An aerial photograph of the Ballachulish village in Scotland, nestled in a valley. The foreground shows a blue loch with several sailboats. The middle ground is dominated by the village, with numerous white-walled houses and a church spire. The background features rugged, brownish mountains under a clear blue sky, with some snow patches on the higher peaks.

BALLACHULISH

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

2016 – 2021

BALLACHULISH COMMUNITY FORUM

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INTRODUCTION

173
COMMUNITY
VIEWS SURVEY
FORMS WERE
RETURNED
FROM OUR **340**
HOUSES

24 STAKEHOLDER
MEETINGS AND
INTERVIEWS WERE
HELD

OVER **200** PEOPLE
ATTENDED THE
COMMUNITY FUTURES
EVENT

BALLACHULISH COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

This Community Action Plan summarises community views about:

- Ballachulish now
- the vision for the future of Ballachulish
- the issues that matter most to the community
- our priorities for projects and action.

The plan will be our guide for what we - as a community - try to make happen over the next 5 years.

WORKING TOGETHER

The preparation of the plan has been organised by the Ballachulish Community Forum – a grouping of local organisations led by the Ballachulish Community Council and Ballachulish Community Association (SCIO). We have been supported in carrying out the work by the Small Town and Rural Development Group.

This plan will help us to develop our joint priority projects and make representation on behalf of the community on the issues that matter most to our residents, organisations and local businesses.

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

The Action Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement carried out over a six month period from November 2015 to April 2016.

The process involved:

- stakeholder interviews and meetings - with community organisations, schools, service providers, local businesses and public agencies;
- carrying out a community views survey of all households;
- preparing a community profile detailing facts and figures about the community;
- organising a Community Futures Event.

**THANKS TO
EVERYONE WHO
TOOK PART!**

OUR COMMUNITY NOW

We have summarised below the main facts and figures from the Community Profile and some of the views from the Community Views Survey. Full copies of these reports are available from the steering group on request.



BALLACHULISH COMMUNITY PROFILE 2016 SUMMARY

LOCATION

Ballachulish Community Council area includes Ballachulish village and Glenachulish and the cottages at Lettermore. Ballachulish village lies just off the A82 about 1 mile north of Glencoe Village and on the south side of Loch Leven. It is in the South Lochaber area of Highland Council.

POPULATION

There are now around 820 people living in the area – significantly up from 760 in the 2011 Census. The Census showed that the population is relatively older than the profile for Highland Council or Scotland and with proportionately less people of a working age.

HOUSING

- In total there are 370 houses with around 31 of those listed as holiday or second homes.
- There is a relatively high waiting list for social housing compared with other communities in South Lochaber with the largest demand being for 1 bedroom houses.
- 12.9% of the households are occupied by one person of 75 or over compared with 7.7% for Highland and 7.7% for Scotland.

LOCAL ECONOMY

Features of the local economy include:

- High rates of economic activity, part time work and self employment compared

with Highland Council area and Scotland

- Some large local employers including Abbeyfield, Geo-Rope Ltd, Isles of Glencoe Hotel, The Coop, and Chisholms.
- A relatively high percentage of people working or studying from home (18.9%) compared to (14.9%) for the Highlands and 11.3% for Scotland.
- High levels of employment in accommodation and food service activities (16.3%) in Ballachulish compared to Highland (9.1%) and Scotland (6.3%)
- There is a useful list of local businesses on the Community Council website <http://www.ballachulish.org.uk/see-do/local-information>

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

- Ballachulish Primary School and Nursery
- Kinlochleven High School
- West Highland College Learning Centre (in the Kinlochleven Campus)

HEALTH AND CARE

Facilities and Services include:

- Ballachulish Medical Centre
- Community Nurses
- Hospital and Acute services in Fort William and Inverness
- Abbeyfield residential care home – which also provides day care and sheltered housing and a lunch club
- Lochaber Care and Repair
- Car Scheme available for people with transport problems
- Step it Up Health Walks from Ballachulish TIC twice a week.

COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL

Community Facilities

- Ballachulish Village Hall, Church Hall, Shinty Pavilion, Primary School
- The village hall is the main community facility for more details visit: <http://www.ballachulish.co.uk/>

Churches

- St. John's Episcopal Church, St. Mun's Catholic Church, St. Munda's Church of Scotland

Community Groups

- Ballachulish Community Council, Ballachulish Community Company, Ballachulish Community Association SCIO, Ballachulish Patient Participation Group, Lochaber Car Scheme
- Ballachulish Camanachd Association (Shinty Club), Ballachulish Football Club, South Lochaber Bowmen, Glencoe Boat Club, Ballachulish Playparks Committee, Walking Group, Ballachulish Golf Club
- 4th Lochaber Scouts (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts), Playgroup (0 – preschool), Ballachulish Primary School PTA
- Scottish Country Dancing and other fitness and leisure activities.



Business Groups

- Discover Glencoe
- There is also a list of outdoor activity providers on the Community Council website <http://www.ballachulish.org.uk/see-do/local-activities/>

Parks and Play Areas

- Jubilee Park Shinty Pitch, Jubilee Play Park, West End Play Park, and other play areas at the school and Isles of Glencoe Hotel.

Community Events

- Fireworks – special event in the Quarry
- Christmas Market and Christmas Parties
- Lantern Making and Lantern Parade at New Year
- Boat Club Regatta
- Duck Race and Craft Fair
- Autumn Festival planned for 2016 by Discover Glencoe

ENVIRONMENT

Designated sites

- Ben Nevis and Glencoe National Scenic Area (NSA); Carnach Wood (SSSI); St John's Wood (SSSI); The Glen Etive and Glen Fyne Special Protected Area; Lochaber Geopark (the Quarry is included within this wider Geopark area).

Paths and Access

There are a number of local walks and cycle paths in the area. The main ones are recognised as core paths for Ballachulish and Glencoe and include St. John's – Glenachulish, Ballachulish Quarry, Ballachulish Quarry

– Brecklet, Visitor Centre – Harbour and the Eilean Munde viewpoint, Albert Road – Harbour, Kentallen – Ballachulish Bridge.

Local Munros

There are two Munros directly accessible from Glenachulish – Sgorr Dhearg and Sgorr Dhonuill. In addition all the hills of Glencoe and Glen Etive are within easy reach of the community making it a great destination for hill climbers.

Forestry and Hydro Schemes

Forest Enterprise own Brecklet and Glenachulish forests - commercial forests planted around 50 years ago and which will be harvested over the next 25 years. Rivers in both forests offer opportunities for Hydro Schemes – one is being developed by Green Highland Renewables in Glenachulish, while the Ballachulish Community Company is developing proposals for a Hydro Scheme in Brecklet Forest on the River Laroch.

Flora and Fauna

Wildlife includes Eagles, Otters, Deer, Pine Martens, Red Squirrels, Wild Goats, Minke Whales, Dolphins, Porpoises and Seals.

HERITAGE

Quarries and slate

The quarries at Ballachulish are a very large part of the history of our village and community. Slate was first commercially quarried here in 1693 (the year after the Glencoe Massacre) with work continuing until the quarries finally closed in 1955. The Quarries, Boat Sheds and Arch are physical reminders of these times – as are the harbours and headlands which were shaped using surplus slate from the quarries.

Trains, Ferries and The Bridge

The history of the community is also closely linked with transport. For centuries ferries crossed the Ballachulish narrows before the Bridge was built in 1975. The railway arrived in 1903 to serve the quarries and provide a connection to Oban and the Central Belt. The railway closed - as so many did - in 1966.

Burial Islands

Eilean Munde (St Munda's or St. Munn's Island) in Loch Leven is the burial place of the MacDonald clan of Glencoe. The island burial place was also shared by the Camerons of Callart, the Stewarts of Ballachulish and Appin and other local families.

