



Newtonmore Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Compiled Spring 2022

Supported by

Newtonmore & Vicinity Community Council

Newtonmore Business Association

Newtonmore Village Hall

Newtonmore Primary Parent Council

Newtonmore Community Woodland & Development Trust

St Bride's Parish Church

Newtonmore Golf Club

Facilitated by Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey



Contents

1. Summary	3
2. The Community	4
3. The Process	6
4. Community Engagement	8
5. Survey Responses	9
6. Action Plan – what the community wants	10
7. Next Steps	16
8. Thanks	18
9. Appendices	19
i. What do you like about living in Newtonmore?	
ii. If you could improve one thing in Newtonmore ...	
iii. What would you like to see for Newtonmore by 2030? (activity, projects, new approaches)	

I. Summary

In early spring 2022, Newtonmore & Vicinity Community Council, together with Newtonmore Business Association, Newtonmore Village Hall, Newtonmore Primary Parent Council, Newtonmore Community Woodland & Development Trust, St Bride's Parish Church and Newtonmore Golf Club, decided that they wished to carry out a review of the community action plan for the village, which had been previously undertaken in 2013. 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 of Newtonmore in spring 2022.

With support from Voluntary Action in Badenoch & Strathspey, the community-led steering group, comprising representatives from the seven 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 **Newtonmore 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 Newtonmore 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 Newtonmore's previous action planning include:

1. Village square development comprising of shinty stick benches & interpretation installations, plus improvements to hall frontage area
2. Upgrade of village hall including repainting plus new roof, windows and electrics
3. Start on improvements to village website
4. Extended social media offering
5. Better marketing of village to visitors
6. Start on refurbishing play park
7. Upgraded pathway to war memorial
8. Improved high street with more shops open
9. Improved wildcat experience, through revitalisation of Wildcat Centre & re-signage of trail
10. Upgrade to tennis courts with greater usage
11. Enhanced shinty facilities
12. Installation of truck stop sign on A9

To help add to these achievements, residents were encouraged to take part in Newtonmore's action plan review in 2022. However, this time round people were invited to think not only about what might be achieved together, but that the projects the village was being asked to consider would be ones that would help Newtonmore develop a more sustainable future.

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

The village of Newtonmore 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 1100 people according to the 2011 census, living in approximately 700 households.

Newtonmore is at the very heart of the Scottish Highlands and is renowned for its fund-raising for good causes and willingness to help itself. Newtonmore Village Hall, Newtonmore Primary School (Gaelic Medium), Newtonmore Community Woodland & Development Trust (Wildcat Centre), Newtonmore Golf Club, Newtonmore Camanachd Club, Clan Macpherson Museum and St Bride's Parish Church, all occupy prominent physical locations within the village and play significant roles in many aspects of life here, as does the Newtonmore Business Association.

The rivers Spey, Calder and Allt Laraidh all run through Newtonmore and the immediate surroundings include a stunning natural landscape with many woodland trails on offer for a variety of recreational purposes. Newtonmore calls itself the 'Walking Centre of Scotland', referring both to its geographical location and to the great walking opportunities locally, like the East Highland Way and community Wildcat Trail. An extension to the Speyside Way has added Newtonmore to the Long Distance Route and the village has now become the new start to this well-used trail.

Newtonmore is a very active and engaged village, delivering a substantial amount of community benefit for its residents through a considerable number of activities and initiatives. This is well demonstrated by the recent additions to the village square, celebrating the sport of shinty, the Speyside Way extension and Newtonmore's other rich heritage through sculpture, water and natural stone. These fantastic enhancements, together with an impressive array of interpretation boards, were all designed and delivered by Newtonmore's community organisations.

The village is also well known for being the location of the highly acclaimed Highland Folk Museum, which draws in many thousands of visitors each year during its opening season.

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:

Newtonmore and Vicinity Community Council, Newtonmore Business Association, Newtonmore Village Hall, Newtonmore Primary Parent Council, Newtonmore Community Woodland & Development Trust, St Bride's Parish Church, Newtonmore Golf Club, Newtonmore Camanachd Club and the Winter Lights & 100 Club.

