



Carrbridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Compiled Spring 2022

Supported by

Carrbridge Ahead

Carrbridge & Vicinity Community Council

Carrbridge Village Hall

Carrbridge Primary Parent Council

Facilitated by Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey



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I. Summary

Early in 2022, Carrbridge Ahead, together with Carrbridge & Vicinity Community Council, Carrbridge Village Hall and Carrbridge Primary Parent Council, decided that they wished to carry out a review of the community action plan for the village, which had been previously undertaken in 2016. 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 village, 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 as identified by the residents and businesses in Carrbridge in spring 2022.

With support from Voluntary Action in Badenoch & Strathspey, the community-led steering group, comprising representatives from the four 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 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 **Carrbridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030**. In previous action planning carried out by the community, the focus was on activity mostly lasting up to a 5-year span. Given the increased need now to also focus on longer-term goals, particularly in relation to the environment and the economy, the Carrbridge community were asked to consider where they and the village wanted to be by 2030, so generating, more or less, an 8 to 10-year set of plans and aspirations.

Successes from Carrbridge's previous action planning include: upgrades of the village hall (including kitchen extension) and the main play park; lobbying to secure NMU from Carrbridge to Aviemore; creation of community pump track in the village; plans to restart the Youth Club, more affordable housing for families & young people and a conclusion on the Struan Hotel site's future after many years of community petitioning.

The 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

Carrbridge village is located in the west of the scenic Cairngorms National Park and falls within the Highland Council local authority area. It has a population of just over 700 people according to the 2011 census, living in approximately 470 households.

Carrbridge's most famous landmark is the old packhorse bridge - the oldest stone bridge in the Highlands - dating from 1717 and from which the village gets its name. Carrbridge Village Hall, Carrbridge Primary School and Carrbridge Parish Church, all occupy central positions within the village and play significant roles in many aspects of life here.

The river Dulnain runs straight through the heart of the village and Carrbridge's immediate surroundings include a stunning natural landscape with many woodland trails on offer for a variety of recreational purposes.

The village is well known for playing host to two long-running and popular annual competitions: *The Golden Spurtle* World Porridge Making Championship and the *Carve Carrbridge* Scottish Open Chainsaw Carving Competition. These events offer keen but friendly competition, drawing entrants and spectators from all over the world, so putting Carrbridge firmly on the map.

Community Organisations

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

Carrbridge and Vicinity Community Council, Carrbridge Ahead, Carrbridge Village Hall, Carrbridge Primary Parent Council, Carrbridge Youth Club, Carrbridge Parish Church, Carrbridge Golf Club, Carrbridge Bowling Club, Carrbridge Bike Park.

Community Assets

Village Hall

Public Toilets

Bike Park

Playing Field

Golf Club

Riverside Bowling Club

Marie Anderson Memorial Pavilion

Curling Pond

Play Parks

Community storage facility

Local Businesses

There are a considerable number of local businesses operating out of Carrbridge and many of these are represented by Carrbridge Tourist and Business Association, again run by local volunteers carrying out commercial activity in the village. Businesses include the local garage, hotels, guest houses and B&Bs, retail and food outlets amongst others, with Landmark Forest Adventure Park, which occupies a site close to the heart of the village, bringing in a significant number of visitors to the nature-based theme park every year.

Carrbridge is an extremely active and engaged village, delivering a substantial amount of community benefit for its residents through a considerable number of activities and initiatives. It is well known for its innovative and creative activity - recognised as a thriving, high achieving community, as evidenced by well-supported community events such as the World Porridge

Championships, Carve Carrbridge and the community helpline and free-swap site during the Covid pandemic, to name but a few. People make these events happen and as a village, there is a strong sense of community and a can-do attitude to delivering projects and events, which has served them well in the past and continues to do so today.

3. The Process

The community consultation period ran from February to April 2022 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 following questions were asked by the steering group.

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 Carrbridge 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 7. 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 Carrbridge and wanted to keep in the village. They also wished to encourage the community to look to an 8 to 10-year horizon, and consider how Carrbridge 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 4 questions:

- 1) *What do you like about living in Carrbridge?*
- 2) *If you could improve one thing in Carrbridge (more if you like), what would it be?*
- 3) *What would you like to see for Carrbridge in 2030?*
(You might want to think about how as individuals, or as a village, we can improve the environment, impact of climate change, our local economy, social and leisure opportunities and Carrbridge's cultural experiences.)
- 4) *Are there any projects (large or small) that you would like to see happening in the village?*

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 pandemic.

