



Struan

Community

Action Plan

February 2024







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).

Funded by:

Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Struan Community Trust.

Facilitated by:

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

The Struan CAP Group consisted of:

- Donald Beaton (SCT)
- Iain Beaton (SCC)
- Sarah Illingworth (SCDG)
- Ken Imrie (SCDG)
- John Mackinnon (SCT)
- Ali Morrison (SCC)
- DJ Morrison (SCC)
- Peggy Semler (SCDG)

February 2024.

“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

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

“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

Contents

Acknowledgements	1
Acronyms.....	2
Endorsements.....	2
Appendices.....	2
List of Figures.....	4
List of Tables.....	4
1. Introduction	5
Struan Community Action Plan (CAP).....	5
Welcome and Introduction.....	5
Overview of Brief.....	5
Why develop a Community Action Plan?.....	5
Structure of the Plan.....	6
What was said by the community.....	6
How to get involved.....	6
Executive Summary.....	7
The Community of Struan.....	7
How we developed our Action Plan.....	7
The Community Action Plan in numbers.....	7
Community Survey Overview.....	8
Attracting younger generations to live in Struan.....	8
Vision for Struan in 2033 and beyond.....	9
How we will achieve our vision - Action Areas.....	10
Action Areas by Theme.....	10
Starting our journey.....	10
2.Context	12
Struan.....	12
Demographics.....	13
Heritage.....	15
Economy and Tourism.....	16
Farming and Crofting.....	17
Housing.....	18
Local Assets.....	20
Businesses.....	20
Facilities.....	20
Wind Farms.....	21

3. Vision & Aims	22
Vision & Aims - Our Vision for Struan in 2033.....	22
4. Actions & Initiatives	29
The Action Plan.....	29
Introduction.....	29
Overview of Actions.....	30
Community Life Together.....	31
Community Life Together Objectives.....	31
Detailed Steps.....	33
Future ideas for activities at The School.....	35
Future ideas for revenue at The School.....	35
What actions would enable us to deliver this in a climate conscious way?.....	35
Housing.....	36
Housing Objectives.....	36
Detailed Steps.....	38
What actions would enable us to deliver this in a climate conscious way?.....	38
Transport.....	39
Transport Objectives.....	39
Detailed Steps.....	41
What actions would enable us to deliver this in a climate conscious way?.....	41
Economy & Communications.....	42
Economy & Communications Objectives.....	42
Detailed Steps.....	44
What actions would enable us to deliver this in a climate conscious way?.....	44
5. Making It Happen: Implementation	45
Implementing the Plan.....	45
Introduction.....	45
Key Milestones.....	46
Organising Ourselves.....	47

Monitoring & Evaluation.....	48
Demonstrating progress in the delivery of the Struan CAP.....	48
Framework for monitoring and evaluation.....	48
Scotland's National Performance Framework.....	49

Appendices	51
List of Figures.....	52
List of Tables.....	52
1. Additional Background.....	53
Deprivation.....	53
Transport.....	55
Climate Change.....	56
Energy.....	58
2. How the plan was prepared.....	59
3. Relationship to other plans.....	62
4. Community Survey: Results.....	66
Conclusions.....	72
5. Attracting younger generations to live in Struan: Survey results.....	73
6. Evaluating the Struan CAP process.....	77
7. Bibliography.....	78

To navigate around the document more easily, simply click on any title to be taken to the corresponding page directly.

If viewing on a computer, you can quickly return to this page by pressing:

- ALT + Left Arrow (on a PC)
- Option + Left Arrow (on a Mac)

List of Figures

Figure no.	Title	Page
1	Infographic detailing the Struan Action Plan process in numbers	7
2	Vision for Struan in 2033 and beyond	9
3	Map of Struan Community Council Area	12
4	Comparison of population and employment figures	14
5	Regional area population projections 2018 to 2040	14
6	Highland Council population projections by age group	14
7	Farm type by agricultural parish 2016	17
8	Housing completions on Skye and Raasay	18
9	Highland Housing Register statistics for Skye and Raasay	18
10	Boundaries of the Glen Ullinish 2 Wind Farm proposal	21
11	Key Milestones	46

List of Tables

Table no.	Title	Page
1	Action Areas by Theme	10
2	Highland Council Demographic statistics for Ward 10 (Skye) by Community Council Area	13
3	Top four areas for listings in Scotland on Airbnb on 01/01/2019	18
4	Overview of Actions	30
5	Relationship between Action Areas and the National Performance Framework	50

To navigate around the document more easily, simply click on any title to be taken to the corresponding page directly.



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.

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.

¹ Until the decision was made to dissolve Struan Community Development Group in Autumn 2023, SCDG was also involved in the CAP process.

1. Introduction

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](mailto:cap@struancommunity.co.uk) 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.

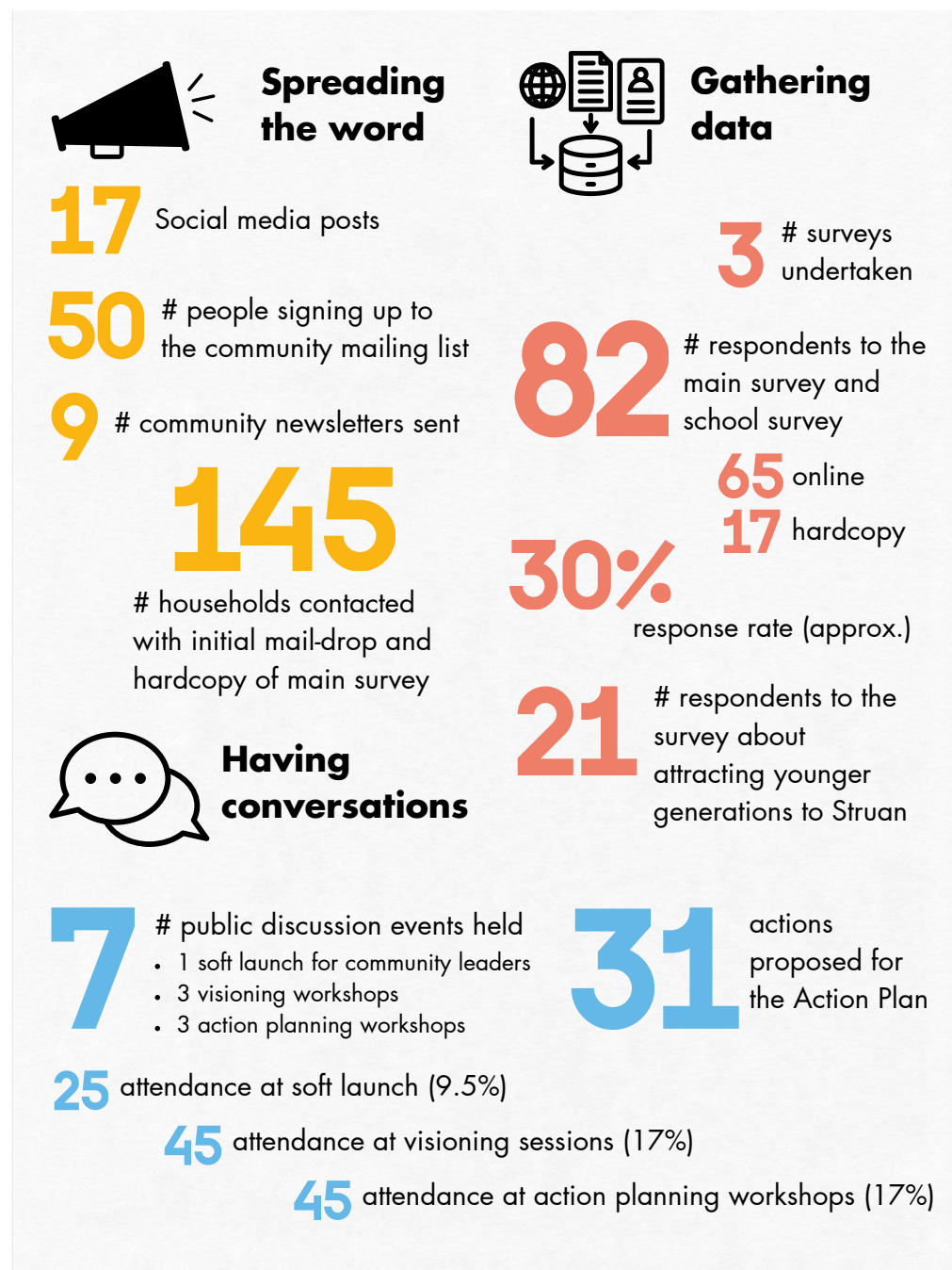
How we developed our Action Plan

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



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](#).

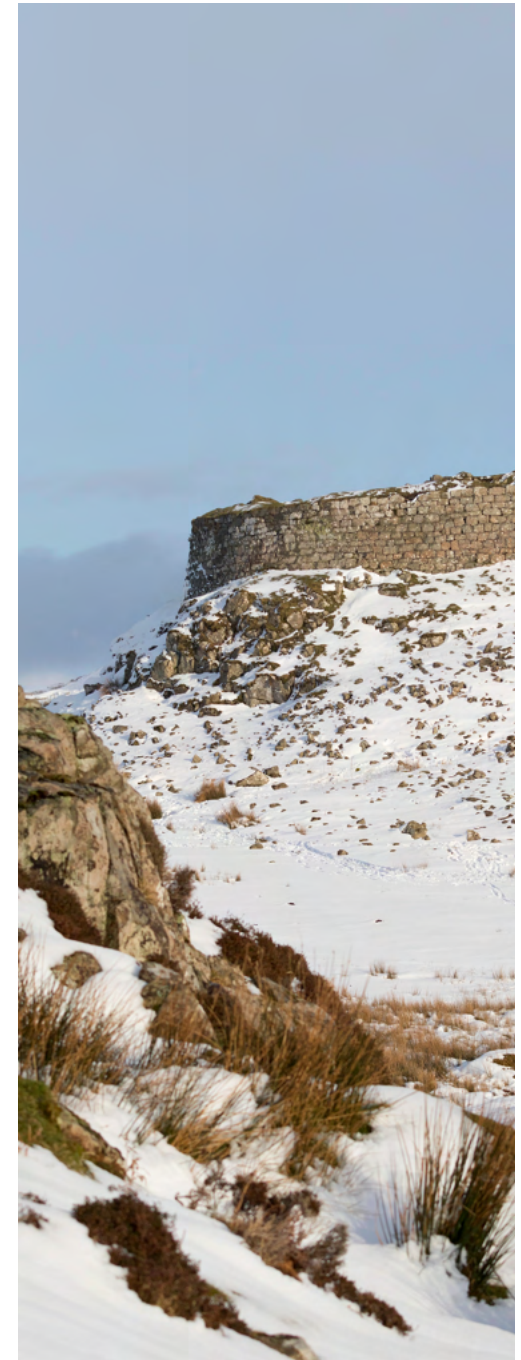
“Rural but not too remote: it's good for travelling around Skye. Struan is perfectly located within easy reach of Portree, Carbost and Dunvegan.”

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.