Community Assets

Village Hall

Centenary Gardens

War Memorial

Public Toilets

An Eilan shinty grounds and pavilion

Wildcat Centre

School Playing Field

Golf Club

Bowling Club

Play Park

Tennis Courts

Local Businesses

There are a considerable number of local businesses operating out of Newtonmore and many of these are represented by Newtonmore Business Association, an organisation run by local volunteers and representing commercial activity in the village.

Newtonmore is a working village and businesses include the local garage, hotels, guest houses and B&Bs, retail and food outlets. In addition to these, the community is home to Russwood - a major wood processor employing around 50 people, the food processor Simpsons Game, drink processor Stag's Breath, caterers The Lunch Box Boys, as well as Smiths Upholstery. A number of builders, joiners and heavy plant companies, together with farmers, crofters, people employed on estates and carrying out other kinds of environmental work and artisan industries make up the working heart of this community.

Newtonmore is also a tourist destination and is the location for the Clan Macpherson Museum and the Highland Folk Museum, which occupies a site close to the heart of the village, bringing in a significant number of visitors to the cultural heritage-based park every year.

It should also be noted that the village emerged as leaders (after Ullapool) in a survey of self-employment levels in nearly 500 towns, cities and suburbs, carried out by the Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland in 2017 and that high level of entrepreneurial spirit has not changed in the years since, even during the Covid pandemic.

So there is a lot going for Newtonmore, this picturesque Highland village of just 1100 people.

3. The Process

The Newtonmore 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 Newtonmore 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 Newtonmore 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 Newtonmore 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 Newtonmore?*
- 2) *If you could improve one thing in Newtonmore (more if you like), what would it be?*
- 3) *What would you like to see for Newtonmore by 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 Newtonmore'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 750 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 Newtonmore'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 **Newtonmore's Big Conversation**, which took place over 3 days in April 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 72 residents who attended were asked to consider the top priorities that had been identified from the process under the headings of Newtonmore:

- 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 Newtonmore 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 Newtonmore** 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

151 individual surveys were returned both online and via hard copy.

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 Newtonmore

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

[Appendix 3](#) What would you like to see for Newtonmore 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.

NEWTONMORE: A SOCIALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Priority: Improve place & activity for Newtonmore’s young people	Priority: Flexible and modern community meeting space	Priority: Increase social events and activities for all ages
<p>Create gathering space (indoor & outdoor) for young people to socialise, be safe and carry out leisure activity</p> <p>Youth Club</p> <p>After school activities eg bike maintenance, climbing wall</p> <p>Play park: Clune Terrace</p> <p>Pump track/Skate ramps</p> <p>Upgrade to school playing field</p>	<p>Refurbish village hall, to upgrade facilities & increase its potential use</p> <p>Strengthen hall board to carry out required improvements</p>	<p>A community-run group delivering leisure activities & events for all ages and activities eg music, fitness, talks, ceilidhs, films, classes, bingo ...</p>

PRIORITY: IMPROVE PLACE & ACTIVITY FOR NEWTONMORE’S YOUNG PEOPLE

Create gathering space (indoor and outdoor) for young people to socialise, be safe and carry out leisure activity

- Bring under 25s together with existing community group reps to explore what is needed and how a place/space can be created to meet the needs. Work together to understand any constraints and opportunities – co-design the project and involve young people in the planning including timetable of activities and search for funding
- Develop area behind shinty ground for other sports/activities eg bike park, pump track, skate park
- Investigate appetite and volunteer support for a Youth Club

After school activities eg bike maintenance, climbing wall

- Look into occasional rental of a portable climbing wall or putting one on outside of a community building
- Repurpose the 'rusty shed' into a messy arts space for community

Play park: Clune Terrace

- Support for group to upgrade this facility – perhaps work with new community trust

Upgrade to school playing field

- This needs to be prioritised as has been talked about for a long time
- Perhaps look at an outdoor gym here for children and adults