Ballachulish Timeline

There is an excellent timeline tracing the history of Ballachulish through the ages on the Community Council's website <http://www.ballachulish.org.uk/ballachulish-timeline/>

OUR COMMUNITY NOW: LIKES



COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY

Community spirit and community activities	74%
Scenery and access to the outdoors	70%
Character of village	57%
Local amenities	44%
Location	43%
Community Events	19%
Access to Services	18%
Village Environment	12%



WHAT PEOPLE SAID:

- "We love the community feeling and friendliness"
- "The community getting together to look after the quarry, fireworks, Christmas lights, and village appearance and hydro scheme"
- "The range of after school activities available for primary school"
- "Plenty of activities for the fit and healthy e.g. walking, zumba, country dancing, shinty"
- "The great freedom our children have to grow up in the village"
- "Situated in one of the most scenic and stunning locations in the world"
- "Access for walking, cycling, and kayaking"
- "I like the walks – Brecklet, Quarry, Shore and Point."
- "Proximity to outdoor facilities – skiing, sailing, climbing, mountain biking"
- "The quarry is magnificent"
- "It's a peaceful village, not too busy, not too quiet"
- "It feels safe for kids"
- "It has a rich history of slate mining"
- "We are lucky to have good amenities for such a small village"
- "Good tourism activity providers to get people out on the loch and hills"
- "The hall is brilliant, a fantastic space to rent for special occasions and is affordable"
- "The availability of larger towns/cities without too much bother, then return to peace and quiet"
- "Local events such as fireworks displays and New Year festivities are outstanding"
- "Abbeyfield Centre gives the village a positive balance, with elderly looked after in a quality environment"
- "Appreciate the good school and services"
- "It is an energetic community council"
- "Active churches"
- "Lots of effort has gone towards improving the village and keeping it tidy"



OUR COMMUNITY NOW: DISLIKES



COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY

Lack of indoor facilities, activities, events, and hospitality	49%
Village Environment	43%
Access to Services	30%
Parking, traffic, roads	17%
Housing	16%
Antisocial behaviour & loss of community spirit	8%

WHAT PEOPLE SAID:

- Lack of indoor sports facility – gym sports hall”
- “Lack of cultural events in the Hall in the evening”
- “Not much activities in the evening, have to travel for exercise classes”
- “There is a serious lack of youth activities or hangouts”
- “No real outdoor space with a place to shelter for young people”
- “Lack of knowing what’s on and where. No central, accessible updated point”
- “Village is overgrown now with scrub, random trees, bushes – this extends out of the village obliterating views of the loch”
- “Footpath by the river towards the underpass is eroding and getting very unsafe”.
- “Should be better wheelchair and buggy access to the quarry”
- “Invasive weeds choking natural vegetation”
- “Old shop on West Laroch is an eyesore”
- “Annoyed that the historic boat sheds have been left to rot”
- “Bus timetables confusing”
- “Poor transport links to Oban”
- “Absence of recycling depot”
- “School building is outdated and no longer fit for purpose”
- “RBS closing down was a vital service especially for our elderly population”
- “Mobile phone signal is often poor” “Slow wifi connection”
- “The lack of an evening surgery at Medical Centre”
- “Ballachulish roads are flooded when heavy rain falls – drains need lifted in Croft Road”
- “Speeding at playpark area” “Speeding traffic along Albert Road”
- “Lack of pavements around swing park/West Laroch and bottom end of the village and School Brae”
- “Hardly any affordable housing for first time buyers and if by chance there are, they are often bought up and used for holiday homes”
- “Lack of local authority housing and when houses do come up a lot don’t go to locals”
- “Not enough smaller council houses to allow single people and older couples to move into and free up 2/3 bed houses for families”
- “Lack of housing for young people”
- “Not enough police patrols”

BALLACHULISH 2025 OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

This statement has been prepared using local residents and organisations answers to the question - how would you like to imagine Ballachulish in 2025?

A community that has influence over its natural resources – rivers, forests, lochs and open spaces – and is able to make best use of them for the community's sustainable future.

A place that has made the most of its heritage – celebrating, interpreting, bringing it alive – to give the community a strong sense of place and contribute to tourism and the local economy.

