic kitchen facilities, utensils, and fridge.
- Online calendar to be established so public can see use and book.
- Freshen up with white paint to begin with to give it new life.
- Contact other Hall Committees for advice/help.
- Finalise official name for building.
- Different meetings in different rooms – could have three different groups meeting with screens/dividers between.
- Open up Multi-Use-Games-Area (MUGA).
- Accessibility
  - Install ramp between two front rooms.
  - Upgrade ramp leading outside from dining hall (back room)
- Install 4G Internet connection

Develop activities at The School

- Enable people to gather informally at The School and build relationships.
- Start experimenting with different activities, staring from occasional events.
- Develop booking system.
- Charge for activities (to cover cost of electricity).
- Medium term: set up more regular classes and activities targeting different age groups.
- Become part of Festival of Small Halls

Progress Asset Transfer Process

Renovate building

- Structural survey to assess any potential damage; look closely at fabric of existing structure (check drainage system, ensure building is damp-proof, check ceilings/roof).
- Secure quality internet via private line? (if Openreach allows, minimal cost of installation)
- Expand kitchen into current staffroom; only do internal work.
- Install new kitchen with proper facilities / upgrade existing kitchen facilities.
- Realign roof-pitch
- Classrooms: two options:
  - #1: Create single main hall by knocking down dividing wall between the two rooms (if floor difference permits)
    - Look to examples in other halls on Skye.
    - Retain screens/dividers to use when desired.
    - Revitalise fireplace in second classroom(?)
  - #2: Retain existing layout:
    - Tables and chairs for meeting in one room
    - Make other more comfortable for informal gatherings.

- Increase ceiling height.
- Extension in the back behind boys/girls toilets
  - Option: Indoor terrace with glass roof
- Expand parking in the front.

Men's Shed

- Explore interest in idea among local men.
  - Draw on current skills to raise funds and use money from the trust to build the shed.
  - Buy tools.
  - Word of mouth advertising about shed.

Services for tourists

Hire out space in Hall

- Look at how much people want to pay. It will be different prices for different rooms/kitchen.
- Advertise using papers and Facebook – first to let people know there is space, then advertise groups.
- Create an online booking system.
- Talk to council to find solution to parking.
- Once transferred, we'll need to take on fire safety, insurance and put money to the bills for light/heat.
- Put committee in place.

"Development of the jetty area and provision of pontoons would improve access to the sea. A boathouse next to a properly constructed / situated jetty would be useful."

Detailed Steps

Polytunnel and Allotments

- Clear up and begin to use polytunnel
- Bring people together to discuss – working group
- Find coordinator, volunteers, head gardener
- Windshield – some think it needs replacing, others say it just needs cleaning
- Give away extra veggies
- Need to deal with rabbits, deer
- Use by people special needs? [based on model that worked elsewhere]
  - Develop allotments
    - Opinions:
      - Not required because plenty of land in Struan and most everyone has their own garden or space for one?
      - Others like the idea of allotments at the school for general use
      - Some proposed creating allotments for potential new builds with less space.
      - Find suitable soil.

Revitalise Jetties – Long Term

- Existing users to be consulted
- Use shared learning from Staffin and Broadford who've already worked on their jetties
- Waste disposal
  - More bins maintained by Highland council.
  - Mallaig and Traight Beach have crowd-funded amenity blocks.
- Parking needs more space than present
  - Explore excavation and land regulation.
  - We can talk to the person who owns buildings
  - We could use the nearby cemetery parking and create a path to the jetty. However, space must still be available during funerals.
  - The cemetery is still half a mile away and tourists would want space for offloading stuff, e.g. kayaking, fishing. Tourists would also want space close to the water
  - We can also extend/resurrect the whole of the old road
- Put path around jetty to Caroy. Explore subsidies and grants
  - This was discussed 5 years ago, but existing paths are a mess. There's sections of bog and stone where people deviate from the path
  - There's an option for income from maintenance which may reduce deviation, but there was some reluctance due to added responsibility of safety and perceptions around tourists' misunderstanding of "right to roam"
- Moorings vs Pontoons
  - Yachts would use moorings
  - Pontoons need maintenance and get messy. They're expensive, but we can use the revenue to maintain them. Pontoons must be tied down
  - Moorings are cheaper and easier to maintain. However you can't moor off Struan Jetty comfortably due to tides and wind