PRIORITY: FLEXIBLE AND MODERN COMMUNITY MEETING SPACE

Refurbish village hall, to upgrade facilities & increase its potential use

- Hold a facilitated public meeting to ask the village what they want from their hall specifically, what the options are re facilities and activities, look at costing and who will help
- Identify all refurbishments needed and plan for upgrade and funding requirements over a 3-year period
- Look at marketing the hall for weddings etc, to bring in more revenue and opportunities for increased profitability
- Establish a regular maintenance plan – see other B&S halls for guidance
- Make more use of outdoor meeting space behind hall
- Ensure hall website page is up to date, so people can find out who to contact for booking, pricing structure and maybe availability of space via an online Hall calendar (see Boat of Garten)

Strengthen hall board to carry out required improvements

- From meeting above, recruit new (young) volunteers to help take development and activity forward
- Look at how hall is managed on a day to day basis and explore any ideas for better support

PRIORITY: INCREASE SOCIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

A community-run group delivering leisure activities & events for all ages and activities eg music, fitness, talks, ceilidhs, films, classes, bingo ...

- See hall session above – prioritise activities and WHO will do them, could come from this
- Musical activities, fitness, cinema, seniors club, family dances, after school club all highlighted in Big Conversation comments
- Local befriending scheme for people and families

NEWTONMORE: 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>Active Travel: safer cycling routes around and near village</p> <p>Ducks crossing sign near Highland Folk Museum</p> <p>Paths: improve to make fully accessible</p> <p>Planting in and around village: fruit & other trees, hedges, wild flowers</p>	<p>Develop allotments, community growing space, community orchard</p> <p>Community owned woodland</p> <p>Explore harnessing renewable energy for local income generation (hydro/wind)</p>	<p>Set up climate change group to support community action and support for households</p> <p>More EV charging points</p> <p>Food share/community fridge project & food waste share scheme</p> <p>More recycling: bins in Main Street, food recycling at home</p> <p>Regular (monthly) community litter picks</p>

PRIORITY: MAKE THE MOST OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Active Travel: safer cycling routes around and near village

- A 'greenway' cycle route around village – for all abilities
- Would be good to try and join up the cycle paths
- Cycle path to Laggan

Ducks crossing sign near Highland Folk Museum

- Put appropriate sign up

Paths: improve to make fully accessible

- Paths for wheelchair and pram users
- Fully accessible not realistic

Planting in and around village: fruit & other trees, hedges, wild flowers

- Plant a wildflower meadow – work with a local landowner?
- Keep grazing sheep on golf course = great place for wildflowers eg orchids
- Look into a natural burial site for the area
- Ref Sue Thomas's wildflower blog and pamphlet – make more available

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

Develop allotments, community growing space, community orchard

- Consider developing a community-owned orchard
- See how many people would like/use an allotment and explore possible sites with Highland Council
- Use existing polytunnel at Calder Bridge for community use
- A community veg garden to grow and sell produce to local people

Community owned woodland

- Develop a community owned woodland for recreation and education purposes

Explore harnessing renewable energy for local income generation (hydro/wind)

- Speak with CNPA for support with possible hydro project using the Calder or Allt Lارايدh and also community wind turbines
- Buy community shares in a local windfarm / add an extra Wind Turbine Generator to a development eg Fintry ownership model, to provide income to village for further projects

PRIORITY: BUILD UP OUR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Set up climate change group to support community action and support for households

- Eco car share scheme
- 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
- Significant improvement in public transport so people use cars less – residents and tourists

More EV charging points

- Installation of EV charging points at main car park (good for local cafes and shops as people wait for car to charge)

Food share/community fridge project & food waste share scheme

- Install a community fridge
- Set up a food bank in Newtonmore

More recycling: bins in Main Street, food recycling at home

- Lobby for food waste recycling at home
- Lobby for recycling bins in Main Street

Regular (monthly) community litter picks

- Regular community litter picks – including young people. Get an interested group of volunteers to organise. Maybe link in with a local event eg before a shinty match?
- Litter picking tools can now be borrowed from Wildcat Centre

NEWTONMORE: 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	Explore potential for community owned energy company
Support for business start-ups and existing local businesses	Improve signage of local attractions including village entrances
Improve internet speed through lobbying / project to achieve fibre to all premises eg community partnership with Open Reach	Have a designated and supported site for campervans (waste, recycling and electric charging)
	Larger campsite for campers and tourers

