



Cairngorms  
National Park  
Pàirc Nàiseanta d'  
Mhonaidh Ruaidh

# **Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030**

Compiled Autumn / Winter 2023

Supported by

**Nethy Bridge Community Council**

**Nethy Bridge Community Development Company**

**Nethy Bridge Community Centre**

**Abernethy Primary School Parent Council**

**Abernethy Highland Games**

**Explore Abernethy**

**Castle Roy Trust**

**Abernethy Old Kirk Association**

**Nethy Bridge businesses:**

**Dell of Abernethy, Nethybridge Hotel, Wide Sky Weddings**

Facilitated by Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey



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## I. Summary

In Autumn 2023, Nethy Bridge Community Council, together with Nethy Bridge Community Development Company, Nethy Bridge Community Centre, Abernethy Primary School Parent Council, Abernethy Highland Games, Explore Abernethy, Castle Roy Trust, Abernethy Old Kirk Association and some of the Nethy Bridge businesses (Dell of Abernethy, Nethybridge Hotel, Wide Sky Weddings), decided that they wished to carry out a review of the community action plan for the village, which had been previously undertaken in 2011. 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 priorities by the residents and businesses of Nethy Bridge during the process in autumn 2023.

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 and businesses 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 **Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030**. In previous action planning carried out by the community, the focus was on activity mostly with a 5-8 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 **Nethy Bridge's recent successes** with community projects and action planning include:

- Upgrade of the Community Centre
- Café in the village
- Castle Roy opening
- Outdoor classroom at the primary school
- Extended all abilities path network
- Traffic calming measures
- Safe routes to school
- Birch wood project
- Improved website
- The Spring Gathering

To help add to these achievements, residents were encouraged to take part in the community action plan review in 2023. 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 Nethy Bridge 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 Nethy Bridge 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

Nethy Bridge is a village of around 650 people, situated in the heart of Strathspey and often affectionately referred to simply as "Nethy". It has been a holiday destination since Victorian times, yet it remains unspoilt with the majority of its buildings hidden away in quiet locations next to the ancient Caledonian pine forest of Abernethy. Set against the backdrop of the Cairngorm mountains and hundreds of acres of Abernethy Forest (RSPB owned), the village spans the lower reaches of the River Nethy. Flowing through the centre of the village, the River Nethy is one of the main tributaries of the famous River Spey.

Nethy Bridge, also known as the 'Forest Village', has many historical landmarks and qualities making it an attractive place for residents and visitors. Abernethy Old Kirk, Castle Roy, four Thomas Telford bridges and industrial archaeology sites, all complement the farming landscape, iconic wildlife, Speyside Way and stunning forest environment. In addition, the village has a shop, busy community centre, primary school, Abernethy Outdoor centre, an active parish church (Church of Scotland), local butcher and delicatessen and a ranger service (Explore Abernethy), in addition to the river Nethy which is easily accessed via the community created riverside walks.

At the heart of the village is a very resourceful community who are committed to improving the quality of life and opportunities for the current and future generations of Nethy residents. This is reflected in the number and variety of community groups that exist, which look to work together and are well supported. The community's website ([Nethybridge.com](http://Nethybridge.com)) and quarterly newsletter (The Nethy) help to keep residents informed of events, activities and village news, whilst also encouraging visitors to stay. The Abernethy Games are a good example of this community's successful cooperation, as the annual event goes from strength to strength attracting thousands of spectators each year from home and abroad.

### 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:

Nethy Bridge Community Council, Nethy Bridge Community Development Company, Nethy Bridge Community Centre, Abernethy Primary School Parent Council, Abernethy Highland Games, Explore Abernethy, Young At Heart, Castle Roy Trust and Abernethy Old Kirk Association amongst others.