- Keep slipways clean. Slipways also need more space – if you launch at high tide, you can't go. We need (better?) slipways
- Signpost user groups on website
- Policies and procedures – we'd need life jackets/vests. In the future, we'd need more structure than present to keep procedures in place
- Explore if jetty would be used by tourists. It could generate income, by offering trips.
- We can offer paddle boarding, wild swimming, snorkelling, kayaking. Currently we can't use Struan Jetty for kayaking due to lack of parking (see below). Invite "Ducking Divas" to wild swim in Struan.
- We'll need facilities in place before attracting tourists, e.g. toilets, showers, waste disposal which is regularly serviced, accommodation
- Tourists currently fish at Carbost
- Further notes
- Very few attendees were users.
- For the majority of participants, the jetty was low on the list of priorities.
- Other attendees said the jetty could be important for generating employment and tourism, making it higher priority.

Future ideas for activities at The School

For ease of reference, actions can be referred to by their reference number and action area letter. So action A1 is "start using the school/hub as soon as possible" and action N26 is "sharing the load."

Short term

- Meeting place for clubs/fundraising
- Coffee mornings
- Film nights
- Lunch club (For elderly people to gather)
- Quiz night
- Place to hire (birthday parties etc.)
- SWAPS
- Reselling
- Bingo night
- Music group/jamming sessions
- Christmas wreath making
- Makers' space
- Tool library
- (Adult) gym
- Fitness/Dancing/Yoga/Pilates
- Creative/Art/Knitting/Upholstering
- History and heritage group
- Ceilidh, other celebrations
- Shed (for repairs, sharing skills)
- Men's Sewing club
- Gardening club
- Kids events
- Recycling, upcycling
- Lectures/talks
- Gallery space

Medium / long term

- Move Gala to include The School instead of on the Green (easier with weather)
- Health services
- Bouncy Castle (on the pitch)
- Craft fair
- Market in summer months for local producers
- Car parking extension

Future ideas for revenue at The School

For ease of reference, actions can be referred to by their reference number and action area letter. So action A1 is "start using the school/hub as soon as possible" and action N26 is "sharing the load."

Medium / long term

- Housing
- EV (destination) chargers
- Museum
- Toilets
- Rehearsal studio
- Hot desk/office space
- Visitor centre for broch/area
- Shop/post office
- Café/restaurant/bar opened at a time suitable for residents
- Artists in residence/studio space

What actions would enable us to deliver this in a climate conscious way?

Start using The School as soon as possible

- Timed heating – heat room when needed
- Conscious of energy use and water consumption.
- Use of recycled furniture and household goods.
- Utilising food from polytunnel when ready.
- Recycling/repair shed group.
- Consider green electricity supplier for hall.
- Polytunnels used in gardening club.
- Paper plates/washable glasses
- Dishwasher

Develop activities at The School

- SWAPS events
- Recycling/upcycling events

Renovate the building

- Get grants (from SSE/Government?) for air source heat pumps, solar panels, batteries (or generator), turbine?, hydrogen?
  - Get funding for making historical buildings conform to standards.
- Install insulation that meets regulations.
- Install LED lights – cheaper, more efficient and climate-friendly
- Make it a passive building: dig up floors, make sure it's airtight, separate ventilation system.

- Use wood from building sites in Men's Shed
- Reuse/fix broken things in Men's Shed
- Compost toilet (CAT) as part of tourist facilities, for use in community garden

Connecting with the land and sea

- Give away extra veggies from the polytunnel
- Composting and permaculture

Housing

Housing Objectives

Our vision states that in 2033 accessible housing will be available for young and old alike. For younger generations to be able to live in Struan and become the community leaders of the future, housing is a critical need, and a challenge facing many rural communities across Scotland. Through our survey, our young people have confirmed that housing is a key issue for them being able to remain or return to live here. As a community, we want to take the initiative and ensure that our housing needs are provided for.

We are also keenly aware of the financial and environmental costs of not ensuring that all our homes, existing and still to be built, are adapted for a net-zero future. Retrofitting our homes to enable access to cheap energy and prevent unnecessary loss of heat will be critical to address these issues. We are committed to doing that.

- We also know that for Struan to thrive it must be a place that cares for and accommodates the needs of all generations. We want to make sure we have suitable, adapted accommodation for our elders and loved ones who want to remain here into retirement. Family is a high priority, and we are committed to making sure specialist accommodation and care will be available over the coming years.