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
- More social housing for young people and families
- Restricting holiday accommodation for tourists won't create more affordable homes – more housing is required
- Need to cap 2nd homes or increase taxes – ask CNPA for support
- Need to keep balance between welcoming those with holiday homes and having accommodation for key workers in tourism sector
- Incentivise priority treatment for local/young/low-income tenants, so 2nd homers have a reason to take them instead

Support for business start-ups and existing local businesses

- More training / apprenticeship opportunities for young people and those out of work

Improve internet speed through lobbying / project to achieve fibre to all premises eg community partnership with Open Reach

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

Explore potential for community owned energy company

Improve signage of local attractions including village entrances

- Welcome signs to the village – make a statement
- Vibrant signs with Gaelic name and maybe flower pots for a positive village feel

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

Larger campsite for campers and tourers

- Include Electric hook up and other facilities eg bin, water, grey and brown water waste

NEWTONMORE: A CULTURALLY VIBRANT COMMUNITY

Priority: Set up a Community Trust	Priority: Wildcat Centre & Trail	Priority: Improve Centenary Gardens
<p>Bring together representation from all community groups to work together for whole of community</p> <p>Deliver projects and generate income for community development</p>	<p>Long-term maintenance of Trail</p> <p>Ensure sustainability of Centre</p> <p>Improve Trail pathways to increase accessibility</p>	<p>Landscape gardens behind village hall to provide pathways, planting and disabled access</p>

PRIORITY: SET UP A COMMUNITY TRUST

Bring together representation from all community groups to work together for whole of community

- Hold initial meeting for village to agree set up and invite people/organisation reps to sit on trust
- Bring community assets together in one place

Deliver projects and generate income for community development

- Consider some long-term legacy projects eg a hydro scheme or community ownership of wind turbines

PRIORITY: WILDCAT CENTRE & TRAIL

Long-term maintenance of Trail

- Explore ways to include bikes on trails without impacting on pedestrian access

Ensure sustainability of Centre

- Look at ways of developing more/different income streams
- Work with new community trust to try and reduce costs
- Up to date publication/leaflet to show which cats to look out for

Improve Trail pathways to increase accessibility

- Fix the Allt Laraidh section
- Work with landowners to try and extend the access period
- Invest in more/better signage and easier to read maps
- Show where dog bins are on trail map

PRIORITY: IMPROVE CENTENARY GARDENS

Landscape gardens behind village hall to provide pathways, planting and disabled access

- Improve the roadway down and renew pathways to picnic tables

- Better signage to gardens and picnic area
- Add in an accessible sensory garden
- Volunteers to maintain plants
- Ensure THC cut the grass and empty bins regularly
- Set aside a maintenance slush fund

7. Next Steps: Delivery

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

- Setting up a *Team Newtonmore* (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 Newtonmore

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

Team Newtonmore 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 7 organisations who initially steered the action planning process, together with any other significant community organisations.

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 Newtonmore 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 Newtonmore, 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 Newtonmore* 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:

- * Newtonmore & Vicinity Community Council
- * Newtonmore Business Association
- * Newtonmore Village Hall
- * Newtonmore Primary Parent Council and School
- * Newtonmore Community Woodland Development Trust
- * St Bride's Parish Church
- * Newtonmore Golf Club
- * Newtonmore Coop (for the supply of refreshments during the Big Conversation)
- * All the delivery volunteers who put surveys through every household's door
- * The Iona Gallery (for loan of display stands for the Big Conversation)

Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS), as an independent community and volunteering development charity, supported the Newtonmore 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 Newtonmore?