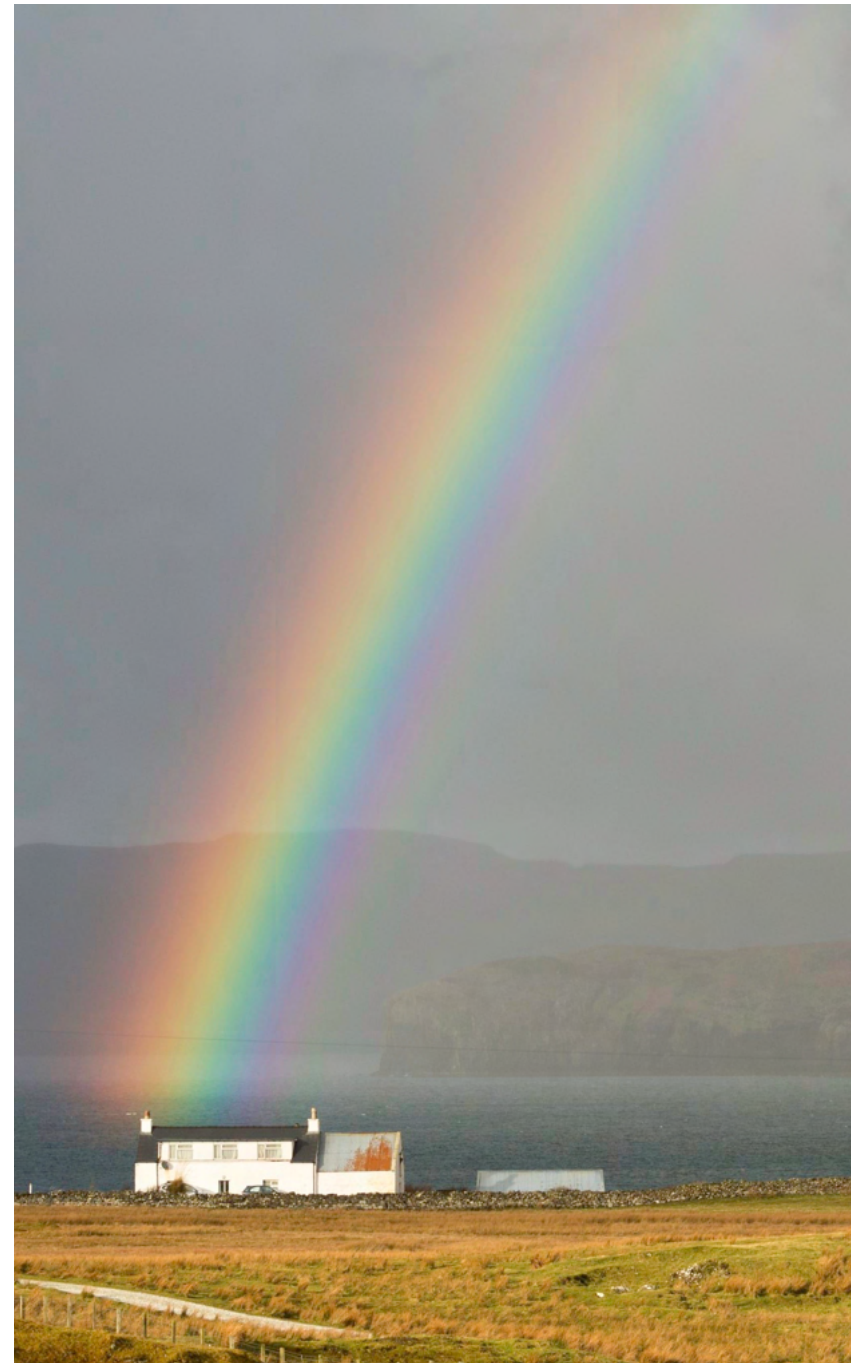
We have a **common goal** to work together for a better Struan.

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	3. Transport	5. Organising Ourselves
<p>A - The School</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>B. Connecting to the land and sea</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Polytunnel and Allotments 10 Revitalise Jetties (Struan, Caroy) 	<p>F. Community transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17 Volunteer driving pool 18 Access (or partner with) existing North-West Skye Minibus service <p>G - Improved public transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19 Lobby to reinstate public bus service loop from Portree to Dunvegan, including Struan <p>H - Safer, improved transport network</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Lobby council to improve road maintenance 21 Lobby council to improve roadside pedestrian paths 	<p>L - Making things happen</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 25 Community Development Worker 26 Sharing the load <p>M - Improving community communications</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
2. Housing	4. Economy and Communications	
<p>C. Housing provision</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>D - Zero-carbon homes for all</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Future-proofing our homes <p>E - Specialist accommodation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16 Explore provision of specialist housing for older people 	<p>I - Improve Broadband Service</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 22 Explore Community Broadband service <p>J - Local services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23 Explore options for a Community Shop <p>K - Providing accommodation for local businesses</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 24 Explore option of provision of work units/workspace 	

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.

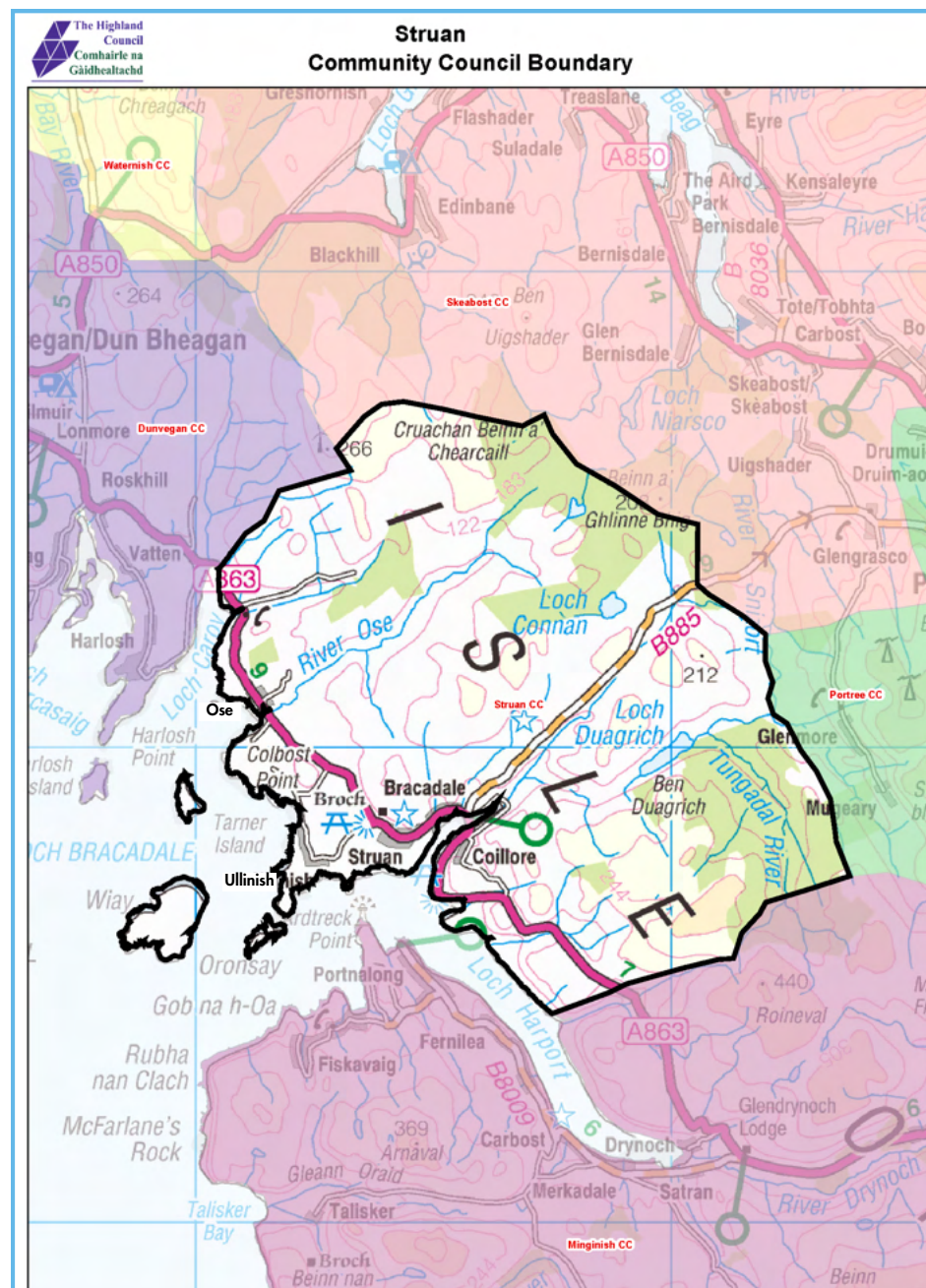


Figure 3: Map of Struan Community Council Area from the [Highland Council](#).

2. Context

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	2020 Pop. Estimates (HC Development Planning)								Pop Change 2011 - 2020			
	Ward	Rural	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%
Watnish	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).

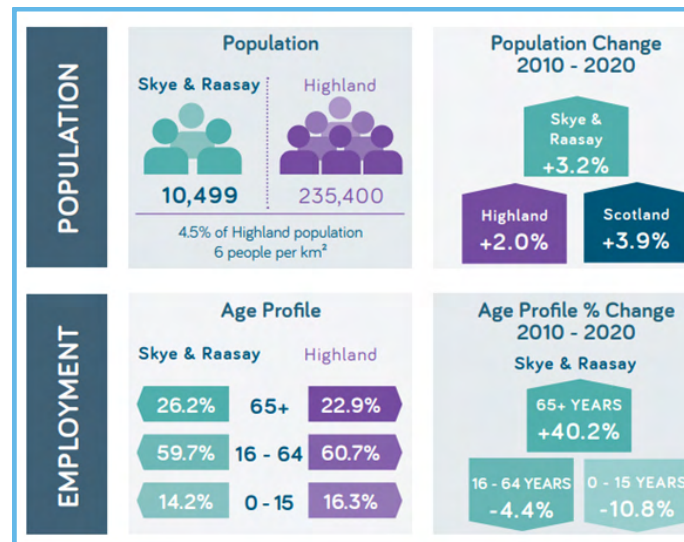


Figure 4: Comparison of population and employment figures from the Highland Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27

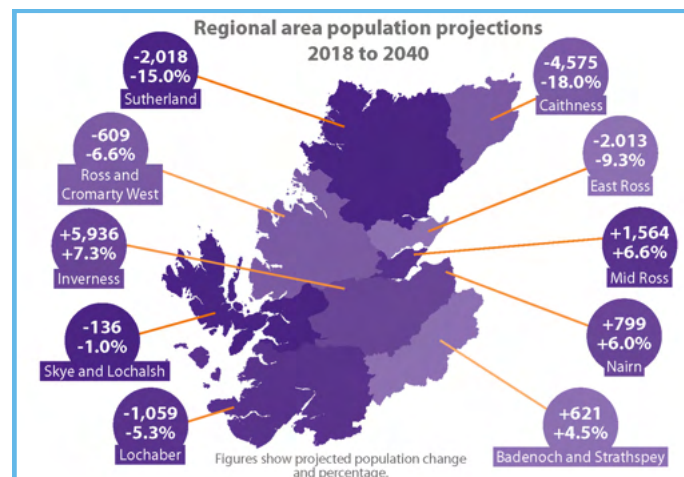


Figure 5: Regional area population projections 2018 to 2040 from the Highland Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27

“We need somewhere for the older generation to live comfortably: care homes or adapted accommodation.”

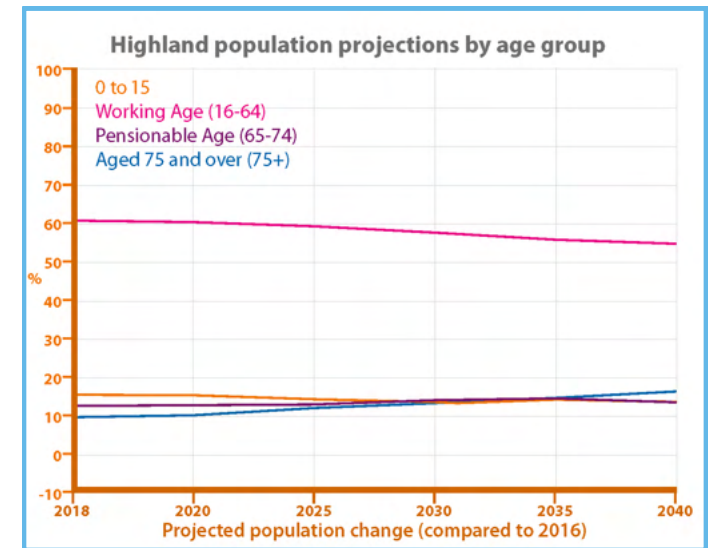


Figure 6: Highland Council population projections by age group

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.

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.

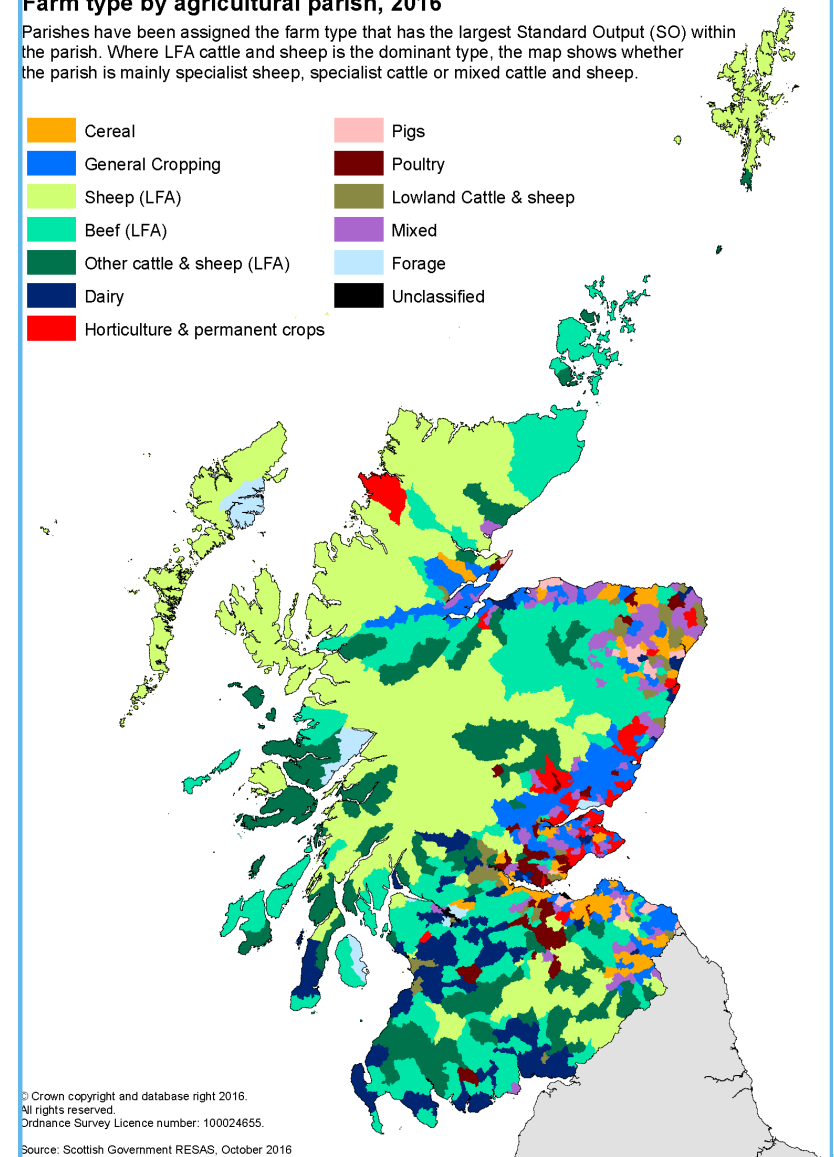


Figure 7: Farm type by agricultural parish 2016: Scottish Government’s [agricultural maps](#) archive

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.