A social, economic and service hub for South Lochaber – known for the quality and diversity of its local businesses, services and hospitality.

A community with affordable housing and a good mix of tenure and type of housing so we can encourage a balanced community of all ages and stages in life.



A place that has made the most of the outdoor environment – for residents and tourists alike (activities for young people, local walks, cycling, mountain biking, sailing, kayaking and fishing)

A characterful village – clean, green and attractive, safe, peaceful and lively!



MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving over the next 5 years in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.



THEME 1: COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

The village hall has been improved over the last few years and its potential as a community hub is beginning to be realised. However it could be improved further with a full catering kitchen, more storage space and a variety of room sizes. This was a top priority for many people so that there could be more activities and functions in the community. Demand for more activities often focused on the needs of young people but there was also recognition that there was not enough for the older residents in Ballachulish. People were keen to see a rekindling of arts and cultural activities as well as maintaining and developing community events.

The community also identified a need to develop outdoor facilities – with a desire to see play areas improved and improvements to the Shinty Pitch and pavilion.

Main priorities:

- Develop the village hall
- Activities and facilities for young people
- Activities and services for older people
- Improve play and sports areas
- More community events and arts and cultural activities



THEME 2: ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Ballachulish is well placed at the gateway to Glen Coe and beside Loch Leven to capitalise on its natural assets. There was seen to be a real opportunity to make the most of local forests, rivers, lochs, and hills to develop visitor activities and help build a sustainable community. There is the potential to develop and promote a local paths network in and around the community, as well as mountain bike trails in Brecklet Forest. The loch and waterfront was also thought to be underutilised with greater scope for promoting sailing, kayaking, fishing and other water sports and providing facilities to encourage use by locals and visitors.

There is also the unique industrial heritage of slate quarrying as well as other older tales to highlight and celebrate.

Main priorities:

- Develop and promote local heritage
- Develop and promote a local paths network and mountain biking trails
- Make more of the loch and waterfront
- Develop community involvement in local forests
- Make the most of the National Scenic Area

THEME 3: ACCESS TO SERVICES AND TRANSPORT

Ballachulish has a great primary school but its location means it is difficult to access safely on foot or by car. In general there is concern about speeding traffic in and around the community and a need for traffic calming with some arguing for a 20mph limit throughout the village.

It is hoped that a new school for the wider area might soon be built and that it will be in or close to Ballachulish. It would be good if a new school might also include 'wrap around' childcare as there was thought to be a shortage of childcare in the community.

Ballachulish is fortunate to have a good Medical Centre and related services and an Abbeyfield Care Home but these services need protected and developed. Plans for a defibrillator and a First Response service should be supported. The community is keen to maintain and improve links to hospitals in Fort William and Inverness. There is a desire to maintain a General Rural Hospital in Fort William

Improvements to public transport that people would like to see included the need for better integration of bus and train times – to improve connections to Inverness (e.g. for Raigmore Hospital) and to Glasgow.

Main priorities:

- Improve access to the existing primary school and make plans for a new school
- Protect and improve health and care services
- Improve roads and traffic
- Improve transport
- Develop childcare opportunities

THEME 4: LOCAL ECONOMY AND TOURISM

The community is working to develop its own Hydro Scheme and this has broad support locally as it is seen as creating a local income stream for community initiatives.

In general many felt that Ballachulish was well located to be a hub for the wider South Lochaber area and wanted to take measures that would help develop this potential. Part of its role as a hub is to be able to offer employment and it was thought that it was important to support existing businesses and encourage new businesses by providing the right infrastructure and services.

It was widely recognised that Ballachulish had a lot to offer visitors with its location between mountains and lochs and with its interesting history of slate quarrying – Theme 2 above explores what is needed to make the most of the local environment and heritage assets – and doing so will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the local economy.

Main priorities:

- Develop the Hydro Scheme
- Develop Ballachulish as an area hub for communities and visitors
- Support existing businesses and encourage new businesses
- Continue to roll out and improve super fast broadband and introduce public wi-fi
- Make the most of the environment and heritage (see Theme 2)

THEME 5: HOUSING AND VILLAGE ENHANCEMENT

There is a strong desire to see more low cost housing to rent and purchase for people wanting to live and work in Ballachulish. Lack of small affordable housing can mean that people are often unable to take or keep jobs in the community or to downsize when they would like.

