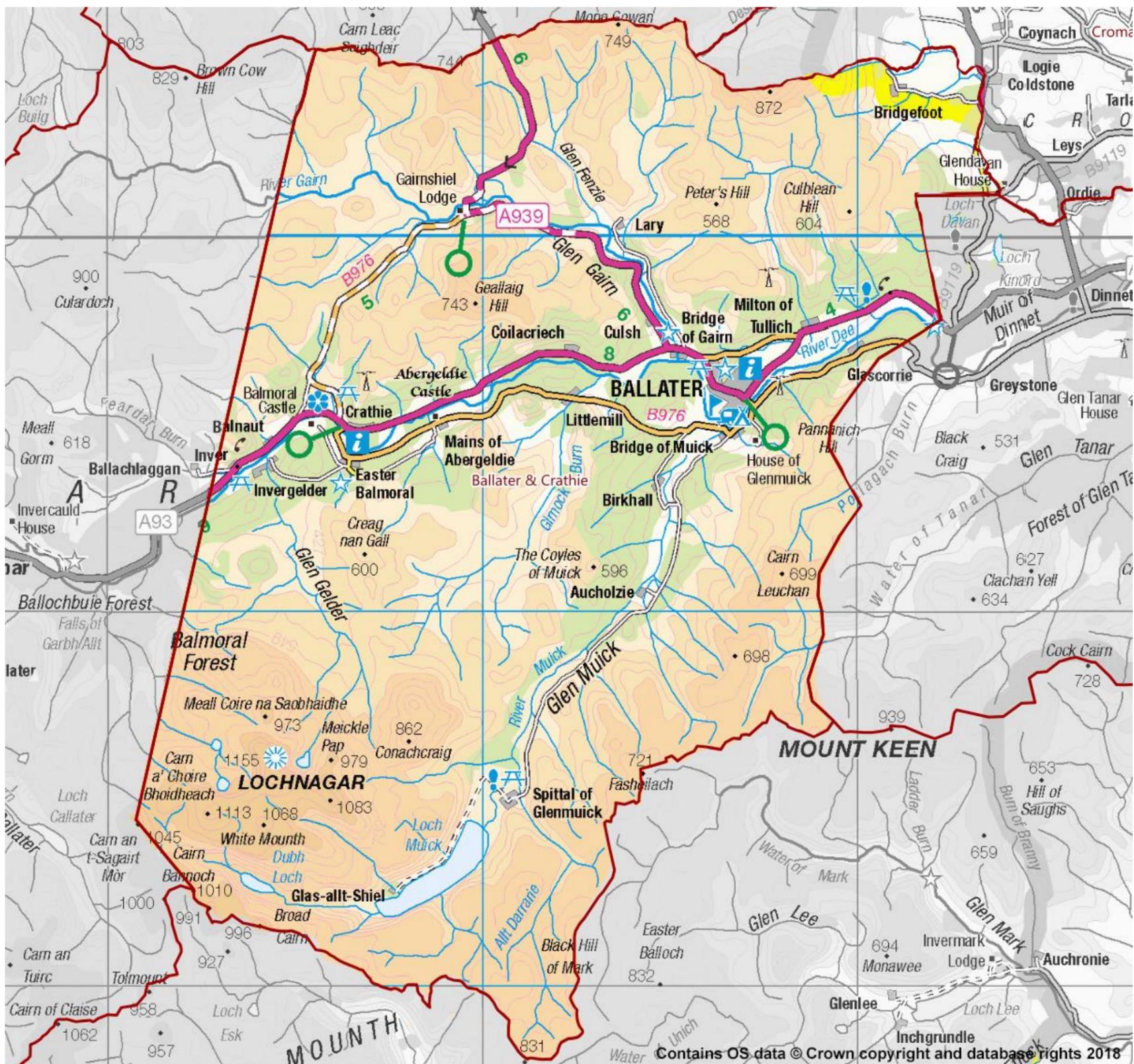




Ballater & Crathie Community Action Plan 2018

This is the Community Action Plan for the Upper Deeside area of Ballater and Crathie. It has been developed under the lead of the Ballater and Crathie Community Council working with Marr Area Partnership and Aberdeenshire Council. A Steering Committee representing various community groups was established in June 2017 and this group has undertaken the task of engaging extensively with the community and stakeholders to produce this Action Plan.