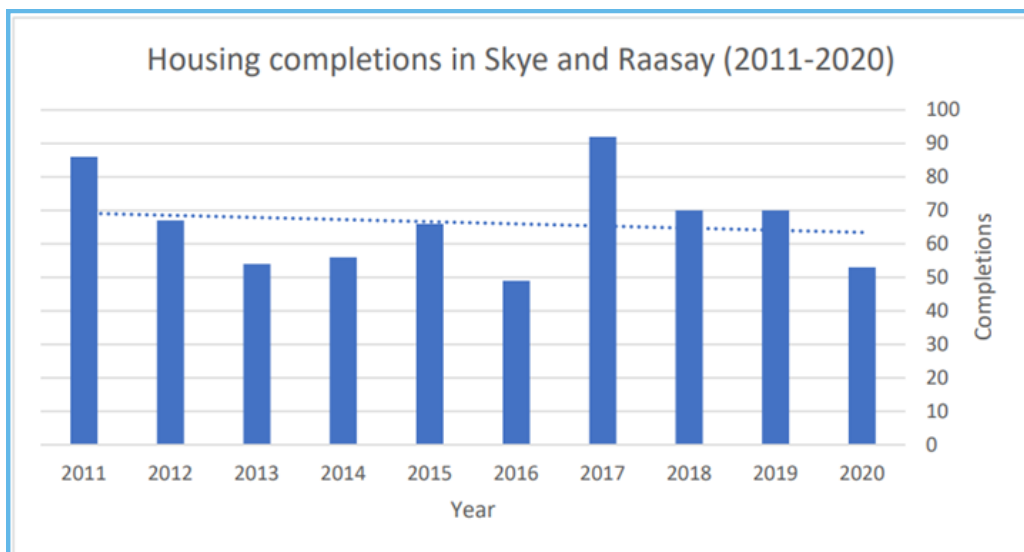


Figure 8: Housing completions on Skye and Raasay

¹⁸ Skye & Raasay Future (2021).

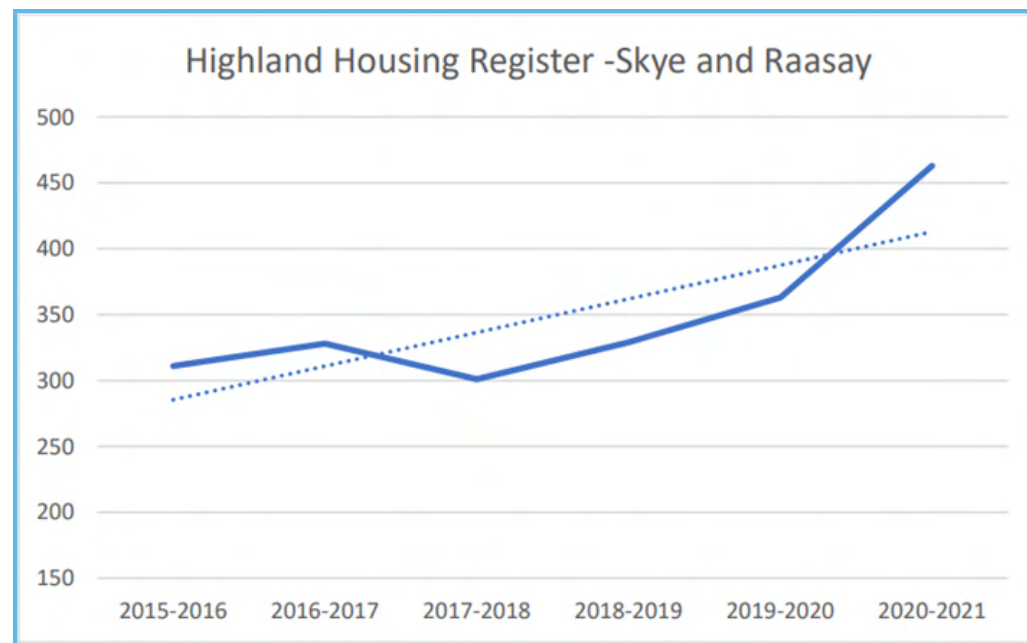


Figure 9: Highland Housing Register statistics for Skye and Raasay

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.

- 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.

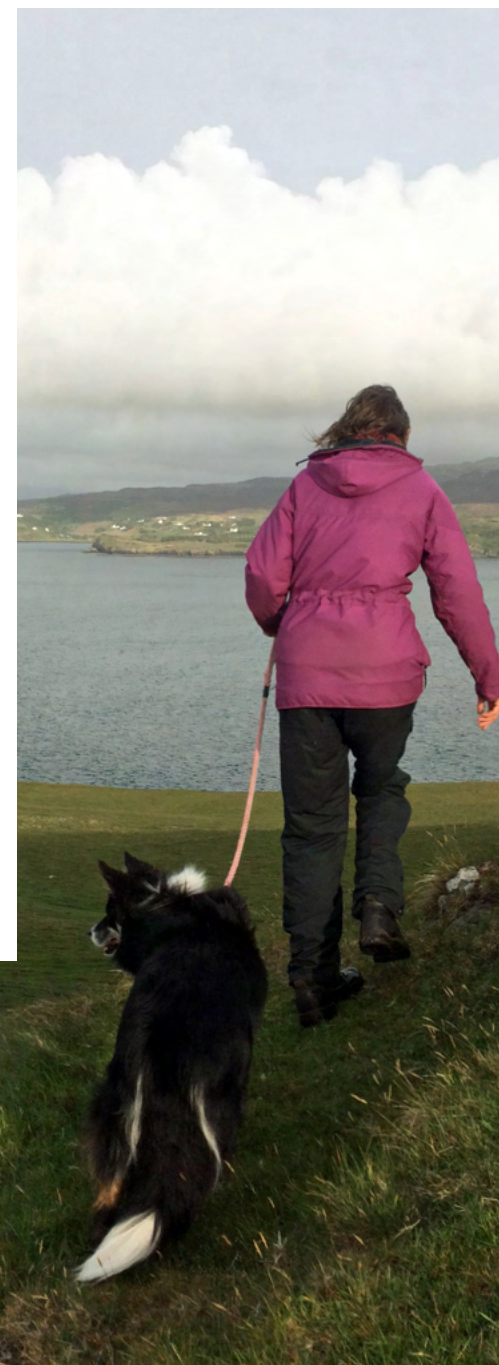
- 2.36 Indeed, it has been estimated that secondary lets actively listed on Airbnb accounted for just over 1/10 of all dwellings on Skye.¹⁹ This means that short-term lets may be more profitable for landlords, reducing the supply of private rented sector accommodation. Moreover, high rents for short-term 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.

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, Carlost and Dunvegan.”

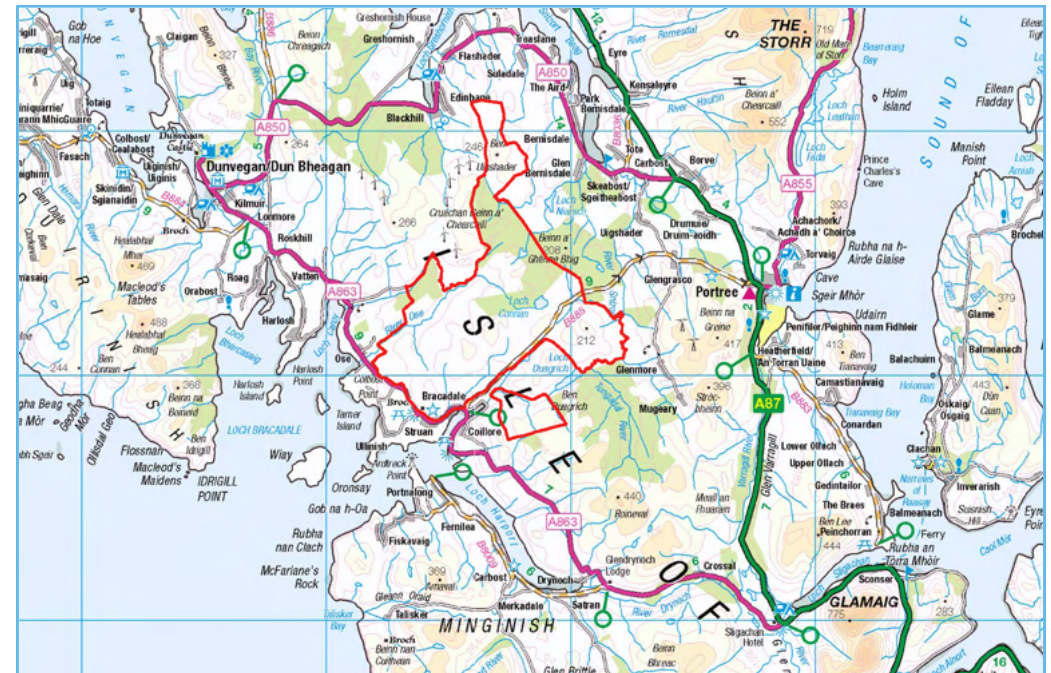


Figure 10: Boundaries of the Glen Ullinish 2 Wind Farm proposal

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

3. Vision and Aims

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.



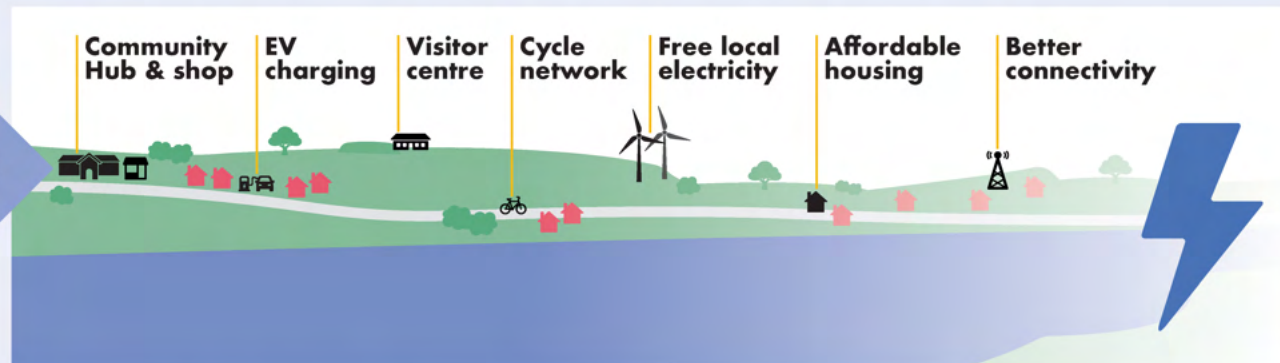
Vision 2033

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.



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?

