



Boat of Garten Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Compiled spring 2025

Supported by

Boat of Garten & Vicinity Community Council

Boat of Garten Community Hall

Deshar Primary School Parent Council

Boat of Garten Community Company

Facilitated by Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey



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1. Summary

In spring 2025, Boat of Garten & Vicinity Community Council together with Boat of Garten Community Hall, Deshar Primary Parent Council and Boat of Garten Community Company, decided that they wished to carry out a review of the community action plan for the village, which had been previously undertaken in 2018. The purpose of revisiting and updating the plan was primarily aimed at giving these key community organisations, along with a range of other groups in the community, plus public and private sector stakeholders, a strong mandate to move forward with tackling current and emerging issues, as well as leading on new community projects, identified as suggestions by the residents of Boat of Garten during the process in early 2025.

With support from Voluntary Action in Badenoch & Strathspey, the community-led steering group, comprising representation from the organisations listed above, agreed that they would seek the views of local residents on a number of key questions. This was achieved via a survey which was personally delivered to every household by volunteers - as a paper copy, which was also accessible online. In addition, the questions contained in the survey were also raised with some targeted groups that were identified as being harder to get accurate/quality information from. This was undertaken by members of the steering group going out with the survey questions to places and events where it was considered that individuals or groups falling into this category might be approached.

The process was entitled **Boat of Garten Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030**. In previous action planning carried out by the community, the focus was on activity mostly with a 2-3 year timespan. Given the increased need now to also focus on longer-term goals, particularly in relation to the environment and the economy, residents and businesses were asked to consider where they and the community wanted to be by 2030, so generating a more extended set of plans and aspirations.

Examples of **recent successes in Boat** with community projects and action planning include:

- Establishing a new Nursery
- Building the Pump Track
- Creating the All-Abilities Path
- Hub at the railway station
- Producing the Ark of Caledon
- Setting up the Repair Café
- Provision of village benches
- Build of Hall Pergola to create outdoor space
- Hall & PC collaboration to run Summer Fun Day
- Introduction of Hall Associate Membership

To help add to these achievements, residents were encouraged to take part in the community action plan review in 2025. However, this time round people were invited to think not only about

what might be achieved together, but that the projects the village was being asked to consider, would be ones that would help Boat develop a more sustainable future. This is set against a backdrop of life post-lockdowns, the challenge of finding new volunteers, plus the changing economic and climate situation we find ourselves in.

The Boat of Garten community action planning process adhered to the National Standards for Community Engagement to ensure all of the following elements were fully taken into account during the community-led initiative: Impact, Communication, Methods, Working together, Planning, Support and Inclusion.

See [Section 4. Community Engagement](#) for further details on the 7 Standards.

2. The Community

Boat of Garten is a charming village located in the Scottish Highlands, situated at the heart of Badenoch and Strathspey, within the Cairngorms National Park. The name Boat of Garten or *Coit a' Ghartain* in Scottish Gaelic means 'ferry from the cultivated place' referring to the nearby site of the old ferry over the River Spey. Often referred to as simply "Boat," it is known for its picturesque setting on the River Spey close to the Cairngorm Mountains.

Beyond the village of Boat of Garten, the wider community area extends from Kinveachy Estate in the west to the edge of the Caledonian pinewoods of RSPB Abernethy in the east. The community area is bisected by the iconic River Spey. The largest landowner in this community area is Seafield & Strathspey Estates who own the majority of the land surrounding the village.

The community area of Boat of Garten, covered by Boat of Garten Community Council, also covers Drumuillie, Deshar, Kinveachy and Street of Kincardine, which together constitute a community of approximately 700 people. Demographic statistics show that Boat of Garten's population is comprised of 13% 0–20-year-olds, 53% 20–64-years olds, 34% over 64-years old, meaning Boat of Garten has a somewhat older population than other settlements in Badenoch and Strathspey including Aviemore, Grantown on Spey, and Kingussie.

Boat of Garten began as a small *clachan* or farming community, but grew with the development of the Perth and Inverness Railway Company in 1863 and subsequent station creation in Boat of Garten. With its impressive connectivity to Aberdeen, Perth, Inverness and beyond, Boat of Garten became a popular tourist destination in the late 19th century, particularly with professional classes from the south. Today, the railway station still serves as a reminder of the area's history, as it is the terminus of the heritage railway route operated by the Strathspey Railway. Tourism still makes up an important part of the local economy with the Boat Hotel and other hospitality, accommodation, and outdoor activity providers running businesses in the area.

Boat of Garten has deep connections to nature; it sits on the bank of the River Spey and is surrounded by mountains, forests and farmland. Some of the land in the wider community area is recognised as a being of national and international conservation importance, with multiple designations present (National Nature Reserve Site of Special Scientific Interest, Species Protection Area etc.) Boat of Garten is known as the ‘Osprey Village’ and with a summer population of ospreys breeding and hunting in the wider area, including at the nearby RSPB Loch Garten Nature Reserve. Notably, it was here that this impressive bird of prey first reintroduced itself in the 1950s after becoming extinct as a breeding bird in the UK more than a hundred years ago. Other notable species present in the area include Twinflower, Capercaillie, Crested Tits, and a host of other pinewood specialist species, as well as a heronry at Milton Loch.