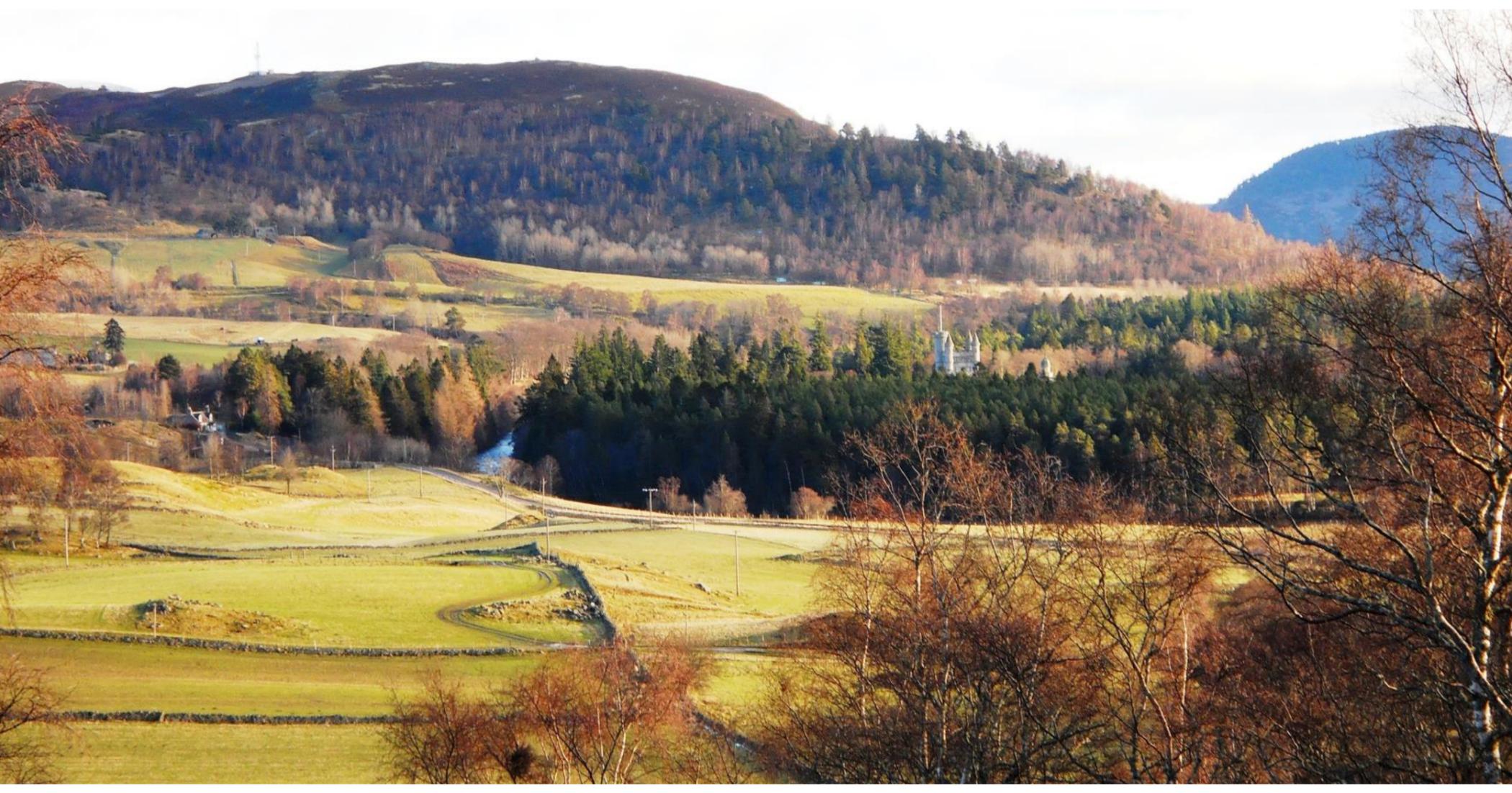


Over a thousand surveys were delivered by hand in addition to online access communicated at local events and in social media. Over 600 surveys were completed, and this represented feedback from over 40% of the community, with over 50% in the 16-25, 26-40 & 41-60 age categories.

The information gathered and contained within this booklet can now be used to guide the community and the Community Planning Partners in compiling further detailed actions to take forward the top priorities. All the ideas have come from the community. The table at the back shows a list of the priorities and the relevant lead group along with the various stakeholders.

For the Action Plan to be delivered successfully the community will need to engage in the setting up of various workgroups to lead the issues. A 'Community Action Team' will be established as the primary work group to carry out an audit of community assets and monitor the delivery of these actions to improve our community. A number of other groups are also envisaged, and all members of the community are encouraged to get involved.

It is recommended that this Action Plan has a maximum life span of 5 years.





The Ballater and Crathie Community Council catchment includes the town of Ballater and the surrounding rural area including the settlement of Crathie. The main route through the town is the A93 from Aberdeen to Perth through the Cairngorms National Park along the newly named tourist 'Snow Road'. The route to the north is the infamous B939 Corgaff to Tomintoul road which is often the first road to be blocked by snow each year. The River Dee which runs alongside the town is the main reason for the settlement's existence.

There are traces of man living along the River Dee for over eight thousand years with numerous Mesolithic and Neolithic finds in the area. There are early settlements at Tullich and Crathie with remnants of Picts and early Christians. The town of Ballater itself was founded in the 19th Century, one of the new planned towns built in the Victorian era. The nearby Pannanich Well had been attracting visitors for many years for its healing properties therefore the local landowner took advantage of the rising Scottish tourism industry and developed the village. Today, tourism remains the main economy of the area.