It was decided that all 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 500 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 busy locations in the village, or from information collated at events put on for specific groups in the village. Surveys were returned from the village's primary and secondary school pupils and these responses were displayed separately to highlight the ideas and opinions of Carrbridge's young people.

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 9. 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 **Carrbridge's Big Conversation**, which took place over 3 days in March 2022 at the Village Hall. At this extended drop in event, the results were offered back to the community and time given for reflection and discussion around the topics. During the 3 days, all of the 123 residents who attended were asked to consider the top priorities that had been identified from the process under the headings of Carrbridge:

- 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 Big Conversation event were collected and incorporated into this report, which now belongs to the Carrbridge community and will be used as the basis for ongoing community development in the village over the next 10 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 Carrbridge** 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

245 individual surveys were returned both online and via hard copy, representing 35% of the village residents.

For a full list of what came out of the survey responses, see [Section 9. 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 1](#) What do you like about living in Carrbridge

[Appendix 2](#) If you could improve one thing in Carrbridge ...

[Appendix 3](#) What would you like to see for Carrbridge by 2030 (themed priorities)

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 priority activity across the 4 specified themes, itemising outcomes which are categorised in colour in the tables below for when they will be achieved: **short term (1-3 years)**, **medium to longer term (4 -10 years)**.

It is important to note that some of the project outcomes will be a “quick win” whereas others will take 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.

These 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 event and suggested actions, together with any additional information are outlined below each section.

CARRBRIDGE: A SOCIALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Priority: Flexible and accessible community meeting spaces	Priority: Increase social events and activities for all ages	Priority: Care for older residents
Community arts and leisure hub (carbon-neutral), including a community-run café and paid staff	A community-run events group delivering for all ages and activities (eg music, talks, touring artists, films etc)	Community project to support older residents at home
Multi use sports facility (like Tomatin)	Support youth work with activities and services for young people in the village	Local care home to keep families together
Gathering space for young people		

PRIORITY: FLEXIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY MEETING SPACES

Community arts and leisure hub (carbon-neutral), including a community-run café & paid staff

- Feasibility study to look at whether the village hall can be adapted for this purpose or a new ‘hub’ is required. To include costs of upgrade/build and business plan.
- Investigate whether the bowling club can become a sports hub and café
- Look at the church hall and what more it can offer the community
- Lottery and windfarm for funding

Multi use sports facility (like Tomatin)

- Site visit to Tomatin to understand their 'journey', current ongoing challenges and an evaluation of the benefits it has brought.
- To include tennis courts and skate park
- Covered outdoor space including all weather pitch
- Lottery and windfarm for funding

Gathering space for young people

PRIORITY: INCREASE SOCIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

A community-run events group delivering for all ages and activities (eg music, talks, touring artists, cinema etc)

- Discos for young people
- Teen evening held in café
- Repair Café
- Start a knitting/crafts group
- Regular board games session for older residents – Scrabble, chess etc to get people out of the house
- Gym
- Monthly ceilidh
- Wildlife appreciation – talks and support for nature activities eg putting up swift boxes, whole community involvement in Big Garden Birdwatch
- Intergenerational project to support older residents with digital technology
- Promote bowling club
- Festival of Music

Support youth work with activities and services for young people in the village

- Work with HLH Youth Work Service to develop some proactive approaches to supporting and developing youth work in the village
- More voluntary support and activity ideas needed for newly-restarted village youth club, including visits to other places
- Ensure our young people are involved in developing village projects, so they know how they happen and can contribute ideas

PRIORITY: CARE FOR OLDER RESIDENTS

Community project to support older residents at home

- Befriending project
- Service similar to community Covid help for older residents
- Community Alarm Service

Local care home to keep families together

- Carry out feasibility study into viability of local care home

- Feasibility study into provision of sheltered housing for downsizing and supported living, so avoiding need to move out of village
- Community Care Centre, based in purpose built building with carers and support workers
- Potential for local employment

