

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Pàirc Nàiseanta Loch Laomhainn
is nan Tròisichean



2008 – 2011

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



CALLANDER

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2008 - 2011
CALLANDER COMMUNITY FUTURES STEERING GROUP
LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

CALLANDER COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The community of Callander prepared this – its second Community Action Plan – with the assistance of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Community Futures Programme.

The plan revises and replaces our initial Community Action Plan which is now out of date. We have achieved some of the priorities in that Plan – such as:

- Organising quarterly Farmers Market
- Callander Woodland Link – constructing a new footpath network
- Establishment of Callander Enterprise

Some other priorities are carried forward, while a few important issues have been identified to reflect the changes in our community over the last few years.

The Plan summarises community views on

- Callander now
- the vision for its future
- the issues that matter most and
- priorities for action

The Plan makes a clear statement about the type of place Callander aims to be – and what needs to be done.

CALLANDER COMMUNITY FUTURES STEERING GROUP AND SUPPORT

A local Community Futures Steering Group was established by Callander Community Development Trust, the Community Council and Callander Enterprise. Members were Danny McKirgan, Susan O’Boyle, Dick Johnson, Anne Docherty, Alma Cadzow and Frank Park.

Nessa Findlay was employed as the local Community Profiler and staff from Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority worked with the Steering Group to support the consultation process.

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

The Plan was prepared following extensive consultation with the community over a four month period from January to April 2007. Consultation included:

- A series of interviews with different groups and individuals representing all sections of the community
- A community views survey that went to all households
- A community profile detailing facts and figures about the community
- A “drop in” Local Plan development day
- A Community Futures workshop

**491 SURVEY FORMS WERE COMPLETED BY OUR
1,840 HOUSEHOLDS**

**19 INTERVIEWS WERE HELD WITH GROUPS AND
INDIVIDUALS**

55 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE LOCAL PLAN DAY

70 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

OUR COMMUNITY NOW

We have summarised below some of the views from the COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY.

WHAT WE LIKE - THE TOP SEVEN		% Responses
1	Beautiful surroundings, views and nature	55%
2	Friendly people, community spirit	51%
3	Services and shops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Shops and shopkeepers ■ Sports centre & Medical Centre ■ Restaurants, cafes and pubs ■ Schools & nursery ■ Churches ■ Bus service 	48%
4	Outdoor activities and amenities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Walks and woodlands, cycling, golf course, Meadows 	35%
5	Location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Access to cities for commuting and shopping ■ Rural feel, within the National Park 	30%
6	Built environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Small size of town ■ St Kessog's ■ Historic buildings 	28%
7	Community activities, organisations and events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All the clubs & organisations ■ Farmers Market ■ Ben Ledi View ■ Jazz Festival ■ Highland Games ■ Musical events (opera, dance) 	24%



WHAT WE DON'T LIKE - THE TOP EIGHT		% Responses
1	Messy appearance of town and open spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Litter - often from High School children ■ Dog fouling/lack of bins ■ Meadows area 	40%
2	Town centre built environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Types of shops - not serving local needs ■ Appearance of shops & signs ■ Poor streetscape/lack of floral enhancement ■ Built environment/buildings 	39%
3	Anti-social behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lack of police presence ■ Vandalism, racing cars, noise at night ■ Youths hanging about (square, streets, playpark, cyclepark) 	34%
4	Roads, Traffic & Parking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Parking charges, lack of parking places and controls ■ Traffic congestion, speeding and road safety ■ Narrow footpaths/cyclepaths 	28%
5	Council Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Roads and pavement maintenance & gritting ■ Grass & hedge cutting and parks maintenance ■ Poor public toilet provision ■ Refuse collection ■ Street Lighting 	26%
6	Flooding & lack of flood prevention	15%
7	Housing Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Too much development - impact on services ■ Not enough affordable housing for locals ■ Anti social people being housed from other areas 	12%
8	Public Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Timing and stops - particularly needed at Health Centre 	9%



Photograph kindly supplied by SEPA



OUR COMMUNITY NOW

We have summarised below some of the information from the COMMUNITY PROFILE.