The railway first came to Ballater in 1866. Whether this fed the tourist boom, or simply took advantage of the draw created by Queen Victoria when she purchased Balmoral in 1852, is debatable. What is certain is the regular use made of the new railway by the area's occasional royal residents and their guests and visitors. Much of the royalty of nineteenth century Europe passed through Ballater railway station at one time or another, including the Czar of Russia in 1896. This ever more prestigious traffic doubtless led to the rebuilding of the station to a rather grander scale in 1886.

The railway service to Ballater was sadly among many that were cut in 1966 but has remained in use as a visitor centre with an exhibition recording the village's royal connection until 2015 when unfortunately, it was significantly damaged by a fire. Reconstruction is ongoing, and the station returned to its former glory, is due to reopen in summer 2018.

Many buildings date from the Victorian era and the centre of the village is a conservation area. The main public facility is the Victoria and Albert Hall complex which

was constructed at the end of the 19th century. The building has four halls for public use and provides space for the public library and an office for the Cairngorms National Park Authority. Given the age and granite construction of the building a major refurbishment is underway however substantial investment is required to complete this programme.

Since the demise of the railway the town has continued to find its niche as a tourist destination. However, the consequence is that the main employment in the area are lower income industries of retail, hospitality, agriculture and public sector.

The onward trail through Royal Deeside extends west from Ballater along both north and south sides of the River Dee. The older and narrower road sticks to the south bank before passing the Royal Lochnagar Distillery as it approaches Balmoral. The main road runs along the north bank of the river. The two meet at the large car park that serves Balmoral Castle and Crathie Church.

The population of the parish is approximately 2000 with 1200 houses, 10% of which are second homes. 30% of the population are over 65 years old and in relatively good health. Volunteering is common with over 40 recreation clubs. Local charitable trusts manage facilities including the halls, Caravan Park and the community bus service.

During December 2015 the area was severely affected by Storm Frank. The heavy rainfall caused flooding which affected most of the town and access routes. Hundreds of homes were evacuated. The effects have been long lasting, some homes and businesses remain closed.

Both the fire and the flood set back the economy of the village with the loss of the caravan park, the tourist centre and numerous businesses. A positive effect has been the realisation that the whole community which worked well together under stress, could harness that energy and human assets to develop the community. The first stage of that development is engagement with the community and visitors to create this action plan.



Architect drawing of station

Theme 1:

Our Assets

Ballater and Crathie are fortunate to have many assets that are treasured by the community. Response to the Community Action Plan consultation highlighted the need to protect and expand on the assets and facilities already available.

The Victoria and Albert Halls are a very important central feature to the community. Particular concern was the condition of the buildings and the need to continue to refurbish, modernise and improve the facilities. The trustees of the Halls have already applied for funding for improvements and with the creation of a partnership with other key stakeholders in the community this can be developed. Wider uses of the halls facilities have been suggested including sports facilities and environmentally sustainable projects. The partnership could explore the feasibility of further improvements, to develop a marketing strategy and look if hire costs could be made more affordable. It has also been suggested that the halls could be used as a central community hub.

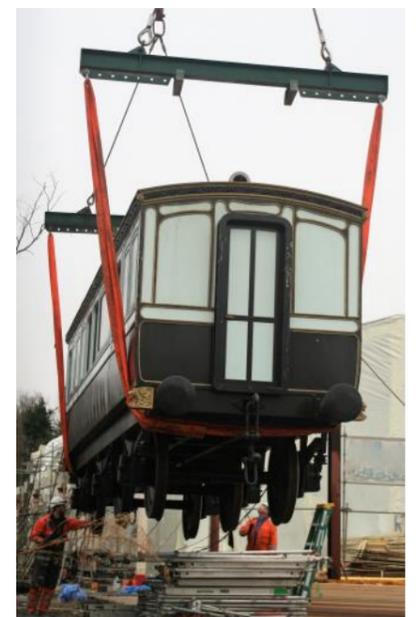
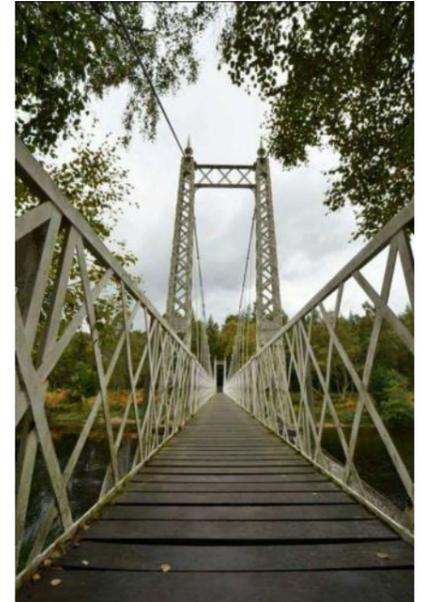
The survey showed concern across all age groups for the condition of Ballater Village Green. Following creation of a "Community Action Team" the first action will be to carry out a town audit and working with the existing enhancement group produce a feasibility study of all potential areas of enhancement. Following the flood and recent economic downturn there are several properties that remain empty and reduce the attractiveness of the village.