CARRBRIDGE: A CLIMATE CONSCIOUS COMMUNITY

Priority: Make the most of our natural environment	Priority: Use our natural assets to develop enterprise, business and tourism opportunities	Priority: Build up our community resilience
<p>Deliver the NMU to Aviemore</p> <p>Develop NMU route through to Grantown</p> <p>Paths: improve maintenance, signage, all abilities, links to different parts of village. Develop circular path downstream from village</p>	<p>Explore harnessing renewable energy for local use (hydro/wind)</p> <p>Develop community garden, orchard, allotments</p> <p>Community-led development and use of sawmill area for commercial use</p>	<p>Develop a Carrbridge resilience plan to cope with extreme weather conditions (flood, snow, storms, fire), pandemic, road / station closures</p> <p>Implement proposed 20mph</p> <p>Community projects to support carbon reduction in our homes</p>

PRIORITY: MAKE THE MOST OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Deliver the NMU route (non-motorised users) to Aviemore

Develop NMU route through to Grantown

- A route only requires a final link from Duthil past Muckrach into Dulnain Bridge for this to be achieved

Paths: improve maintenance, signage, all abilities, links to different parts of village.

- Strategic review of signage and interpretation around village
- Create a path maintenance group and develop a path maintenance plan with costed funding – look at improving accessibility and also involve mountain bike trails association
- Repair Snakey bridge
- Develop a path network along river to east of village (potentially including river crossing for circular walk)
- Establish river bank ‘beaches’ for safe access to water
- Revisit path plans and consider a new approach to not lose all the good work
- More benches for older residents to sit
- Link riverside path to Inverness Road houses via old right of way
- Campaign to encourage local dog owners to ‘pick up’ and stop dog fouling
- Open up and improve signage along old paths behind golf course

PRIORITY: USE OUR NATURAL ASSETS TO DEVELOP ENTERPRISE, BUSINESS AND TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

Explore harnessing renewable energy for local use (hydro/wind)

- Speak with CNPA for support with possible hydro project using the Dulnain and also community wind turbines
- Buy community shares in a local windfarm / Add 1 extra Wind Turbine Generator to development next to Tom nan Clach eg Fintry ownership model, to provide income to village for further projects
- Speak with 'Big Dave' re a possible Dulnain hydro project (lives in Tomatin opposite old church, south of Telford bridge)

Develop community garden, orchard, allotments

- See how many people would like/use an allotment
- Find and acquire suitable location/land for these projects (maybe sawmill site or near playing field?)
- Set up a Growing Spaces community group to include gardeners, school, local farmers, DIY-ers
- Produce local food to sell in local shops
- Start a Gardeners' Market
- Include shared spaces for sitting and encouraging locals to stop by
- Generating skills in younger population and passing on knowledge via intergenerational project onsite
- Consider buying a community-owned woodland area also

Community-led development and use of sawmill area for commercial use

- Possible site for multi-use sports facility
- Site for solar panels for energy storage for whole village

PRIORITY: BUILD UP OUR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Develop a Carrbridge resilience plan to cope with extreme weather conditions (flood, snow, storms, fire), pandemic, road / rail station closures

- Carrbridge Resilience Plan is in the process of being drawn up by community organisations
- Installation of EV charging points at main car park
- Need a campaign advising and encouraging residents to look at noticeboards/website for current information
- Regular community litter picks – including young people
- Develop a community self-reliance programme eg basic car maintenance, cooking easy & healthy meals
- Exploit community purchase power to secure cheap deals from existing electricity/oil providers
- Introduce food waste recycling
- Install a community fridge

Implement proposed 20mph

- Traffic calming needed on Inverness Rd
- Re-evaluate yellow lines – are they in the right places
- Ensure 20mph benefits are promoted and limits are adopted by all
- Planting and pedestrian areas to help slow traffic

Community projects to support carbon reduction in our homes

- Host an Energy Efficiency event (with experts) for advice, products, installers and sources of financial support. Especially for those with older homes
- Community knowledge-share of ideas for heating/insulation of homes
- Contact Energy Saving Trust, Community Energy Scotland, CARES, Local Energy Scotland for support