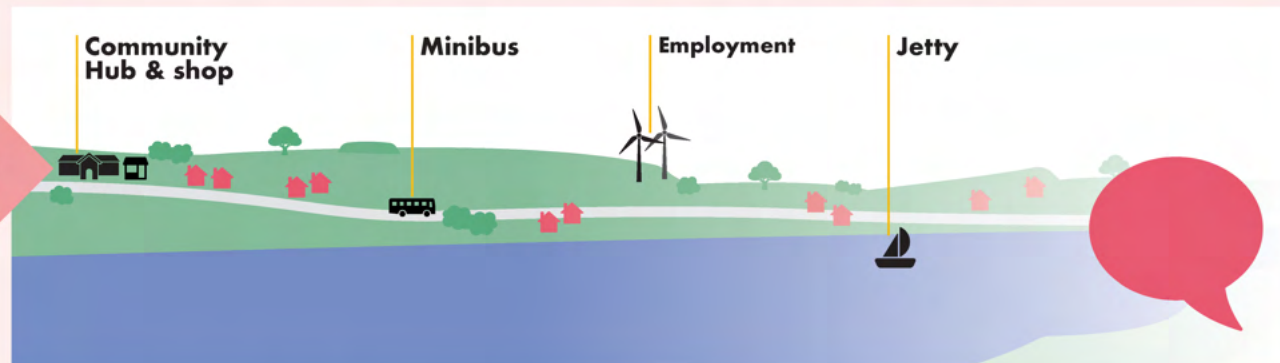


Electric Paradise

- 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.



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.
- Exhibitions: 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.



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.

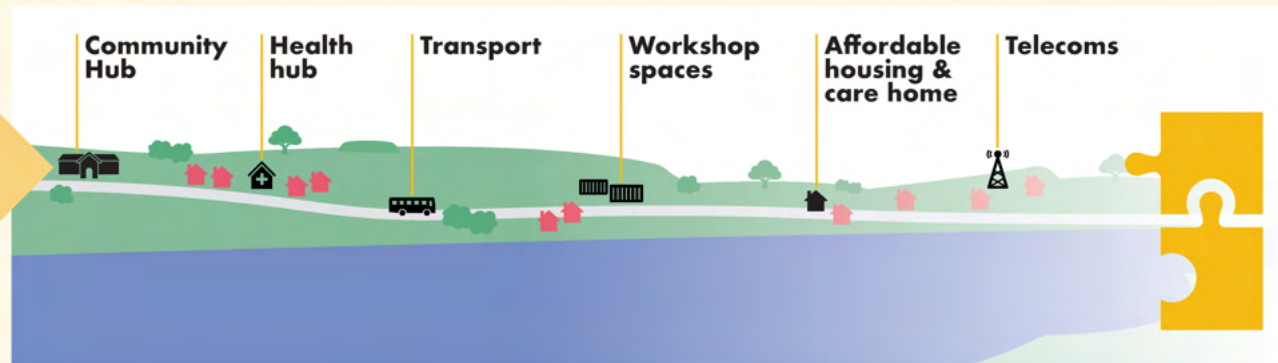
- Explored community owned housing/ social rent/ shared ownership/ funding to self-build: housing needs survey carried out within the community; land ownership survey.
- The establishment of a community hub with events, community space, enterprise etc: a coherent community plan, and business plan for 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.



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

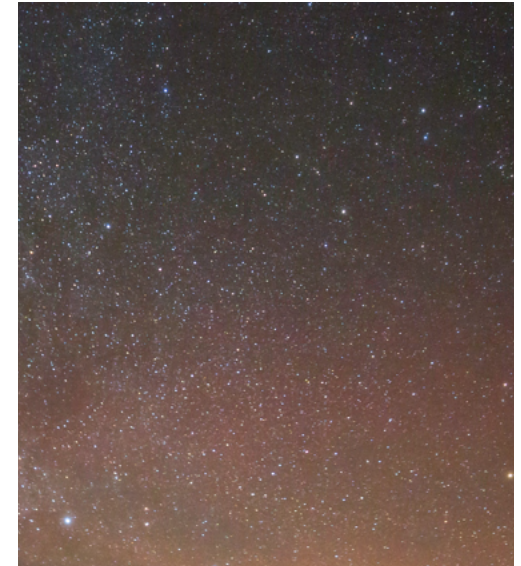
Detailed steps are then laid out against those actions where such have been developed/proposed by the community. First steps indicated in the tables are highlighted again in green here.

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	3. Transport	5. Organising Ourselves
<p>A - The School</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>B. Connecting to the land and sea</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Polytunnel and Allotments 10 Revitalise Jetties (Struan, Caroy) 	<p>F. Community transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17 Volunteer driving pool 18 Access (or partner with) existing North-West Skye Minibus service <p>G - Improved public transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19 Lobby to reinstate public bus service loop from Portree to Dunvegan, including Struan <p>H - Safer, improved transport network</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Lobby council to improve road maintenance 21 Lobby council to improve roadside pedestrian paths 	<p>L - Making things happen</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 25 Community Development Worker 26 Sharing the load <p>M - Improving community communications</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
2. Housing	4. Economy and Communications	
<p>C. Housing provision</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>D - Zero-carbon homes for all</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Future-proofing our homes <p>E - Specialist accommodation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16 Explore provision of specialist housing for older people 	<p>I - Improve Broadband Service</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 22 Explore Community Broadband service <p>J - Local services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23 Explore options for a Community Shop <p>K - Providing accommodation for local businesses</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 24 Explore option of provision of work units/workspace 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCT SCC local/volunteers, Highland Council, Highlife Highland Archive Centre Portree Other Hall Committees for advice/help (e.g. Seall Small Halls) Volunteer drivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find expert support e.g. SCVO 	• No cost implication	
4	Progress Asset Transfer process	TBC	Planned		S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCT SCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check how and when the ownership could be transferred to the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost at present £500,000+ in future 	
5	Renovate building	CAP group	Proposed		M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural survey to assess damage; look closely at fabric of existing structure (Check drainage system, ensure building is damp-proof, check ceilings/roof) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost at present £1-2m in future 	
6	Men's shed	Shed relies on group of interested men	Proposed		S	Local men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear up and begin to use polytunnel 	• £10,000	
10	Revitalise Jetties (Struan, Caroy)	Jetty committees	Proposed		L	Struan & Carboist Jetty Users Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing users to be consulted 	• £25,000	

“Beautiful views in many places which draw visitors to stop. We have the potential to offer a lot for visitors, with the right facilities.”

* 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, starting 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

B. Connecting to the land and sea

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 Carboist
- 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Associations (e.g. LSHA) Land Trust Highland Council Companies and organisations linked to resource – Scottish Water, National Grid etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider employing professional organisation to conduct survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £50,000 + 	
12	Carry out housing needs audit for Struan	Housing Working Group	Proposed		S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Associations (e.g. LSHA) Land Trust Highland Council Companies and organisations linked to resource – Scottish Water, National Grid etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider employing professional organisation to conduct survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community land trust SSE Grant providers Housing Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up Housing Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost at present 	
14	Housing for the future	Housing Working Group	Proposed		S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil servants, specifically Scottish Government and Highland Council Local housing associations Local contractors Community can look into funding sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up Housing Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost at present 	
D. Zero-carbon homes for all									
15	Future-proofing our homes	Housing Working Group	Proposed		S: research M: implement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost at present 	
E. Specialist accommodation									
16	Explore provision of specialist housing for older people	Housing Working Group	Proposed		L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil servants, specifically Scottish Government and Highland Council Local housing associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up Housing Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

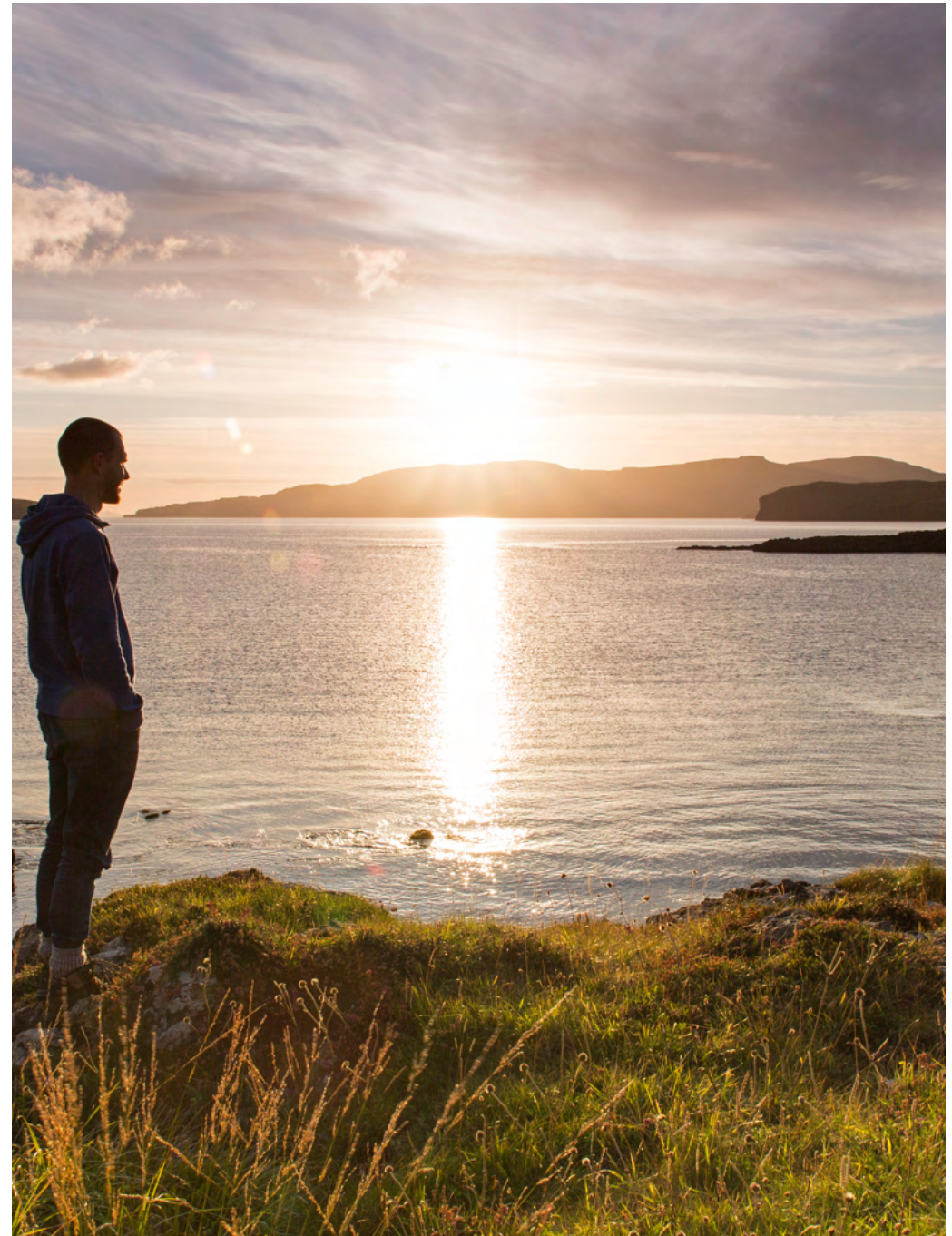
Our vision states that in 2033 we will have local transport services that meet our needs and are fit for the 21st century. Improving road and pedestrian infrastructure, our access to public transport and supporting one another through existing and new community transport initiatives are all ways that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

“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.”

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



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Struan Community Council Community Trust Other local groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify demand for potential use of shared community transport service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost 	
H. Safer, improved transport network									
20	Lobby council to improve road maintenance	SCC	Proposed		S-L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Community groups 	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost 	
21	Lobby council to improve roadside pedestrian paths	SCC	Proposed		S-L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Community groups 	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.”

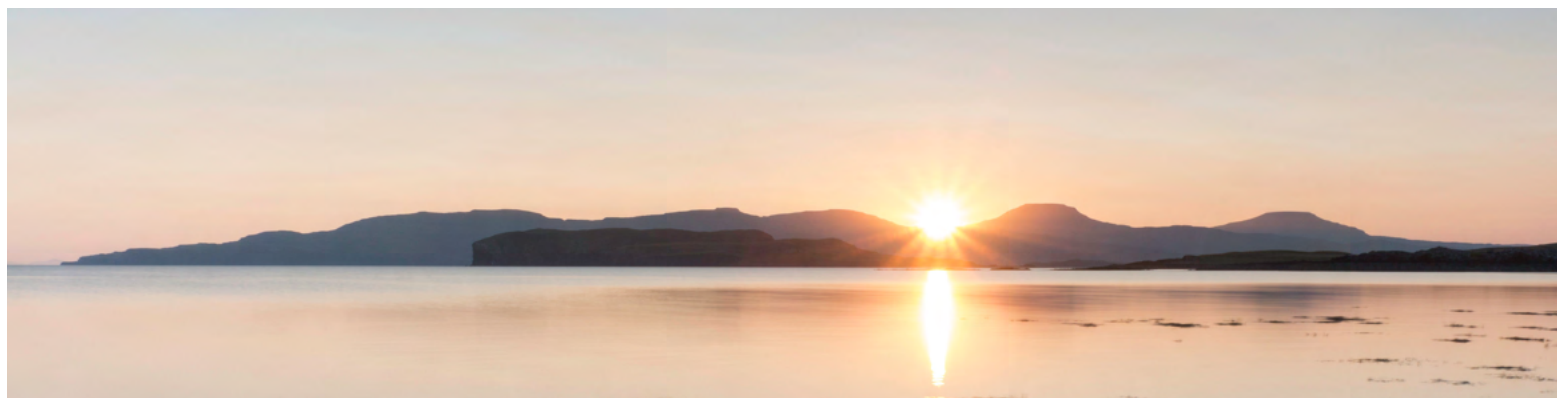
“More opportunity for younger people to experience/ be involved in agricultural activities. Providing opportunities for the local “younger” generation to become entrepreneurs.”