As a result of its stunning natural assets and proximity to the Cairngorm mountains, Boat of Garten is a popular spot for outdoor enthusiasts. Locals and visitors enjoy a wide range of activities, including hiking, cycling, canoeing, golf, fishing, and birdwatching. The Speyside Way and Route 7 cycle route pass through the village, providing opportunities for long-distance and local use. The recent community-led project to create the impressive ‘Woodland Wheels’ pump track has added a further active asset to village, which is well-used by locals and visitors alike.

Boat of Garten is defined by its warm, caring, and active community. With a remarkable community hall, primary school, church, post office and shop, hotel, restaurant, gallery and café, the village maintains a lively and community-focused feel. Events at the Hall regularly attract visitors from across Badenoch and Strathspey and beyond, making Boat of Garten a social hub for the wider area.

Community Organisations

There are a significant number of community organisations/groups which work for the benefit of the community and are almost entirely run by volunteers. These include:

Boat of Garten & Vicinity Community Council, Boat of Garten Community Hall, Boat of Garten Community Company, Deshar Primary School Parent Council and Boat of Garten Church.

Community-Owned/Leased Assets

Community Hall, playing field and play park

Milton Loch

Community Garden

Station Square Hub

Ark of Caledon

Pump track

Local Businesses

Local businesses operate across various sectors in the village eg the Shop & Post Office, Golf and Tennis Club, Andersons Restaurant and Pizza takeaway, 1896 Gallery, Ride Scotland, Osprey Café, Boat Hotel, Boat of Garten steam railway station, plus a caravan and campsite and B&B accommodation businesses.

Boat of Garten Community Council Area Map

The community area of Boat of Garten, covered by Boat of Garten Community Council, includes Drumuillie, Deshar, Kinveachy and Street of Kincardine. The map below shows this geographic area, marked with a bold, black outline.



3. The Process

The Boat community consultation period ran from January to March 2025 and during this time, the way in which the community action planning process was carried out, broadly fell into four stages. These were:

- 1) Gathering Information
- 2) Data Sorting and Collation
- 3) Involving People & Refining Ideas
- 4) Community Action Plan (CAP) document production

Within the four stages of the process, the steering group asked the following questions:

Gathering Information

- What do we want to know?
- What questions will we ask?
- What methods will we use?
- How will we do it?

Data Sorting

- What does it involve?
- How will we do it?
- Who will do / assist with this?
- In what form will we present it back to the community?

Involving People & Refining Ideas

- What stakeholder groups do we need to involve?
- How (& where) will we present the information gathered so far?
- How will people in the community help refine the information?
- Who will assist with this?

CAP document production

- What will it include?
- Who will put it together?
- How will it be presented to the community?
- What happens to it next?

In addition, the steering group also considered what timescales and key dates they wanted to aim for and how they would deal with communications & publicity - ensuring that these elements were robust, so the process was as inclusive as it could be.

The fifth and most crucial stage of the whole action planning initiative, involves delivery of the plan by the Boat community and other stakeholders. Essentially this deals with questions such as:

- Who will take responsibility for the CAP?
- How will it be driven forward?
- How will it be monitored and evaluated?

There is more detail on how this can be achieved in [Section 8. Next Steps](#).

Gathering Information

There was discussion about the nature and precise wording of questions in the survey, as the steering group wanted to revisit questions asked in previous community-led action planning, to re-establish what specific things people liked about Boat of Garten and wanted to keep in the community. They also wished to encourage the community to look to a 5 to 10-year horizon, and consider how it might tackle some of the trickier issues such as care for the environment, supporting younger and older residents, employability and transport. So questions were employed which were broadly framed, to allow responders to bring up a wide range of issues and ideas without being led.

The paper version covered just two sides of A4 and the survey asked 3 questions:

- 1) *What do you like about living in Boat of Garten?*
- 2) *What changes would you like to see for Boat of Garten by 2030?*
(Perhaps consider how as individuals, or as a community, we can improve the environment, address the climate emergency, develop our local economy, increase social and leisure opportunities and widen local cultural experiences)
If you could improve just ONE of these things, what would it be?
- 3) *Are there any new projects (large or small) that you would like to see happening in the community? Plus any projects, clubs or organisations that you wouldn't want to lose?*

The survey also asked:

Would you be willing to get involved in any projects you are interested in? YES / NO
If Yes, please provide contact details.

This last additional question was included to try to encourage more people to come forward to help with projects that were of particular interest to them, in order to counteract the reduction in volunteer numbers, that had come about in recent years and especially following the 2020/21 pandemic lockdowns.

It was decided that all 700 households would receive a paper copy of the survey through their letterbox and this was carried out by a team of community volunteers, who over a period of a few days, delivered copies out into all areas of the community. This method helped to deliver an inclusive process of community engagement, where everyone had the opportunity to respond to the survey if they wished and they were able to do this via hard copy, which could be deposited back into one of the centrally located survey boxes, or online via QR code which enabled the community to access the survey on a range of devices.

Data Sorting

All of the responses came in either online via Survey Monkey, by hard copy into CAP-branded boxes left at various locations in the village, or from information collated at events put on for

specific groups in the community. Surveys were returned from the community's school pupils and these responses highlighted the ideas and opinions of young people living in the area.

Every comment was recorded and categorised, so that everyone would be able to 'see' their voice in the displayed results. The information was sorted into 5 main themes: Social, Environmental, Economic, Young People and Cultural and the number of times a particular issue or idea was mentioned was noted, so suggestions could rise to the top of the lists in each themed category.

These lists were then prepared for display (see [Section 6. Action Plan – what the community wants](#) and [Section 10. Appendices](#)), so every member of the community could see what had been said and get involved in the next stage, when ideas were refined and solutions to issues sought.