CARRBRIDGE: AN ECONOMICALLY THRIVING COMMUNITY

Priority: Improve support and assistance for local businesses & people trying to get into work	Priority: Increase opportunities to attract tourism and business to the local area
Local people given affordable housing priority	Have a designated and supported site for campervans (waste, recycling and electric charging)
Lobby for more trains stopping at Carrbridge and better bus services eg later night	Community-run campsite for campers and tourers
Support for business start-ups and existing local businesses	Redevelop the Struan for community benefit
Create employment opportunities for young people (improve digital skills for employment)	

PRIORITY: IMPROVE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES & PEOPLE TRYING TO GET INTO WORK

Local people given affordable housing priority

- For local young people and also those locals who are older and downsizing.
- Need to cap 2nd homes – ask CNPA for support

Lobby for more trains stopping at Carrbridge and better bus services eg later night

- Bus stop on Inverness Road
- Frequent small electric buses linking the communities
- Megabus stop in Carrbridge
- Train and bus timetables to be better integrated, so train doesn't leave just before bus arrives
- Evening bus service to the village
- More stopping trains at Carrbridge station
- Campaign / Reasons for people to use bus and train services that are backed up by suitable timetabling

Support for business start-ups and existing local businesses

- Need to reactivate the Carrbridge Tourist & Business Association (CBTA) – to be more than just for accommodation providers
- Accommodation priority for staff working in local businesses
- Investigate sawmill site for business park

Create employment opportunities for young people (improve digital skills for employment)

PRIORITY: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTRACT TOURISM AND BUSINESS TO THE LOCAL AREA

Have a designated and supported site for campervans (waste, recycling and electric charging)

- Start with waste disposal first as priority
- When considering a site, take into account the effects of more people/domestic animals on the area
- Electric hook up less important than other facilities eg bin, water, grey and brown water waste

Community-run campsite for campers and tourers

- Explore possibility of old caravan site (disused for 40+years) or sawmill area

Redevelop the Struan for community benefit

CARRBRIDGE: A CULTURALLY VIBRANT COMMUNITY

Priority: Develop a heritage trail	Priority: Enhance Bridge area	Priority: Curling Pond area
Sculptures Interpretation Update carving trail	New stairway Create viewing platform (on garage side) Increase visibility by keeping down vegetation	Explore future of curling pond area, so it can be used for curling and/or other activity or facility

PRIORITY: DEVELOP A HERITAGE TRAIL

- Carry out an audit of what already exists in the village re sculptures and interpretation and identify what needs to be changed, updated, added to
- Update carving trail with appropriate signage - be aware of sensitivities around sculptures in people's private gardens. More carvings/sculptures along paths in village with info. Speak with Kingussie CDC for advice as they have done this.

PRIORITY: ENHANCE BRIDGE AREA

- New stairway for safety – with handles
- Create viewing platform (on garage side)
- Increase visibility by keeping down vegetation
- Tidy up the bridge area
- Ensure bridge structure is secure
- Avoid parking congestion at bridge – signage to direct visitors to car park, no parking area at bridge, pedestrianisation measures (change kerbs and surface)
- Provide access to beach area for locals/visitors

PRIORITY: CURLING POND AREA

- Work with Carrbridge Curling Club re any work/proposed changes
- Feasibility study to explore future of curling pond area, so it can be used for curling and/or other activity or facility eg skate park, tennis court
- Involve young people in decision making

7. Next Steps: Delivery

Steps to deliver the Carrbridge 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 Carrbridge's community organisations, but broadly involves **collectively**:

- Setting up a *Team Carrbridge* (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 Carrbridge

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

Team Carrbridge 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 4 organisations who initially steered the action planning process, together with other significant community organisations such as CBTA and the Youth Club.

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.

Delivering projects

A number of comments were made at Carrbridge's Big Conversation about the possibility of taking on a Development Officer for the village to help organisations and volunteers to deliver some of the priority projects. Suggestions were that this post could be funded initially (from windfarm or other community monies) but find ways to generate income for the long-term sustainability of such a post.

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 Carrbridge CAP Volunteer list is a vital part of 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 Carrbridge, 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 Carrbridge** 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.