### Community Assets

Village Community Centre	Nethybridge.com website
Castle Roy	Abernethy Highland Games showfield
Abernethy Old Kirk	Village path network
Explore Abernethy Visitor Centre	Village pond and boardwalk
The Nethy newsletter	Community noticeboards

### Local Businesses

There are numerous local businesses, across many sectors, operating in the village, although there is currently no local business/tourism association to represent the voice of commercial activity in the village.

Nethy Bridge businesses include the Premier shop, butchers and delicatessen, hotel, cafe and self-catering visitor accommodation, cultural heritage sites such as Abernethy Old Kirk and Castle Roy, an outdoor activity centre, together with a number of enterprising small businesses which cater to a wide variety of sectors. These, along with a number of tradespeople, farmers, people employed on estates and carrying out other kinds of environmental work, make up the important working heart of this community.

## 3. The Process

The Nethy Bridge community consultation period ran from October to December 2023 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 Nethy Bridge 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 a lot of 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 Nethy Bridge 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 Nethy Bridge?*
- 2) *What changes would you like to see for Nethy Bridge 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? Or any existing projects that need to be sustained?

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 450 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 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 village. 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 4 main themes: Social, Environmental, Economic and Cultural and the number of times a particular issue or idea was mentioned was noted, so priorities 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 **Nethy Bridge's Big Conversation**, which took place on a Friday and Saturday in early December 2023 at the Nethy Bridge Community Centre. At this drop in event, the results were offered back to the community and time given for reflection and discussion around the topics.

During the event, all of the residents who attended were asked to consider the top priorities that had



been identified from the process under the headings of Nethy Bridge:

- A Socially Connected Community
- A Climate Conscious Community
- An Economically Thriving Community
- 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 **Nethy Bridge Big Conversation** event were collected and incorporated into this report, which now belongs to the Nethy Bridge community and will be used as the basis for ongoing community development in the village 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 Nethy** 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 254 residents and businesses in Nethy Bridge who contributed so meaningfully and thoughtfully to the community survey – this number represents 39% of the community’s population and includes responses from school age residents. Also to the 107 people who attended the Big Conversation drop-in event at the village 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 Nethy Bridge?

[Appendix ii](#)    What changes would you like to see for Nethy Bridge 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 Priorities

The CAP sets out the community’s vision for the longer term (up to 10 years) with more detailed activity across the 4 specified themes:

- A Socially Connected Community
- A Climate Conscious Community
- An Economically Thriving Community
- A Culturally Vibrant Community

itemising priority outcomes and actions which are shown in the relevant tables below.

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 4 themes were taken and put into separate groupings, showing what the priorities are for each theme. Within each priority, 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 priority were sought from those who attended the drop-in events and suggested actions, together with any additional information are outlined below each section.

## **NETHY BRIDGE: A SOCIALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITY**

### ***Priority: Create more housing for people who want to live and work here***

- good portion of any new housing must be 'affordable' - for rent & purchase / available for permanent residents & to retain key workers eg head teacher
- investigate community-owned housing project (like Braemar)
- hold on to social housing stock we do have

### ***Priority: Upgrade Play parks & facilities for Nethy's young people***

- imaginative upgrade of play park behind hall with equipment for different ages
- bike/pump track in woods
- skate park that is well designed and weatherproof
- make other play parks more space-efficient - currently dilapidated & under-used

### ***Priority: Community Centre***

- more types of activities for all ages - volunteers coming forward to put them on
- fit a suitable/better working kitchen (especially suitable for bigger events)
- provide a secure storage area for bikes
- consider co-working function in re-jigged Explore Abernethy space

### ***Priority: Traffic calming measures to reduce speeding***

## **PRIORITY: CREATE MORE HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO LIVE AND WORK HERE**

Good portion of any new housing must be 'affordable' - for rent & purchase / available for permanent residents & to retain key workers eg head teacher

- Important to move away from the previous model of 25-40% affordable housing provided as part of a development. Positive that up to 70% is now being looked at in the National Park.
- Ref HI on current Local Development Plan: need to push for the majority being affordable, well-built and insulated, occupied by full time residents.