This section contains 6 proposed actions arranged according to three action areas:

- C. Housing provision a
- D. Zero-carbon homes for all
- E. Specialist accommodation

"Affordability for housing for younger folks here has gone crazy and there seems little hope of young families being able to live here."

No.	Action/Initiative	Proposed Project Lead	Action Type	Description/Notes	Timeframe (*)	Partners identified (actual and potential)	First or next steps to progress the project/idea	Estimated cost	Total funding already secured
C. Housing provision									
11	Set up Housing Working Group	Housing Working Group	Proposed		S	• Housing Associations (e.g. LSHA) • Land Trust • Highland Council • Companies and organisations linked to resource – Scottish Water, National Grid etc	• Consider employing professional organisation to conduct survey	• £50,000 +	
12	Carry out housing needs audit for Struan	Housing Working Group	Proposed		S	• Housing Associations (e.g. LSHA) • Land Trust • Highland Council • Companies and organisations linked to resource – Scottish Water, National Grid etc	• Consider employing professional organisation to conduct survey	• £1,000	
13	Develop a system of match funding or grants to younger people to get on the property ladder, or long-term rent to buy schemes	Housing Working Group	Proposed		S/M	• Community land trust • SSE • Grant providers • Housing Association	• Set up Housing Working Group	• No cost at present	
14	Housing for the future	Housing Working Group	Proposed		S/M/L	• Civil servants, specifically Scottish Government and Highland Council • Local housing associations • Local contractors • Community can look into funding sources	• Set up Housing Working Group	• No cost at present	
D. Zero-carbon homes for all									
15	Future-proofing our homes	Housing Working Group	Proposed		S: research M: implement		• Assess properties	• No cost at present	
E. Specialist accommodation									
16	Explore provision of specialist housing for older people	Housing Working Group	Proposed		L	• Civil servants, specifically Scottish Government and Highland Council • Local housing associations	• Set up Housing Working Group	• No cost at present • £5M + in future	

* Timeframe:
Short (0 < 12 months)
Medium (>12 months <3 years)
Long (>3years)

Detailed Steps

Carry out housing needs audit for Struan
- Consider employing professional organisation to conduct survey.
- Housing needs survey needs to be well thought through and rigorous
- With as many people as possible, door to door. Talk to families who want to return, and pass names to Housing Association if they're interested in housing. We need to understand the opinions of older people and their future plans.
- Resources need to be identified within survey i.e., feasibility of water access and energy
- Find out what land is available i.e., what land is potentially for sale, owned by the Scottish Government, or empty, unused land.
- Survey needs to be based on different age groups, lifestyles, and circumstances about the type of housing they need or would like to see
- Survey could also identify current housing which some people may have considered moving from i.e., older people who may want to move to a smaller property.

Housing for the future
- Set up Housing Working Group
- Explore land and utilities
- Look at what ground Highland Council own, and who owns what land
- Speak to townships and architects
- Investigate empty homes and how to go about buying. We can do this by tracing council tax
- Pre-fabricated and/or mobile homes (cheaper)
- We can have a plan in place to tap into funding, and find out who is offering grants/funding.
  - Government Grant schemes
  - Legal costs
  - Windfarm money – grants, community buyouts, fishfarm monies, MOWI, RANK, Lotto
  - Promise advertising from investment

Develop a system of match funding or grants to younger people to get on the property ladder, or long-term rent to buy schemes
- Set up Housing Working Group
- Start from the research, contact Staffin Trust, Raasay.
- Check grants availability - Crafting grants/loans (Scottish Government).
  - Ability to fund without needing windfarm money.
  - Financial assistance for "adding on" (extension or separate building) – idea that somebody might want to build on their land affordable housing suitable for young families.
- Empty housing stock – check if anything is available for redevelopment.

Future-proofing our homes
- Create working group
- Work with Housing association
- Assess properties – pay attention to materials (stone vs timber frames)
  - Link to Housing needs assessment?
- Find assessors in Skye who can talk to other parts of Scotland/the UK
- Develop Local resource package (local contractors, etc)
- Home Energy Scotland – info, assistance, funding
- Enlist project manager
- Explore grant funding available
- Wind farm developers – funding
- Advocacy: Scottish Water
  - agree water-saving community policy.
  - Additional reservoir capacity.
- Look to other communities who have had successes – southwest England, Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales

Options for future-proofing our homes
- Insulation and ventilation
- Renewable energy (solar, etc)
- Low power, low water facilities
- Rainwater capture
- Accessibility and Occupational Therapy assessments

What actions would enable us to deliver this in a climate conscious way?