Involving People & Refining Ideas

The process culminated in the **Boat of Garten Big Conversation**, which took place on a Friday and Saturday in March 2025 at Boat of Garten Community Hall. At this drop-in event, the results were offered back to the community and time given for reflection and discussion around the topics. 87 local residents attended the event and provided valuable insight discussion.

During the event, all of the residents who attended were asked to consider the top suggestions that had been identified from the process under the headings of:

- A Socially Connected Community
- A Climate Conscious Community
- An Economically Thriving Community
- Supporting Our Young People
- A Culturally Vibrant Community

They were asked to look at those areas of particular interest to them and write on action plan templates aimed at refining ideas by looking at questions such as:

What specific action needs to be taken to achieve this priority and Who needs to be involved?

CAP document production

All of the comments and pieces of information given by the public during the **Boat of Garten Big Conversation** event were collected and incorporated into this report, which now belongs to the Boat community and will be used as the basis for ongoing community development over the next 5-8 years, with support from the community's organisations and all other relevant stakeholders from the public, private and voluntary sector.

Also a list of all those who came forward offering to volunteer their help with certain projects was compiled and will be held by the team taking the action plan forward (referred to as **Team Boat** for the purposes of this report).

4. Community Engagement

The National Standards for Community Engagement are good-practice principles designed to improve and guide the process of community engagement.

They are clear principles that describe the main elements of effective community engagement. They provide detailed performance statements that everyone involved can use to achieve the highest quality results and the greatest impact.

The standards are particularly helpful for communities - their organisations and groups - to help them involve their members or the wider community in shaping the services and changes they need, and to make sure they accurately represent members' or the community's views in the decision-making processes.



5. Survey Responses

Thanks go to the residents in Boat of Garten who contributed so meaningfully and thoughtfully to the community survey. 206 responses were received, representing at least 29% of the community's population and includes responses from school age residents. Also, thanks go to the people who attended the Big Conversation drop-in event at the Community Hall over the two days.

For a full list of what came out of the survey responses, see [Section 10. Appendices](#) (list of appendices below). These show all comments made by the community in answer to the survey questions, prioritised in order of the number of people who mentioned them.

Appendix I [What do you like about living in Boat of Garten?](#)

Appendix ii [What changes would you like to see for Boat of Garten by 2030?](#)

Appendix iii [What new/existing projects would you like to see happening in the community?](#)

6. Action Plan – what the community wants

Project Themes and Suggestions

The CAP sets out the community's vision for the longer term (up to 10 years) with detailed suggestions and possible actions shown in the relevant tables and text below. These have been categorised across 5 specified themes:

- A Socially Connected Community
- A Climate Conscious Community
- An Economically Thriving Community
- Supporting Our Young People
- A Culturally Vibrant Community

These themes, adapted from Place Planning guidelines, have been used in this Community Action Plan to categorise the community's suggestions. These themes demonstrate the breadth and strength of community ambition, and provide a tool to structure the community's vision, grouping related projects together across key arenas of community life: the social, environmental, economic, young people and cultural.

It is important to note that some of the project outcomes will be a "quick win" whereas others will sometimes take significantly more time to plan and execute. To achieve results and outcomes in the short, medium/longer term each high priority project/outcome will have its own activity plan which will be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (SMART) and determined and agreed in the first part of the CAP implementation.

The 5 themes were taken and put into separate groupings, showing what the suggestions are for each theme. Within each suggestion, projects have been listed that have been drawn from the high priorities that came out of the survey data. Further views and information for each suggestion were sought from those who attended the drop-in events and suggested actions, together with any additional information are outlined below each section.

At the drop-in event, further opportunity was given for residents to signal their priorities from the lists shown in the Appendices. These priorities are **shown in bold** to indicate how the public voted at the event.

BOAT OF GARTEN: A SOCIALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Top Suggestions:

More affordable (rental) housing for local people and businesses

- Investigate options for making more housing available

Better public transport

- Liaise to develop a timetable that supports more people to use the bus for work and social purposes

Speeding / Parking issues

- Traffic calming solution on main road
- Move speed sign to start of village where new houses are
- Stop parking on junctions and corners eg Church Drive
- Improve parking options by shop, pump track, takeaway

Help the Elderly network

- Explore options
 - handyperson scheme
 - garden tidying
 - IT issues
 - getting to health appointments

SUGGESTION: More affordable housing for local people and businesses

Investigate options for making more housing available

- Request a Housing Needs Analysis for those who want to continue living in or return to the village, and for local businesses that need worker accommodation
- Explore possible plots and zoned areas for housing in the village – work with CNPA and local estates
- Ensure any new housing is affordable and energy efficient
- Look into need for sheltered housing in village

SUGGESTION: Better public transport

Liaise to develop a timetable that supports more people to use the bus for work and social purposes

- Survey need among Boat & Vicinity residents for transport timings and routes for work, social and leisure purposes
- More use of small minibus transport (ref Moray) doing loop along the strath
- Coordination of services with train arrivals/departures and intercity buses
- Capacity to take bikes on buses
- More shelters at village bus stops – hard in winter with no cover
- Car share scheme for trips to Inverness and other places
- Reasonable fares for locals to use steam railway as a public transport option

SUGGESTION: Speeding / Parking issues

- Church Drive: look into why people are parking there; prevent parking on junctions; double yellows on junction with Birch Grove; explore options to park in church car park
- Zebra crossing at the Green/Grampian Crescent for safety when crossing main road (safe route to school)
- Encourage residents to park in their driveways and not on the road
- Disabled bay x 2 **only** outside PO – people can park safely a little further up the road
- Slow down vehicles with additional traffic calming measures (commercial vehicles, tractors, lorries especially)
- White line on stretch from Andersons to bus stop to stop parking which makes exit from driveways dangerous. Encourage pump track users to park at hall

What has happened to Active Travel project? All above have been consulted on and actions agreed.