Investigate community-owned housing project (like Braemar)

- Look at other successful projects of this type eg at Tomintoul and Braemar and learn from their experiences.
- Nethy Bridge CDC to work with the Communities Housing Trust to identify suitable opportunities for Nethy and evidence of need for different housing types eg shared equity, mid-market rentals.
- Investigate a Community Asset Transfer for provision of affordable housing for locals with public sector, RSPB, private landowners.

Hold on to social housing stock we do have

- Work with Registered Social Landlords to ensure awareness of community's wishes.

## **PRIORITY: UPGRADE PLAY PARKS & FACILITIES FOR NETHY'S YOUNG PEOPLE**

Need to look at which one of these suggestions is highest priority and therefore to be tackled first:

### Imaginative upgrade of play park behind hall with equipment for different ages

- Involve young people in design and provision of any new facilities.
- Consider maintenance and repairs.

### Bike/pump track in woods

- Identify potential site.
- Involve young people in design, provision and maintenance of any new facilities.

### Skate park that is well designed and weatherproof

- Identify a possible site.
- Involve young people in design, provision and maintenance of any new facilities.

### Make other play parks more space-efficient - currently dilapidated & under-used

- Liaise with Abernethy Trust on use of some facilities eg ski slope/swimming pool for local school children.
- Upgrade/add new goals at Lynstock.

## **PRIORITY: COMMUNITY CENTRE**

### More types of activities for all ages - volunteers coming forward to put them on

- Extend hall committee to include young people.
- Canvas opinion on other/new activities eg archery, badminton and call for volunteers to start up.
- Look into feasibility of covering over some of the external space for events and increased usage.

### Fit a suitable/better working kitchen (especially suitable for bigger events)

- Revisit kitchen layout to make it more appropriate for larger events.
- Useable bar for events (not necessarily by kitchen).

### Provide a secure storage area for bikes

- Identify a good location.
- Work with Active Travel groups to help fund infrastructure.
- Provide a recharging point for e-bikes.

### Consider co-working function in re-jigged Explore Abernethy space

- Offer hot-desking space in this area with an occasional rental fee.

## **PRIORITY: TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES TO REDUCE SPEEDING**

- Work with Highland Council & Police Scotland (local) to assess potential measures/sites.

## NETHY BRIDGE: A CLIMATE CONSCIOUS COMMUNITY

### **Priority: Improve path network in community eg**

- pedestrian bridge over river in centre or traffic lights to allow safe crossing
- improve pavements/cycle lanes in centre near the café/hotel/bridge junction
- path from Broomhill Court into centre and to golf club/Old Kirk/Castle Roy
- walking/cycling to school experience – make safer for all parts of community
- cut back trees/hedges to fence lines to allow for clear pavements
- improve Speyside Way surface between Nethy and Boat and also to Grantown
- repair footbridge by school and over Aultmore

### **Priority: Develop community growing spaces and community garden**

- for personal food produce eg fruit and vegetables
- place for a community orchard
- community enterprise: community polytunnels for year round produce
- encourage gardening events & talks and a local food market

### **Priority: Improve river management**

- update flood prevention audit, to reduce flood risk/blocked bridge
- enhance the riverbank
- repair riverside (small) wall opposite the community centre
- flood barrier in Station Road (opposite farm shop)

## PRIORITY: IMPROVE PATH NETWORK IN COMMUNITY

For all suggestions, involve the Active Travel initiative from CNPA where appropriate.

### Pedestrian bridge over river in centre or traffic lights to allow safe crossing

- Improve pavements/cycle lanes in centre near the café/hotel/bridge junction.
- Make village square more wheelchair friendly.

### Path from Broomhill Court into centre and to golf club/Old Kirk/Castle Roy

- Develop a safer route in consultation with community and landowner/s.
- Encourage more use of Speyside Way from Station Road to Balliemore.