COMMUNITY PROFILE 2007

Location

Callander is an important small town in the National Park. It is located on a major north south trunk road 16 miles north west of Stirling, approximately 45 miles from Glasgow and just over 50 miles from the centre of Edinburgh. It is the largest settlement and one of the main entries to Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.

Population

Over the last 40 years the population of Callander has steadily increased from 1,725 in 1971 to 3,383 in 2001 and growth has continued since the Census was undertaken in 2001. The proportion of people aged 65 and over is higher in Callander than both the National Park as a whole and Scotland.

Housing

The number of houses had grown to over 1,400 in 2001 and we currently estimate we have around 1,800. Now the town's growth is restricted by its geographical position and lack of suitable land to build on. However a new development is currently planned for the Tannochbrae site and there are outline plans for a further development of 50 units in Stirling Road.

The amount of social rented housing (19%) is greater than in the National Park (14%) but considerably lower than Scotland's 28%.

Employment & The Local Economy

McLaren High School, the Leisure Centre and Campbell's Shortbread factory are the largest employers in Callander. Tourism - through retail, hospitality and other services - is extremely important to Callander.

Education

McLaren High School is the only high school in the National Park and is currently undergoing significant extension and refurbishment. It is attended by just under 700 pupils drawn from an extremely wide catchment area.

The Primary School is the largest of 14 schools within the McLaren Cluster and has the only support unit for pupils with special learning needs.

Further and Adult education can be accessed at McLaren Learning Centre.



Health and Social Care

The new Medical Centre was completed in 2007 and provides a comprehensive range of primary care services. Dental service is provided independent of the Medical Centre.

Callander has 3 privately owned nursing homes, and sheltered housing is provided by Trust Housing Association. Enable and Stirling Council operate a 24 hour Support Unit.

Environment

There are numerous unique and special environmental areas around Callander:

- The Highland Boundary Fault and landscape features from the last Ice Age
- Queen Elizabeth Forest Park and other woodland areas
- Callander Meadows
- 3 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

The River Teith which flows through the centre of Callander is a special area of conservation and also has a number of streams, lochs and reservoirs. Callander and surrounding areas have frequently suffered from severe flooding in the past, and there is concern that current flood measures are insufficient.

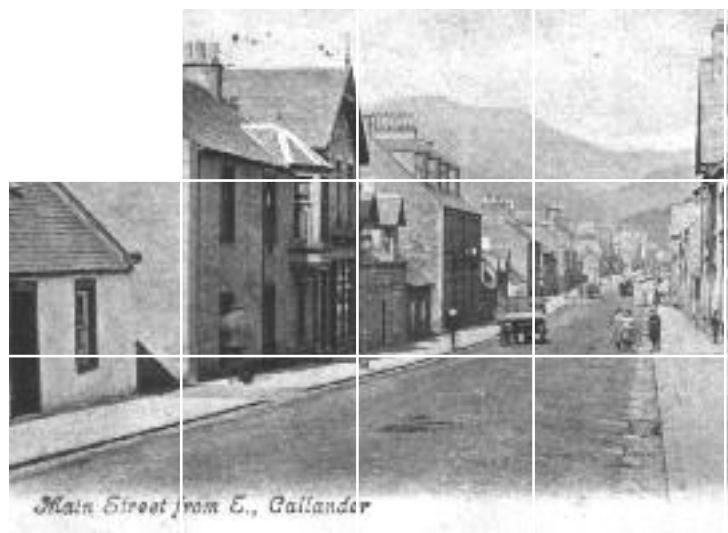
There are good paths around and through parts of the town, but no path that links the east end of the town with the schools and leisure centre.

Heritage

There are many listed buildings and historical features including St Kessog's Church in the centre of town, which is now the Rob Roy Centre and Tourist Information. Other listed buildings include:

- Callandrade
- Garthchonzie Bridge
- Kilmahog Graveyard
- Leny House including its gate piers and sundial
- Little Leny Buchanan Burial Ground
- Kilmahog Woollen Mill
- Loch Venachar Sluice House.

The Callander Heritage Group is extremely active with over 50 members.



OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF CALLANDER

CALLANDER - THE COUNTRY TOWN IN THE NATIONAL PARK

Over the next 10 years Callander will establish and enhance its role as a thriving Country Town.

It will have continued to develop as:

- an attractive market town and service centre for the Trossachs and Breadalbane areas of Stirling
- a multi functional centre with a good range of facilities and amenities for recreation, youth activities, arts and culture and adult education
- a sustainable community with good access to the outdoors and a base for exploring the wider National Park
- a centre for local business and employment

To do this it will have:

- developed an attractive town centre with a good range of small independent shops
- maintained, developed and promoted a wide range of facilities and services for locals and visitors
- preserved and enhanced the natural environment and continued to create and promote opportunities for outdoor recreation
- supported the growth of the local economy

To achieve our vision, our community - organisations, businesses and individuals - will take the lead in working together with: Stirling Council, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, Scottish Enterprise, Forestry Commission (Scotland), Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Water and Visit Scotland.



MAIN THEMES & PRIORITIES

These are the things that the community, in partnership with a range of agencies and supporters, will aim to achieve over the next few years.

THEME 1 - COUNTRY TOWN INITIATIVE

Callander is the country town in the National Park. It has an opportunity to make the most of this role. This involves giving Callander a distinctive look based on its heritage and natural assets, supporting a good range of small independent shops, making sure the town is kept tidy and attractive, and that it is easy to access both in terms of parking and public transport. The attractiveness of the town centre needs to be enhanced by activities and events that bring it to life such as the farmers market.

MAIN PRIORITIES

- Design and branding initiative
- Town enhancement initiative
- Good access into and around the Town Centre
- Farmers markets and other events

THEME 2 - MULTI PURPOSE 'CENTRE' FOR LEISURE, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Callander has most of the main ingredients to be a great all round multi purpose centre - the wet-weather centre in the National Park. The McLaren Leisure Centre, the McLaren Learning Centre, the facilities at McLaren High and the Callander Youth Project are fantastic resources. There is a need to maximise their potential and to promote their use. There is a strong community desire to develop St. Kessog's - which is right in the heart of the community in the main square - in a way that adds to and complements this existing provision.

MAIN PRIORITIES

- Collaboration and joint promotion between existing facilities and providers
- Development of St. Kessog's as a cultural, arts and community centre



THEME 3 - A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY MAKING THE MOST OF ITS NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The relationship between Callander and its natural environment is important for its sustainability and its ability to thrive. At a very practical level it needs to be able to deal with flooding issues that could adversely affect the town centre. Within and surrounding the town there are crags, rivers, woodland and open space that offer a wide range of possibilities for outdoor recreation. Callander can continue to develop its role as a great centre for further exploring the National Park whether on foot, bike, horse, by car or public transport.

MAIN PRIORITIES

- Flood water management
- Callander Environmental Enhancement Programme
- Developing and promoting access to outdoor recreation
- Encouraging a green and eco-friendly Callander

THEME 4 - GROWING AND SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Callander is an ideal centre for developing local business and a great location for inward investment. Its current office space and industrial units are all fully subscribed to, with waiting lists from new interested businesses.

Callander should maintain the momentum and work to develop new business space and provide support to develop new enterprise, as is currently being done through Callander Enterprise.

MAIN PRIORITIES

- Develop more office accommodation, industrial units and storage units for businesses
- Support new and existing local businesses

THEME 5 - ACCESS TO SERVICES

There is a need to improve access from Callander to other larger service centres and service providers e.g. in Stirling and Glasgow. There is also a need to develop access to local services such as the Health Centre and the Primary School. A more visible and responsive Police service is needed to improve community safety, particularly in the town centre.

MAIN PRIORITIES

- Improved public transport co-ordination
- Transport links to health services
- Transport and travel links to schools & colleges
- Police and community safety

THEME 6 - YOUNG AND ACTIVE IN CALLANDER

There is an opportunity and desire to build on the work already being done to make Callander a place where young people can benefit from a wide range of resources and activities and take part in community life.