SUGGESTION: Help the Elderly network

- Explore options for:
 - handyperson scheme
 - garden tidying
 - IT issues
 - getting to health appointments (encourage sign up to Community ConnXions)
 - intergenerational events to help each other
 - create a list of what is available and communicate it to those who need it

BOAT OF GARTEN: A CLIMATE CONSCIOUS COMMUNITY

Top Suggestions:

Continued improvements to Active Travel links

- Cycle / foot path from Drumullie to Boat
- Complete path to Speyside Way beyond the bridge
- Generally more cycle friendly routes to reduce friction with road traffic
- Bike route to Carrbridge
- Extension to all-abilities path
- Path across the moor from Craigie Avenue to Milton loch
- Better links around Milton loch to old mill to create orbital path around Boat
- Scheme to reduce number of cars doing school run every day
- Ability to take bikes on buses

Improve our village's biodiversity

- More biodiverse habitat on Grampian Crescent (grassed area) – run by volunteers
- Information event/s (walks and talks) - how to enhance Boat's environment (nature network)
- Work with Highland Council to change verge cutting regimes
- Create wild hedgerows

Community food growing

- Allotments / growing spaces
- Community orchard

SUGGESTION: Continue improvements to Active Travel links

Improve cycle pathways and facilities

In addition to specific suggestions listed in table above:

- Footpath all the way to Loch Garten junction from Bridge over Spey to avoid walking on road
- Community E-bike scheme
- Bike bus to school
- Adult cycle confidence classes

SUGGESTION: Improve our village's biodiversity

- More biodiverse habitat on Grampian Crescent (grassed area) – run by volunteers
- Community group to help tidy flower beds as Highland Council doing less of this
- Information event/s (walks / talks) - how to enhance Boat's environment (nature network) eg *No Mow May* (but NOT at Crescent)
- Work with Highland Council to change verge cutting regimes
- Create wild hedgerows
- Shrubs/flowers around bird hide walk to attract wildlife
- Tidy benches at Milton Loch – make safer to access them
- Periodically put goats on ground by Milton Loch to improve regenerative grazing

SUGGESTION: Community Food Growing

- Explore site options (not on the Crescent)
- Fruit trees on Grampian Crescent but not growing spaces
- Community food growing project underway – support this

BOAT OF GARTEN: AN ECONOMICALLY THRIVING COMMUNITY

Top Suggestions:

Small units for businesses

- Could be a use for sawmill site

Small industrial units or lock ups for local businesses needing extra storage

- Could be a use for sawmill site

Wraparound childcare for working parents

Campervan area for visitors with waste and water facilities

- Identify best location for this potential project

SUGGESTION: Small units for businesses; industrial units or lock ups

- Investigate space at the station, sawmill, steading at Milton Farm for some
- Need to ensure that they are affordable for local businesses
- Use of shipping containers?
- Possible Tool Share facility sited somewhere
- Sawmill access with main road needs to be improved if more traffic using that site eg roundabout

SUGGESTION: Local Childcare

- Provision might need to be through a local community project or seek support from CALA eg Breakfast Club 8-9am, after school 14.55 to 17.00
- Play scheme for school holidays especially summer

SUGGESTION: Serviced campervan site

- Explore site just out of village eg sawmill or near station/golf club
- Simple facilities with honesty charging

BOAT OF GARTEN: SUPPORTING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Top Suggestions:

- Youth club
- Improvements / extension to the play park:
Zip wire, maze, obstacle course, basketball hoop
- Hangout place options for late afternoon/early evening
- Bus stop and shelter at Deshar Primary School

SUGGESTIONS:

Youth Club

- Needs parent volunteers mostly to run it
- Ask the kids what they would like to do in it

Play Park improvements

- Consider as larger project with improvements to football field
- Doesn't need to be complicated: Deshar Primary School came up with some simple ideas
- Woodland playpark with hut for groups to use
- Basketball hoop(s) for older kids
- Open hall toilets for access by playpark users

Hangout place

- Osprey Café?
- Community BBQ area
- Youth café at hall
- Hangout for all ages at same time
- Shed/container at pump track

Additional comments:

- New toilets at Deshar Primary School PLEASE!!!
- Improve safety at Chapelton/school junction

BOAT OF GARTEN: A CULTURALLY VIBRANT COMMUNITY

Top Suggestions:

- Renew signs coming into village
- Reinstate Bonfire Night
- Art piece on main green

SUGGESTIONS:

Renew signs coming into village

- Refurbish or renew entry signs and dig out/replant planter area. Move one that is hidden (RH side) nearer to the road.
- School/community competition to design new signs? Need something more current
- Get rid of damaged brown sign on A95
- Cut Broom back from entry signs

Reinstate Bonfire Night

- Use drones instead of traditional fire, as embers are fire hazard to housing and moor
- Would need to find volunteers to take on

Art Piece on the Green

- Consider living Christmas tree
- Art piece with seating around so people can socialise there
- Outside picnic area
- Natural play equipment area with benches

7. Spatial Priorities

The maps below illustrate the spatial proposals to help realise Boat's community vision and Community Action Plan. They display comments which were provided by Boat of Garten residents and businesses during the two-day Big Conversation drop-in event. They refer to the suggestions that have come out of the Community Action Plan (CAP) responses and help express the community's aspirations and solutions for development and use of land within the Local Development Plan. This reflects the local planning policy which aims to create sustainable, liveable and productive places as expressed in National Planning Framework 4 (2023).