8. Thanks & Acknowledgements

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

- * Carrbridge Ahead
- * Carrbridge & Vicinity Community Council
- * Carrbridge Village Hall
- * Carrbridge Primary Parent Council and School
- * Carrbridge Hotel (for the continuous supply of refreshments during the Big Conversation)
- * All the delivery volunteers who put surveys through every household's door
- * Margaret Paschke (for her work on the publicity for the process)

Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS), as an independent community and volunteering development charity, supported the Carrbridge 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 with all of the Cairngorms National Park communities on a regular basis at the community's request. Funding for the CAP process in these cases is provided by the Cairngorms National Park Authority.

9. Appendices

Appendix i

What do you like about living in Carrbridge?

- Friendly atmosphere & community spirit, helpful and supportive
- The pub
- The shop & post office
- Good size of village
- Easy access to the countryside
- The primary school
- The woodlands & beautiful forests / green space / forest walks /ancient forest
- Location – proximity to A9 / train links / Inverness
- Good path network for walking / cycling
- Peaceful and quiet
- All the amenities: garage, golf course, bowling club, school, village hall, play park, bike park, Landmark
- Wildlife
- Family & friends
- Events like Carve Carrbridge and Porridge Championship
- Approachable, people friendly Community Council
- Carrbridge Free Swap FB page
- Over 65's voucher was a great idea
- Plenty groups to join in
- Proximity to wild places
- Generational mixing
- Meeting locals to hear stories of past and present

Nursery & Primary pupils

Beautiful scenery / Pretty place
Nice village - everyone is kind
Woods for dog walking
Playpark
Going on bike
Landmark - dinosaurs
Tall trees
The bridge
It's quiet
Wildlife
Sledging on the golf course
Playpark
Rivers
The school & the teachers
Being part of an historic village
Shop

Secondary school pupils

Lots of good walks / green space
Bike Park
Landmark changes
Job opportunities
Public Transport
Peaceful place
Places to eat at
Good swimming in the Dulnain
Primary School
Jump park
The woods
Chance to get a job
Istanbul take away (Bossman's)
Good football pitch
Amazing bike trails
Golf course
Bike park
Accessible to the outdoors
Football pitch

Appendix ii

If you could improve one thing in Carrbridge ...

- Re-open a café/coffee shop
- Improve some village paths including wheelchair accessible and kid-friendly (Baddengorm, Snakey bridge, path parallel with old A9). Consider annual maintenance
- Housing: sheltered for older people, downsizing options, support for people with dementia so don't need to leave village/spouse/family; change legislation to support local & young people to purchase, rent and stay in the village; fewer holiday homes & 2nd homes; end to party houses
- Final resolution of Struan
- Improve public transport – linking locally and nationally including all trains to stop at Carrbridge
- Reduce speeding throughout the village (permanent 20mph in village)
- A community hub/craft space for local artisans, groups, classes, opportunity to meet other local people
- Informal weekly meeting in the village hall for coffee & a blether for all
- Realise the NMU to Aviemore
- Community orchard/allotments
- More activities for children and young people
- Better active travel infrastructure: cycle links to Speyside Way/Duthil/other villages
- Make some improvements to the Village Hall: more efficient heating and energy usage
- Sort out pavement at Kinkyle on the main road (dangerous for all)
- Install woodland features: sculptures/tree house/forest school experience
- Improve community spirit that has been affected by last 2 years
- See an end to unpleasantness and tensions in the village – more understanding
- Outdoor trim track for all to exercise
- A sport & leisure hall including showers & café
- CNPA planners to listen more to community needs
- Support independent business opportunities & high quality employment opportunities
- More communal events
- More dog mess bins at entrances of the forests
- Tennis/basketball court
- More young people involved in the Community Council and other community groups
- Community turbines as a source to heat local housing
- Recycling bins at car park
- Improve area around the bridge
- Use empty shops
- Reduce rubbish from new take away shop
- Priorities pedestrians in the heart of village
- More resilience during a time of crisis – caring for more vulnerable people
- Bigger grocery store
- Old sawmill put to better use
- More benches throughout the village to stop and rest
- Superfast broadband for enterprise and employment opportunities
- Village entrances be same as south entrance
- More hanging baskets/shrubs/roses in car park