MAIN PRIORITIES

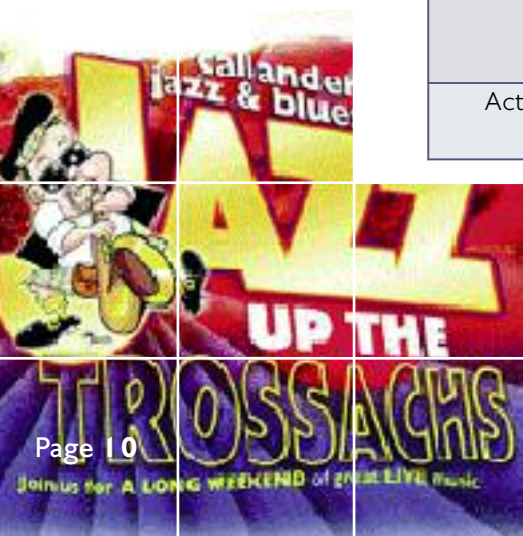
- Develop resources for young people
- Develop youth activities



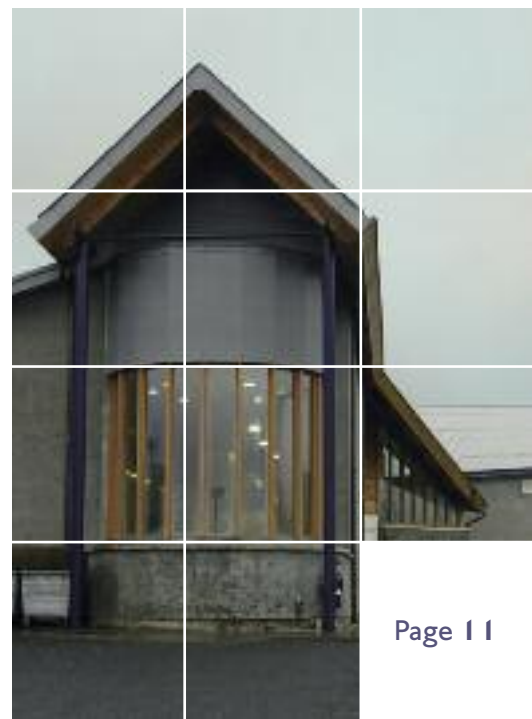
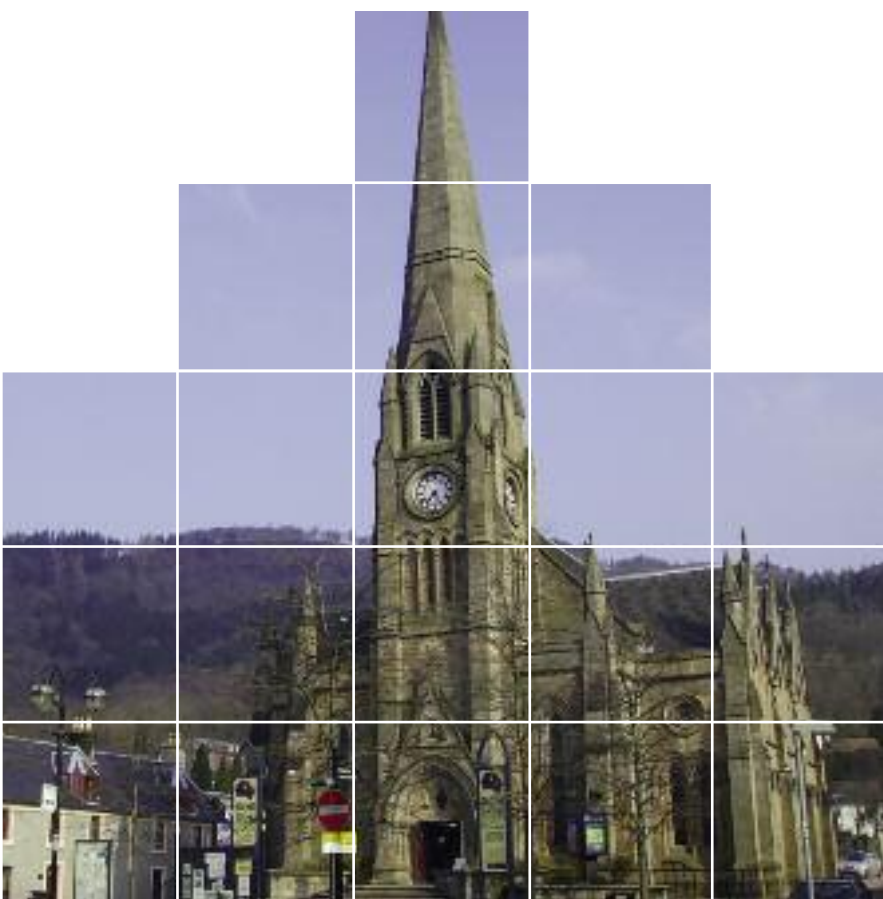
ACTION