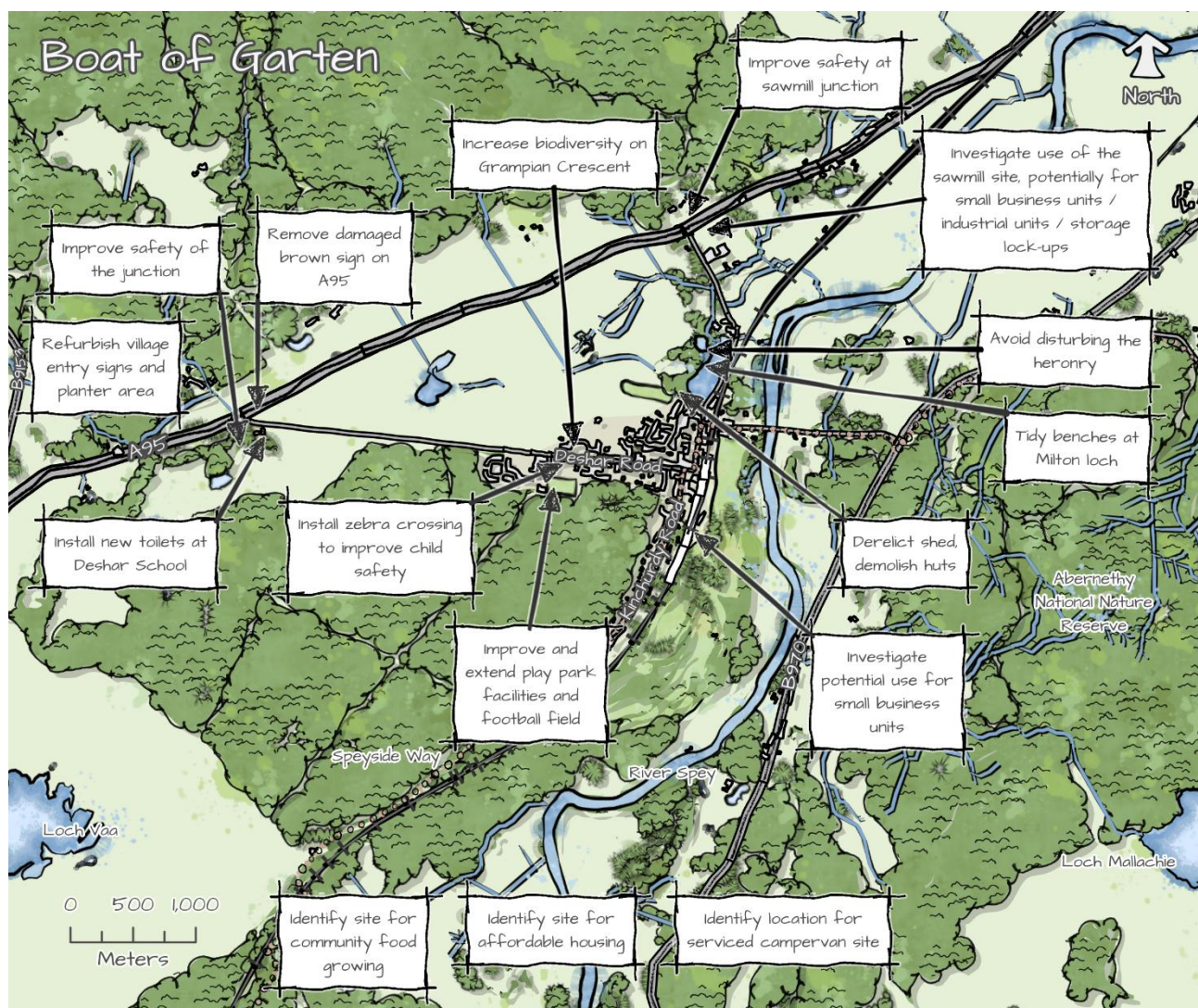
The maps show the community's ideas and suggestions for the future development of the Boat of Garten area, as well as helping the community to develop and deliver its own projects.

The purposes of the maps are to:

- Complement the CAP by showing how the Boat community could look in the future once the vision and CAP have been implemented.
- Help Boat of Garten, Highland Council & Cairngorms National Park Authority consider the impact of planning applications on the community.
- Inform Cairngorms National Park Authority's review of the Local Development Plan.
- Influence investment from public bodies, funders, landowners and businesses, in ways that support the community.