- Better working together of agencies for benefit of the village
- Find other ways to communicate village information than Facebook (not everyone uses FB but want information)
- Disband the CC & CBA
- Get positive people involved in village projects
- Reduce amount of professional dog walkers and clean up their mess afterwards
- Make Community Council meetings more open to new/others to go. Advertise more
- A regular Buy & Sell to raise money for village projects
- Turn off village street lights from midnight till 5am to reduce power consumption and improve dark skies

Nursery & Primary pupils

Tennis Court
 Café for hot choc/cake/scones
 Rollercoaster replaced
 Bigger shop
 Ice rink
 Bike park expansion
 Trampoline park
 More/longer walks in woods
 More water slides at Landmark
 Enclosed football pitch/all-weather play area
 Less litter
 Solar panels for houses
 Bus service

Secondary school pupils

Electric charging points at car park
 ATM
 Water fountain at car park
 A9 Dualing
 Affordable housing
 Pavement in Carr Road
 Outdoor jobs/Apprenticeships
 Campsite
 Covered football pitch with flood lights
 More stuff with curling rink (ice hockey)
 Dry ski slope
 Bigger park
 Skate park
 Bike jams
 Basketball court
 Tree house/Zip-line
 Climbing wall
 Music festival every year
 Gaming & Music events – disco, live music, ceilidh

Appendix iii

What would you like to see for Carrbridge by 2030? (activity, projects, new approaches)

SOCIAL

- Cafe/bakery run by local community as social enterprise: community café with a small area for kids to play
- Vibrant community facility operated by (paid) local people for local people (with cafe, craft shop, work from home offices, hall facility, gym)
- Covered outdoor space for informal gatherings - similar to the school outdoor classroom, with benches
- New community hall: negotiate the use of field behind sports ground
- More sports facilities: flat piece of safe ground with multi use eg tennis court/basketball court - facility similar to Tomatin
- Curling rink renovated
 - Calendar of community & cultural events that can bring the community together (esp. in winter) eg bird watch, bacon roll mornings, cake sales, duck race, Carol singing, children treasure hunt/soup days (church), Friday night chip van/Hall open nights, Carve and Porridge
 - All local clubs have open/fun day, eg golf club, bowling club, curling club, stitching group - to engage people, gather and gain support
 - Continue doing bird watch/fat balls project for everyone to feel connected old and young
 - Daytime gathering social place/café. Using some of the existing village spaces, see more opportunity for community activities for all groups such as a craft space for people to gather: a place for painting, needle craft, upholstery, woodwork, music rehearsal area
 - A repair shed where people could bring in repairable items for "handy" folk in the village to fix
 - Monthly exercise & social events for elderly community
 - Ceilidh weekend / week
 - Make more use of the Bowling Club building throughout the year, possibly as a Youth Club, drop-in centre, cafe?
 - Sheltered gathering space for young people
 - More active play areas for skateboards / scooters with street furniture that bikes, board or scooters for tricks and safe play
 - Tool and resource swap / men's shed type project
 - Creation of safe and attractive picnic and play area at meeting point of several tracks in the woods in the dip alongside the Ant Carving.
 - Create an area near back Landmark car park for play equipment chosen both to blend with the setting and to be suitable for use by even the very youngest
 - Sports events or running groups
 - Open the Village Hall as Community cafe which would cater for more people, with baking. Mornings would not affect businesses.
 - An attractive hang out spot for teenagers
 - Something similar to Young at Hearts in Nethy to bring young and old together
 - Walking group at weekend

- Build an all abilities meeting area in Urquhart Brae
- Improve the play equipment at Ellanwood playpark
- Support for 'medium risk' people to install alarms
- Fenced-off dog exercise area near Landmark
- Improve the resilience of the village by developing a (whole village) Carrbridge Resilience Plan, to cope with power and communications outages, excessive stormy/snowy weather, forest fires, road closures etc