### Walking/cycling to school experience – make safer for all parts of community

### Cut back trees/hedges to fence lines to allow for clear pavements

- Roadside vegetation on Dell Rd.
- Community support for those householders who are physically unable to trim hedging.

### Improve Speyside Way between Nethy and Boat and also to Grantown

- Enhance and maintain surface.
- Remove gates where possible - install alternative method of livestock control where needed.
- Improve signage on SW to Boat of Garten.

### Repair footbridge by school and over Aultmore

- Repairing Aultmore bridge will provide an off-road route from village to Castle Roy.

## **PRIORITY: DEVELOP COMMUNITY GROWING SPACES AND COMMUNITY GARDEN**

For personal food produce eg fruit and vegetables

Place for a community orchard

Community enterprise: community polytunnels for year round produce

Encourage gardening events & talks and a local food market

- Find out who has land that can be used to develop these ideas (field next to hotel, field on riverside path, Dell farm steading, field adjacent to football pitch?) and seek a lease or ownership.
- Work with the school who have a community garden, orchard and polytunnels. Rather than start more, maybe first combine all these projects for everyone's benefit, with new volunteers to help.
- Look into feasibility of allotments as well as community garden.
- Ensure there is access for all on any site.
- Distinguish between community enterprise and community-participatory project. Not necessarily about producing lots of food.

## **PRIORITY: IMPROVE RIVER MANAGEMENT**

Update flood prevention audit, to reduce flood risk/blocked bridge

Enhance the riverbank

Repair riverside (small) wall opposite the community centre

Flood barrier in Station Road (opposite farm shop)

- Clear gravel, silt, dead trees from river
- Maintain the banks
- Manage fallen and falling trees on river banks, if creating a hazard. Otherwise leave for wildlife habitat.

## **NETHY BRIDGE: AN ECONOMICALLY THRIVING COMMUNITY**

### ***Priority: Review possibility of a community-owned renewable energy project***

- Look into feasibility for wind turbines, hydro scheme or solar farm to help fund other community initiatives

### ***Priority: Investigate options for taking more assets into community ownership***

- Community owned/managed touring campsite with service facilities for tents, campervans & motorhomes
- Acquire buildings/land for environmental, social, cultural redevelopment to benefit the community

### ***Priority: Improve opportunities for local employment / businesses***

- Small industrial area for local business hub
- Local space for co-working / hot desking

## **PRIORITY: REVIEW POSSIBILITY OF A COMMUNITY-OWNED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT**

Look into feasibility for wind turbines, hydro scheme or solar farm to help fund other community initiatives

- Revisit up to date possibilities for community energy scheme and revenue generation for benefit of community projects. Feasibility study for locations eg Dell farm solar. Advice on funding sources.
- Consider a wider range of renewables eg Nano-hydro micro generators.
- Lobby ScotGov and CNPA to amend policy to allow for 2-3 community owned turbines eg above Dirdhu which is out of sight for most.
- Support for individual households to help with green energy generation. Advice sessions and help with funding installations.
- Encourage use of small domestic wind turbines.

## **PRIORITY: INVESTIGATE OPTIONS FOR TAKING MORE ASSETS INTO COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP**

Community owned/managed touring campsite with service facilities for tents, campervans & motorhomes

- Liaise with community and CNPA planning re Local Development Plan about appropriate sites and facilities required.
- Consider which community organisation would take this on.

### Acquire buildings/land for environmental, social, cultural redevelopment to benefit the community

- Audit of potential assets and possible uses (renewable energy?)
- Important to support the buildings already in community ownership eg Old Kirk and Castle Roy, to look at increasing usage and revenue.

### **PRIORITY: IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL EMPLOYMENT / BUSINESS**

#### Small industrial area for local business hub

- Investigate level of need.

