



Cairngorms  
National Park  
Pàirc Nàiseanta a'  
Mhonaidh Ruaidh

# **Kingussie Community Action Plan Consultation Results: Looking to 2030**

Compiled winter 2024

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Supported by

**Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council**

**Kingussie Community Development Company**

**Caberfeidh Horizons**

**ARC-Kingussie**

**Kingussie Primary School Parent Council**

**Kingussie Churches**

**Kingussie Camanachd Club**

Facilitated by Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey



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# 1. Summary

In winter 2024, Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council together with Kingussie Community Development Company, Caberfeidh Horizons, ARC-Kingussie, Kingussie Primary School Parent Council, Kingussie Churches and Kingussie Camanachd, decided that they wished to carry out a review of the community action plan for the town, 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 Kingussie during the process in winter 2024.

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 **Kingussie 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 Kingussie** with community projects and action planning include:

- Acquiring old bank building for community use
- Community playing fields at Market Stance
- Improving accessibility of path network
- One Kingussie community support mechanism
- Creation of Warm Spaces
- Creation of Sunday markets
- Balance bike project
- Wildflower sowing in/around the town
- Complete refurbishment of Glebe Ponds
- Transformation of Gynack Gardens
- Putting on community festivals, events and celebrations

To help add to these achievements, residents were encouraged to take part in the community action plan review in 2024. However, this time round people were invited to think not only about what might be achieved together, but that the projects the town was being asked to consider, would be ones that would help Kingussie 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 Kingussie 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

Kingussie is the capital of Badenoch, situated in the west of the Cairngorms National Park. The community area extends from the Monadhliath Mountains in the north-west, to Insh Marshes in the east through Glen Tromie in the south. The name Kingussie is derived from the Scottish Gaelic name *Ceann a' Ghiùthsaich* meaning 'head of the pine forest'.

The community area of Kingussie, covered by Kingussie and Vicinity Community Council, also encompasses Ruthven, Gaick and Pitmain, which together constitute a community of approximately 1470 people, making Kingussie the most populous settlement in Badenoch. Demographic statistics show that Kingussie's population is 51.8% 18-64 year olds, 32.6% over 64 year olds and 15.7% under 18 year olds, meaning Kingussie has a slightly more 'youthful' population than many other settlements in Badenoch and Strathspey.

Kingussie has a long and interesting history. On the site of the ruins of Ruthven Barracks, a castle stood from 1229, which became home to Alexander Stewart, 'The Wolf of Badenoch', in 1371. Ruthven Barracks was built on the site in 1719 and was destroyed by the Jacobites after their retreat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

In 1464 Kingussie was created a burgh of barony by King James III in favour of Alexander Gordon, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Huntly. The Duke of Gordon led the development of the planned settlement of Kingussie in 1799, which grew slowly initially but was boosted by the building of bridges over River Spey and River Laggan in 1808 and 1815 respectively, placing Kingussie on the new main roads from Inverness to Perth, and to Fort William. Kingussie then became a Police Burgh in 1867.

Kingussie railway station was opened in 1863, marking the settlement's transformation into a Highland resort for winter and summer tourism. The Highland Main Line now connects Kingussie by rail to the north and south. Kingussie is situated next to the A9 road also running north and south, and on the A86 linking to west to Fort William. The A9 used to pass through the town until it was bypassed in 1979. Tourism still makes up an important part of the local economy with multiple hotels and other hospitality and accommodation providers running businesses in Kingussie.

Kingussie has a rich sporting heritage. Kingussie Camanachd Club was founded in 1890 and is based at the Dell, next to the River Spey. Kingussie were the first winners of the Camanachd Cup in 1896 (26 times winners to date), are record league title winners (35 times to date) and in 2024 won all the sports major trophies, their second 'Grand Slam' in three years and eighth in their history. Kingussie Golf Course, an 18-hole course adjacent to the River Gynack, was first opened as a 9-hole course in 1891 and remains popular today.