Further consultation with property owners has been suggested to look at short term or alternative uses of these properties as well as lowering rents to encourage investment.

Development of the old school site was seen as a high priority and current plans are being considered.

Paths, parks, signage and general infrastructure improvements have been highlighted and following the town audit, the Community Action Team and relevant key partners will identify priorities for the short, medium and long term. The survey highlighted the repair of both footbridges at Pollhollick and Cambus O'May as a priority. An existing group of key partners including Aberdeenshire Council, CNPA, B & C Community Council, BBA and BRD are currently progressing this.

The consultation responses indicated that our biggest asset was the community itself and the people within it. There was a substantial response to the survey and now it is hoped that sufficient participation from all sectors of the community will get involved to take the actions forward.



**Theme 2:
The Visitor Experience**



Ballater has become one of the most popular tourist destinations on Royal Deeside, and in an economic context it is the spending by tourists that has become a large factor in supporting the economy of the area, our key local services and social facilities.

Traditionally, the village has always had a diverse range of shops, cafes, bike hire, restaurants and hotels to cater for the needs of visitors and tourists, as well as having the larger scale attractions such as The Old Royal Station, Balmoral Castle, Royal Lochnagar Distillery and the annual Highland Games to name but a few. The survey highlighted that there is still a requirement to maintain these attractions and to improve the visitor experience and ensure that the Ballater and Crathie area is viewed as a place that can represent the very best of Royal Deeside.



One area of improvement could be the signage and means of communication within the village, and it is important that visitors are able to find out about local attractions, events and local services in an easy and clear manner.

The survey suggested improvements in promoting existing events and attractions and expanding what is currently available. In particular, it is thought that additional entertainment events and cultural attractions would be a way of improving the visitor experience, as well as that of the local people. It was thought that the provision of a cultural museum/heritage centre would be popular in the village, and this could be coupled with the already well supported Ballater Local History Group so that the locals can play an active role in creating and maintaining a facility that illustrates Ballater's rich heritage.

Lastly, there was a keen interest to explore the beautiful scenery and outdoor activities in the area, to increase guided tours and walks.

Theme 3:

Recreation & Social Life

There were 78 different types of recreational and social facilities highlighted in the survey ranging across most ages and types of events. The greatest participation was in village groups, followed by sports groups and then less organised socialising in restaurants and pubs. There was a recognition that events and/or facilities are limited for older children and young adults, with suggestions of more music events relevant to that age group. Within other age groups in general it appears that there are sufficient social events but more should be done to communicate and coordinate the events to ensure attendance is maximised and events continue. Suggestions of a new theatre/cinema facility were raised, along with the requirement for a community hub/day centre.

Sports facilities are limited in the area with the main indoor public location the V&A Halls with a recognition that its multi-purpose usage prevents it from being a top- quality sports facility. There were numerous ideas on what facilities might benefit the community from sports centre, swimming pool, soft play area, Astroturf, skate/bike park, bike/motocross tracks, artificial curling rink, climbing wall, water sports centre.

Revamping of the play park facilities was seen as high priority with questions raised on providing play park facilities more centrally in Ballater village e.g. on the Church Green. Any revamp of play park facilities should also consider an older age range than currently provided for. A group is being formed to take this forward.

A number of activity & exercise classes were suggested, some of those are already in existence indicating the potential benefit of a centralised calendar/events log for increased communication. The challenge of sustaining exercise classes was also raised. A detailed audit of facilities & events/classes is suggested along with a further review of likely demand as an initial step.



Theme 4: Environment



Being situated in a rural setting, it is unsurprising that the natural environment is greatly valued by the community. By far the majority of respondents thought that it would be hard to improve our natural surroundings and that our buildings and spaces were generally well cared for, the consensus was that we should endeavour to enhance what we have. A view expressed was that any flood defence measures proposed should be designed to be sympathetic to the natural landscape.

One area of concern was waste disposal in general. Recycling should be better encouraged, and the community better educated to act responsibly regarding litter and dog waste disposal. Another area highlighted was the use of alternative energy sources and energy conservation.

Interest was expressed in a community garden, orchard or allotments. Options for a potential location and the formation of a group to take this forward is in an initial stage.

Crathie community expressed a feeling of isolation with the lack of a focal point in the area. It is hoped that a local group can be encouraged to take this up and bring forward ideas to address that feeling for further discussion within the community.



Image Attributed to i.telegraph.co.uk

Theme 5: Care Provision

With a greater number of residents over the age of 60, (39% in 2011, compared to the Scottish figure of 23%), there was an expectation that this theme would have more issues. However, it appears that the older people of the area are relatively healthy and do not require a high level of care. The main issues that were raised by the consultation are the need for improved access and transport; support for carers and requirement for additional daytime activities.

Disabled access was an issue around the town centre particularly for wheelchairs along narrow pavements and entering buildings. The lack of transport was also raised as the buses are not disabled friendly and the A2B service was limited. There is a desire for more support and respite for kinship carers. Although there appears to be a wide choice of activities for older people, those who have a caring responsibility are restricted by their role. There were suggestions for a befriending scheme or day care for people who are more dependent or vulnerable.