High fuel costs also make it important to look at ways of improving energy efficiency of existing properties. In general the community would like to do more to become 'greener' – developing local produce through community allotments and developing better facilities for recycling.

The community is keen to continue to enhance the village. This would include looking at ways of improving and making best use of open spaces in and around the village e.g. managing scrub land and developing allotments and spaces for informal recreation.

Main priorities:

- Develop more affordable housing
- Improve existing housing stock
- Develop Open Spaces – community allotments
- Better recycling facilities
- Village enhancement



A guide to the first steps to be taken

ACTION

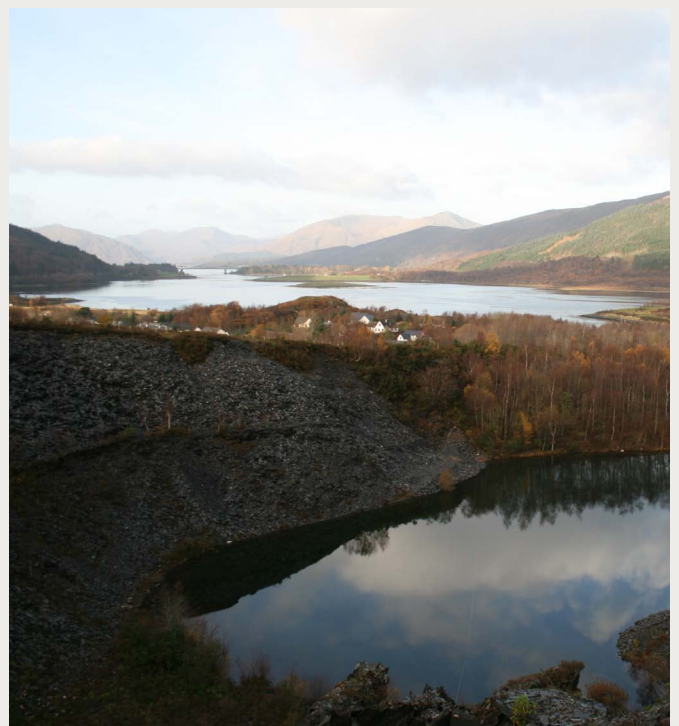


THEME 1: COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Priority	<p>Develop the village hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission a feasibility study to look at developing the hall to cater for more activities and functions. • Seek funding for the further improvement of the hall.
Action by	<i>Ballachulish Community Association (BCA) working with local hospitality sector and other community groups.</i>
Priority	<p>Activities and facilities for young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local young people to identify and develop their priorities for facilities and activities in Ballachulish • Support the Boat Club to establish sailing lessons again • Help Scouts establish Explorer Group • Explore potential to re-establish 2 Lochs Youth Club
Action by	<i>BCA, Highlife, Churches, Boat Club, Scouts, Buzz Bus</i>
Priority	<p>Activities and services for older people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at potential to establish a Befriending Group for older vulnerable people in Ballachulish – particularly those living on their own • Work with older people to establish additional activities and facilities in Ballachulish
Action by	<i>BCA, Ballachulish Community Council (BCC), Abbeyfield</i>
Priority	<p>Improve play and sports areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and repair existing facilities in play parks • Investigate the potential to develop a skate board park • Reinstate old Donkey Track for bikes • Support the improvement of the Shinty Pitch and Pavilion.
Action by	<i>Play Park Committee, Shinty Club, Isles of Glencoe Hotel, Schools, parents and children</i>
Priority	<p>More community events and arts and cultural activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support existing local events • Support Discover Glencoe's initiative for an Autumn Festival • Look at opportunities for more arts and cultural activities and events in Ballachulish
Action by	<i>BCA, BCC, Highlife, West Highland College, Discover Glencoe and others</i>