Kingussie has deep connections to nature; it is surrounded by mountains, marshes, meadows and rivers. However, much of the pine forest from which the Scottish Gaelic name comes, is now depleted. The Scottish Gaelic *Badenoch*, means 'drowned land' referring to natural floodplain on which Kingussie sits on the fringes. Recognised as a site of national and international conservation importance, the RSPB took over management of Insh Marshes in 1973. With multiple designations (National Nature Reserve Site of Special Scientific Interest, Species Protection Area etc.), the RSPB manage the area for the conservation of protected species and habitat of natural importance such as breeding waders, transition mire, and aspen woodland.

Principal local attractions in the community include Ruthven Barracks, RSPB Insh Marshes, Kingussie Camanachd, and Kingussie Golf Club. Key local employers include hospitality establishments, Kingussie High & Primary School and local trade businesses. Caberfeidh Horizons is a long-established and very well-regarded asset in the community. The charity attracts locals and a much wider public to its high street bookshop, charity shop and Hub, providing employment and volunteering opportunities for a significant number of people.

### Common Good

Common Good property was originally a form of urban community ownership, granted to former Burghs to provide space for civic buildings, markets, recreation, and other activities. The Common Good Act of 1491 established a strong legal status for these lands and required their management for the benefit of the community, a law that still stands today.

After the dissolution of the Burgh, the assets held by the former Burgh council are held as Common Good by the local authority, The Highland Council, who holds these assets on behalf of the community to provide public benefit.

Common Good assets belonging to Kingussie include:

- Ardvonie Car Park
- Tait's Brae Play Park
- Market stance (Livestock market) and shinty pitch
- Putting Green
- Putting Green sheds and adjacent land
- Kingussie Tennis Courts
- Clock Tower and land for location of Clock Tower
- Kingussie Common Good Fund

### 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:

Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council, Kingussie Community Development Company, Caberfeidh Horizons, ARC-Kingussie, Kingussie Primary School Parent Council, Kingussie High School Parent Council, Kingussie Camanachd, The Iona Gallery, Kingussie Allotment Association (SCIO), and the Kingussie Churches.

### Community-Owned/Leased Assets

Kingussie Community Hydro	Kingussie Bowling Club
The Dell	Iona Gallery
Kingussie Community Woodland	Kingussie Golf Club
Caberfeidh Horizons (3 shops)	Market Stance
Kingussie Tennis Courts	Kingussie Allotments

### Local Businesses

There are numerous local businesses across many sectors operating in the town. Kingussie Business Forum - which was set-up to represent the voice of commercial activity in Kingussie - is currently dormant.

## 3. The Process

The Kingussie community consultation period ran from October to November 2024 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 Kingussie 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 Kingussie 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 Kingussie?*
- 2) *What changes would you like to see for Kingussie 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 1100 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 town, or from information collated at events put on for specific groups in the town. 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 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 **Kingussie Big Conversation**, which took place on a Friday and Saturday in November 2024 at Talla Nan Ros. 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 suggestions that had been identified from the process under the headings of:

- 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 **Kingussie Big Conversation** event were collected and incorporated into this report, which now belongs to the Kingussie 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 Kingussie** 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 Kingussie who contributed so meaningfully and thoughtfully to the community survey. 274 responses were made, representing at least 19% 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 Talla Nan Ross 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 Kingussie?](#)
- [Appendix ii](#)    [What changes would you like to see for Kingussie by 2030?](#)
- [Appendix iii](#)    [What new/existing projects would you like to see happening in the community?](#)

## 6. Community Suggestions

### Project Themes and Suggestions

The CAP sets out the community's vision for the longer term (up to 10 years) with detailed suggestions and suggested actions shown in the relevant tables and text below. These suggestions and suggested actions have been categorised across 4 specified themes:

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

These four 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, and cultural. These themes are not clear-cut, with many of suggestions relating to multiple themes. In particular, suggestions relating to achieving a more environmentally sustainable 'Net Zero' future for Kingussie cut across all themes.

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 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.