There were suggestions to develop a similar initiative to that being formed in Braemar where the community provide low level personal care and handyman service. There does not appear to be an existing voluntary group in Ballater which co-ordinates activities or services for the elderly who may look at providing care. Given the limited response, further research may be required to identify any unmet needs.

Theme 6: Housing

There is unanimity that the greatest issue is the perceived lack of 'affordable' housing for rent or ownership. This was more of a problem for young people and retired older people who are looking to 'right size', either looking for a first home or move from a large home to something suitable for a single person.

In a recent report by Aberdeenshire Council there are 61 people on the social housing waiting list for Ballater. The survey responses highlighted that most employment within Ballater is lower income within hospitality, retail and agriculture, and that local people are unable to afford to live in the town.

The issue is long standing and is noted by both Aberdeenshire Council and the CNPA. There is a proposal by Grampian Housing to construct homes for rent in the planning process. There is also a suggestion that a local housing trust could be formed to build homes for local people. For the long term economic development of the community this issue is a main priority which will be hard for the community to tackle alone.

Theme 7: Local Communication

The Community Action Plan Survey has given us a lot of interesting information about how Ballater communicates. Amazingly 115 different ways were listed as means of communication. With "word of mouth" as most common, with The Eagle, Facebook and noticeboards/ posters coming slightly behind whilst Alistair Cassie beat Twitter in the number of mentions.

Ballater has a vast range of Groups, Societies, Businesses, Sports Groups, Events, at the last count there were over 40 committees of one shape or another and they have been all formed to fulfil a need in the community. Most of them express a bit of frustration about how to promote events, get new members, get anyone to help and find out what the other 39 committees are up to, etc.

To that end, we need to work out how best to communicate with those who want to hear what is going on and to find the best methods to do so. An audit of current user group's communication methods has been proposed which will hopefully establish a way forward. Once this has been done suitable platforms and infrastructure to be developed.



*View from Craigendaroch
Image attributed to CNPA*



*Artists impression of old school
Image attributed to RIAS.org.uk*



**Theme 8:
Business & Employment**



Ballater has a predominantly tourism focussed economy which dates back to the mid 1800's and the Pannanich Wells Spa. The development of the Craigendarroch Timeshare Resort in 1985 provided the village with a solid source of tourism on which many businesses have and continue to prosper, however the growth of the internet and changing travel patterns of the tourism sector has highlighted a need for the businesses to evolve and embrace changes.



Image attributed to Pitchup.com

The development of a sustainable business plan which embraces the opportunities that arise from new technologies, changes in the visitors needs and is inclusive of those businesses that are not directly involved in the tourism market, but without whom the local economy cannot function, needs to be developed.

Local and Central Government policy should include a focus on the rural economy and those agencies which have ownership for these areas need to be engaged in any community action plan, together with the private sector, to ensure the delivery of a sustainable economy.

The redevelopment of the Station Square is the catalyst for further development which requires a village wide focus to combine the heritage and culture of a Victorian Village with 21st Century, environmentally and socially responsible community.

**Theme 9:
Transport & Infrastructure**

The Community Action Plan survey highlighted several matters in relation to transport, road and path networks in the community that require action. The main issues stressed were in connection to bus-stops, parking, path and bridge repair as well as public transport routes.

In particular, the bus stop situated outside the Co-op in the centre of Ballater was a large area of concern. With the most prevalent view it should be relocated. Discussions have already started with Aberdeenshire Council on this matter.

Residents and visitors alike mentioned that there was a lack of parking and electric car charging facilities. Numerous responses indicated that a car park on the outskirts of Ballater would improve things or a traffic warden/management system to improve parking problems in the centre of Ballater village.

Feedback also suggested that major path and bridge repairs are required to several trails, especially those damaged during the flooding. Several responses thought that there was a lack of signage on walking routes. There is an existing CNPA led 'Paths & Bridges' group that is currently taking repairs and signage forward.

Theme 9:

Transport & Infrastructure cont.

Public transport was another area that the survey highlighted, responses implied that a more direct route to Aberdeen from Crathie and Ballater is sought and also indicated that residents found public transport costly and unreliable.

Lastly, concerns were raised regarding Wi-Fi coverage and whether the provision of Wi-Fi hot spots was feasible.

Further to the survey and following the announcement of the "The Snow Road", consideration should be given to the safe access to the route during winter.