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starlink BT Invisible Link 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep in touch with potential technologies / experts (e.g. Invisible Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2-5m+ 	
J. Local services									
23	Explore options for a Community Shop.	TBC	Proposed	Consider Community Shop options	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC 	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost at present 	
K. Providing accommodation for local businesses									
24	Explore option of provision of work units/workspace	TBC	Proposed		L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore level of demand for work units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Armadale, 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



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.”

5. Making It Happen: Implementation



Key Milestones

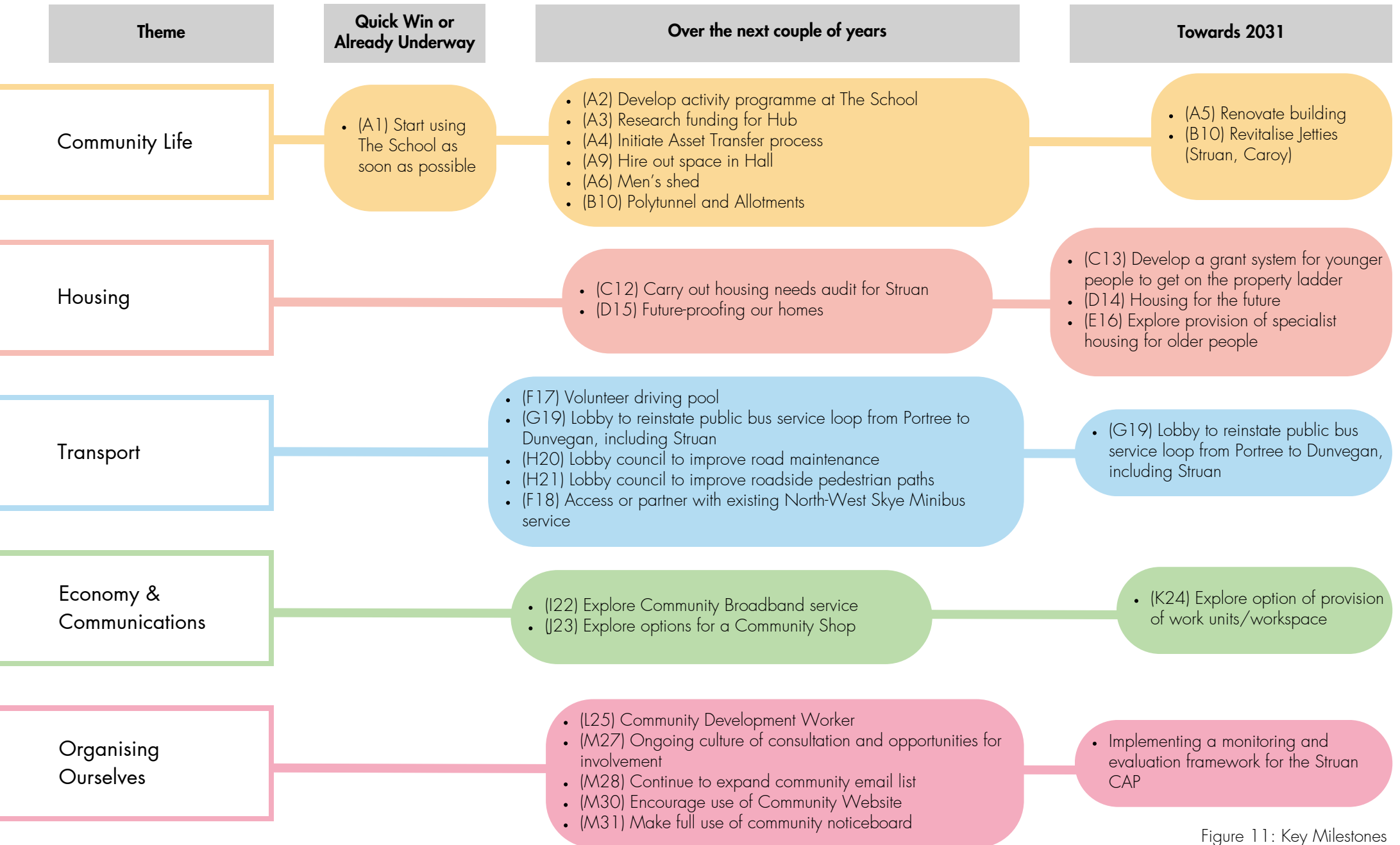


Figure 11: Key Milestones

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone 	TBC	• No cost	
M. Improving community communications									
27	Ongoing culture of consultation and opportunities for involvement	TBC	Proposed		S-L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Appendices

List of Figures

Figure no.	Title	Page
1	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation rankings for Skye North West and Skye South data zones	53
2	Trunk-road flows	55
3	Projected coastal impacts	56
4	Vulnerability to Coastal Erosion	57
5	Scottish Government Heat Map data	57
6	Scottish Government Heat Map data	57
7	Community Engagement schedule delivered to every home in Struan	59
8	National Planning Framework 4, pg 14	64
9	National Planning Framework 4, pg 18	65

List of Tables

Figure no.	Title	Page
1	Statistics, Skye and Raasay Future (SARF)	58
2	Statistics, Skye and Raasay Future (SARF)	58
3	Evaluating the CAP process	77

To navigate around the document more easily, simply click on any title to be taken to the corresponding page directly.



1. Additional Background

Deprivation

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

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

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

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation rankings for Struan:

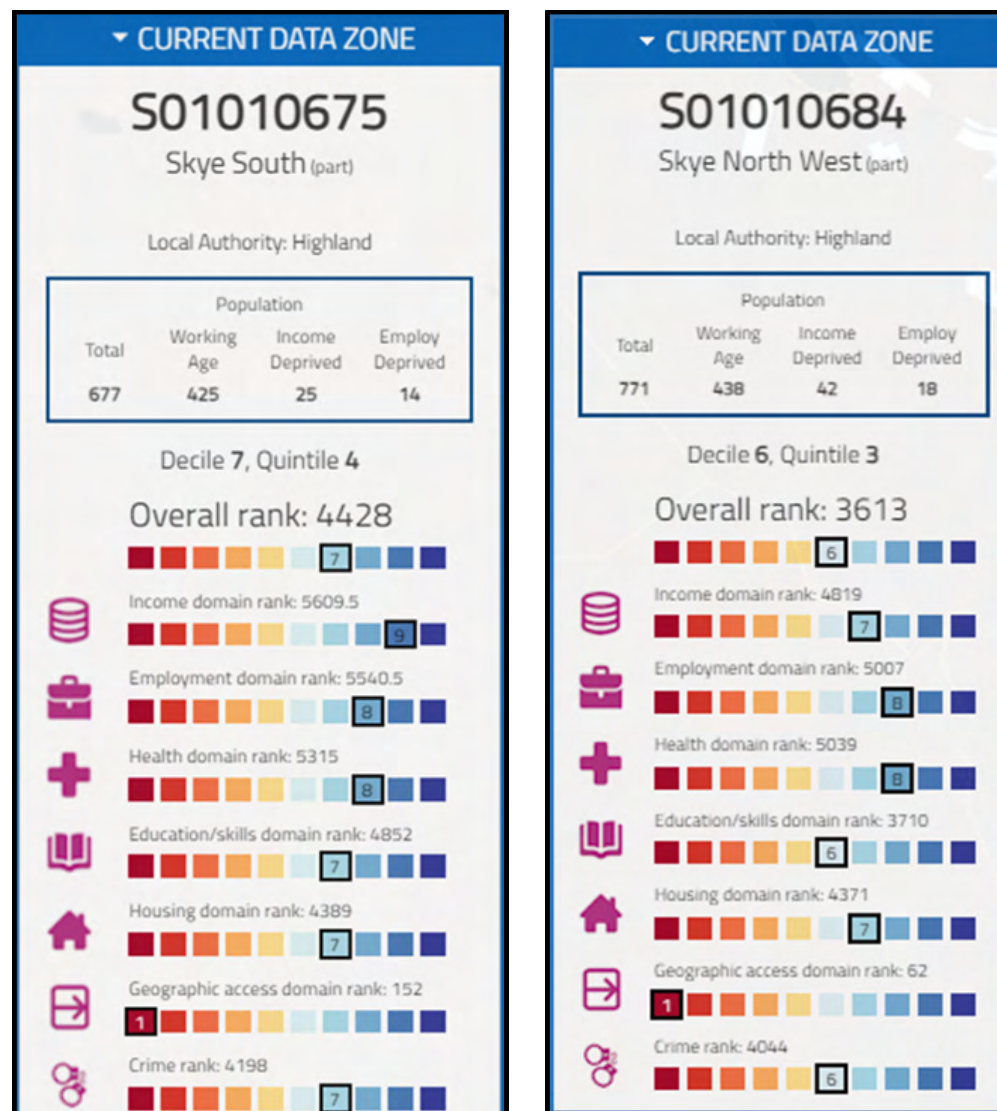


Figure 1: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation rankings for Skye North West and Skye South data zones

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

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

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

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

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

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

While it should be noted that neither SIMD dataset provides exact data for the SCC ward boundaries, it can be noted that the overview statistics on the previous page indicate that 25 of 677 people are considered income deprived in the South Skye data zone, and 14 people are considered employment deprived.

South Skye is comparatively less deprived than average in six domains (income, employment, education, health, crime, and housing), ranking particularly highly in regards to income. According to Engage Highland's [Skye & Raasay Area Profile](#), the region has a lower percentage of people experiencing in-work poverty or receiving out of work benefits compared to the Highland average.

However, Struan ranks in the bottom decile for access to services. In fact, with a rank of 152 in this domain, it can be said that Struan is in the top 3% of areas most deprived of geographic access to services in all of Scotland.¹

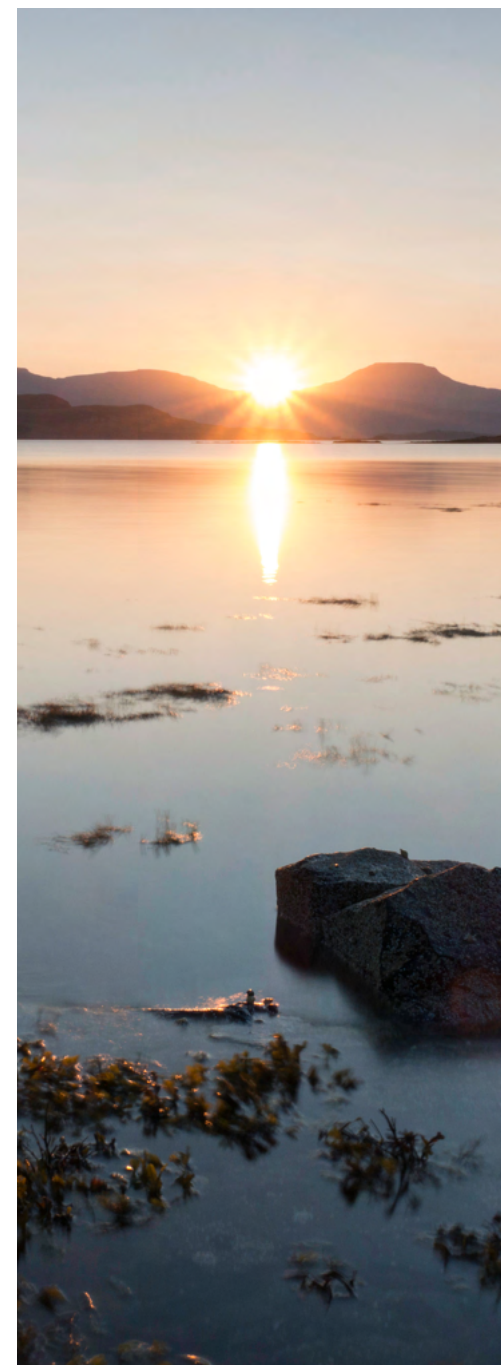
Struan's 'Very Remote Rural' classification comes with higher living costs and less access to transport, food, fuel, employment, and socialisation opportunities.

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

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

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

² Ofcom Connection Nations Report (2021).



Transport

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

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

There are no public bus services which pass through Struan. It is a 25-minute car drive to Portree and 15 minutes to Dunvegan.