## KINGUSSIE: A SOCIALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITY

### ***Suggestion: Redevelop St Vincents for community benefit***

- Feasibility to investigate housing (see suggestion below)
- Create opportunity for other community benefit projects

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

- Focus on retaining young people
- Repurpose unused buildings
- Change of use from commercial premises

### ***Suggestion: Local swimming facilities for community and High School use***

- Explore what options might be available

### ***Suggestion: Improve what's available locally for teenagers***

- Explore options including place to meet, youth club, and more activities
- Empower young people to become community leaders

**UPDATE:** Since the engagement for this plan was completed, St Vincents has been purchased by The Highland Council for redevelopment into housing (May 2025)

### **SUGGESTION: Redevelop St Vincents for community benefit**

Feasibility to investigate options for housing (see suggestion below)

- Run a feasibility study to assess the suitability of the site for redevelopment for housing
- Any development of the site and its buildings must be considerate of the history and environmental value of the site, as well as its sustainability into the future

Create opportunity for other community benefit projects

- Consult with the community over potential uses, including housing, key worker accommodation, hostel, camp site, youth centre, care in the community, Dementia-friendly facility, community gardens, and an education facility (University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) outpost, accommodation for student field trips)
- Work with The Highland Council who currently own the site, as well as planners at Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA), experts in community ownership and enterprise, and local organisations, including Kingussie Community Development Company (KCDC)

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

- Create community housing association to represent and provide for local need
- Ringfence housing for local people, first-time buyers, key workers, and young people

- Reduce second home and AirBnB provision
- Create affordable housing that is affordable for residents, especially young people
- Allocate plots for self-builders

#### **SUGGESTION: Local sporting facilities for community and High School use**

- Support the development of a community or publicly owned swimming pool in Aviemore (for use by Kingussie residents) to reduce reliance on hotel pools
- Explore options for Common Good land opposite the Badenoch Centre (Padel court, outdoor volleyball court)
- Bouldering wall in Badenoch Centre

#### **SUGGESTION: Improve what's available locally for young people**

Explore options including place to meet, youth club, and more activities

- Revitalise pump track project and explore the creation of a mountain bike skills area (Cycle Friendly Kingussie, Kingussie High School)
- Start a youth club
- Create a junior sports club for younger children

Empower young people to become community leaders

- Create and fund a local youth panel and other mechanisms to enable young people to take forward projects and initiatives that matter to them
- Work with Kingussie High School, The Highland Council and local youth workers to support this project, and involve all local groups

## **KINGUSSIE: A CLIMATE CONSCIOUS COMMUNITY**

### ***Suggestion: Continue improvements to Active Travel links***

- Improve cycle pathways and facilities (access to Kinraig and Newtonmore)
- Improve footpaths and walking routes (to Ruthven and Drumguish and around Kingussie)
- Create safer roads (reduce traffic speed on main roads, reduce street parking)

### ***Suggestion: Improve use of and access to local green spaces***

- Bring local land into community ownership
- Manage local land and green space sustainably (work in partnership to encourage conservation of estates and local land, support community-run conservation projects, create community food growing opportunities and local food supply chains)

### ***Suggestion: Improve public transport***

- Improve bus provision (better service, connect to Fort William and south)
- Improve train provision (reduce train costs, more trains to Inverness)
- Campaign for integrated transport (coordinate bus and train timetables, campaign for bikes on buses)

### ***Suggestion: Continue improvement work on Gynack Gardens***

- More wildlife-friendly, structural, and perennial planting (community orchard, more native plants, wildlife corner)

## **SUGGESTION: Continue improvements to Active Travel links**

### Improve cycle pathways and facilities

- Create an off-road cycle path or safer cycling route to Kincaig
- Improve cycle route to Newtonmore at sharp bend outside town
- Extend cycle path so safer to access path to Newtonmore
- Create covered/locked bike storage area for High Street for use by residents in flats and workers

### Improve footpaths and walking routes

- Campaign for safer walking / cycling route to Ruthven and Drumguish by extending the Speyside Way. Work with the access team at the CNPA and landowners on this route
- Improve pedestrian safety of Gynack Road, Ardbroilach Road and Dunbarry Road
- Continue community-led path improvements to include 'Kingussie Crag'

### Create safer roads

- Work with The Highland Council to enhance speed limitations on High Street by enforcing and highlighting 20mph limit and introducing speed calming measures
- Reduce on street parking by enforcing yellow lines, encouraging active travel by business owners, and better signposting to car parks.