CULTURAL

- Updated Carving trail map to capitalise on the success of the Carve
- Projects being supported by villagers not torn down by people who aren't willing to volunteer or improve things for anyone
- Create cultural group to look at bringing different aspects of the arts into village and supporting all different creative people who live here
- A history trail of local landmarks & historic interests (QR codes could be scanned at certain locations which give visitors access to stories, videos, audio all about the location they are at)
- More support for the Community Council
- More cultural initiatives in the village eg interpretation near the former trekking centre in relation to the War effort and the sawmill/forestry operations there
- A history trail taking in the Old Bridge, Carrbridge Hotel, Garage, Ellan Bridge, Sluggan (Wade's Rd), include Carrbridge Ceilidh Week, the development of Landmark over the years, War Memorial, houses of historical interest, etc
- Hanging baskets
- Capercaillie Project to be given a chance
- How about a Carr-Bridge "Domesday Book" as a lasting record of who's been living in the village and some of their stories? Both to get to know one another better now, and also as a local history resource for generations to come.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Hydro-electric scheme for a village power generation scheme
- Community-wide project to support a reduction in the carbon and energy footprints of our homes and our travel
- Look at ways of getting the village off the grid
- Community to acquire the old Sawmill land for eg solar field, allotments, community composting scheme / intergenerational activity
- Wild flower planting throughout village that return each year to save cutting grass
- Community garden with seating /orchard/ the garden plan that is currently being discussed
- Community coppice project
- Food waste recycling provision/food waste service, especially now Ritchie's have a service like this
- EV Charging. Campervan/ motorhome aire (payable to support other services)
- A community eco park
- Community fridge (for sharing left over food, vegetables etc)
- Possible restart of Olio collections
- Organised car sharing system between local villages

- Assistance to improve energy efficiency of existing housing stock (insulation, advice from experts etc)
- An anti-litter campaign targeting the roadside just outside the village towards Aviemore
- Anything to do with improving the village's carbon footprint, caring and preserving natural spaces in and around the village
- Improvements to the Village Hall to make it more energy efficient. (underfloor heating)
- A community-owned renewable energy project eg a wind turbine that could generate both energy and income
- Possible shared renewable energy scheme (could the community take 'ownership' of one or two of the wind turbines going in on the Dava and benefit directly from renewable power?)
- More plants & shrubs in village to encourage wildlife
- Swap shop event promoting reduce, re-use, recycle
- Tidying of station and surrounds
- More dog mess bins

PATHS

- Circular all abilities path round village, Path improvements on most popular routes
- Completion of NMU to Aviemore
- Traffic calming/management in Carr Road to manage the increased traffic from the Tulloch development
- Repair of badly needed footpaths (Snakey bridge, section of path alongside road for Carr Plantation circuit walk)
- Keep appropriate footpath links with Ellanwood Road with safe access for children in new properties to reach playpark at Ellanwood Court without having to go back up onto Main Street

ECONOMIC

- Actively attracting medium scale enterprise to the area
- Better rationalisation and signposting of publicised walking tracks, using easily recognised symbols rather than colour coding, which fades, is hard to make out in low lighting and is difficult for anyone with any degree of colour blindness
- Priority given to preservation of the woodland and marshland around the village for its amenity, conservation and carbon-storage value, over commercial forestry priorities. Choose minimum thinning and forestry management practices over wholesale clear felling
- Small industrial units
- Empty shops being used
- See if a monthly or quarterly farmers market is a viable option
- Campervan waste disposal facility
- A village-run cafe or farmers market in the summer
- Regular craft fair
- Building project with young people
- Skills building for young people to prepare them to seek local employment
- Windfarm money to support people struggling financially
- Use of the car park for outdoor refreshments

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Affordable/Accessible housing for young people
- Redevelopment of Struan Hotel
- 20-speed limit implemented, other speed reduction measures
- Lobby for more trains and better bus services
- Better toilet facilities (eg Drumnadrochit community run)
- Area around Bridge really improved - visibility -cutting back some of the foliage - new stairway and viewing gallery
- Repair or fix fence at Bowling green & bike park
- Move War memorial to village car park
- A new car park
- Solve problem of one remaining stretch of narrow pavement on the Main Street, just south of the Church. (under the impression that this was to have been addressed by some form of traffic calming scheme as a condition of the permission for the new housing development south of Crannich Park?)

Nursery and Primary pupils

- Somewhere to meet up/watch TV
- Gym
- Library
- Paths on Carr Road
- Tennis Court/basketball court
- Astroturf
- Bike hire/electric bike hire

Secondary school pupils

- Day trips for teenagers
- Zipline
- Youth Club
- Skate park
- Better pavements
- Free Housing
- More sporting events – table tennis/curling
- More things in village hall – ceilidhs, other music