- Community spirit & friendly people
- The beautiful setting, surrounds, scenery & landscape, fresh air
- Peace & quiet
- Good facilities: Coop, PO, tradesmen, places to eat, fish van, pharmacy, petrol station, cafes
- Wide range of outdoor activities around area: shinty, golf, tennis, bowling, swimming spots
- Easy access to other places via train and road
- Good walking and cycling
- Lovely village life – it's home
- Good school, including the Gaelic medium
- Shinty is at the heart and soul of Newtonmore
- Wildlife
- Community initiatives (winter lights)
- Relatively crime free
- Wildcat Trail
- Safe for kids to play independently
- Community Initiatives – winter lights
- Rivers: Calder, Spey, Allt Laraidh
- Ducks crossing on main road
- Not too touristy
- Lovely drinking water
- Excellent GP service
- Local groups welcoming to new people
- Young people are polite
- Clan McPherson & Folk museum employ local people
- Co-operation in activities & groups

Nursery & Primary pupils

- We like our school & the kind people
- We have mountains around us
- I like that it's nice and peaceful
- There is good air and water
- Love the Folk Park
- Near Loch Insh
- Swimming pool at Balavil
- Wildcat Centre and Trail
- We feel safe
- Friends
- Looking forward to new park
- Places to walk / fresh air
- There are lots of parks & things to do
- It's calm and beautiful
- You're close to the hills to climb
- Everybody in the school is nice
- Good places to play like the Bank
- Good for shinty

- Lots of sport to get involved in
- Hotels for visitors
- Nature / scenery
- Mehmood's
- The Eilan & playing field

Secondary pupils & Under 25s

- The community feeling to the village and friendly people
- Nature, space and the great outdoors
- The peaceful location
- Easy access to Glen Banchor
- The rivers and wildlife
- The shops, especially the charity shop
- Walking the dog
- Having a handy Coop!
- Surrounding nature and abundance of places to enjoy outdoor activities
- Golf

Appendix ii

If you could improve one thing in Newtonmore ...

- Encourage a more vibrant, attractive Main Street: more shops, flowers, places to eat, local produce shop, local charity shop, re-route HGVs to use Coffin Road onto A9, manage Main Street congestion in the summer time
- Improve transport links: buses to Inverness & Perth, reinstate public transport link to Fort William, keep bus timetable up to date, community bus to take people to Aviemore, fix potholes, consider people without cars and their isolation
- Affordable housing: for single people, young people, families, fewer 2nd homes & Airbnb's. (could there be a postcode restriction on house buyers?). Greater rented housing availability for young local people
- Walking: improve footpaths to make walking more accessible for all, more walks around village outwith the golf course, public access to folk park woods for walking, dog walking
- Improve pavements on Craighdu Road & Church Terrace, paths around Loch Imrich, pavement between Glen Road & Balavil Brae, the Old Glen Road - it's a great asset, less parking on pavements
- Cycling: better connections of cycle routes
- Improve anti-littering mentality in village: litter bins on path to Kingussie, introduce voluntary litter picks, bins & notices for dog poo
- 20mph throughout the village & other speeding measures / flashing speeding lights
- Greater use of the village hall and improve its environs
- Upgrade play park at Clune Terrace: replace fences and make safer (dogs off leads)
- More activities for children, teenagers & adults including non-sport related
- Re-route Wildcat trail from top of Calder Path north towards Allt Laraidh (link to Kingussie) / liaise with local people and maintain the Wildcat Experience, including surface path at golf course section (much loved by locals & visitors)
- New and large playing field / football pitch for all ages / all-weather pitch
- A modern Village Hall for gatherings, groups, social events – a community hub for all
- Improve the quality of Internet / Wi-Fi
- Make the bus stop near Coop bigger, more shelter/ cover for school bus stops
- Sign posts at the village entrances to have more information
- Public toilets – to be maintained / managed / better sign posted / accessible similar to Kingussie
- STOP wide paths on our mountain in Glen Banchor
- Expansion of Badenoch App to include more walks in Newtonmore area eg Shepherd's Bridge, routes up Craig Dhu
- Improve playing field at the school. A good all weather surface with some form of flood lighting would be ideal for a number of sports eg five-a-side football and hockey. Could be used in the evenings by other clubs.
- Emergency phone numbers for crofters made available in public places in case walkers/visitors see injured animals or other such emergencies
- Link road Allt Laraidh
- Fix winter lights
- A seat outside Mains House
- Work with Pitmain Estate re storm damage to trees in Calder Gorge & deal with trees on paths
- Put up a duck road sign where ducks usually cross from the duck pond
- Dog friendly open spaces