#### Local space for co-working / hot desking

- Check level of demand – survey of local businesses.
- Use small hall as a test with a simple set up.
- Can the Old Kirk be used for more things.
- Are other existing premises available for rent.
- Talk with Grantown group who are doing similar

## **NETHY BRIDGE: A CULTURALLY VIBRANT COMMUNITY**

### ***Suggestions:***

- Sustain & keep making improvements to The Nethy newsletter
- Repair wall at Old Kirk and improve quality of car park for here and Castle Roy
- Sustain Explore Abernethy
- Fix old village fountain
- Fly the Nethy Flag all year round

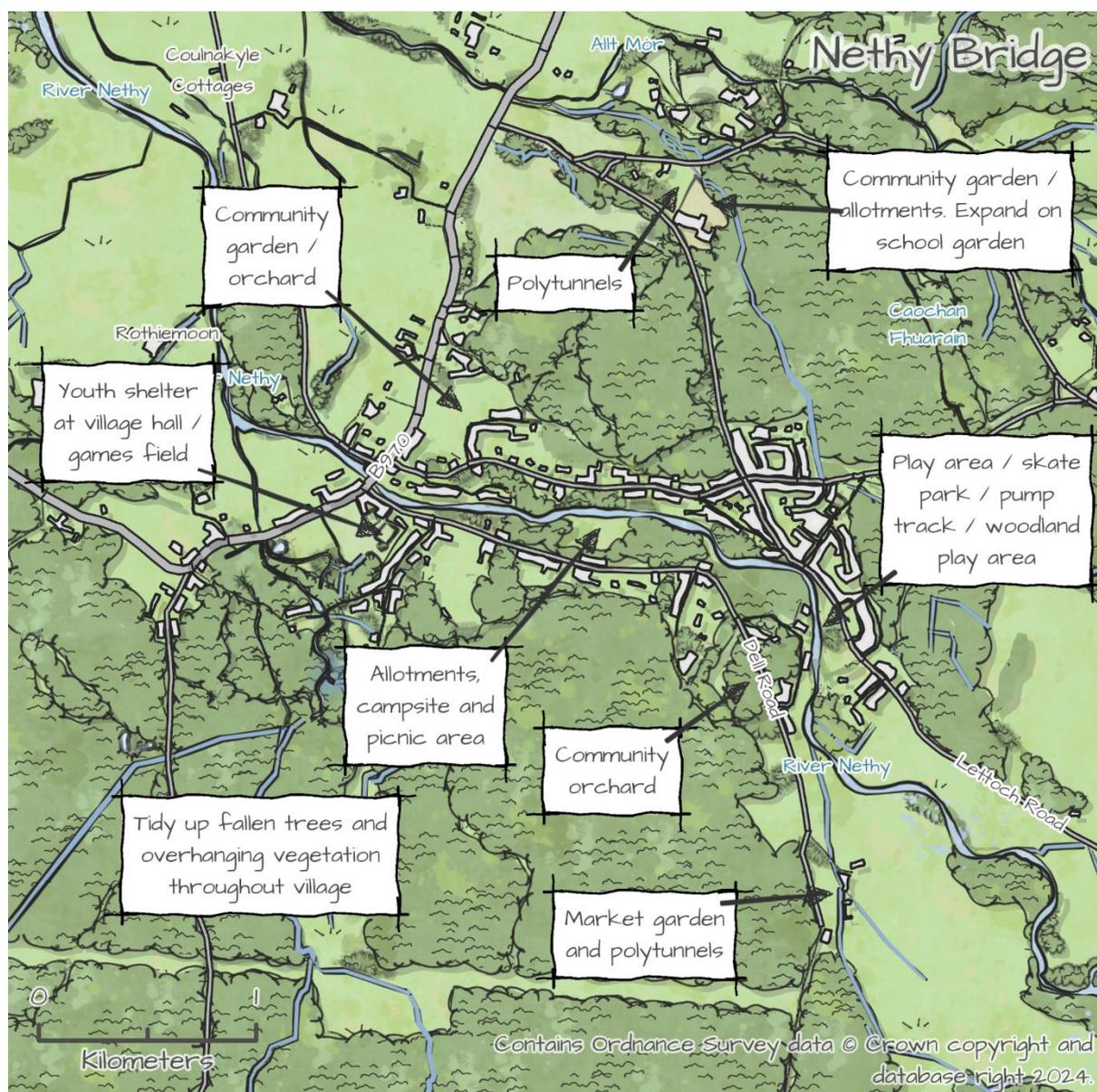
## 7. Spatial Priorities

The maps below illustrate the spatial proposals to help realise Nethy Bridge's community vision and Community Action Plan. They display comments which were provided by Nethy Bridge residents and businesses during the two-day Big Conversation drop-in event. They refer to the priorities 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).

### Nethy Bridge CAP map: Access and Infrastructure



## Nethy Bridge CAP map: Open Space



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

The purpose of the maps is to:

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

## 8. Next Steps: Delivery

### Steps to deliver the Nethy Bridge 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 Nethy Bridge's community organisations, but broadly involves **collectively**:

- Setting up a *Team Nethy Bridge* (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 priorities 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 Nethy Bridge

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 village approach not just one or two organisations. This approach has been called *Team Nethy Bridge* in this report, but of course the community will decide on its own name for these purposes.

Team Nethy Bridge 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 Nethy Bridge 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 Nethy Bridge, 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 priorities 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 Nethy Bridge** 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:

- \* Nethy Bridge Community Council
- \* Nethy Bridge Community Development Company
- \* Nethy Bridge Community Centre
- \* Abernethy Primary School Parent Council
- \* Abernethy Highland Games