Action Plan

Stakeholders and partners abbreviations

- BCCC – Ballater & Crathie Community Council;
- BBA – Ballater Business Association;
- BRD – Ballater (RD);
- AC - Aberdeenshire Council;
- CNPA – Cairngorms National Park Authority;
- EG – Enhancement Group;
- V&A Trust – Victoria & Albert Hall Trust;
- AVA – Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action;
- OAT – Outdoor Access Trust;
- BVW – Ballater Victoria Week;
- HG – History Group;
- WF – Winter Festival;
- BHG – Ballater Highland Games;
- WW – Walking Week;
- HortSoc – Horticultural Society;
- CHiP – Community Health in Partnership;
- SDS – Skills Development Scotland;
- CBP – Cairngorm Business Partnership



| Issues | Short-term actions | Medium-Term actions | Long-term actions | Lead | Key Partners |
|---|---|---|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Theme 1: Our Assets | | | | | |
| Victoria & Albert Halls Could be utilised more, complete refurbishments to make more attractive, can be too expensive | Share CAP feedback with Halls Trust Create a partnership to explore daily opening and utilisation of halls as a community hub | | | V&A Trust | BCCC AC CNPA BBA BRD |
| Village Centre Poor condition of Ballater Village Green and other areas require improvement to the village centres | Create an Action Team to co-ordinate actions Share CAP feedback with Enhancement Group and discuss whether additional support is required Carry out Town Audit and work with existing Enhancement Group to produce a feasibility study of all potential areas of enhancement to the village | Produce recommendations for village improvements Investigate the funding options for each enhancement package and liaise with local groups and with Aberdeenshire Council to formulate a plan for delivering each of these enhancement projects as funding becomes available | Formulate a long-term plan for a rolling programme of enhancements to the village centre, and surrounding area | BCCC | BCCC AC CNPA BBA BRD EG |
| Better care of Building and Spaces Empty buildings reduce attractiveness of village environment | Enhance empty properties in short term prior to redevelopment | Lower rents and rates to encourage investment Develop old school site Improve church green | | BCCC/ Action Team | BCCC AC CNPA BBA BRD |
| Volunteers Greater diversity of volunteers required | Develop ways to increase number and diversity of volunteers | | | BCCC/ Action Team | Community Groups AVA AC |

| Theme 2: Visitor Experience | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|-----------------------|---|
| <p>Signage Improvements to information points within the village</p> | <p>Identifying existing communication methods and formulate improvements to signage and communication within the village & area</p> <p>Tourist Information Centre to continue</p> | | | <p>Action Team</p> | <p>BCCC AC CNPA BBA BRD OAT</p> |
| <p>Entertainment & Activities Provision of more entertainment events and activities</p> | <p>Form a group that can identify the existing calendar of entertainment events and establish the potential of new events and activities</p> | <p>Create some new events or the enhancement of existing events, and explore methods of funding to make these events viable</p> | <p>Create some established theme events throughout the year to compliment some of the successful existing annual events</p> | <p>Events Team</p> | <p>BVW HG WF BHG BBA VA</p> |
| <p>Creation of a cultural & museum/ heritage Centre</p> | <p>Form a group to liaise with the local history and cultural related bodies in the area, to identify possible requirements</p> | <p>Instigate a feasibility study for the creation and development of a cultural and heritage centre, or the enhancement of existing facilities at the Station</p> | <p>Possible creation of long term cultural & heritage museum facilities</p> | <p>Heritage Group</p> | <p>History Group Loimnie Group Forest Project</p> |
| <p>Guided Tours of the Local Areas</p> | <p>Form a group tasked with identifying any existing local tour facilities and guided trips, and identify new potential tours of the area</p> | <p>Liaise with local tourist groups and bodies and formulate potential new guided tour routes, as well as accessing potential tour companies / guides who may be interested to operate these</p> | <p>Promote all existing and new tours and guides to a wider audience, thus encouraging more visitors to spend time in the area</p> | <p>BBA</p> | <p>History Group Loimnie Group Forest Group</p> |

| Issues | Short-term actions | Medium-Term actions | Long-term actions | Lead | Key Partners |
|--|---|--|---|----------------|---|
| Theme 3: Recreation & Leisure | | | | | |
| Sports & Leisure Facilities Insufficient and outdated poor-quality sporting & leisure facilities | Audit of existing facilities and their usage & demand Identify work group to improve existing facilities Identify work group to consider new facility | Identify demand for new facility Develop feasibility & funding programme for improvements to existing facilities and produce recommendation | Develop feasibility & funding programme for new facility – produce recommendation | Action Team | AC CNPA BBA BRD V&A |
| | Identify work group to consider bike park or tracks | Develop feasibility & funding programme for bike park or tracks and produce recommendation | | Action Team | AC CNPA BBA BRD V&A |
| | Identify work group to consider construction of a skatepark | Develop feasibility & funding programme for skatepark and produce recommendation | | Action Team | AC CNPA BBA BRD V&A |
| | Identify lead workgroup to identify demand/need for improvements to playpark and develop feasibility and funding programme | Produce recommendation for play park and seek partners for funding | | Playpark Group | AC CNPA BRD BCCC BHG |
| | Identify lead workgroup to identify demand for events and research what other areas do. Develop a communication plan and central calendar | Consider whether a paid events coordinator is beneficial and feasible. | | Events Team | V&A BVW WF WW BCCC BBA BRD VA BHG Churches Chiels |
| Events Insufficient events going on. Events clash and poor attendance | | | | | |