Carry out housing needs audit for Struan
- Survey to emphasise the need for housing that is adaptable and fit for the future. Homes to be water and heat efficient.
- Re-use of materials or renovation of existing housing to more suitable to people's needs.

Housing for the future
- Secure suitable eco-friendly designs from experienced architects.
- Ensure most beneficial orientation of houses
- Aim high with building standards
- Solar gain via window placement
- Solar wall tiles
- Wind – views vs practicality
- Polystyrene bricks are too hot. Ventilation doesn't quite work well
- Batteries for heating/electrics

Future-proofing our homes
- Whole initiative would contribute to reducing energy costs and maximising re-use rather than re-build.

Transport

Transport Objectives

Our vision states that in 2033 we will have local transport services that meet our needs and are fit for the 21st century. Improving road and pedestrian infrastructure, our access to public transport and supporting one another through existing and new community transport initiatives are all ways that we make this happen.

This section contains 7 proposed actions arranged according to three action areas:

- F .Community transport
- G. Improved public transport
- H. Safer, improved transport network

"We need good safe walking paths from the Dun Beag to the causeway that could be used by prams and push chairs."

"The main link to Portree is the hill-road. I am thankful that the surface has been improved but further work is needed and better visibility on this road."

No.	Action/Initiative	Proposed Project Lead	Action Type	Description/Notes	Timeframe (*)	Partners identified (actual and potential)	First or next steps to progress the project/idea	Estimated cost	Total funding already secured
F. Community transport									
17	**Volunteer driving pool**	TBC	Proposed	Or having a pool of drivers who are willing to give lifts, or run errands i.e., prescriptions, parcel collection/drop off	S	• Struan Community Council • Community Trust • Other local groups	• Identify demand for potential use of shared community transport service	• No cost	
18	**Access and partner with existing North-West Skye Minibus service**	TBC	Planned	Using the Northwest Skye Minibus service in a more active way	S			• £10,000 per annum	
G. Improved public transport									
19	**Lobby to reinstate public bus service loop from Portree to Dunvegan, including Struan**	SCC	Proposed		S			• No cost	
H. Safer, improved transport network									
20	**Lobby council to improve road maintenance**	SCC	Proposed		S-L	• Community • Community groups	TBC	• No cost	
21	**Lobby council to improve roadside pedestrian paths**	SCC	Proposed		S-L	• Community • Community groups	TBC	• No cost	

* Timeframe:
Short (0 < 12 months)
Medium (>12 months <3 years)
Long (>3years)

Detailed Steps

Community Transport
- Identify demand for potential use of shared community transport service
- Find out how other groups are using or running a scheme
- Pilot a service using North West Skye Minibus once a week for several months
- Agree to implement a service
- Set out the parameters (what is the service and what does it look like?)
- Create a register for drivers (licence dependent for minibus)
- Understand a funding model or charge.
- See if there are any potential funding grants available
- If successful explore potential for Struan's own minibus or e-car service.

What actions would enable us to deliver this in a climate conscious way?

- Community Transport
  - Minibus or shared use car will reduce personal car use if publicised and used actively.
  - Electric car or bus will reduce emissions
  - Cluster demand – i.e., weekly shopping collection could be co-ordinated so demand is used efficiently and sustainably.

Economy & Communications

Economy and Communications Objectives

Our vision states that in 2033 we will have access to the facilities, and communication services we need, and deliberately developed local skilled employment opportunities, all underpinning our economic as well as our social wellbeing.

Access to high quality broadband and work units will give maximum opportunity to local people to be able to stay in Struan and contribute productively to our regional and national economy, and our local economy will be supported by easy access to basic goods.

This section contains 3 proposed actions arranged according to three action areas:

- I. Improve Broadband Service
- J. Local services
- K. Explore option for provision of work units/work space

"Very poor and in some cases non-existent digital communication facilities for people unless they can afford to buy things like Starlink, which effectively prevents most people from being able to work from home."

"More opportunity for younger people to experience/ be involved in agricultural activities. Providing opportunities for the local "younger" generation to become entrepreneurs."