THEME 2: ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Priority	<p>Develop and promote local heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish local heritage group to develop proposals for enhancing and promoting local heritage. • This should include looking at making more of a feature of the Quarry and developing a Heritage Museum. • Other aspects should also be considered e.g. Heritage Trail around the village
Action by	<i>Ballachulish Community Council, Ballachulish Community Company, Ballachulish Community Association – perhaps through establishing a joint Ballachulish Heritage Action Group?</i>
Priority	<p>Develop and promote a local paths network and mountain biking trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research how other communities have developed and promoted their paths networks and mountain bike trails • Aim to establish, sign and promote a local paths network • Work with Forestry Enterprise to develop mountain bike trails through local forests
Action by	<i>Establish new Ballachulish Environmental Group which would also focus on village enhancement, developing open spaces, allotments etc. working with BCC, Forest Enterprise, National Trust, local landowners, Highland Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise</i>
Priority	<p>Make more of the loch and waterfront</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the potential for developing more facilities e.g. pontoons, moorings, on shore services, that would encourage visitors interested in water based activities. • Develop and support proposals.
Action by	<i>Boat Club, Ballachulish Community Company, Ballachulish Community Association, local landowners, local activity providers and hotels, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Highland Council</i>
Priority	<p>Develop community involvement in local forests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make representation on the future management and use of the forests around Ballachulish and encourage development which would benefit the community e.g. land for recreation, housing and work.
Action by	<i>Ballachulish Community Council, Ballachulish Community Company, Ballachulish Community Association, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highland Council</i>
Priority	<p>Make the most of the National Scenic Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with other communities to develop an action plan for the NSA.
Action by	<i>Ballachulish Community Council</i>



THEME 3: ACCESS TO SERVICES AND TRANSPORT

Priority	<p>Improved access to existing Primary School and plans for a new school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Primary School’s Travel Plan proposals, improve access up School Brae; improve Bridge over the River Laroch; try to address the issue of the old derelict shop • Lobby for any future new primary school to be located in or near to Ballachulish and identify potential suitable site.
Action by	<i>Ballachulish Primary School, Highland Council, Ballachulish Community Council</i>
Priority	<p>Protect and improve health and care services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support proposals for a First Response team and Defibrillators for Ballachulish • Protect care and health services available through Abbeyfield • Explore the potential for an evening surgery at the Medical Centre • Look at the need for a new custom built building for the Medical Centre • Continue to lobby for Rural General Hospital Services to be retained in Fort William • Make sure public transport improvements help with access to any new hospital in the Fort William area, and Raigmore in Inverness.
Action by	<i>Ballachulish Community Council, Ballachulish Medical Centre, Scottish Ambulance Service, Abbeyfield, Highland Council, NHS Highland, South Lochaber Partnership</i>
Priority	<p>Improve roads and traffic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate how traffic calming measures could make the village safer e.g. 20 mph speed limits – and implement proposals • Support and encourage proposals for the continued upgrade of the A82
Action by	<i>Highland Council, Ballachulish Community Council, Transport Scotland, BEAR</i>
Priority	<p>Improve transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to lobby for more integrated public transport that would link local buses to Fort William with onward travel by rail or bus. • Ask for the deployment of smaller buses on local services. • Consider options for alternative services e.g. dial a bus.
Action by	<i>HItrans, Bus operators, Ballachulish Community Council, Highland Council</i>
Priority	<p>Develop childcare opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate need for childcare - perhaps including other nearby communities. • Look at the opportunity for including childcare provision in plans for any new school
Action by	<i>Local parents and carers, Highland Council, Ballachulish Community Council, Primary School, PTA</i>