## **SUGGESTION: Improve use of and access to local green spaces**

### Bring local land into community ownership

- Collect ideas and input from the community around community ownership of a woodland, including potential location of woodland, model of ownership and management etc.

### Manage local land and green space sustainably

- Work with local estates and landowners to encourage conservation and expansion of native woodland and explore options to bring land into public/community ownership.
- Manage local wildlife and conservation projects including swift-friendly Kingussie, wildflower planting, and a local wildlife group.
- Work with local crofters and landowners to create community food growing enterprise to grow vegetables for local people, make local supply chains,
- Work with local landowners, KCDC, RSPB Insh Marshes and Cairngorms Connect.

## **SUGGESTION: Improve public transport**

### Improve bus provision

- Campaign for a bus link to Fort William
- Campaign for a Megabus connection at A9 junction to connect to South by bus
- Installation of better bus stops with electronic timetables, shelters
- Campaign for a more reliable, regular and efficient bus service.



#### Improve train provision

- Campaign for reduced train costs on the Highland Mainline to Aviemore, Carrbridge and Inverness in particular.
- Campaign for more trains to Inverness, Edinburgh, and Glasgow that allow commuters to arrive before 9am
- Campaign for late trains from Inverness in the evenings

#### Campaign for integrated transport

- Work with bus providers to enable bikes to be carried on buses
- Coordinate bus and train timetables

#### **SUGGESTION: Continue improvement work on Gynack Gardens**

- Plant fruit trees for community orchard
- More mature, structural and perennial planting
- Plant more native plants and those suited to Highland climate
- Create a wildlife corner with bee hotel, wildflowers etc.

## **KINGUSSIE: AN ECONOMICALLY THRIVING COMMUNITY**

#### ***Suggestion: Support for High Street***

- Develop Kingussie Tourism Strategy to improve year-round tourism offering of town. Improved identity to promote Kingussie as a destination
- Reinvigorate High Street
- Utilise empty and underused buildings on the High Street

#### ***Suggestion: Explore further community energy opportunities***

- Community wind, solar or hydro scheme to provide community income
- Develop local, sustainability-focussed services and enterprise

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

- Create small local industrial units to grow local employment
- Create local flexible space for co-working
- Revitalise Kingussie's online presence

#### **SUGGESTION: Support for High Street**

Develop Kingussie Tourism Strategy to improve year-round tourism offering of town.

Improved identity to promote Kingussie as a destination

- Use cultural heritage as a focal point for activities and attractions by developing trails, working with Badenoch Heritage etc.
- Encourage traffic to stop in Kingussie rather than travel straight through
- Create a Kingussie-specific tourism campaign focusing on specific local heritage, nature, outdoor activities



- Build a stronger online presence to promote Kingussie as a tourism destination
- Work with Cairngorms Business Partnership (CBP), Badenoch Heritage, ARC-Kingussie, and local business forums.

#### Reinvigorate High Street

- Establish a working group and volunteer team to maintain a more attractive High Street
- Improve pedestrian and cyclist experience of the High Street by widening pavements, reducing parking directly on the road, adding cycle racks and creating spaces to sit.
- Create more parking close to High Street – explore options with the Fire Station or Old Telephone exchange

#### Utilise empty and underused buildings on the High Street

- Use empty shop windows to display information or artwork
- Work with specific owners to better utilise empty space
- Set up a cooperative in one of the unoccupied shops
- Pursue change of use of selected commercial premises on High Street – explore potential to convert empty shops into housing

### **SUGGESTION: Explore further community energy and sustainability opportunities**

#### Community wind, solar or hydro scheme to provide community income

- Develop a local green energy strategy and evaluate opportunities Install EV chargers in public car parks to bring in income
- Community rent rooftops for solar panels
- Establish a community enterprise to train up young people to do retrofit projects (insulation etc.)
- Explore district heating opportunities
- Work with: CNPA, SSE, Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE), KCDC, THC, Energy Trust, Schools