No.	Action/Initiative	Proposed Project Lead	Action Type	Description/Notes	Timeframe (*)	Partners identified (actual and potential)	First or next steps to progress the project/idea	Estimated cost	Total funding already secured
I. Improve Broadband Service									
22	Explore Community Broadband service	Set up Broadband Working Group	Proposed	Possibility that upgrade might be undertaken by government	S	• Starlink • BT • Invisible Link	• Keep in touch with potential technologies / experts (e.g. Invisible Link)	• £2-5m+	
J. Local services									
23	Explore options for a Community Shop.	TBC	Proposed	Consider Community Shop options	M	• TBC	TBC	• No cost at present	
K. Providing accommodation for local businesses									
24	Explore option of provision of work units/workspace	TBC	Proposed		L	• TBC	• Explore level of demand for work units	• No cost at present • £100,000 + in future	

* Timeframe:
Short (0 < 12 months)
Medium (>12 months <3 years)
Long (>3years)

"We need a well-stocked community shop."
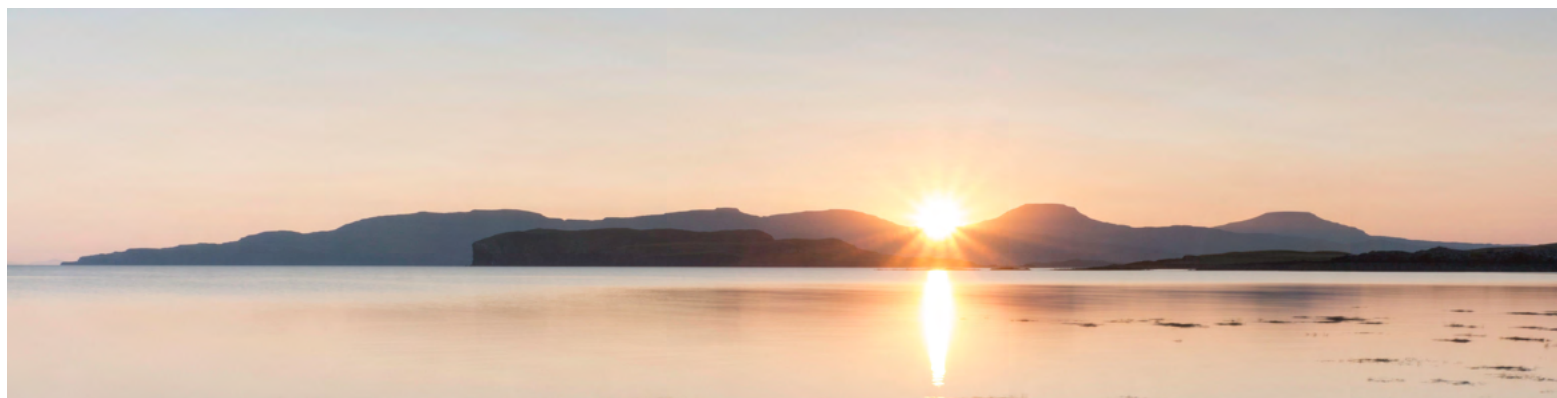
Detailed Steps

Explore Community Broadband service
- Keep in touch with potential technologies/experts (e.g. Invisible Link)
- Connect with other communities who have set up community broadband projects (E.g. Drimin Community Broadband, Morvern)
- Short term: explore Invisible Link as an option for wireless solution
- Set up broadband for The School as a short-term temporary solution
- Working group to investigate connecting community to fibre network

Explore options for a Community Shop.
- Look to model after Fasgadh in Dunvegan (downsized version), or shops in Arrmadale, Carbost, Staffin
- In The School? (Keep it central)
- Would need supplier: delivery vans go to Dunvegan
- Retain provision of local post-office

Explore option of provision of work units/work space
- Explore level of demand for work units.
- Form working group
- Consider location: put offices behind and/or inside school or port-a-cabin and/or shipping containers
- Option for hot desking for people WFH

"Struan still has a crofting community the heritage of economy should be cherished and protected."

What actions would enable us to deliver this in a climate conscious way?

- To be explored further by the Broadband Working Group

5. Making It Happen: Implementation

Implementing the Plan

Introduction

This final chapter explains how we as a community will work together and collaborate with others to turn our actions into reality.

Some indicative first steps that could be taken regarding implementation of select actions have already been outlined under each theme in Chapter 4 – Actions and Initiatives.