THEME 4: LOCAL ECONOMY & TOURISM

Priority	<p>Develop the Hydro Scheme(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop and support the community hydro scheme on the River Laroch • Secure shared community ownership in the other local Hydro Scheme being developed by Green Highland Renewables.
Action by	<i>Ballachulish Community Company, Forestry Enterprise, Green Highland Renewables.</i>
Priority	<p>Develop Ballachulish as a hub for the area for local communities and visitors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop working partnerships between community groups, businesses and service providers to identify and agree projects that will contribute to Ballachulish becoming more of a hub for locals and visitors. • Ideas already suggested include public wi-fi, improved signage, entrance features, improved parking, improved toilets, noticeboards, developing a Walkers Welcome initiative. • Joint and individual work to implement the agreed proposals.
Action by	<i>Local businesses, Discover Glencoe, Ballachulish Community Council, Ballachulish Community Association, Highland Council, Forest Enterprise Scotland, National Trust etc</i>
Priority	<p>Support existing businesses and encourage new businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and support opportunities for expansion of existing local businesses • Explore the potential to develop workspace/IT facilities for existing and new businesses • Work with tourism businesses (hospitality and activity providers) and support plans for development to grow and extend tourism potential in and around Ballachulish
Action by	<i>Local businesses, Ballachulish Community Council, Discover Glencoe, Highland Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise</i>
Priority	<p>Continue to improve telecommunications</p> <p>Continue to upgrade superfast broadband, introduce public wi-fi, and improve mobile phone signals – all important for supporting tourism and the local economy and Ballachulish’s role as a hub for residents, businesses and visitors.</p>
Action by	<i>BT, Highland Council, Scottish Government, other telecommunication providers</i>
Priority	<p>Make the most of the environment and heritage (see Theme 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take action to implement the Environmental and Heritage priorities in this Action Plan so that these assets benefit the local economy.



THEME 5: HOUSING AND VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

Priority	<p>Develop more affordable housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make representation to Highland Council to ensure there are areas for housing in the Local Development Plan • Carry out a local housing needs survey • Work with Highland Council and Housing Associations to identify and develop sites • Make representation to Forest Enterprise to create a forest crofts initiative or similar on Forestry land
Action by	<i>Ballachulish Community Council, Highland Council, Lochaber Housing Association, Forest Enterprise Scotland, Highland Small Communities Housing Trust</i>
Priority	<p>Improve existing housing stock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Highland Council and Lochaber Housing Association to continue to upgrade housing stock with emphasis on energy efficiency and introducing renewable energy systems.
Action by	<i>Ballachulish Community Council, Highland Council, Lochaber Housing Association, Lochaber Environmental Group</i>
Priority	<p>Develop Open Spaces – community allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify open spaces that could be improved and work with local land owners to agree their use for community benefit • Research how other communities have established allotments, eco parks, informal recreation areas • Design proposals for use (e.g. commission design and feasibility studies). • Raise funds to carry out improvements
Action by	<i>Ballachulish Community Council, Ballachulish Community Association, Ballachulish Community Company – through the formation of a new Environmental Action Group – and working with private landowners, primary school etc.</i>
Priority	<p>Better recycling facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and lobby for proposals for improving recycling facilities • Work with partners to implement proposal
Action by	<i>Ballachulish Community Council, Highland Council, Lochaber Environmental Group.</i>
Priority	<p>Village enhancement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue good work to improve the village and make it look attractive • Investigate and implement ways of reducing invasive species • Look at ways of managing scrub land in and around the village.
Action by	<i>Ballachulish Community Council and other local groups through the proposed new Environmental Action Group</i>



BALLACHULISH COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2016 – 2021

This Community Action Plan sets out the vision, main themes and priorities for the development of Ballachulish over the next 5 years as determined by the community through an extensive process of community engagement carried out over a six month period from November 2015 – April 2016

The priorities in this action plan will be taken forward by our local community groups working with a range of public, private and third sector partners.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Funding for the preparation of this Action Plan was provided by the Forestry Commission, Big Lottery and a number of local groups.

Ballachulish Community Forum was supported in carrying out the community engagement work and preparing this Community Action Plan by the Small Town and Rural Development Group.

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Telephone: 01855 811540

You can also contact us at Ballachulish Village Hall, East Pier Road, Ballachulish, PH49 4LE

This Community Action Plan is also available online at
<http://www.ballachulish.org.uk/our-community/community-action-plan/>



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