| Theme 4: Environment | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Improving Sustainability Lack of facilities where local produce could be grown and sold back to the community. Recycling waste could be better encouraged with emphasis on self- help to keep our environment free from unsightly rubbish. | Form a group to establish a community garden | Community garden, orchard, strawberry beds, flower beds, micro farm | Action Team BCCC AC CNPA BBA BRD OAT |
| | Seek local champions for community clean up | Swap shop for excess garden produce, outlet for local artisans | |
| | Alternative energy sources, educate re energy savings | Encourage cycling, reduce car usage | |
| Improving Natural Surroundings Improve our local surroundings and pre-serve what we have. | Recycle more, educate population | | Action Team CNPA BCCC Local Estates AC |
| | Undertake a Village Audit and develop actions for the future | Request that flood defences blend with landscape Improve hill top viewpoints Improve relationships with Estates Reduce isolation for Crathie, focal point for area Consider Hut on Green converted to café & pavement café's | |
| | Install more dog bins | | |
| Theme 5: Care | | | |
| Care Provision Need for more carers or respite care for elderly and disabled | Feedback the survey responses to the Health and Social Care Partnership | Explore the development of a community led care scheme similar to Braemar Care Initiative | young@theartdeeside CHIP Evergreens Over 50's Churches |
| | Support the development of the Young at Heart Group | Develop a coordinated approach to provide activities and respite. Local group co- ordinates and promotes existing activities and develops new if required Develop a service to provide meals or lunch clubs | |
| | Highlight the issue to the Local Learning Partnership and other stakeholder groups such as K&D Befrienders | | |
| | Identify a local group that could co-ordinate local activities and befriending scheme if needed | | |

| Issues | Short-term actions | Medium-Term actions | Long-term actions | Lead | Key Partners |
|---|---|---|--|--------------------|---|
| Theme 6: Housing | | | | | |
| Housing Insufficient affordable housing | Identify lead on BCCC & establish a sub-group Continue to actively lobby CNPA. Feed into local Dev Plan Establish a process to monitor housing demand and incorporate into CC minutes | Investigate and establish local housing trust if feasible | | BCCC | CNPA AC BRD BBA Local Est |
| | Care Housing Need for suitable housing for elderly and people with disabilities Need for early intervention responses to allow people to stay in their own homes | Feedback responses to the Housing Action Stakeholders Ensure that the issue is included in the CNPA Main Issues Report and future Local Development Plan | Look to develop a group that can identify issues that reduce people's ability to remain in their homes Develop a project group to provide simple repairs and household chores | | |
| Theme 7: Local Communication | | | | | |
| Sharing information and working together Improved sharing of local information, for groups, activities, businesses and tourism; working together | Audit Current communication methods and identify user groups methods Establish Village AGM for regular cross group communication | | | BBA BCCC BRD | All Ballater Groups AC |
| Need for a central point for sharing information | Establish working group Develop IT training for the community | Find a suitable digital platform which all user groups can use/educate/combine Community Communications Person/Office/Equipment Village Digital Display Board Funding/support/more contribution/future for the Eagle Funding/support/more contribution/future for the Eagle Find a way of using "word of mouth" better Online Calendar | | BCCC BRD BBA | V&A Halls CNPA Eagle All Ballater Groups Churches |

| Theme 8: Business & Employment | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|-----|--|--|
| Lower Business Rates - A hurdle for new and existing businesses. The issue is a legislative one that can only be addressed by national policy. | A united and structured approach which is aligned with other communities is required Lobby local and national politicians | | | BBA | BCCC AC CNPA | |
| Lower Business Property Rents- A hurdle to new and existing businesses. However, the property owners in the village are business people in their own right are independent. | An open and collaborative dialogue is required to understand their needs and how these can be met while assisting businesses to achieve sustainability | | | BBA | BCCC | |
| Business Support Groups - Increase and improve the support available to all businesses. | Identify existing public-sector support agencies and services and introduce these to the businesses that need them Introduce mentoring services for existing and new businesses Consider a quarterly business magazine like the Eagle | | | BBA | BRD AC CNPA VA Business Gateway Eagle Team | |
| Marketing of Village - Identify ways in which to promote the identity of the village and promote everything that can be experienced. | Form a group with the necessary marketing skills Undertake Village Audit and develop actions for the future | Initiate and measure marketing plan | | BBA | BCCC BRD AC CNPA VA | |
| Assistance for New Businesses - New business start-ups need a lot of support to get themselves established in the early years. | Increase access to start-up funding Identify training needs and how these can be delivered. This also relates to established businesses and support in finding employment | Access to affordable housing. | | BBA | AC Business Gateway | |
| Support with Finding Employment - There are members of the require some assistance finding employment. | Create an avenue to advertise jobs vacant and being sought, introduce careers services and skills refresher groups. | | | BBA | AC CNPA SDS | |