Beyond this, chapter 5 first offers an overview of key milestones that can anchor the delivery of the plan over time. These milestones refer only to select actions, arranged according to whether they are already underway, could happen over the next couple of years, or are more likely to come about later in the decade, towards 2033.

Successfully sustaining delivery of the actions in this plan over the next decade will require co-ordinated effort across all the active groups in the community, not just by individual groups themselves. A section entitled 'Organising Ourselves' lists actions that could enable such collaboration under the following two action areas:

- I. Making things happen
- J. Improving community communications

The last section of this chapter lays out an initial framework for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the plan's delivery over time. Explicit links are made to the outcomes and indicators of the National Performance Framework.

"Talented people. There is a great deal of expertise to tap into within the community."

"Better information disseminated amongst residents, not just by Facebook, but by posters on the new noticeboard and perhaps regular mail-drops to the more elderly residents."

Key Milestones

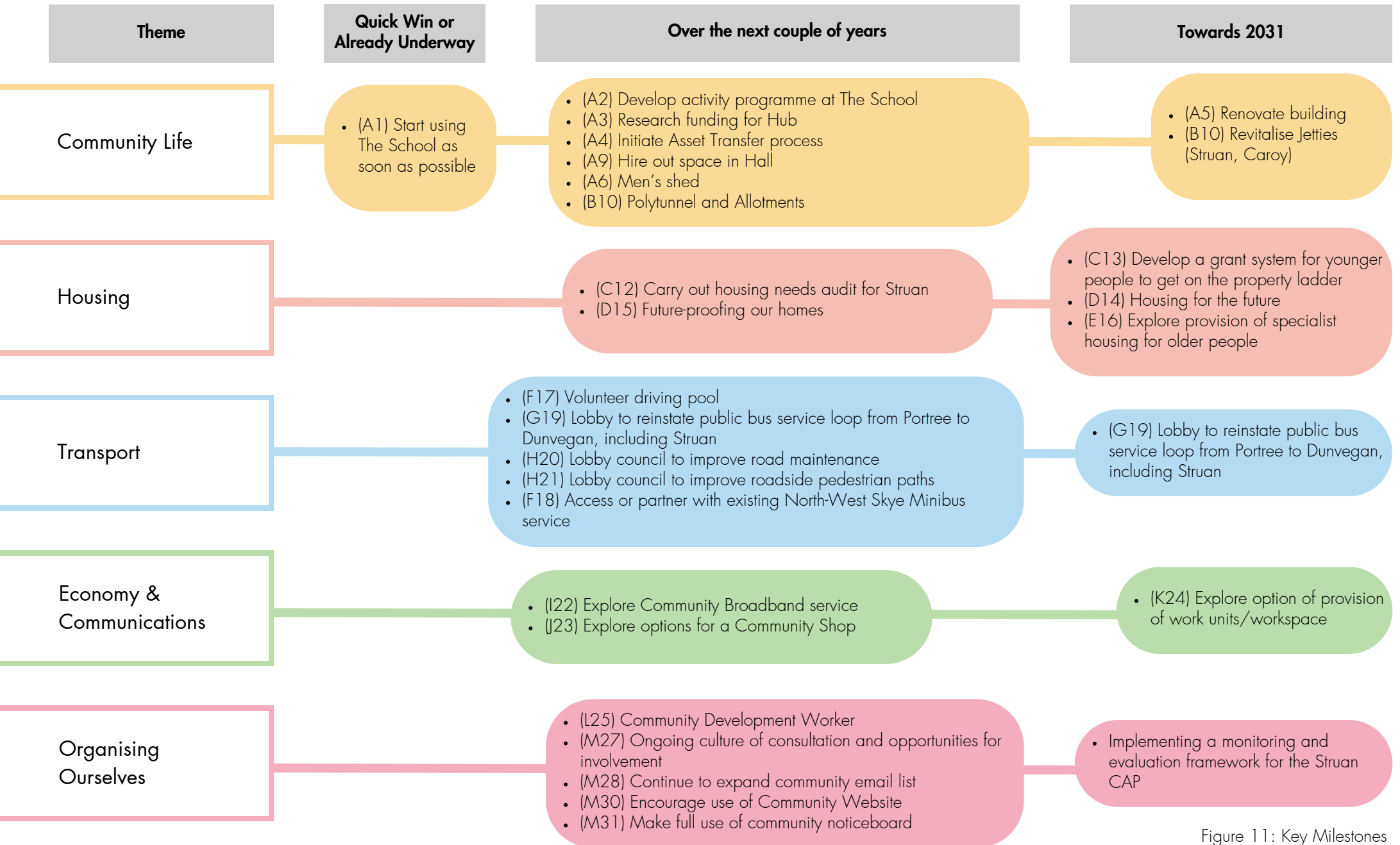| Theme	Quick Win or Already Underway	Over the next couple of years	Towards 2031
Community Life	• (A1) Start using The School as soon as possible	• (A2) Develop activity programme at The School • (A3) Research funding for Hub • (A4) Initiate Asset Transfer process • (A9) Hire out space in Hall • (A6) Men's shed • (B10) Polytunnel and Allotments	• (A5) Renovate building • (B10) Revitalise Jetties (Struan, Caroy)
Housing		• (C12) Carry out housing needs audit for Struan • (D15) Future-proofing our homes	• (C13) Develop a grant system for younger people to get on the property ladder • (D14) Housing for the future • (E16) Explore provision of specialist housing for older people
Transport		• (F17) Volunteer driving pool • (G19) Lobby to reinstate public bus service loop from Portree to Dunvegan, including Struan • (H20) Lobby council to improve road maintenance • (H21) Lobby council to improve roadside pedestrian paths • (F18) Access or partner with existing North-West Skye Minibus service	• (G19) Lobby to reinstate public bus service loop from Portree to Dunvegan, including Struan
Economy & Communications		• (I22) Explore Community Broadband service • (J23) Explore options for a Community Shop	• (K24) Explore option of provision of work units/workspace
Organising Ourselves		• (L25) Community Development Worker • (M27) Ongoing culture of consultation and opportunities for involvement • (M28) Continue to expand community email list • (M30) Encourage use of Community Website • (M31) Make full use of community noticeboard	• Implementing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Struan CAP