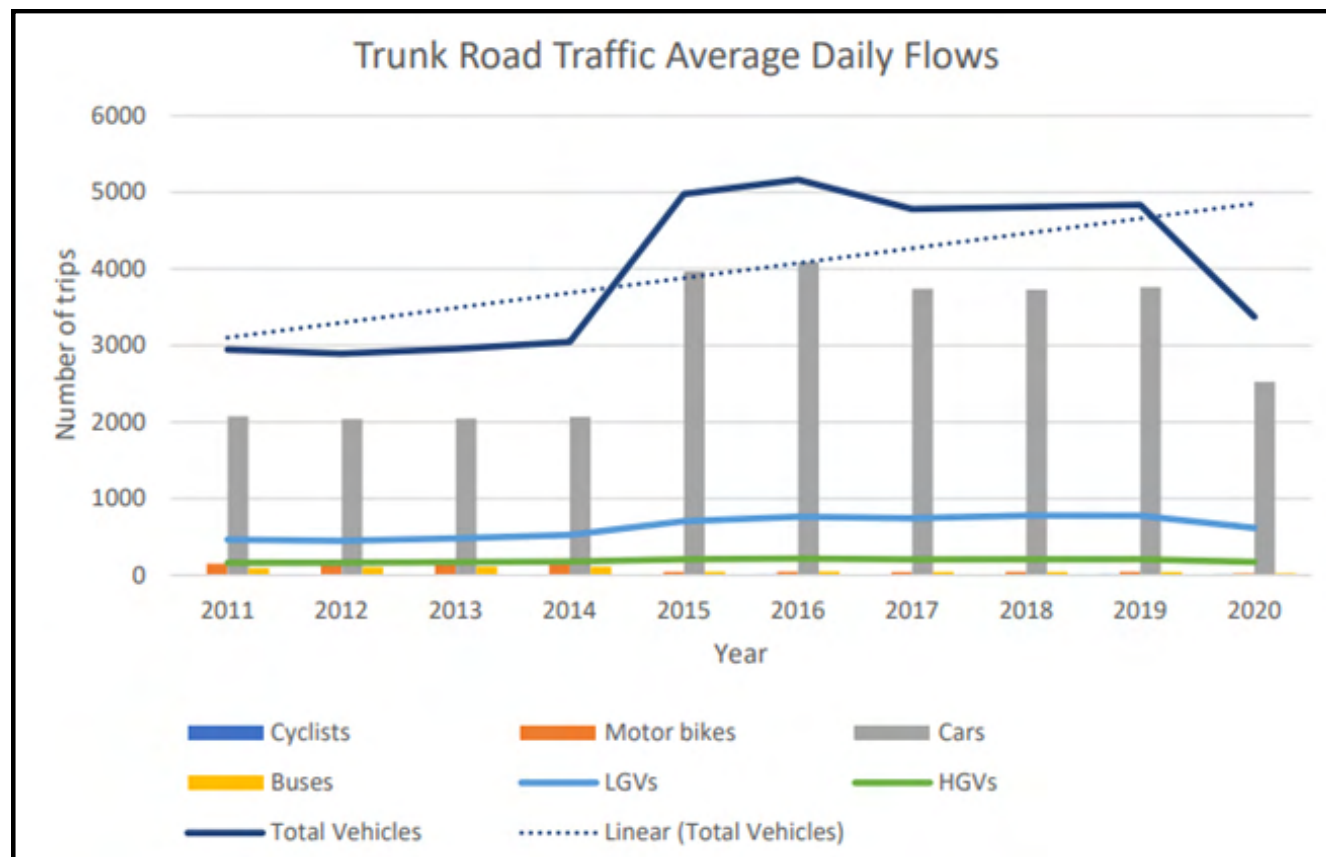


Figure 2: Trunk-road flows based on data from the Kyleakin Roundabout at the entrance to the Isle of Skye. Source: Road traffic statistics - Local authority: Highland (dft.gov.uk)

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

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

Climate Change

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

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

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

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

They highlighted the following as critical:

- Heat for residential buildings
- Transportation

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

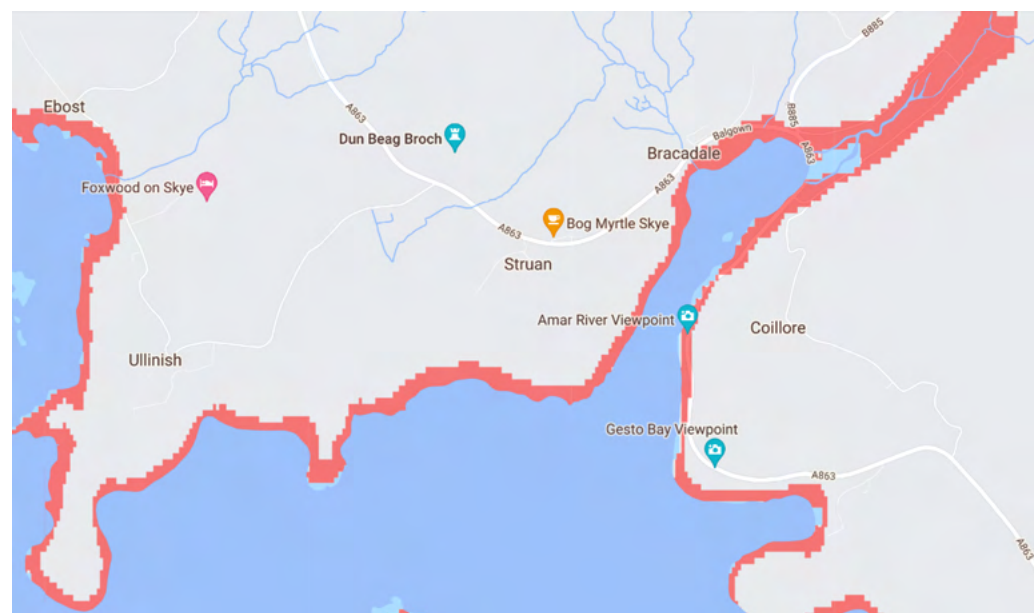


Figure 3: Projected coastal impacts - areas shaded red are projected to be impacted by combinations of sea level rise, tides, and storm surge by 2050.

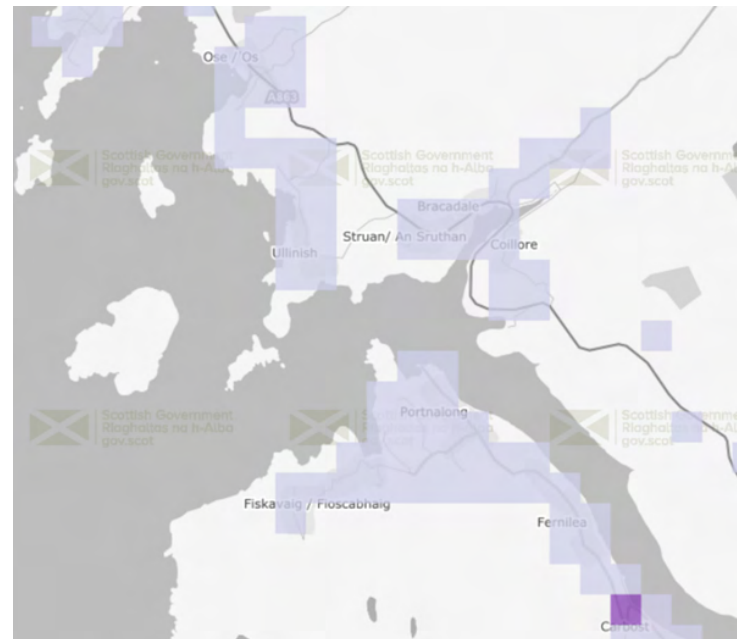
⁵ [Historic Environment Scotland](#).

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

Figure 4: Vulnerability to Coastal Erosion.



Figures 5 and 6: Scottish Government Heat Map data.



Energy

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

The three key areas that require energy in Scotland are heating, transportation, and other uses of electricity. Progress has been made on the latter in terms of decarbonisation, with significant domestic electricity demand now being met from renewable sources. Residential heating, however, remains a persistent source of greenhouse gas emissions, especially because heating is required for a majority of the year in a place like Skye.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tables 1 and 2: Statistics, [Skye and Raasay Future \(SARF\)](#)



⁶ Skye & Raasay Future (2021).

⁷ The Highland Council Corporate Plan 2022-27.

2. How the Plan Was Prepared



Community aspirations

June 2023

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

Developing a shared vision for Struan

July 2023

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

Planning actions to deliver for the community

August 2023

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

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

Two gatherings at Struan Primary School.

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

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

SAVE THE DATES!

Additional community conversations at Struan Primary School – details TBC.

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

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

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

Foundations and Marketing

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

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

Community Aspirations

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

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





Developing a Vision Together

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



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

Action Planning

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

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

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

Launch

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

3. Relationship to Other Plans

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

Community Planning Policy Framework

National Performance Framework

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

Highlands Outcome Improvement Plan (HOIP), 2017 to 2027

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

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

The five core HOIP outcomes are as follows:

Poverty Reduction

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

Community Participation & Dialogue

- People in Highland will be more involved in decisions that affect their lives.

Infrastructure

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

Community Safety & Resilience

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

Mental Health & Mental Wellbeing

- People in Highland will benefit from good mental health and wellbeing.

The cross-cutting themes are:

- Employability, employment and skills development – this recognises the importance of providing economic opportunities to communities as a way of addressing inequality.
- Community Investment and development – this promotes inclusion and builds strong communities.
- Digital Inclusion – ensuring that people have the knowledge and confidence to actively participate in the use of digital technology.
- Equality of opportunity and inclusion – recognises that certain groups within our communities are more likely to experience inequality than others.



Skye and Raasay Future

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

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

Transportation Policy Framework

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

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



Spatial Planning Policy Framework

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

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

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

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

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

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

Policy 17 Rural homes

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

Of particular note is that development proposals for new homes in remote rural areas will be supported where the proposal:

- i. supports and sustains existing fragile communities;
- ii. supports identified local housing outcomes; and
- iii. is suitable in terms of location, access, and environmental impact.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

HOMES THAT MEET OUR DIVERSE NEEDS

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to meet the housing needs of people living in Scotland including, in particular, the housing needs of older people and disabled people.

The spatial strategy has taken into account future population and household projections, and highlights areas where there will be particular challenges arising from an ageing population. Spatial principles, including local living and just transition, will also help to ensure that the needs of all people are reflected in our future places.

Policy 16 supports the delivery of high quality, sustainable homes that meet the needs of people throughout their lives. In particular, it supports proposals for new homes that improve affordability and choice by being adaptable to changing and diverse needs, and which address identified gaps in provision. This could include: accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible homes; homes that meet the needs of older people; a range of size of homes; and other specialist groups.

The majority of older people want to remain in their home as they age, preferring mainstream housing, and so accessible and adaptable homes can allow people to continue to live independently. The close alignment of planning and housing delivery at the local level, through LDPs and Local Housing Strategies, will help to deliver the right type and mix of homes in the right locations. In addition Housing to 2040 sets out a commitment to Scottish Accessible Home Standard in 2025/26.

Development that provides homes to meet the needs of older people and disabled people will be further promoted by LDPs. Evidence reports will explain the action taken to support and promote the construction and/ or adaptation of homes to meet their needs. Spatial strategies will take into account housing needs and the availability of land for new homes, including for older people and disabled people through the Accessible Home Standard, wheelchair housing targets and the consideration of accessibility in design of the wider development and local amenity. The planning authority must also keep their plan under review, and monitor any changes in this.

Placemaking and choices about the location of development will also help to meet the needs of older people and disabled people. **Policy 14** supports development that is consistent with the six qualities of successful places, including health and wellbeing, and safe and pleasant places for people to meet. **Policy 15** supports development that is consistent with the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, helping to ensure our homes and wider neighbourhoods meet all of our needs. As part of this, it recognises that affordable housing options, ability to age in place and housing diversity are an integral part of more liveable places. **Policy 13** is also clear that the views of disabled people must be sought when seeking to reduce reliance on the car including by managing car parking provision.

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

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

Policy 29, Rural Development

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

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

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

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

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

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

RURAL REVITALISATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



4. Community Survey Results

Overview

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



The CAP survey asked the following questions:

- 1 What is your age?
- 2 What is your connection to the community in Struan?
- 3 For roughly how many years has Struan been a home for you?
- 4 What do you like about living in the Struan area?
- 5 Is there anything you don't like about being in Struan?
- 6 What are Struan's strengths, as a community and place?
- 7 What challenges are faced by the community right now?
- 8 What do you think are the challenges that may be faced by the community in 5-10 years' time?
- 9 What opportunities do you see in future that we can make happen by working together?
- 10 How do you currently find out what is going on in Struan?
- 11 How do you think communication can be improved so we can all know what's going on?