- Set up a Squirrel Highway on Laggan Road
- Downhill single track mountain bike trail
- Remove temporary heras fencing which has been left at building site
- Replace stiles for gates
- More people involved in community wide activities
- Appreciate if farmers maintain their fences
- Allotments
- EV charging points required
- Direct link from village to Folk Museum
- Get rid of big rusty shed on Clune Terrace Brae
- Remove sheep from grazing on the golf course
- Safety on bridge with the traffic lights

Nursery & Primary pupils

- More tree planting and flowers
- More shops: Tesco & McDonalds, sweet shop, clothes, chippy, art gallery, pet and toy shop
- Bigger pool with slides and teachers
- More bins with recycling options
- Football pitch
- Sports centre
- Improve the road – too many potholes
- Charging stations for cars
- More solar panels
- Bookshop
- Visiting vet
- Library (library van)
- Scouts, boys brigade, cubs
- More activities for girls
- More signs saying 'pick up your dog's poo & dog poo bins
- Bigger Post Office
- Complete fountain project

Secondary pupils & Under 25s

- Add a duck road sign to the road where the ducks usually cross from the duck pond
- Activities and parks around the village
- Surface the Wildcat Trail, especially the path down the golf course section
- New and larger playing field for all ages
- A gym and a larger swimming pool
- Better play parks (even maintain current ones better)
- An all-weather multi sports pitch
- Downhill single track mountain bike trail
- Affordable housing and better phone coverage for the village
- More shops
- Football pitch

Appendix iii

What would you like to see for Newtonmore by 2030?

(activity, projects, new approaches)

SOCIAL

- More social events in hall or other community hub: crafting, quiz, ceilidhs, markets, cinema, drama, cheese & wine, winter talks, gym & fitness class, yoga, Zumba, bingo night, cooking classes, spiritual church, badminton, family activities, book club (help to reduce travel)
- Refurbish the village hall (kitchen, hot water, toilets) and increase its use (support BC, need bigger team)
- After school activities beyond sport for both boys and girls
- Venue for teenagers to meet and socialise / climbing wall, community bike maintenance / start a youth club
- Upgrade the play park at Clune Terrace
- Create somewhere for young people to gather together outdoors and interact with each other and wider community
- Safe space for pump track or skate ramps
- Tackle speeding on Main Street (signs, cameras, speed bumps) and Church Terrace
- Upgrade school playing field
- Improve the website
- Large swimming pool
- New larger football pitch/ playing field
- Dog OWNER training and dog exercise area
- More help for the elderly residents
- Fri/Sat evening bus service to and from Inverness
- Canopy over tennis court
- Create a major sized play park to encourage people to stop in Newtonmore
- Share resources of village activities incl. fundraising in Golf, shinty and bowling
- Rugby Posts
- Start a Parkrun
- Indoor bowling facility
- Area around The Eilan to include recreation area
- Organisations to maximise participation & use of facilities for different purposes
- Community projects that will involve young people
- Connect Church Terrace to Main Street with a tarred footway
- Community log cutting scheme: logs for those on restricted incomes
- Outings to Pitlochry & Inverness Theatre

CULTURAL

- Set up a Community Trust with representation from all community groups to allow us to work together and raise funds for community projects (similar to other communities in B&S)
- Maintenance of Wildcat Trail including installation of kissing gates instead of stiles
- Markets at village hall to tie in with Highland Games or New Year celebration
- Improve Centenary Gardens – pathways, planting and disabled access
- Gaelic Choir
- Light show instead of fireworks at Am Fasgadh or woods
- Ensure a good succession of shinty players

- Support ongoing development of Badenoch Heritage, Highland Folk Museum, Clan MacPherson Museum & traditional music
- Install a semi-floating wildlife 'island' in Loch Imrich for nesting birds & create an all abilities improved access and path around it
- Encourage Gaelic in and out of school
- Proper switching on of winter lights, include a market event, carol singing to bring community together
- Digitisation of the Badenoch Record 1900 – 1960
- Professional research of St Brides Chapel and Banchor graveyard including archaeology
- Increase range of creative & performing arts for both visitors and residents inc evening events
- Revive plans to brighten Main Street with drawings & Illustrations on some buildings / gable ends
- Start Easter Parade again