Figure 11: Key Milestones

Organising Ourselves

Our vision states that in 2033 we have a common goal to work together for a better Struan. We cannot make our vision happen without all of us contributing and supporting one another. We need to relate well, communicate well and enjoy life together. And we need to draw on everyone's talents, gifts and time in a co-ordinated way as we face the journey ahead.

This section contains 7 proposed actions for organising ourselves, arranged according to two action areas:

- L. Making things happen
- M. Improving community communications

"No major challenges other than trying to work together to figure out and then agree on what our community needs or doesn't need!"

No.	Action/Initiative	Project Lead	Action Type	Description	Timeframe (*)	Partners identified (actual and potential)	First or next step to progress the project/idea	Estimated cost of the project	Total funding already secured
L. Making things happen									
25	**Community Development Worker**	TBC	Planned	Work towards a community development worker post	S-M	• Community groups • Funding bodies	TBC	• £40,000 per annum	
26	**Sharing the load**	CAP	Proposal	Create culture that says that just because someone's in charge doesn't mean they need to do everything	S-L	• Everyone	TBC	• No cost	
M. Improving community communications									
27	**Ongoing culture of consultation and opportunities for involvement**	TBC	Proposed		S-L	• Everyone	TBC	• No cost	
28	**Continue to expand community email list**	TBC	Proposed		S	TBC	TBC	• No cost	
29	**Set up a community newsletter online and offline**	TBC	Proposed		M	TBC	TBC	• £5,000 per annum	
30	**Encourage use of Community Website**	TBC	Proposed		S-M	TBC	TBC	• No cost	
31	**Make full use of community noticeboard**	TBC	Proposed		S-L	TBC	TBC	• No cost	

Monitoring and Evaluation

For an action plan to be effective requires a commitment to appropriate monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring outputs asks the question "what has been achieved?" whereas evaluating outcomes asks the question "what difference has this made?" A rhythm of review based on these two questions allows for the assessment of impact over time, in turn enabling the celebration of advances made, opportunities for reflection and learning, the ability to review appropriate next steps, a moment to re-evaluate priorities and the potential to provide evidence to funders, stakeholders and the community of successful implementation.

Demonstrating progress in the delivery of the Struan CAP

The Organising Ourselves section of this chapter identifies the following actions as having a bearing on the question of monitoring and evaluation:

- Implementing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Struan CAP.

Framework for monitoring and evaluation

The following indicative proposal is suggested as a possible way forward for implementing a monitoring and evaluation framework:

A community group forum to be held at least once every six months to:
- discuss partnerships to help deliver the next set of actions.