- \* Explore Abernethy
- \* Castle Roy Trust
- \* Abernethy Old Kirk Association
- \* Nethy Bridge businesses: Dell of Abernethy, Nethybridge Hotel, Wide Sky Weddings
- \* 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 Nethy Bridge 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 Nethy Bridge?

- The people - being part of a friendly, helpful community
- Beautiful unspoilt nature and scenery – fantastic range of wildlife
- The forests
- Easy access to the outdoors and all it offers – great location
- Accessible walks and cycle paths throughout the village
- Abernethy Nursery & Primary School
- Great place to bring up children
- Lots for families and young people to do
- Park & playing field
- Nethy café
- Peace and quiet
- The Farm Shop
- The Premier shop
- Community events throughout the year eg Spring Gathering, Highland Games, Hogmanay
- We're surrounded by village heritage and highland culture eg Castle Roy, Old Kirk, old bridges and houses
- The Community Centre is great
- All the people willing to give up their precious time to groups/organisations for the whole benefit of the community
- Village Newsletter
- Golf Course / Club
- Explore Abernethy & Ranger
- Clean fresh air
- Christmas lights
- Tipi & events at the Dell
- Parish Church
- Bowling Green
- Low crime rate
- Quiet roads
- Public transport connecting to bus and train links
- It's not ruined by overdevelopment or tourism
- Ability for children to cycle to school through the forest
- Dog friendly
- Partnership working with business & organisations
- It's a great place for retirement

#### **Primary School Pupils**

- The woods
- It's quiet & nice

- The people
- Abernethy Trust
- The hotel
- Local parks
- Football pitches
- School
- The Nethy Café
- Lots of rivers to swim in
- Good paths for walking
- Lots of wildlife
- Highland games
- Golf course
- The Tipi at the Dell

### **Secondary School Pupils**

- Lots of nice people.
- The playing field and the horse pool in the summer. It's really nice in the woods especially when it's been snowing.
- Nice community, beautiful woodland and riverside paths and a safe place for the youths to grow up.
- The forests and nature right outside our door
- The Premier
- It's got nice scenery it has good food at the cafe people are really nice and lots more.
- The woods, the river and the shop
- It is small and peaceful
- Great community events, people and it's scenic.