#### Develop local, sustainability-focussed services and enterprise

- Refill shop
- Tool library
- Remakery and repair shop for furniture, electronics and household items
- Work with Badenoch Climate Action, KCDC, CBP, HIE and CNPA

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

#### Create small local industrial units to grow local employment

- Explore feasibility of creating units at Market Stance (and the old Telephone Exchange and old Museum Car Park)
- Re-establish the Kingussie Business Forum

- Explore options for tool library, remakery/repair shop, refill shop, as well as space for local craftspeople and artists

#### Create local flexible space for co-working

- Provision for local hot desking and meeting space at reasonable cost

#### Revitalise Kingussie's online presence

- Advertise local job vacancies on central website (Kingussie.co.uk)
- Create local Facebook forum where people can ask questions and post opportunities

## **KINGUSSIE: A CULTURALLY VIBRANT COMMUNITY**

### ***Suggestion: Develop Talla Nan Ros as a community space***

- Explore bringing Talla Nan Ros into community ownership
- Develop more community uses of the space

### ***Suggestion: Wolf of Badenoch trail and statue completed***

## **SUGGESTION: Develop Talla Nan Ros as a community space**

### Explore bringing Talla Nan Ros into community ownership

- Explore feasibility of converting the space into housing, multi-media centre, retail space etc.
- Look at finding an alternative space in Kingussie for a purpose-built new village hall
- Build capacity for a volunteer working group on this project

### Develop more community uses of the space

- Use space for wrap-around childcare – breakfast club, afterschool club, as well as toddler groups in afternoons
- Work with Highlife Highland to negotiate community rates for use and easier booking system
- Improve acoustics in the Hall for music and other events

### **SUGGESTION: Wolf of Badenoch statue and trail completed**

- Consider concerns over the statue as potential celebration of a violent historical figure
- Education around history of the area
- Work with schools, Badenoch Heritage, KVCC, community leaders, and artists.
- Create a heritage trail incorporating this important piece of local history amongst other nature and cultural heritage

In addition to the ideas listed above, participants in the Big Conversation event also added the following suggestions to this section.

- Establish a twinning with another village or town abroad to facilitate cultural exchanges, tourism, and celebrate the local area
- Celebrate rich natural value of the area as part of its culture more by celebrating connection to a particular animal or habitat (e.g. Nethy 'The Forest Village), and creating nature-themed interpretation or trail. Work with RSPB, Cairngorms Connect, CNPA, KCDC, and KVCC.