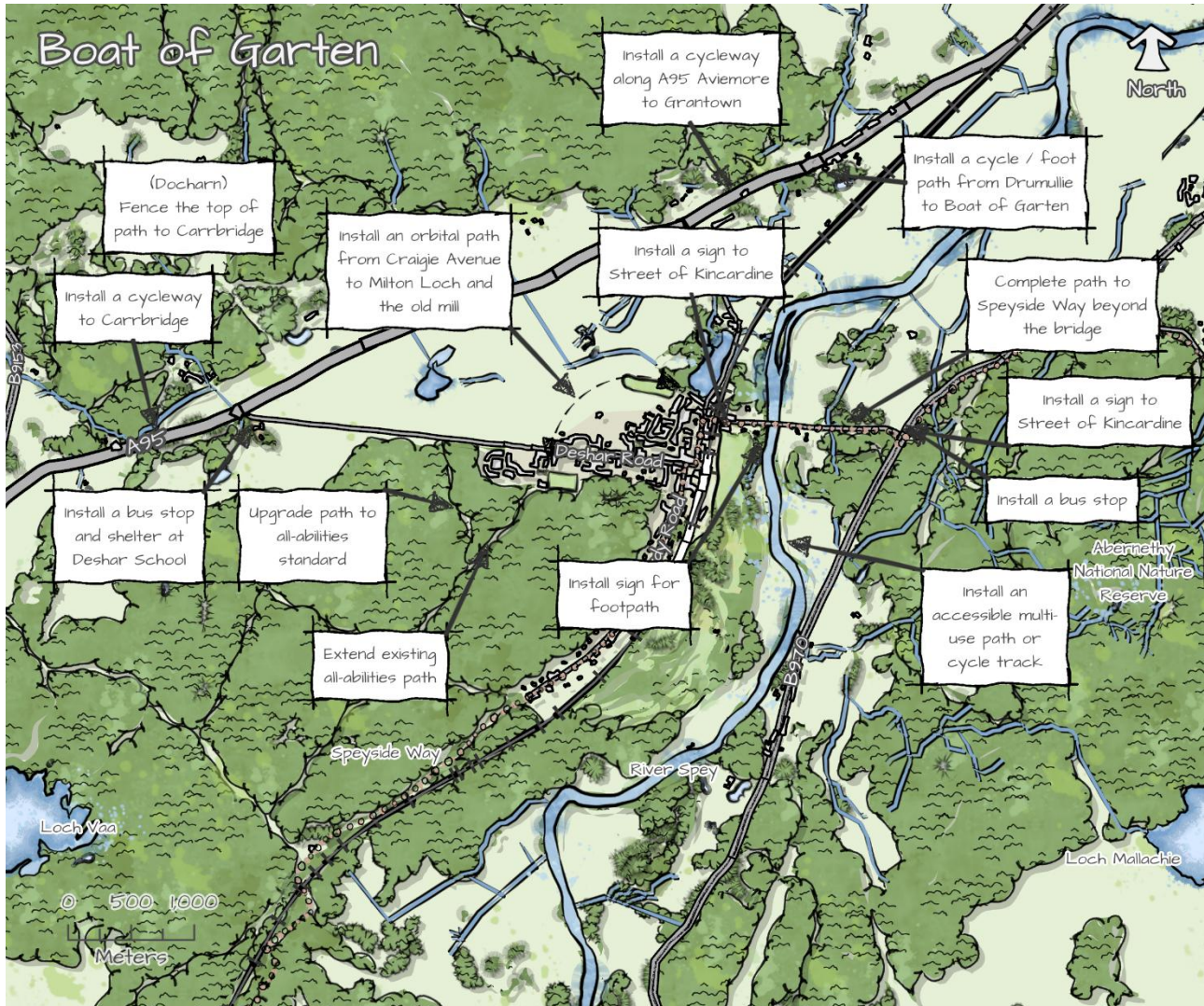
Spatial Priority Map for Boat of Garten

This map shows the community's ideas and suggestions for the future development of the Boat of Garten area, across the broad range of social, environmental and economic themes.



Active Travel Map Spatial Priority Map for Boat of Garten

This map shows the community's ideas and suggestions for the future development of the Boat of Garten area in regards to Active Travel specifically.



8. Next Steps: Delivery

Steps to deliver the Boat of Garten Community Action Plan

The next steps to start working with the action plan and looking at how parts can start to be delivered will be subject to some discussion within Boat's community organisations, but broadly involves **collectively**:

- Setting up a *Team Boat* (see below) to take the plan forward. Agreeing a chair for a specified period at a time, so will rotate after X months or after X meetings
- Agreeing to adopt the Values and Principles laid out below
- Agreeing what suggestions will be taken forward initially
- Managing the project volunteer list that has come out of the process
- Involving all key stakeholders (organisations & individuals) in co-design of project delivery
- Drawing up a more detailed delivery action plan for each prioritised project, identifying aims, actions, milestones, who needs to be involved, key deliverables. (VABS has a template for this.)
- Communicating progress with the community
- Reviewing progress on a regular basis
- Revisiting the action plan as required

Values and Principles

The following values and principles will underpin the way in which this action plan is rolled out and implemented:

- 1) A plan for all - it is the responsibility of the whole community (individuals and groups) to unite and work together for project ambitions to be realised
- 2) Transparency - all ideas should be planned and researched openly with a commitment to co-production where groups contribute to the ideas as they develop
- 3) Partnership - working together with a shared agenda will be at the heart of any activity arising from this plan
- 4) Inclusion - everyone is invited to participate and everyone benefits, regardless of age and ability
- 5) Impact - the success of this plan will be judged on activities which have a positive influence on people and communities
- 6) Involvement - ensuring the community is meaningfully involved in decisions that affect their lives.

Team Boat

It is very important to ensure the effective delivery of this action plan, for the whole community to work together to implement it, ie a full community approach not just one or two organisations. This approach has been called *Team Boat* in this report, but of course the community will decide on its own name for these purposes.