## Appendix ii

### What changes would you like to see for Nethy Bridge by 2030?

#### ECONOMIC

- Review possibility of a community-owned renewable energy project – wind, hydro, solar to help fund community initiatives
- Community owned / managed touring campsite with service facilities for tents, campervans and motorhomes
- Support our businesses by shopping local: to keep the shops, café, hotel in the village
- Look at taking more land and assets into community ownership
- Small industrial area for local business hub
- Local space for 'co-working' / hot desking
- Encourage re-introduction of a Post Office
- Acquire Canmore in Dell Road for redevelopment to benefit the community
- Install ATM facility

#### CULTURAL

- Sustain and keep making improvements to The Nethy newsletter
- Repair wall at Old Kirk and improve quality of car park so people aren't getting out of cars into puddles– tarmac?
- Fix old village fountain
- Sustain Explore Abernethy
- Fly the Nethy Flag all year round

#### ENVIRONMENTAL

- Improved path network in community:
  - pedestrian bridge over river or traffic lights to allow pedestrians to cross safely
  - improve pavements and cycle lanes in village centre eg near the café/hotel/bridge junction
  - create path running from Broomhill Court into village centre and also out to golf club/Old Kirk/Castle Roy
  - walking/cycling to school experience – make safer for everyone from all parts of community / tidy up the school path which has been overtaken by vegetation
  - cut back trees and hedges to fence lines to allow for clear pavements
  - improve Speyside Way surface between Nethy and Boat and also to Grantown by replacing gates with cattle grids, to encourage more active travel to secondary school and work, as well as for leisure.
  - repair footbridge by school and over Aultmore
  - upgrade existing paths that are looking tired and overgrown
  - Explore Abernethy trails: maintain and expand offering
  - Clear (regularly) the pond by boardwalk of choking vegetation (reeds etc) – work party?
  - Increase number of wider trails & paths to improve accessibility for wheelchairs & trikes, specifically access to Black Bridge

- maintain riverside path to Broomhill
- improve pavements with drop kerbs (esp. from Tigh na Drochit to Hotel)
- Community growing spaces / garden
  - for food produce especially fruit and vegetables
  - supporting intergenerational social projects
  - involve the primary school
  - develop a community orchard (old nursery garden / area between Riverside path and Dell Road?)
  - encourage local food market
  - community enterprise: community polytunnels for year round produce / local veg boxes (Dell Farm?)
  - encourage gardening events and talks
- Improve river management
  - carry out/ update flood prevention audit, especially in the village centre to reduce flood risk / blocked bridge from fallen trees, debris or silt/gravel deposits
  - enhance the riverbank
  - repair riverside (small) wall opposite the community centre
  - flood barrier in Station Road (opposite farm shop)
- Turn off street lights in the early hours to save electricity and promote darker skies
- More signs and dog bins for forest trails, asking folk not to leave bags and collect dog poo. Another dog bin in the park and at Culvardie car park.
- More EV charging points
- Maintain firebreaks around the village – plan to tackle a major fire in the forest
- Better grass cutting by Highland Council in summer, but to include no mow May and leave margins unmown in play parks etc
- Look into more wildlife friendly plants and eco-friendly management of village flower beds (eg area opposite community centre) and roadside verges
- Initiatives to help the community learn about better insulation and other energy efficiency measures
- Bike Hub offering ebike hire, workshops and with tools for loan/hire
- More clearing of blocked drains
- Village-based lift share scheme (esp. to visit patients in hospitals)
- Increase species diversity in the forest
- Start local voluntary work in village again for vegetation management eg pruning and creation of wildflower meadow/s
- Wildlife hide
- Species introduction where appropriate eg lynx and beaver with education across the community to help understand benefits

## **SOCIAL**

- Housing - increase availability for people who want to live and work here
  - **MUST** have a good portion of any new housing as 'affordable' and for rent as well as purchase