Making progress - some of the action steps to be taken over the next 12 months:

THEME 1	COUNTRY TOWN INITIATIVE
PRIORITY 1	<p>DESIGN AND BRANDING INITIATIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work with the National Park Planning Department to establish a good practice design guide for shop premises in the Main Street (with reference to the townscape study undertaken in 2000 by Fergus McIlveen) ■ Promote the guide within the business community ■ Explore options for the creation of 'Welcome' signs for Callander that reflect our vision for the town as the Heart of the Park
Action by	Town Centre Initiative Group comprising: Community Council, Community Development Trust, Callander Enterprise, Stirling Council, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, LLTNPA
PRIORITY 2	<p>TOWN ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Organise and co-ordinate an active community led anti-litter campaign ■ Lobby for better maintenance of litter bins and street cleaning ■ Undertake an audit of all street furniture and develop in keeping with brand and design guidelines ■ Reduce or eliminate the "A" boards on the pavements
Action By	Town Centre Initiative Group, the local community & businesses, Community Youth Project, McLaren High School, Primary School
PRIORITY 3	<p>GOOD ACCESS INTO AND AROUND THE TOWN CENTRE</p> <p>Take action to improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Public transport into the town from outlying areas ■ Pedestrian access in and around the town, including disabled access and pavements ■ Parking facilities, including a review of charges
Action By	Town Centre Initiative Group, Transport co-ordinators - Stirling Council & LLTNPA
PRIORITY 4	<p>FARMERS' MARKETS, OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue to support and develop Farmers' Market ■ Develop a programme of further events and activities ■ Use "What's On" and local websites to promote events
Action By	Town Centre Initiative Group, Local organisations and events groups



THEME 2 MULTI PURPOSE 'CENTRE' FOR LEISURE, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE AND EDUCATION	
PRIORITY 1	<p>CO-ORDINATION OF EXISTING SERVICE PROVIDERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bring together existing providers to look at how Callander develops and promotes itself as a multi purpose 'centre' ■ Agree joint ways of working and promoting services and facilities
Action by	All existing service and facility providers e.g. McLaren Leisure Centre, McLaren Learning Centre, McLaren High School, Library, Tourist Information Centre, Callander Community Development Trust, Callander Enterprise
PRIORITY 2	<p>DEVELOP ST KESSOG'S AS A CULTURAL, ARTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Support the Working Group already set up ■ Hold an open meeting for the whole community to explore needs, ideas and options for use
Action by	St. Kessog's/Community Facilities Working Group (Callander Community Council, Callander Enterprise, Callander Community Development Trust, Stirling Council, LLTNPA, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley)