| Issues | Short-term actions | Medium-Term actions | Long-term actions | Lead | Key Partners |
|--|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Theme 9: Transportation & Infrastructure | | | | | |
| <p>Paths and Bridges - Paths and bridges in major need of repair. Lack of knowledge as to who looks after what. Lack of signage. Lack of education in using paths responsibly. Local Paths and Bridges group unknown to community.</p> | <p>Identify or confirm who is responsible for Paths and Bridges</p> <p>Once identified make known to the community who is responsible for what areas and how to get in touch with them</p> <p>Identify the frequent users of these paths and routes e.g. walking groups / Dog walkers etc</p> <p>Audit of key path networks and record information</p> <p>Identify areas of Ballater and Crathie that require better signage</p> | <p>Identify various packages of repair/enhancement work to the existing bridges & paths and investigate funding possibilities to carry these out</p> <p>Identify funding for new signage in community</p> <p>Identify contacts and groups which can help towards bridge and foot path maintenance</p> <p>Create and establish funding for Information leaflets</p> <p>Identify local people that may be willing to help with path repairs</p> <p>Path and Bridges group to provide rules and education towards using routes safely towards walkers and cyclists</p> | <p>Creation of new pathways and cycle paths in the area, in conjunction with local landowners and local walking/cycling groups etc</p> | <p>Paths & Bridges Group</p> | <p>BCCC CNPA BRD AC BBA Visit Scotland Local Estates</p> |
| <p>Improve access and transport for elderly and people with disabilities.</p> | <p>Ensure that these issues are included in the Town Audit.</p> <p>Feedback the responses to the Path Working Group</p> <p>Feedback the responses to the Area Management Team and Traffic Review</p> | <p>Identify paths that require to be upgraded to provide access for people with disabilities</p> <p>Promote the use of existing community buses to access activities and reduce the feeling of isolation</p> | <p>Ensure that all future paths are disability compliant</p> | <p>BCCC</p> | <p>Paths & Bridges Group CNPA OAT BRD AC BBA</p> |
| <p>Bus Stop Outside Co-Op - Significant safety concerns and issues raised with the bus stop outside the Co-Op.</p> | <p>Continue to lobby for safety improvements on Golf Road outside the Co-op</p> | | | <p>BCCC</p> | <p>BRD AC BBA Marr Bus Forum</p> |
| <p>Bus Service - Duration, reliability and price of bus service to Aberdeen</p> | <p>Establish group to look at issues with Stagecoach buses and communicate through existing bus forum</p> | <p>Look into other bus options. e.g. - using BRD community bus more often</p> <p>Lobby the local transport companies and promote the need for better transport options, lower transport costs and wider route options</p> | | <p>BCCC</p> | <p>BRD AC BBA Marr Bus Forum</p> |

| Theme 9: Transportation & Infrastructure cont. | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|-------------|---|
| Bus Service - Duration, reliability and price of bus service to Aberdeen | Establish group to look at issues with Stagecoach buses and communicate through existing bus forum | Look into other bus options. e.g. – using BRD community bus more often Lobby the local transport companies and promote the need for better transport options, lower transport costs and wider route options | | BCCC | BRD AC BBA Marr Bus Forum |
| Parking - Lack of parking in Ballater and Crathie Community. No Facilities for electric car parking. | Town Team to investigate existing car parking and car charging facilities and exploring improvements and potential new car parking sites Electric Car park charging being installed in small car park behind the Old Station | Undertake traffic management review Develop and recommend options | Recommend installation of further electric car charging points | Action Team | BRD AC BBA CNPA |
| Wi-Fi - Poor coverage | Map current Wi-Fi hotspots. Create group to review Wi-Fi status and develop next steps and test demand for hot spots | Establish plan to improve Wi-Fi | | Action Team | BCCC BBA BRD AC |
| Winter Road Safety- Snow causing serious access issues on A939 & B976 exacerbated by promotion of the 'Snow Road' | Explore options to improve safety | Implement a safety plan | | BCCC | CBP Police Scotland AC Local Cllrs |

Community Action Plan

This booklet is one of a series produced by the Local Rural Partnerships for a number of communities in Aberdeenshire.

This initiative is sponsored by Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership and run by Aberdeenshire Local Rural Partnerships. The aim is to provide community action plans in an attractive, easy to read, professionally printed format

This information can now guide the community and Community Planning Partners in drawing up detailed action plans to implement the top priorities as well as addressing the other issues which have been identified.

For each priority or issue this will involve agreeing who should be involved, what resources will be needed and target dates for completion. It is hoped that this process will be driven by representatives of the community with support -moral, technical & financial - from the relevant Partners.

It is important that this booklet is seen by all concerned as an account of the community's views at the time of the latest consultation, and that it will have to be regularly updated. As some projects are completed, other issues will arise and take their place in future versions of the community plan.

It is recommended that this plan has a maximum life of five years.

Thanks are due to all of the Ballater & Crathie Community who submitted their views, contributed to the validation of priorities and helped finalise the actions. Thanks to the Community Groups who provided resources.

Thanks to those who provided photography. Also, thanks to the agencies who supported our Community to undertake this process.

For further information

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