- more houses available for permanent residents
- enable attraction of key workers eg head teacher to live in area
- community housing project (like Braemar)
- hold on to social housing stock we do have
- Play parks need redoing
  - imaginative and significant upgrade of play park behind centre to support number of users
  - equipment to suit all ages including teenagers
  - make space more efficient for other play parks that are dilapidated and therefore under-used
  - put in a skate park that is well designed and weatherproof – space in village for this
  - outdoor gym in park
- Community Centre:
  - increase its offered activities eg talks, touring theatre, exercise classes, games evening, a Shed, music, dance, arts, badminton, cinema, youth café for 16-25 yr olds, ceilidh, winter music festival, childcare, repair café, community gym.
  - Volunteers need to come forward and organise some of these suggestions if residents want them, as not the job of community centre trustees.
  - fit a suitable/better working kitchen (especially suitable for bigger events)
  - secure storage area for bikes
  - consider a co-working function in a re-jigged Explore Abernethy space, to get better use of the room.
- Traffic calming measures to reduce speeding
  - speed bumps at school and same or mini roundabout/changed priority at Causer crossroads (also need to cut back hedging to improve sight lines)
  - make 20mph around school permanent, not just when lights are flashing
  - extend 20mph limit at top of Dell Road to include places where lots of people cross the road (Oakbank to the Dell)
  - Increase/improve warnings of weight limit on Broomhill bridge, including from A95
  - yellow lines from farm shop to station cottage
  - SLOW signs at Castle Roy bend
- Better public transport
  - especially at weekends and in the evenings
  - more frequent and reliable to help people get to work without cars
- Re design the community website so it's easier to find groups, events, activities, attractions. (currently very Games-centric)
- Outdoor Centre swimming pool hours increased for locals
- Clean up the village signs
- Improve winter gritting on village roads
- Better lighting for winter in shop/community centre area
- Make more use of the football pitch eg car boot sales, small music festival?
- Support the Young At Heart project

- Community Council to represent views of the diverse parts of the community
- Multi-use sports facility
- Revamp the tennis courts including fencing – covered space?
- Continue investment to expand what's on offer (space/activities) at the local bar
- Maintain/expand the Christmas Lights
- More seats in village square
- Dog walking park
- Reinstate the Duck Race
- Climbing wall for primary school
- Rationalise the village noticeboards – have a main one that's easily accessible. Refresh n/b on village green
- Develop the old nursery up Dell Road - potentially assisted housing for elderly
- Community library or book swap, tool library
- Start a Nethy Parkrun

### **Primary School pupils**

- Improve the play park & football pitch
- More clubs for kids
- Dog Park in the village
- Fix play park above hotel
- More shops (blacksmith, sweets)
- Indoor climbing wall
- Bike (pump) park
- Get rid of the litter in Nethy (including poo bags)
- More places to get food
- Better public transport (including electric buses)
- Zip line in the woods
- Create an adventure trail in the village
- Find out if local people can use the swimming pool

### **Secondary School pupils**

- Skate park facility
- More diverse community activities at community centre eg for young people (a dance?)
- More rubbish bins
- Play park facilities for teenagers including a youth shelter (near tennis courts)
- Pump track / mountain bike trails in woods (like Grantown)
- Better bus service for evenings and weekends
- Turn off street lights after midnight
- More eco-friendly buildings

## Appendix iii

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

- Tackle lack of housing, tenancies
- Community renewable energy scheme
- Sort paths especially within village centre eg footbridge over river / footpath from Broomhill Court into village
- More volunteers to improve offerings at Community Centre
- Upgrade of play park
- Flood risk audit
- Community garden / orchard
- Repair bridge at Aultmore
- Improve village website
- EV charging points
- Home insulation advice and support
- Support for Explore Abernethy
- Continue Young At Heart
- Set up of village maintenance squad – helping with jobs in community spaces
- Plant wildflower meadows
- Book/toys/games swap initiative
- Car and ebike share scheme
- Sustain The Nethy
- Reinstate village fountain
- Community Centre coffee morning
- Befriending service
- RSPB Ranger project for younger children
- Open wooden bandstand for play park / knoll area
- Screen hotel car park from road – eyesore for visitors
- Signage on Speyside Way