THEME 3 A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY MAKING THE MOST OF ITS NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	
PRIORITY 1	<p>A FLOOD PLAN FOR CALLANDER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop a Flood Plan for Callander in partnership with key agencies ■ Work to implement the plan
Action by	Community Council, SEPA, Forestry Commission, SNH, Stirling Council, LLTNPA, local landowners
PRIORITY 2	<p>CALLANDER ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prepare a report on the state of the natural environment in and around Callander (rivers, lochs, wetlands, woodlands and open space) ■ Work with relevant organisations to develop a detailed plan carrying out coordinated environmental improvement projects ■ Apply for funding to carry out the work
Action by	Callander Woodland Link, SEPA, LLTNPA, SNH, Forestry Commission Scotland, local landowners, Callander Community Development Trust
PRIORITY 3	<p>DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING ACCESS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Carry out a coordinated series of projects to improve the footpaths, cycle tracks, all abilities trails and access to the river ■ Develop signage and information around the woodlands and open spaces linked to similar schemes within the town ■ Introduce maintenance regime for the outdoor facilities
Action by	Callander Woodland Link, Callander Community Development Trust, LLTNPA, SNH, Forestry Commission Scotland, outdoor activity providers, Sustrans, local landowners
PRIORITY 4	<p>PROMOTING A GREEN AND ECO-FRIENDLY CALLANDER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establish action group to investigate how to implement 'green' practices in Callander e.g. transport, biomass, composting, solar energy generation, ground source heat. ■ Develop a strategy document
Action by	Callander Community Development Trust, Community Council, Callander Enterprise, Youth Project, Callander Kirk Green Team

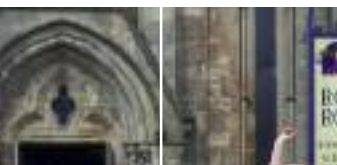


THEME 4 GROWING AND SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY	
PRIORITY 1	<p>DEVELOPMENT OF OFFICE SPACE, INDUSTRIAL UNITS AND STORAGE UNITS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Review current provision and demand ■ Identify and work closely with 'champions' for new provision ■ Undertake a feasibility study for further provision ■ Carry out feasibility study recommendations
Action by	Callander Enterprise , Stirling Enterprise (STEP), Scottish Enterprise Business Gateway, Stirling Council
PRIORITY 2	<p>SUPPORT NEW AND EXISTING LOCAL BUSINESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Support and develop the work of Callander Enterprise ■ Develop programmes of local training and mentoring, such as the Leader+ funded Rural Mentoring Scheme run by Callander Enterprise ■ Support the Women in The Trossachs Network ■ Improve access to training
Action by	Callander Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise Business Gateway, STEP, Stirling Council, LL&TTNPA



THEME 5 ACCESS TO SERVICES	
PRIORITY 1	IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Publicise information about bus services and times ■ Make recommendations and lobby for better “fit” and integration ■ Recommend and lobby for extended / new services
Action by	Community Council & Ben Ledi View, Stirling Council Transport Officer, National Park Transport Co-ordinator
PRIORITY 2	TRANSPORT LINKS WITH THE CALLANDER HEALTH CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identify needs ■ Take action to meet needs
Action by	Patient User Group, Stirling Council Social Work Services, Local transport operators
PRIORITY 3	ACCESS TO SCHOOLS & COLLEGES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Implement Primary School Travel Plan already prepared ■ Support Callander Youth Project student transport scheme
Action by	Primary School, Stirling Council , Callander Youth Project
PRIORITY 4	POLICE & COMMUNITY SAFETY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work with Community Police Officer to make service more responsive at key times
Action by	Community Council

THEME 6 YOUNG AND ACTIVE IN CALLANDER	
PRIORITY 1	DEVELOP RESOURCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop a fully equipped youth space in Callander to cater to all youth requirements in the Callander rural area ■ Develop a range of youth clubs and after school programmes that can be run from the youth space ■ Develop a volunteer programme to staff the youth space ■ Explore the possibility of setting up Street Football and Skate Park area ■ Agree location, explore what is needed, make funding application, construct and open
Action by	Callander Youth Forum, Callander Youth Project
PRIORITY 2	DEVELOP YOUTH ACTIVITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work with the Youth Forum to create a list of activities/events/trips that are wanted by local young people ■ Arrange times, dates, and costs for various activities ■ Organise funding ■ Ensure that this list is updated and publicised to all young people e.g. CYP Website, school, Ben Ledi View,
Action by	Callander Youth Forum, Callander Youth Project, McLaren High School, Primary School, Activity Providers



MAKING IT HAPPEN

Callander Community Development Trust

Callander is well prepared to take this plan forward. Callander 2000 and Beyond - our Community Development Trust - is a local community based charitable company. It brings together most of the key community organisations and a group of committed individuals as well.