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

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

- 12 Do you support the idea of the community taking over the school site and buildings after it has been officially closed?
- 13 If you answered yes to the above, what purposes would you like to see the building and site put to?
- 14 If the community were to take over the school, how do you think we should ensure that the facility becomes a sustainable enterprise (able to support itself through its own income generation)?

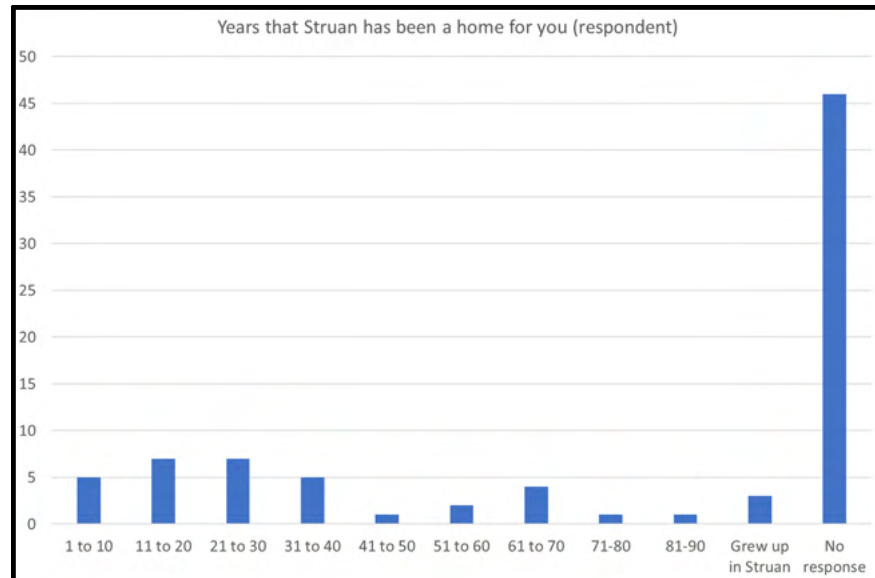
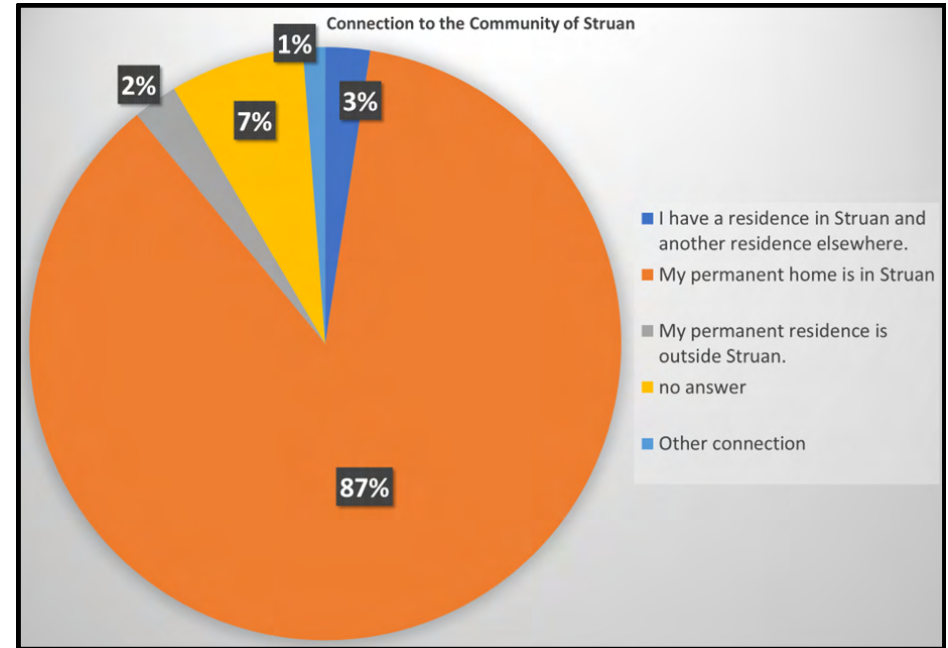
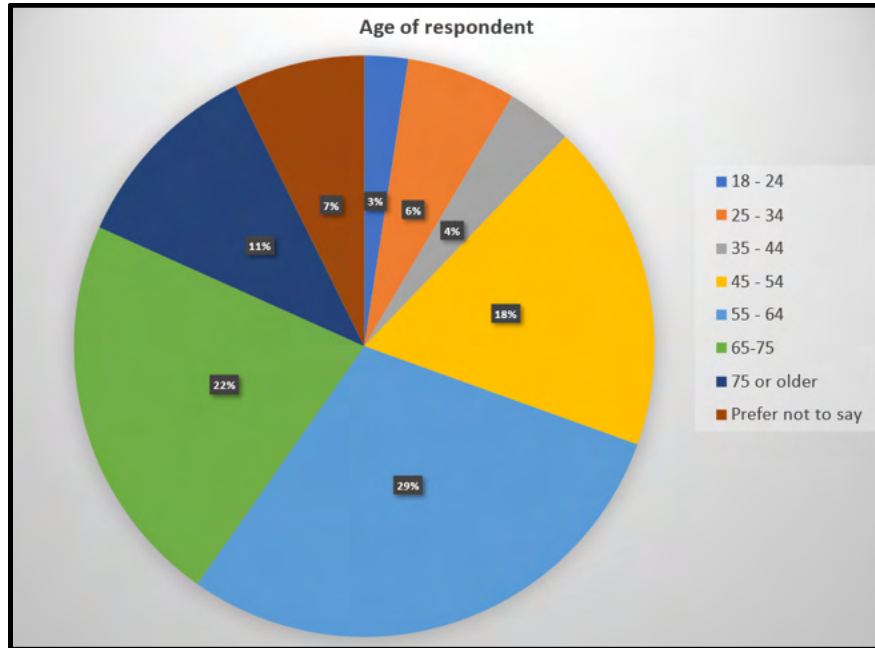
Every household received a paper copy with the option to fill out online.

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

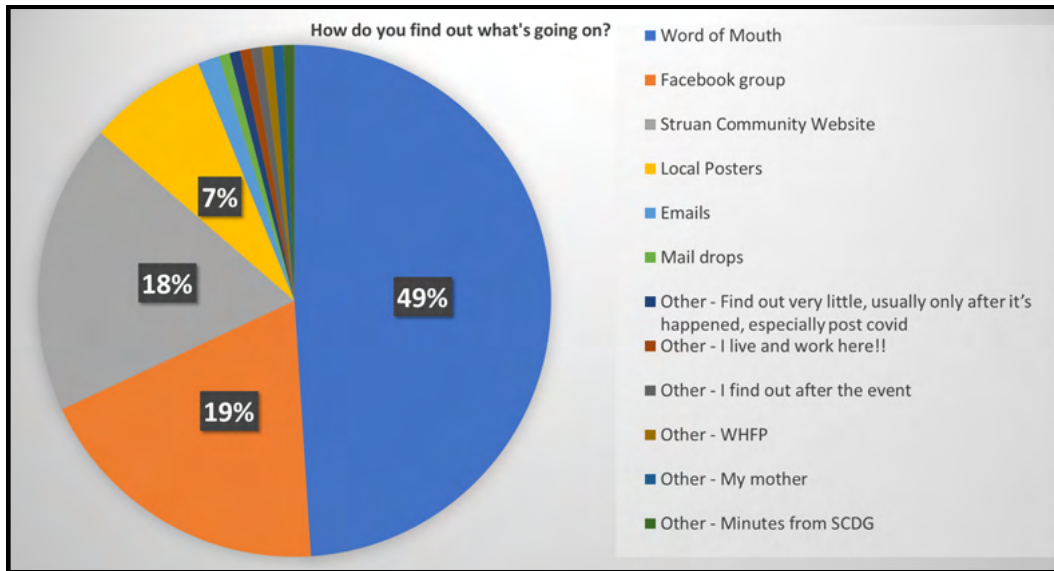
The pie charts on the following page break down the characteristics of respondents, by age and residency. Information has also been included regarding responses to the question of how best to communicate across the community and the level of support for potential community control and/or ownership of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

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

Who replied to the survey?



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



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



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

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

Result

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

- Developing new dedicated community social media pages
- Making sure all info is also posted on a public noticeboard in the centre of the village.
- Sending a community newsletter at regular intervals by email and post.

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

Additional comments

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

Community take-over of the school site: convictions

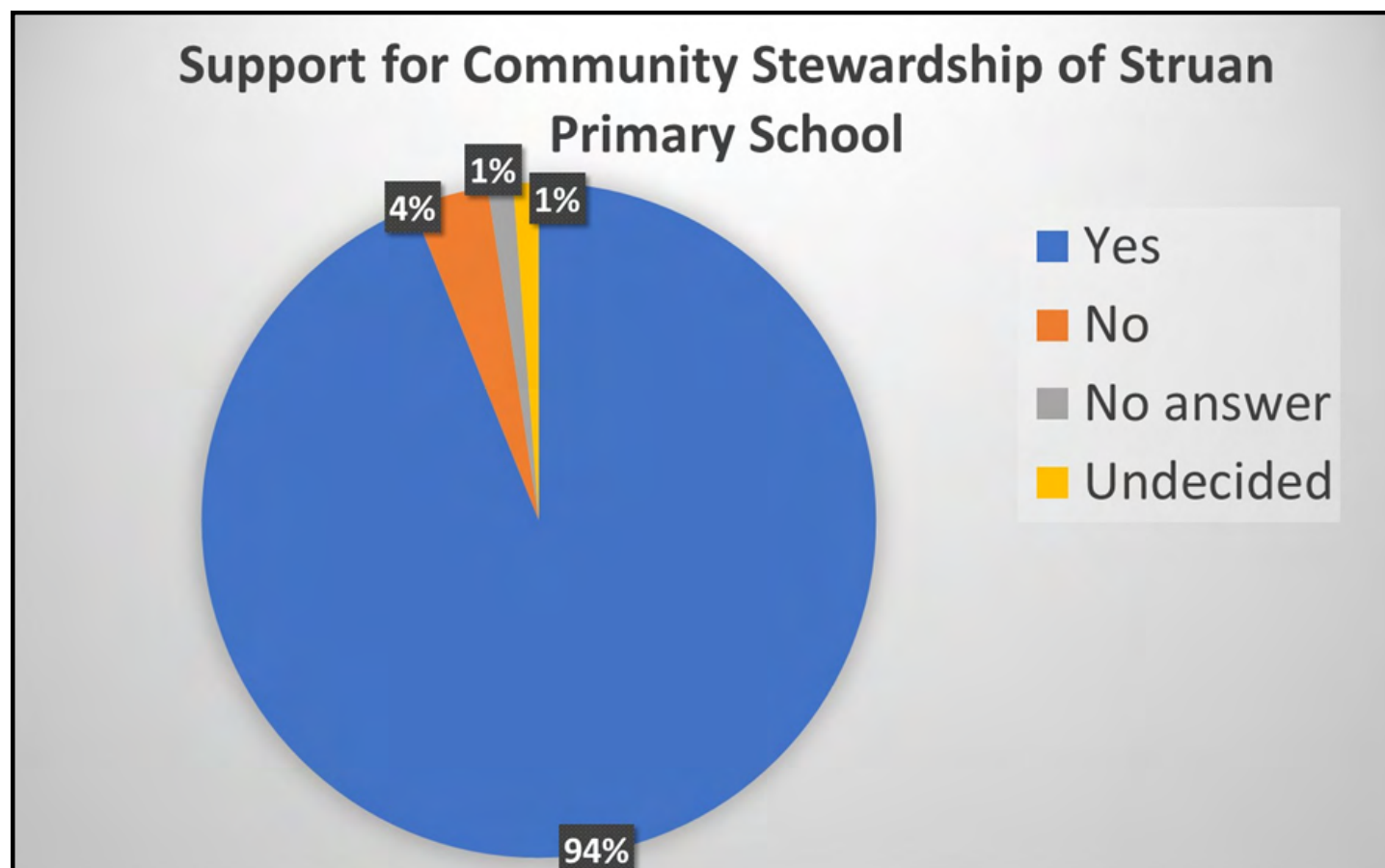
The following chart summarises responses to question 12: "Do you support the idea of the community taking over the school site and buildings after it has been officially closed?"