Team Boat will be the forum for agreeing on how the Steps at the start of this section are taken forward, as well as where responsibility will sit in terms of delivering on the Values and

Principles outlined above. It will not have a separate legal identity, but simply be a forum called maybe two or three times a year, perhaps by a rotating chair. It should comprise as a minimum, representatives from the organisations who initially steered the action planning process, together with any other community groups who wish to be involved.

Ongoing community engagement

A process for securing community mandates for projects at key milestones is advisable, so that projects can enjoy broad community support, follow best practice in terms of co-design and allow for those who will be most impacted by a project's deliverables to be involved in the activity.

Volunteer lists

A list of people who have come forward to volunteer in general or for specific projects, has been compiled from a question in the survey and also information given by residents at the Big Conversation event. The Boat of Garten CAP Volunteer list is a vital part of delivering on the action planning process and those on the list need to be kept informed of how things are being progressed and what part they might be able to play in that.

Levels of Support

The surveys have given the key community organisations in Boat of Garten a lot of detailed information coming from a wide sector of the community, regarding their thoughts on issues and ideas for projects that they would like to see taken forward on their behalf.

The suggestions fall into two main groups and will require to be tackled in a different way:

- projects which, although some are mid to longer term, are possible for the community to take forward themselves, with some minimal support from the relevant key agencies or support organisations.
- large, complex issues around employment, housing, transport, business support and infrastructure, where the community will require a great deal of long-term assistance from various public, third and sometimes private sector organisations in order to take these forward and make a notable difference.

Monitoring, Auditing and Evaluation of the Community Action Plan

Monitoring, auditing and evaluation are essential requirements of any Community Action Plan to ensure it is being implemented. **Team Boat** will meet regularly to review progress on the plan. Keeping records against each theme and project will be a useful tool to ensure progress is being maintained. These meetings will be open and accessible to all groups and individuals. Evaluation provides an opportunity to reflect and learn from activities, assess the outcomes and effectiveness of a project and think about new ways of doing things.

9. Thanks & Acknowledgements

Thanks for all their involvement and hard work in helping to make the process a success must go to:

- * Boat of Garten & Vicinity Community Council
- * Boat of Garten Community Hall
- * Deshar Primary School Parent Council
- * Boat of Garten Community Company
- * Boat of Garten Church
- * All the delivery volunteers who put surveys through every household's door

Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS), as an independent community and volunteering development charity, supported the Boat community through this community action planning process and facilitated the steering group meetings, but always following the community's lead in how they wished to proceed.

Community Action Planning (CAP) is carried out in partnership by all of the Cairngorms National Park communities on a regular basis at the community's request.

Funding to VABS to facilitate the communities' CAP process is provided by the Cairngorms National Park Authority.

10. Appendices

Appendix i

What do you like about living in Boat of Garten?

Where to start!!!

- Great amenities that you can walk to: great local shop and PO; pub; community hall, events and repair café, Osprey café, Andersons and pizzeria, good primary school, hotel and bar, golf club, play park, pump track, community garden, Milton loch, the church, tennis courts, community lunches, the Gallery ... all the lovely people who work in these places
- Easy access to the outdoors - the forest, fantastic woodland walks and cycling tracks
- There's a strong community spirit. A close, active and engaged community where everyone pulls together - especially when they need to
- It's a friendly, unspoiled village and a nice place for children to grow up
- Attractive village in a peaceful setting
- Lots of groups and activities for everyone from children to elderly. Great classes and events (talks, TOMS music and art events) at the Community Hall
- The steam railway
- Access to nature, the community vibe, the peaceful area
- We have great spaces and everyone cares about them
- Location – it's a beautiful area with lots of natural heritage
- Close to the river Spey
- The Speyside Way
- Lots of leisure opportunities right here
- Safety for children and love the local volunteer groups taking on the community garden, nature reserve, and the community hall fruit trees.
- The environment/landscape and sense of community pride
- There is a community spirit living a small village. It feels safe to live here.
- Clean and tidy
- It's safe for the kids, good community facilities and good bus service to other villages and places. Lots of wildlife
- The BOG Standard
- The community company
- The riverside path
- Capercaillie population in Deshar Wood
- Not too far from towns with supermarkets – within easy reach of Aviemore and Grantown shops (bookshops)
- Beautiful area with great friends
- Close to Loch Vaa and Loch Garten
- Living in a village with a world class golf course
- Nice friendly neighbours

- Beautiful surroundings of national park and close to the mountains
- Mixed community of diverse ages - lots of young families
- Many businesses have a community ethos
- Great size, great people, great optimism!
- Beautiful rural setting in Cairngorms, but close enough to urban civilisation. Wonderful friendly, caring community
- While being a thriving village it feels like a sanctuary and also a very connected community.

Primary School Pupils

- Everything is nearby
- Lots of wildlife
- Having friends here
- Going on walks
- Play park and pump track
- Pumpkin trail

- Summer Fun Day
- Lots of local events

Secondary School Pupils

- Friendly place - nice, quiet
- Lots of nature – bird hide
- Pump track and cycle trails

Appendix ii

What changes would you like to see for Boat of Garten by 2030?