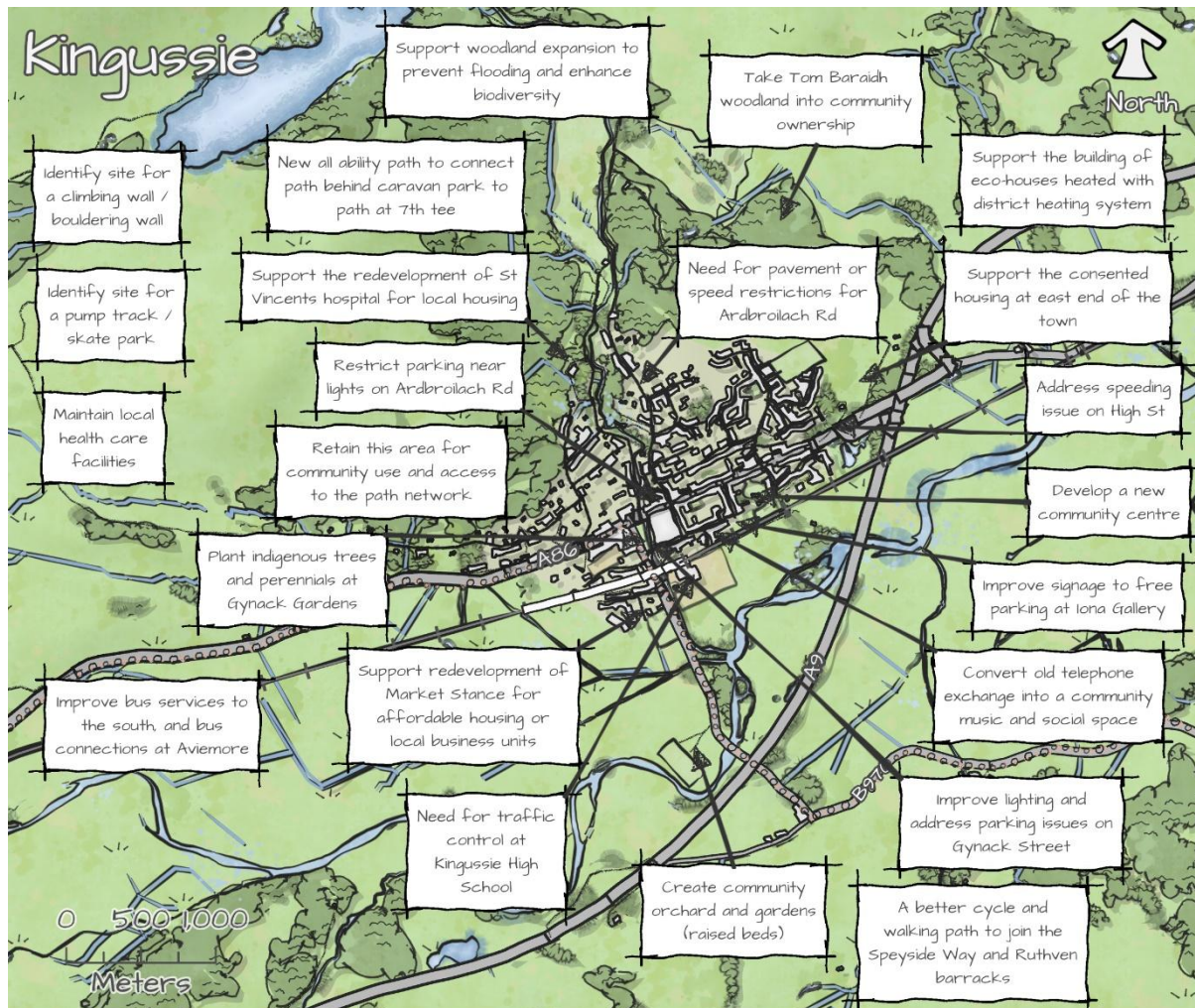
## **7. Spatial Priorities**

The maps below illustrate the spatial proposals to help realise Kingussie's community vision and Community Action Plan. They display comments which were provided by Kingussie 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 Kingussie 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 Kingussie community could look in the future once the vision and CAP have been implemented.
- Help the Kingussie, Highland Council and 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.



## 8. Next Steps: Delivery

### Steps to deliver the Kingussie Community Action Plan

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

- Setting up a *Team Kingussie* (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
- Drawing up a 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.)
- Managing the project volunteer list that has come out of the process
- Involving all key stakeholders (organisations & individuals) in co-design of project delivery
- Communicating progress with the community

- Reviewing progress on a regular basis
- Revisiting the Delivery 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 Kingussie

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 Kingussie* in this report, but of course the community will decide on its own name for these purposes.

Team Kingussie 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 Kingussie 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 Kingussie, 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 Kingussie** 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:

- \* Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council
- \* Kingussie Community Development Company
- \* Caberfeidh Horizons
- \* ARC-Kingussie
- \* Kingussie Primary School Parent Council
- \* Kingussie Churches
- \* Kingussie Camanachd
- \* Kingussie High School
- \* 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 Kingussie 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 Kingussie?