- discuss and share new emerging ideas and how best to work together to deliver them.

Monitor and report on progress in delivering the action plan annually, through a community group forum.

- Progress could be judged against the initial key milestone chart and the full action plan. Actions and initiatives that have been attempted or progressed in the previous year could be detailed according to a red-amber-green 'traffic light' system, building up a picture of progress over time.

- Evaluation of outcomes could be carried by action area in the context of associated National Performance Framework (NPF) indicators (see below), gathering data and stories from individual projects that demonstrate how a particular initiative has had an impact on the relevant NPF indicator.

- There should be an opportunity for input and comment from the local community, for example through presentation and discussion at the local forum.

Should progress be made on funding a role for organising the interactions of local community groups, responsibility for co-ordination of the framework could become part of the job description for that role.

The CAP group will aim to keep the community up to date with progress on implementing the action plan via struancommunity.co.uk, the community mailing list and the Struan Community Council Facebook page.

The action plan should be reviewed after five years. This should include community engagement to check and update the vision, action areas and actions as appropriate. It may be helpful to engage specialist support to help with the evaluation process.

Scotland's National Performance Framework

National Performance Framework

Scotland's National Performance Framework (NPF) is a vision and framework to benchmark and track national progress against a range of indicators. It consists of a set of aims, outcomes and indicators against which data is collated and assessed to measure. Much like some of the key goals of LLM, the aims of the NPF are to:

1. Create a more successful country
2. Give opportunities to all people living in Scotland
3. Increase the wellbeing of people living in Scotland
4. Create sustainable and inclusive growth
5. Reduce inequalities and give equal importance to economic, environmental and social progress.

National Outcomes

To help achieve its purpose, the framework sets out 'National Outcomes'. These outcomes describe the kind of Scotland it aims to create. The outcomes reflect the values and aspirations of the people of Scotland, are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and help to track progress in reducing inequality. These national outcomes are as follows:

1. Economy: We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy.
2. International: We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally.
3. Poverty: We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.
4. Communities: We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.
5. Children & Young People: We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential.
6. Education: We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society.
7. Fair Work & Business: We have thriving and innovative businesses with quality jobs and fair work for everyone.
8. Health: We are healthy and active.
9. Environment: We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment.
10. Culture: We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely.
11. Human Rights: We respect, protect and full human rights and live free from discrimination.

The following table shows how each of the 13 action areas in this plan relates to the above NPF outcomes, and their related indicators. The purpose of setting out this table is to make explicit the links between the goals in this plan at a local level and the goals set for the whole of Scotland to attain at a national level. Making these links between the local and the national strengthens the integrity of the plan for funding bids or service delivery requests at regional level.

Relationship between Action Areas and the National Performance Framework

	Action Area	Relevant NPF National Outcome(s)	Selected relevant NPF National Indicator(s)
Community Life Together			
A	The School	Communities, Culture	Loneliness, Participation in a cultural activity, Places to interact, Entrepreneurial activity, Community land ownership
B	Connecting to the land and sea	Culture, Environment, Economy, Health, Communities	Participation in a cultural activity, Visits to the outdoors, Physical activity, Natural Capital, Access to green and blue space
Housing			
C	Housing provision	Poverty	Satisfaction with housing
D	Zero-carbon homes for all	Economy, Environment	Carbon footprint, Waste generated
E	Specialist accommodation	Health	Quality of care experience
Transport			
F	Community transport		
G	Improved public transport	Human Rights	Quality of public services
H	Safer, improved transport network	Human Rights, Health	Quality of public services, Journeys by active travel
Economy and Communications			
I	Improve Broadband service	Economy	Access to superfast broadband
J	Local services	Human Rights	Quality of public services
K	Providing accommodation for local businesses	Economy	Entrepreneurial activity, Productivity, Economic growth
Organising Ourselves			
L	Making things happen	Communities, Human Rights	Social capital, Influence over local decisions
M	Improving community communications	Communities, Human Rights	Social capital, Influence over local decisions

Table 5: Relationship between Action Areas and the National Performance Framework

Appendices

If you are reading a hardcopy version of this report, and are interested to read the Appendices, please download them by using the following QR code.

Or visit the following web page:
www.struancommunity.co.uk/struan-action-plan

Struan Community Action Plan

"A community action plan will set out what we intend to do in the next 5-10 years hopefully with all members of the community working closely together."

Struan

Community

Action Plan