Result

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

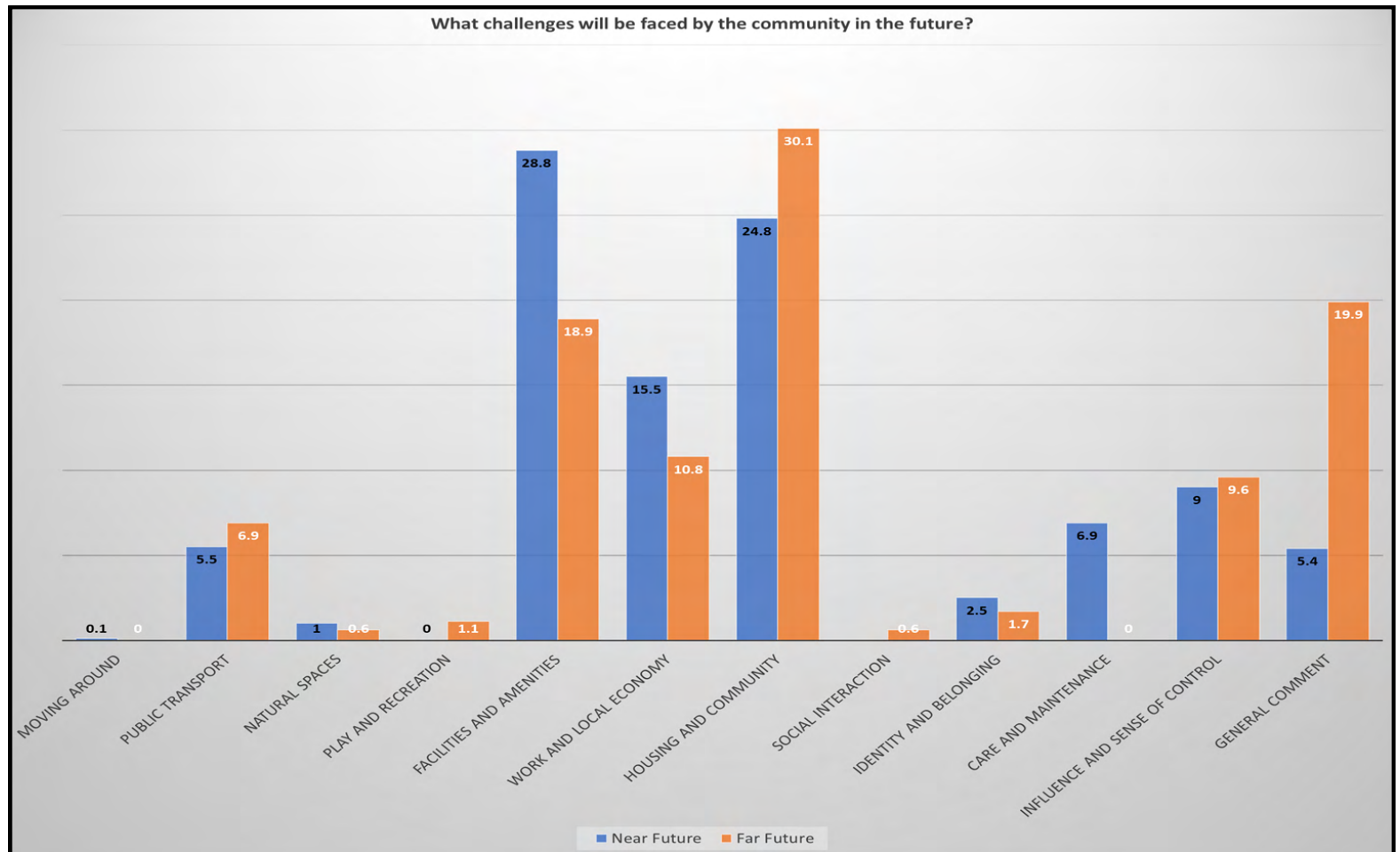
Two additional comments were made:

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



Initial diagnosis of the key issues Struan faces in the future.

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



Conclusions

The following general conclusions were drawn from the survey:

- *Likes*
 - The scenery, landscape, tranquillity and community spirit of Struan are most appreciated, and to a lesser extent the ease of travel to Dunvegan, Portree and Carbost.
- *Communications*
 - The overwhelming majority of people in Struan get their community news via word of mouth, Facebook and the Struan Community Website. Maximising the impact of these without excluding people who don't rely on technology for their information will be key.
- Support for *community stewardship* of the Struan Primary School property was overwhelmingly positive, with 94% of respondents supportive.

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

- *Strengths*
 - Struan's landscape, history, tourism offer and local people (supportive networks and active citizenship) are all considered to be strengths.
- *Weaknesses*
 - The lack of public transport, poor state of the roads, poor quality broadband and lack of a local shop that meets people's local needs are seen to weaknesses.

- *Opportunities*
 - Developing the former School as a community facility, attracting younger people to remain in Struan, and taking advantage of potential wind farm income are all key opportunities on the horizon.
- *Threats*
 - Facilities and amenities and work and the local economy challenges in the short term, with the challenge of housing provision of increasing importance into the future. This appears to be because housing is considered to be so central to attracting and keeping young people in the community for a sustainable future.

Other observations:

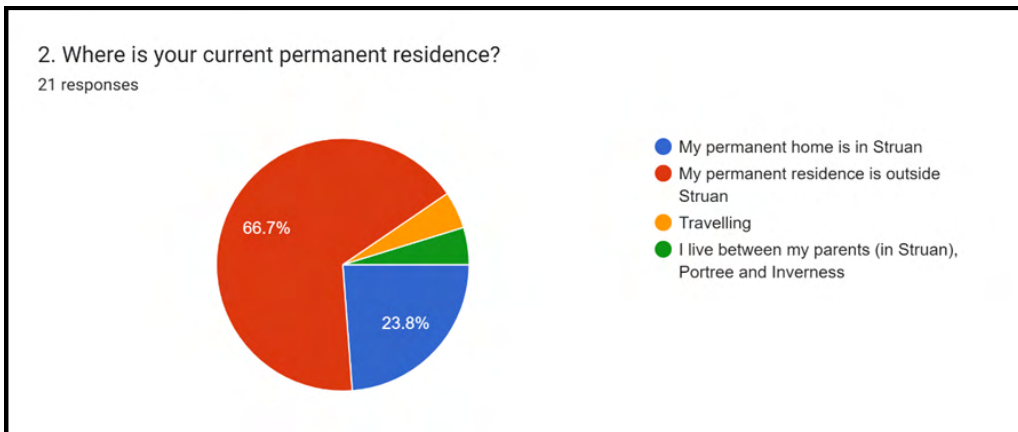
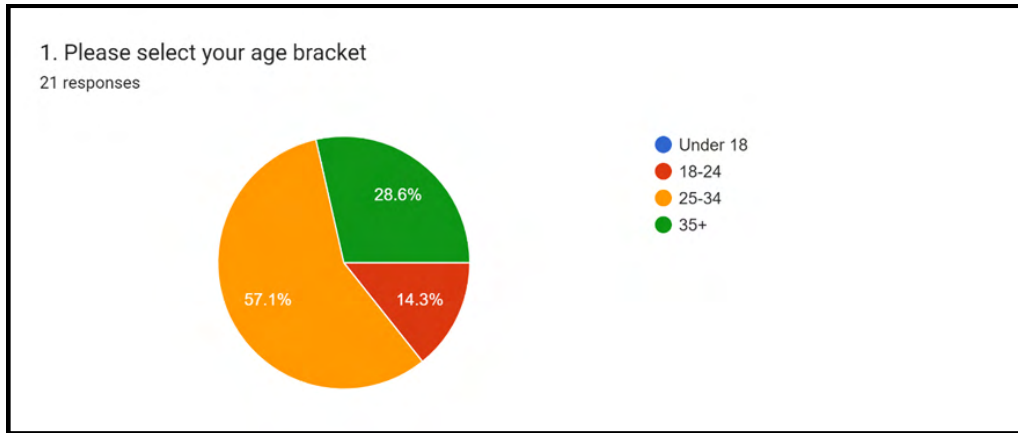
- Considering the declared national and regional climate change emergency, there was a significant and surprising lack of expressed concern in this regard. Only two people mentioned the challenge of Climate Change as being a key issue over the next 10 years. It is not clear what the cause of this is: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



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

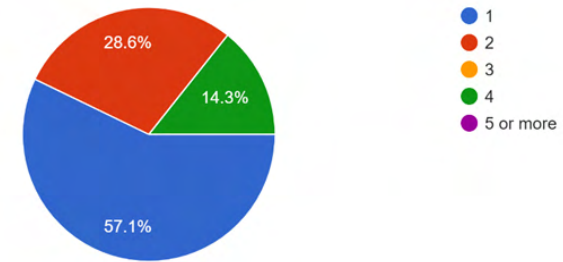
Survey ran from 10th October until Sunday 12th November 2023. In total there were 21 individual respondents.

Part A: About the respondents



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

14 responses



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

Part B: About the insights of the respondents

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Do you know anyone else aged 40 or less who has left Struan due to a lack of affordable housing? (Tick multiple answers if applicable).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 of the 21 (52%) respondents indicated that they knew of members of their own household or others friends or colleagues who have left Struan due to a lack of available affordable housing. • 6 of the 21 (29%) indicated they knew people who had left for other reasons as well. • 4 of the 21 (19%) didn't know anyone that this applies to.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. Evaluating the Struan CAP process

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

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

Table 3: Evaluating the Struan CAP process

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

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[Road traffic statistics](#) - Local Authority: Highland

[Scottish Crofting Federation](#)

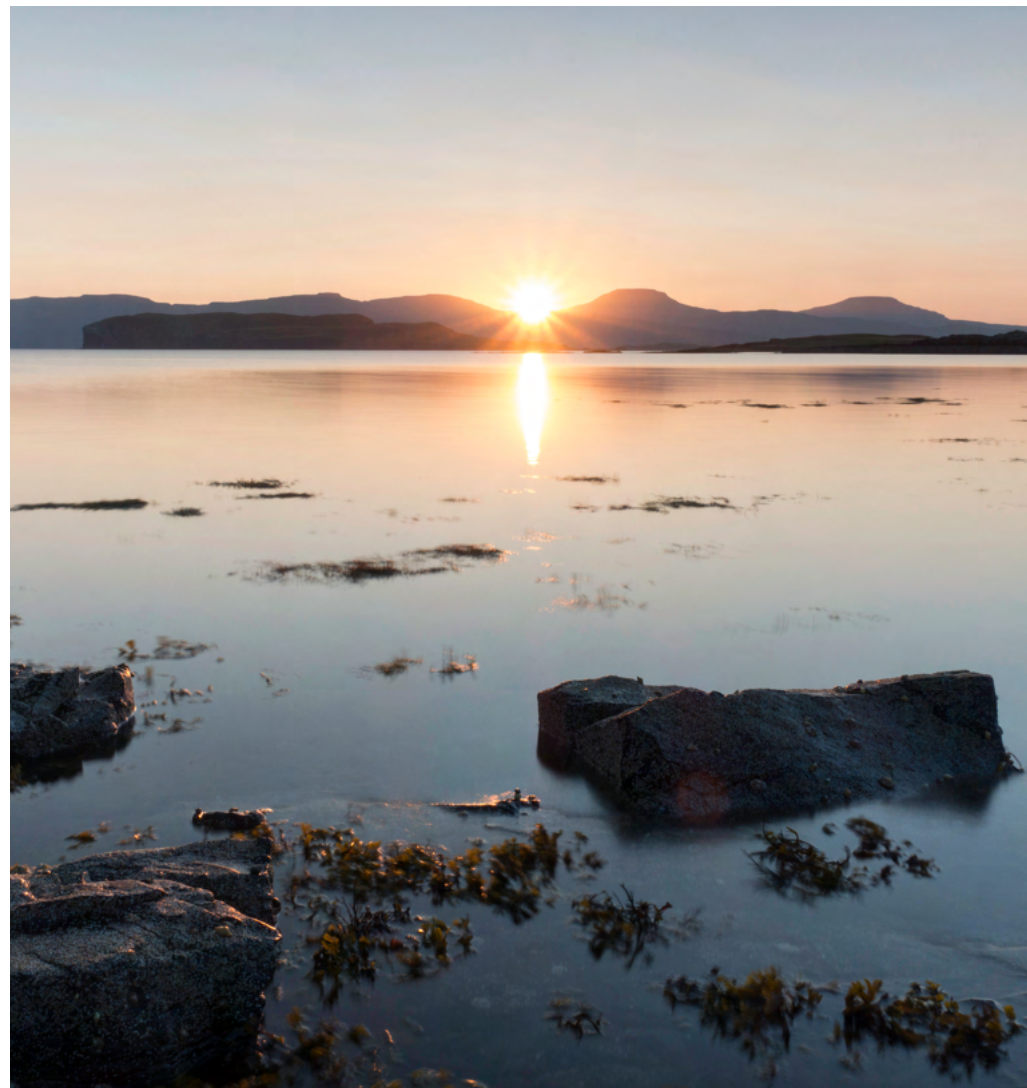
[Scottish Government](#) Agricultural Maps

[Scottish Government](#) Urban Rural Classification 2020

News articles

[Call for Highland holiday lets to need planning permission](#) (BBC
article).

[Skye residents give backing to wind farm project](#) (Scotsman
article).







"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

