



Laggan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Compiled Autumn 2022

Supported by

Laggan Community Council

Laggan Forest Trust

Laggan Community Housing Ltd

Laggan Village Hall

Laggan Heritage

Facilitated by Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey



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I. Summary

In autumn 2022, Laggan Community Council, together with Laggan Forest Trust, Laggan Community Housing Ltd, Laggan Village Hall and Laggan Heritage, decided that they wished to carry out a review of the community action plan for the village, which had been previously undertaken in 2019. 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, identified as priorities by the residents and businesses of Laggan during the process in autumn 2022.

With support from Voluntary Action in Badenoch & Strathspey, the community-led steering group, comprising representation from the organisations listed above, agreed that they would seek the views of local residents 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 some targeted groups that were identified as being harder to get accurate/quality information from. This was undertaken by members of the steering group going out with the survey questions to places and events where it was considered that individuals or groups falling into this category might be approached.

The process was entitled **Laggan 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 Laggan 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.

Examples of **Laggan's recent successes** with community projects and action planning include:

1. New play park
2. Paths development
3. Affordable Housing
4. Keeping village clean, well maintained and attractive
5. Community Broadband initiative
6. Public Toilets still open
7. Helping Hands scheme
8. Laggan Matters newsletter
9. Improved communications through increase in community social media sites
10. Local Heritage Boards
11. Monument improvements

To help add to these achievements, residents were encouraged to take part in Laggan'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 Laggan develop a more sustainable future. This is set against a backdrop of life post-Covid, the challenge of finding new volunteers plus the changing economic and climate situation we find ourselves in.

Laggan community is also in the fortunate position of receiving some Community Benefit funds from SSE as a result of the Stronelairg Wind Farm development. Access to that fund and how it is used for future community sustainability is an essential component for any ongoing discussions the community has with SSE, as well as how the fund is managed in forthcoming years. The survey outcomes will underpin a way forward by providing the appropriate mandate.

The Laggan community action planning process adhered to the National Standards for Community Engagement to ensure all of the following elements were fully taken into account during the community-led initiative:

Impact, Communication, Methods, Working together, Planning, Support and Inclusion.

See [Section 4. Community Engagement](#) for further details on the 7 Standards.

2. The Community

The village of Laggan lies at the heart of the Parish of Laggan on the upper reaches of the River Spey, one of Scotland's finest fishing rivers and approximately 10 miles from its source. It is located in the south west of the scenic Cairngorms National Park and falls within the Highland Council local authority area. It has a population of just over 320 people, living in approximately 100 households.

Laggan Village Hall, Laggan Wolftrax bike trails, centre and café, Laggan Community Housing, Laggan Playpark, Laggan Coffee Bothy, Laggan Pottery Coffee shop & Bunkhouse, GP Surgery and Laggan Parish Church, all occupy prominent physical locations within the community and play significant roles in many aspects of life here.

Over the years Laggan has always been a very active and engaged community, delivering a substantial community benefit for its residents through a considerable number of activities and initiatives. This is clearly demonstrated through the existence of a successful community broadband scheme, 6 community-owned houses, its fine village hall, the community forestry trust, a well-equipped children's play park, accessible paths and trails, numerous interpretation boards, regular community newsletter and socially-supporting helping hands scheme. It also boasts Laggan Heritage, which helps celebrate the significant history, archaeology and rich culture of the area: the '45' and General Wade's road through the Corrieyairack Pass; the ancient Pictish Fort at Dun Da Lamh (a scheduled monument site); piping; Gaelic language; song; poetry and dance.

Laggan's landscape is additionally well known for providing the stunning set for numerous TV and Film locations in recent years, which in itself attracts many visitors each season who wish

to take part in film tourism. Notable ‘Laggan’ productions include Monarch of the Glen which centred on the iconic Ardverikie House and Loch Laggan, The Crown and the latest James Bond film - No Time to Die.