- Sense of community which is accepting, inclusive and open
- Railway station and access to main railway line
- Beautiful area with spectacular landscape and scenery
- Community is close, caring, and friendly - people know each other and look after each other
- Lots of independent shops - Post Office, butchers, chemist, The Cheese Neuk, bike shop, Caberfeidh Horizons charity shops, G's Pizza Box, JR Repairs Garage
- Safe community and environment
- Local footpath network and walks - nearby forest trails, Creag Beag and by Loch Gynack
- Access to services & amenities nearby - everything accessible by foot – Kingussie Medical & Dental Practice
- Access to nature
- Opportunities for outdoor recreation (walking, climbing, biking, skiing etc.)
- Community very giving & dedicated to volunteering: many individuals give time to community activities & initiatives
- Great recent improvements to Gynack gardens and the Glebe Pond
- Community events/festivals: Badenoch Film Club, Storyland Sessions, Festival of Words, Food on Film, Sunday markets.
- Access to mountains, including Creag Bheag, Cairngorms, up Glen Tromie
- Kingussie Camanachd Club
- Quiet, peaceful area
- Access to green space: Ardvonie Park, Gynack Gardens, River Gynack, Glebe Pond, allotments, wildflower meadows
- Local sports facilities and groups: running & cycling clubs, Kingussie Tennis Club and courts, Kingussie Golf Course
- Close to nature reserves and places rich in wildlife - RSPB Insh Marshes and Glenfeshie
- Kingussie Community Development Company – the Hydro, woodland
- Great place to live with children and families
- Caberfeidh Horizons (the bookshop, clothes shop and Hub)
- Clean and tidy place with clear air – not much littering
- Badenoch Centre - for sports, the gym and library
- Close to A9 to access to Inverness and the central belt - well connected to the north, south and west
- Local primary and secondary school
- Deep family connections to the area and lots of friends and family close-by

- Local meeting places of cafes and pubs, including the bar in the Duke of Gordon and the Wolf Bar
- Excellent health centre and dental practice
- New businesses opening up including Papershop Bakery and Star Hotel, new premises for TomCam, The Crossing
- New community groups starting like Badenoch Men's Shed and Badenoch Repair Café
- Community spaces including Iona Gallery and Talla Nan Ros
- Great location to visit other parts of the Highlands from, including Lochaber
- The community is outdoorsy and environmental focused
- Living within a National Park with access to world class recreation, landscape, heritage and visitor facilities
- The community is diverse and forward looking
- Strong identity as Highland community - not over-run by tourism and not overdeveloped
- Being able to use the Market Stance to play sports
- Local board games club
- Swim spot at the Dell

#### **Primary School Pupils**

- Everything is nearby
- Lots of wildlife
- Having friends here
- Going on walks to Glebe Pond and the park
- Festive events – Christmas and New Year
- Lots of local events

#### **Secondary School Pupils**

- Friendly place - nice, quiet
- Lots of nature
- Badenoch Centre for sport (in and out of school)
- Gynack Gardens - nice walk to school
- Availability of part-time jobs
- Train station to travel to other parts of Scotland

## Appendix ii

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

#### SOCIAL

- Redevelopment of St Vincents for community benefit (feasibility to look into housing / hostel?)
- Housing - increase provision for people who want to live and work here, especially to retain young people (repurpose unused buildings)
- Local swimming facilities for community and High School use – or re-establish agreement with MacDonalds resort
- Improve what's available locally for teenagers – youth area/club?
- Better play park facilities: update and increase range
- More leisure / social activities (use school in evenings?)
- Regular community litter pick (around a family barbecue in warmer months)
- Bike skills centre/park to improve skills
- Resurfacing of main pavements to improve walking safety
- More drop in events for older members of the community
- Update / maintain Kingussie website
- Find a home for the Badenoch Men's Shed
- Ardvonie Park – natural boundary to separate from car park. Area behind EV chargers: add native hedging to create nicer picnic area
- Use Gynack Gardens more – concerts?
- Sort out car park by Iona Gallery
- Improvements to festive lights
- A more coherent approach to community development (fragmented by too many organisations)
- More support for housebound and elderly people – volunteer befriending scheme? (help with glass recycling)
- Get a Padel court
- Petition for a safer A9
- Mains water supply for Ruthven

#### ENVIRONMENTAL

- Continued improvements to Active Travel links:
  - Cycle pathways
    - Off road cycle path to Kincaig
    - Improve cycle route to Newtonmore at sharp bend just outside town
    - Extend cycle path to make its safer to access the path to Newtonmore
  - Foot pathways
    - Safer walking / cycling route to Ruthven Barracks (Speyside Way) and Drumguish
    - Improve pedestrian safety to lower sections of Gynack Rd & Arbroilach Rd