ECONOMIC

- Small units for businesses (community use of disused sawmill site?)
- **Small industrial units or lock ups for local businesses needing extra storage** (disused sawmill site)
- Wraparound childcare for working parents
- A bus that gets people to work for 9am
- Campervan area for visitors with waste and water facilities
- Full fibre broadband

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Youth club
- **Improvements / extension to the play park: Zip wire, maze, obstacle course, basketball hoop**
- Hangout place options for late afternoon/early evening
- Bus stop and shelter at Deshar Primary School
- Later bus service in evenings
- Creative workshops
- Intro sessions for gardening, fishing, golf
- **Upgrade to school playground and toilets – this was by far the most popular option for the children that attended the Big Conversation**
- School holiday programme at the Hall (pay for places)

- Bike to school ‘bus’ that any pupil can join
- More use of hall pitch for football/rugby training
- More play zones in the village
- Revamp of the Gruffalo path – more fun things to do around the path eg treasure hunt
- Family ceilidhs (3 till 6)

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Continued improvements to Active Travel links
 - Cycle / foot path from Drumullie to Boat
 - **Complete path to Speyside Way beyond the bridge**
 - Generally more cycle friendly routes to reduce friction with road traffic
 - Bike route to Carrbridge
 - Extension to all-abilities path
 - Path across the moor from Craigie Avenue to Milton loch
 - **Better links around back of Milton loch to old mill to create an orbital path around Boat**
 - Scheme to reduce number of cars doing school run every day
 - Ability to take bikes on buses
- Improve our village’s biodiversity
 - More biodiverse habitat on Grampian Crescent (lawn area) – run by volunteers
 - Information event/s (walks and talks) on how we can enhance Boat’s environment (nature network)
 - Work with Highland Council to change verge cutting regimes
 - Wild hedgerows
- **Community food growing: allotments/growing spaces/community orchard**
- More accessible pavements and walkways for ‘wheeling’ vehicles
- Better recycling facilities in the village – more separation of waste types
- Sharing library of tools, lawn mowers, cargo bikes, small trailer
- Less development in the woodland
- Volunteer rota for keeping Boat clean and tidy
- EV chargers that charge faster ... and work!
- Community firewood/log bank
- Renewable energy project (wind, solar) for the village
- **Crow management**
- Stock-proof fences along riverside path

SOCIAL

- **More affordable (rental) housing for local people and businesses**
- Better public transport
- Speeding / Parking issues
 - Traffic calming solution on main road
 - Move speed sign to start of village where new houses are
 - Stop parking on junctions and corners eg Church Drive

- Improve parking options by shop, pump track, takeaway
- Help the Elderly network eg handyperson scheme, garden tidying, IT issues, getting to health appointments
- Casual place to meet and socialise eg a bar/pub, BBQ zone
- Dog-friendly walking space in the Bonfire field / Enclosed dog walking area in woods to reduce disturbance to wildlife
- Public toilet provision
- Cafés open at weekends
- Fairy Hill mountain bike trail
- Replace seating on the Green so further away from road
- Cover the pitch so can be used year round
- Limited, well-planned, sustainable housing expansion
- Introduce parking donation scheme at hall
- Outdoor gym / Indoor gym equipment at hall
- Community 'farmers market'
- Upgrade football pitch to offer wider variety of sports
- Wheelchair access to steam train
- **Junction at Chapelton & school needs management to slow approaching cars.**
- Signs to stop cycling on (pedestrian use only) pavements
- Having the library bus
- Forest fitness trail
- Improved bus stop for Loch Garten
- Employ someone to maintain/develop community website
- More sheltered accommodation
- Spring/Summer/Autumn festival eg book, comedy, mountain
- 'Don't be lonely' Christmas
- An annual cycling event around the forests (like the StrathPuffer)
- Pump track lights to stay on till 9pm for more use after work, bin at track
- BOG family-fun highland games
- More use of village noticeboards eg calendar of events
- Curling sessions
- Boat 'Stories of the past' project

CULTURAL

- Renew signs coming into village
- Reinststate Bonfire Night
- Art piece on main green
- Stargazing patch at Milton loch
- Information boards on the parishes of Duthil and Kincardine
- Info boards about the river Spey ... on the bridge
- Refurbishment of war memorial
- Signpost to Street of Kincardine at junction with B970

Appendix iii

What new/existing projects would you like to see happening in the community?

NEW

- More activities for young families
- A community care and support service to enable older people (particularly those living alone) to remain in the village
- More things that mix the young & old to ensure our young folks know our older folks
- More fitness classes at hall
- The Hall's new bar open more regularly for socials not just for events
- A sharing library of things
- Some groups for guys
- Better use of the green space on Deshar road
- Scouts for kids
- Organised events at pump track (for adults as well as kids)
- Creative evening classes such as drawing or pottery would be great
- A return of the bonfire night
- Social afternoons for all ages at the hall
- Speyside Fields for Wildlife plots
- Community food growing project
- Community composting scheme
- Local mountain biking map
- A paddle ball court in the Hall
- An outdoor meeting space with safe fire pit for outdoor meetings
- Cinema but realise the setup is quite a lot for it
- A swimming pool (joking, not joking)

EXISTING ... don't want to lose

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| • The Community Hall - holds valued events for the community | • Tennis courts & lessons |
| • The Talks programme in the Hall | • Strawberry Teas |
| • Lunch Club | • Pilates and Yoga classes |
| • Wee Bogies | • Golf course |
| • TOMS | • Keep Milton loch woodland |
| • Pump track | • Community Garden |
| • The Repair Café is brilliant, let's keep that going! | • Church |
| • Summer Fun Day has been great | • Anderson's restaurant |
| • Squirrel and bird feeding stations | • The Steam Railway is a big asset |
| • Showboaters | • The BOG Standard |
| | • Health walks |
| | • Bridge Club |