The village and surrounding area is an ideal spot to truly appreciate the spectacular countryside of this part of the Central Highlands of Scotland. There are cycling trails and walking trails for all skill levels and abilities and the agricultural and forest landscape has abundant wildlife such as red deer, golden eagle, osprey, pine marten and red squirrels, all of which can be found in the area along with meadows of wild flowers and wading birds.

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:

Laggan Community Council, Laggan Village Hall, Laggan Forest Trust, Laggan Community Housing Ltd, Laggan Heritage, Laggan Parish Church, Laggan Matters (newsletter), Laggan Helping Hands and the dedicated small group who keep the village looking attractive for residents and visitors.

Sadly, at the time of compiling this report, Gergask Primary School which serves the whole of Laggan community, has recently closed its doors and been mothballed by Highland Council until further notice.

Community Assets

Village Hall

Community Housing

Wolftrax Centre and café

Picnic Site

Play Park

War Memorial

Public Toilets

Interpretation Panels

Local Businesses

There are a number of local businesses operating out of Laggan, although currently there is no functioning Business Association to represent the commercial activity in the village.

Laggan businesses include hotel and self-catering accommodation, gift and food outlets. A number of tradespeople, 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.

In addition to all of these, the community will also soon be home to a new distillery.

Laggan is also a visitor destination, as mentioned previously, due to it being firmly on the film tourism map, as well as being a great base for touring the area’s many other attractions. It additionally lies at the eastern end of the East Highland Way, long distance footpath.

So there is a lot to appreciate about Laggan, this picturesque Highland village of 320 people.

3. The Process

The Laggan community consultation period ran from September to November 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 Laggan 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 Laggan 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 Laggan might tackle some of the trickier issues such as care for the environment, supporting younger and older residents, employability and transport. So questions were employed which were broadly framed, to allow responders to bring up a wide range of issues and ideas without being led.

The paper version covered just two sides of A4 and the survey asked 3 questions:

- 1) *What do you like about living in Laggan?*
- 2) *What changes would you like to see for Laggan by 2030?*
(Perhaps consider how as individuals, or as a community, we can improve the environment, address the climate emergency, develop our local economy, increase social and leisure opportunities and widen local cultural experiences)
If you could improve just ONE of these things, what would it be?
- 3) *Are there any new projects (large or small) that you would like to see happening in the community? Or any existing projects that need to be sustained?*

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 120 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 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 secondary school pupils and these responses highlighted the ideas and opinions of Laggan'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 3 main themes: Social, Environmental and Economic 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 **Laggan's Big Conversation**, which took place over 3 days in November 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 residents who attended were asked to consider the top priorities that had been identified from the process under the headings of Laggan:

- A Socially Connected Community
- A Climate Conscious Community
- An Economically Thriving 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 Laggan 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 Laggan** for the purposes of this report).

4. Community Engagement

The National Standards for Community Engagement are good-practice principles designed to improve and guide the process of community engagement.

They are clear principles that describe the main elements of effective community engagement. They provide detailed performance statements that everyone involved can use to achieve the highest quality results and the greatest impact.

The standards are particularly helpful for communities - their organisations and groups - to help them involve their members or the wider community in shaping the services and changes they need, and to make sure they accurately represent members' or the community's views in the decision-making processes.



5. Survey Responses

Thanks go to the 87 residents and householders in the Laggan area who contributed so meaningfully and thoughtfully to the community survey – this number represents nearly 27% of the Laggan (parish-wide) community population. Also to the 30+ people who attended the Big Conversation drop-in events at the village hall.

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 i](#) What do you like about living in Laggan

[Appendix ii](#) What changes would you like to see for Laggan by 2030?

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 activity across the 3 specified themes:

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

itemising priority outcomes and actions which are shown in the relevant tables below.

It is important to note that some of the project outcomes will be a “quick win” whereas others will sometimes take significantly more time to plan and execute. To achieve results and outcomes in the short, medium/longer term each high priority project/outcome will have its own activity plan which will be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (SMART) and determined and agreed in the first part of the CAP implementation.

The 3 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 events and suggested actions, together with any additional information are outlined below each section.