- Continue fantastic community-led path improvements to include 'Kingussie Crag'
- Protection of access to local green spaces eg Tom Baraidh woods and land by the Spey
  - managed for benefit of community
  - brought into community ownership (Tom Baraidh woods)
  - better protection of nature and wildlife locally
- Continue improvement work on Gynack Gardens (more mature, structural planting that has year-round appeal)
- Campaign to improve (public) transport
  - Better integration between bus and train transport
  - Electronic displays at bus stops and improved stop (actual shelter) at N end of town
  - Timetables (bus) that better serves the community eg for work/getting to Aviemore hospital
  - Smaller and greener buses in use
  - Better facilities for getting bikes on public transport
- Community energy
  - Event to support residents/businesses to take advantage of sustainable energy options, funding, insulation etc
  - Purchase infrared camera for community energy project
  - Improve community members 'green' and sustainability awareness
- More wildflower and indigenous tree planting – community wildlife group to encourage nestboxes, insect hotels, wildlife garden
- Outlet for local produce / refill shop / market
- Create some car parking restrictions on the High Street – improve safety for walkers and cyclists of all ages!
- Car sharing scheme
- Tidy/regenerate Market Stance and find additional uses
- Recycling facility open more often
- More support for Badenoch Climate Action
  - Installation of solar panels to power community facilities
- Continue improvements to Glebe Pond
- Community Orchard
- Develop a Repair/Recycle/Reuse café
- Improve biodiversity around both sides of Loch Gynack
- Take steps to reduce light pollution (Market Stance/Council Depot/street lighting)
- Enhance area adjacent to river on Gynack Rd nr Middle Terrace
- Dog poo bin at entrance to Boa Vista

## ECONOMIC

- Support for High Street
  - Develop Kingussie Tourism Strategy to improve year-round tourism offering of town
  - Pursue change of use of selected commercial premises on high street
  - Use cultural heritage as a focal point for activities and attractions
  - Explore Aberfeldy, Dunkeld initiatives re incentives for speciality retailers
  - More EV chargers so visitors might stop
  - Encourage pop ups in empty spaces
  - More accommodation for hospitality workers
- Explore further community energy opportunities to bring income into community eg wind, solar
- Small local industrial units to grow local employment
- Flexible office/co-working space at reasonable cost as alternative to unsuitable home-working space
- An improved identity to promote Kingussie as a destination

## CULTURAL

- Develop Talla nan Ros as a better space for the community – bring back into community ownership for events, clubs, socially-inclusive activities. Needs to be cheaper and easier to book
- Wolf of Badenoch trail and statue completed

### **Primary School pupils**

- Improve the play park
- Junior Sports Club

### **Secondary School pupils**

- Skate park facility
- Indoor climbing / bouldering wall
- Mountain bike course

## Appendix iii

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

#### NEW

- Bike store (CFK project)
- Youth space
- Another community renewable energy scheme
- Skateboard park
- Bike park / Pump track (next to bowling green?) to offer cycling skills to community members/esp. young people
- More communication about what's happening in the area
- Better access to swimming facility
- Badenoch Men's Shed space
- Bouldering wall at Badenoch Centre
- Walking / Running Club
- Bike bus to school
- Community storage
- Secure Bowling Club future through site ownership
- Creation of a sign language group
- Join Highland Community Waste Partnership as a community
- Encourage more swifts to nest in Clock Tower
- Sort out drainage/sewer issue at Ardvonie (Park)

#### EXISTING ... don't want to lose

- Badenoch Centre
- Caberfeidh Horizons
- Gynack Gardens ... keep on improving with perennials
- Festive celebrations
- Path building project
- Badenoch Film Club
- Cycle Friendly Kingussie
- Kingussie Community Development Company (KCDC)
- Festivals
- Thursday lunches at church café
- Nursery and kids club
- Kingussie Camanachd Club
- Public Toilets
- Doctor's Surgery
- Allotments

- Uniform groups (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides)
- Library
- Community events
- Badenoch Heritage Festival
- Shinty Memories