ENVIRONMENTAL

- EV charging points
- Community owned woodland
- Planting in and around village: fruit trees in wild spaces, trees, hedges, wild flowers
- Allotments / community space for growing / community orchard
- Safe cycling around the village / linking with Kingussie, NC7, improve southern entrance, Loch Gynack, Glen Banchor, cycle path to Laggan
- A duck sign for ducks crossing the road by the woods at the Folk Park
- Food waste recycling
- Improve and make some walking trails fully accessible
- Recycling bins in Main Street
- Organise monthly litter picks – last Sunday per month
- Eco-friendly train & bus service
- Community-owned power generation scheme
- Improve the triangle in front of Mains House with flowers & benches
- Future proofing for houses with alternative heating supplies away from fossil fuels / home insulation measures
- More seating / benches around the village
- Set up Climate Change group for community action and support for households
- Food share & community fridge / food waste share scheme
- New sewage system
- Locally sourced food in cafes & restaurants
- Reduction of street lighting to save electricity
- Solar panels on the hall roof may make it more affordable to run and more pleasant to be in
- Improve drainage on narrow part of Main Street which impacts on the pavements during winter (freezing water)
- Promote eco-tourism
- Encourage bio-diversity in and around the village
- Remove fallen trees at Folk Museum
- Increase number of dog poo bins eg at Am Fasgadh
- Fix potholes especially Old Glen Road, Cemetery Road
- Properly functioning eco-friendly public or community transport scheme
- Open woodland in the Folk Park all year round
- Maintain bridge at Newtonmore entrance
- Unlock gates on paths & rights of way (1st cattle grid on road to Shepherd's bridge)
- Compost toilets at the top of Glen Road car park

- Create proper defined path from Biallid or Glenballoch, west to Cluny and Laggan
- Improve North entrance of the village: request to homeowners to prune vegetation growth encroaching onto pavements / rights of way
- Better access to Creag Dhu
- Upgrade Station Rd down to Industrial Estate
- Upgrade Banchor Graveyard road to car park

ECONOMIC

- Affordable housing for local people including young families, fewer air B&Bs / accommodation for working families / correct the imbalance between available housing for locals vs visitors
- Community to generate income for community development
- Improve internet speed - investigate community partnership with Open Reach for full fibre
- Explore community energy company
- Improve tourist signage of local attractions including village entrances
- Main Street improve parking (no yellow lines). Calming measures on Main Street to 20mph
- Encourage pop up shops on Main Street
- Extension of 30mph zone (out Perth Rd & Aultaire Bridge in Kingussie)
- Cycle hire inc electric bikes
- Invest in non-commercial infrastructure for tourists
- Engage with local estates to initiate 'mind set' change for community & estate benefit
- Better facilities for motorhomes eg a community led motorhome certified location (Aire)
- Decent sized camp site
- Greater partnership working with Kingussie to promote the area for tourism
- New road signs
- Improve golf course

Nursery & Primary pupils

- A skate park
- Big swing park
- 11 a-side football pitch
- Youth Club
- Wild gardens - flower, shrubs for insects, wildlife, birds, fruit garden, a maze
- Toy shop
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Litter picks
- A puppy play pen
- A fenced dog park
- Climbing wall
- Music festival
- Covering for the Tennis Court (to play over winter)

Secondary pupils & Under 25s

- Day trips for teenagers
- After Covid probably more social events in the hall like cakes, crafts, etc.
- Football pitch
- Improve golf course

- A duck sign for where the ducks cross the road all the time. (by the woods of the Folk Park)
- A gym or workout centre
- Surface the wildcat trail, especially the path down the golf course section
- New and larger playing field for all ages
- A gym and a larger swimming pool
- Team sports for all ages
- More social & leisure opportunities as a community, as well as leisure activities if possible
- A few more Scottish Cup wins
- A good source of young enthusiastic shinty players
- A proper/modern/updated play park for children, and a fully enclosed space dog exercise space
- Affordable housing – I don't know of any
- Grow my own food
- Skate park or pump track