LAGGAN: A SOCIALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Priority: Sustainable community spaces, delivering for community needs

Make more of community facilities eg Village Hall, Wolftrax café, Church for

- Resilience eg Warm Spaces, power outages
- Social & leisure activities
- Sport & exercise opportunities for all ages
- Food larder / Food exchange

Priority: Sustainable public transport provision

- To connect to longer distance provision eg buses & trains
- To get around the Laggan area without a car: on-demand type service

Priority: Having affordable places to live

- Access to more community-owned affordable housing for local young people: to rent or buy, new or existing stock.
- Community support scheme to help residents & businesses make their homes more energy efficient/better insulated (double glazing, solar panels, heat pumps, smart meters etc)

PRIORITY: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY SPACES, DELIVERING FOR COMMUNITY NEEDS

Make more of community facilities eg Village Hall, Wolftrax café, Church for:

Resilience eg Warm Spaces, power outages

- Put together a community resilience plan

Social & leisure activities / Sport & exercise opportunities for all ages

- Start a social Laggan Cycle Club, perhaps based around Wolftrax to include informal cycle rides, social evenings, sharing of cycle routes, bike maintenance
- Encourage / call for volunteers to organise more activities or events in the hall
- Village Diary on community website to include what's happening at the hall

Food larder / Food exchange

- Work with B&S Food Hub and other community food initiatives to maintain this support

PRIORITY: SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROVISION

To connect to longer distance provision eg buses & trains

- Lobby Highland Council re critical need for connectivity to rest of strath (Fort William?) Extend terminus to Feagour/Wolftrax. Use of electric buses to reduce costs
- Survey community to understand personal barriers to use and priority timetabling needs

To get around the Laggan area without a car: on-demand type service

- Community purchase of electric minibus and employ driver/s: working group to come up with proposal (use of SSE money for this high priority?)
- Extension of B&S car scheme to include Laggan

PRIORITY: HAVING AFFORDABLE PLACES TO LIVE

Access to more community-owned affordable housing for local young people: to rent or buy, new or existing stock

- Explore potential sites in the community area (look at LFT land for housing/crofts)
- Publish timeline for existing housing feasibility study
- Lobby CNPA to allow small group housing development

Community support scheme to help residents & businesses make their homes more energy efficient/better insulated (double glazing, solar panels, heat pumps, smart meters etc)

- Investigate advice/support available – set up an information event at hall for local residents and businesses to drop in
- Explore possible use of SSE money for a scheme

LAGGAN: A CLIMATE CONSCIOUS COMMUNITY

Priority: Active Travel

- Deliver walking & cycling paths in community area, including to Newtonmore
- EV fast charging points

Priority: Public Toilets

- Ensure future by bringing up to good standard internally
- Look at alternative methods of waste treatment
- Invest here or elsewhere to cater for visitors / campervan waste discharge points

Priority: Energy efficient housing

- Improve efficiency in tenanted and community-owned properties through inspection / advice / installation of energy cost-reduction measures

Priority: Improve village's visual appearance

- More benches and attractive planting
- Clean up pond area and woods
- Litter picks and more roadside rubbish bins

PRIORITY: ACTIVE TRAVEL

Deliver walking & cycling paths in community area, including to Newtonmore

- Improve path through Blackwood (clear fallen trees, widen path, smooth gradient) for cycling off-road from Feagour to Loch Laggan
- New bridges to enable bikes to use Glen Banchor to Cluny Castle right of way
- Push to extend Speyside Way / connect up with East Highland Way
- Increase number of fully accessible paths as location permits
- Routes to connect Balgowan, Catlodge and Strathmashie with village centre
- Work with landowners and Transport Scotland to find acceptable, safe, off-road routes for all
- Include planning for maintenance costs longer-term
- Map of paths in area for locals and visitors

EV fast charging points

- Investigate the process for installing these in the community
- Ensure all are added to literature and websites to promote where they are for visitors (ask THC/CNPA for advice)

PRIORITY: PUBLIC TOILETS

Ensure future by bringing up to good standard internally

- Upgrade (and extend if possible) facilities. (SSE funding for development, care and maintenance)
- Invest in financial sustainability – paddle-gates for charging?
- Support for volunteers who help keep them open
- Active (paid?) management of toilets to protect waste disposal

- Somehow ensure control of wipes etc disposal – paid waste disposal units?