There are 8 individual directors on the management committee who have been elected by and from the members and they are joined by representatives from 7 organisations - Callander Community Council, Callander Enterprise, Callander Heritage Society, Callander Youth Project, McLaren High School, Callander Woodland Link, Callander Joint Council of Churches.

Anne Docherty, Company Secretary, Callander Community Development Trust

01877 330996, anned@animals.demon.co.uk

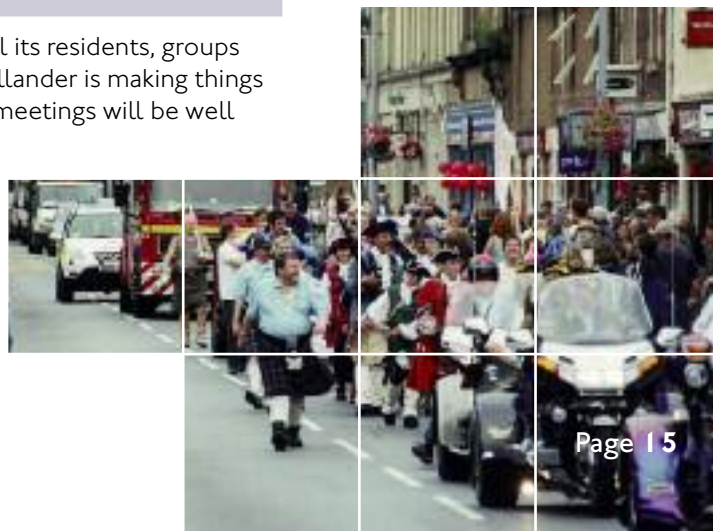
Action Groups and Lead Organisations

To make sure actions are carried out, each of the Themes will be taken forward by an action group or local lead body:

THEME	GROUP	CONTACT
Country Town Initiative	Town Centre Initiative Group	Dan McKirgan 01877 330919 07748 034672
Multi Purpose Centre	Community Facilities Working Group	Richard Johnson 01877 331020
Sustainable Community & Environmental Enhancement	Callander Environmental Action Group (led by Woodland Link)	Richard Johnson 01877 331020
	Green and Eco-Friendly Callander	David Warnock 01877 330159
Growing and Supporting the Local Economy	Callander Enterprise	Frank Park 01877 330152
Access to Services	Community Council	Cath McNab 01877 330609
Young & Active in Callander	Callander Youth Forum	Chairperson 01877 830141

Town Hall Open Meetings

Twice a year Callander will hold an open meeting for all its residents, groups and businesses to come together. We will hear how Callander is making things happen, and discuss progress and ways forward. These meetings will be well publicised and open to all.





Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Pàirc Nàiseanta Loch Lomhainn
& nan Trosachan

COMMUNITY FUTURES

PROGRAMME

COMMUNITY FUTURES PROGRAMME

Callander has been supported in the preparation of their new Community Action Plan by the National Park's Community Futures Programme.

Through the Community Futures Programme, all communities in the Park prepared their first Community Action Plans between 2001 and 2003. These Action Plans assisted communities to identify and develop their priorities for projects and actions. They also helped communities to clearly represent their main needs and aspirations and to influence the preparation of the National Park Plan.

Communities have also been assisted to develop local and area based organisations and 20 Community Development Trusts have been established as well as 4 Area Networks.

The Community Futures Programme is supporting all 21 communities in the National Park area to revise and renew their Community Action Plans.

In revising their Community Action Plans, communities are continuing to shape and influence their own development by:

- Updating facts and figures and views about their community
- Developing a clear set of priorities for their community over the next 3 - 5 years
- Ensuring that there is a strong community mandate for projects and actions
- Offering opportunities for new people to be involved and new ideas to flourish
- Enabling informed community input to the National Park Local Plan

For more information contact:

Lesley Campbell

Rural & Community Support Manager

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email: Lesley.campbell@lochlomond-trossachs.org



Community Futures Programmes of local community planning and community engagement are designed and supported by the Small Town and Rural Development Group. www.stardevelopmentgroup.org