Look at alternative methods of waste treatment

- Sort out septic tank issue (with or without Highland Council)

Invest here or elsewhere to cater for visitors & campervan waste discharge points

- Improve signage to show community toilet facilities and distance to them (existing or new)
- Identify best site for campervan/mobile home waste discharge points

PRIORITY: ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSING/COMMUNITY PROPERTIES

Improve efficiency in tenanted and community-owned properties Including Village Hall, through inspection / advice / installation of energy cost-reduction measures

- Host an Energy Efficiency event (with experts) for advice, products, installers and sources of financial support. Especially for those with older homes. See *point 2 of previous Socially Connected priority: Having affordable places to live – for additional details*
- Investigate opportunities for a village turbine (electric or hydro)
- Seek funding to invest in Hall upgrade eg energy efficiency review & resilience hub (Local Energy Scotland)

PRIORITY: IMPROVE VILLAGE'S VISUAL APPEARANCE

More benches and attractive planting

- Strategic cutting back of trees and hedgerows to open up views and improve visibility at road turnings (eg old bridge parapet near church)
- Bench location on way from shop to hall

Clean up pond area and woods

- Volunteers or paid maintenance?

Litter picks and more roadside rubbish bins

- Need to ensure bins are emptied regularly to avoid overflow
- Encourage understanding and appreciation of what volunteers currently do

Additional Notes:

- Mark car park spaces on layby (90 degrees to roadside?)
- Improve visual appearance of hall – interpretation opportunity/mural?
- Improve signage to hall

LAGGAN: AN ECONOMICALLY THRIVING COMMUNITY

Priority: Increase opportunities to attract tourism and business to the local area

- Investment in serviced site for campervans, motorhomes, tents
- Make more of a 'Welcome to Laggan' – replace signs (brown /dated)
- Expansion of mountain biking facilities at Wolftrax

Priority: Strategy for local jobs and businesses

- Assistance for local businesses: provision of small business units
- Develop a Business Development & Marketing Plan to promote Laggan
- Local wood fuel business

PRIORITY: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTRACT TOURISM & BUSINESS TO LOCAL AREA

Investment in serviced site for campervans, motorhomes, tents

- Feasibility study to determine numbers, usage, legal structure, management and to investigate potential locations for suitable site

Make more of a 'Welcome to Laggan'

- Replace dated brown signs – work with Transport Scotland

Expansion of mountain biking facilities at Wolftrax

- Increase/promote cycle routes and paths

Use Laggan Heritage archive as attraction for visitors to learn about area (location?)

PRIORITY: STRATEGY FOR LOCAL JOBS AND BUSINESSES

Assistance for local businesses: provision of small business units

- Engage with existing/potential businesses to discover extent and type of need
- Need to consider local housing availability to support growth of local business

Develop a Business Development & Marketing Plan to promote Laggan

- Resurrect the Laggan Business Group
- Formalise the East Highland Way
- New central signage to all village points of interest
- Noticeboard with visitor information, adverts, local news

- Work with partners to enable visitors to get to and around area better without a car. Will work for residents as well.

Local wood fuel business

- Explore feasibility of this as a project
- Look into local management of the forest

7. Next Steps: Delivery

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

- Setting up a *Team Laggan* (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 Laggan

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

Team Laggan 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 5 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 Laggan 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 Laggan, 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 Laggan* 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:

- * Laggan Community Council
- * Laggan Forest Trust
- * Laggan Community Housing Ltd
- * Laggan Heritage
- * Laggan Village Hall
- * All the delivery volunteers who put surveys through every household's door

Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS), as an independent community and volunteering development charity, supported the Laggan 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 to VABS to facilitate the communities' CAP process is provided by the Cairngorms National Park Authority.

9. Appendices

Appendix i

What do you like about living in Laggan?

- Beautiful place: views, surrounding countryside, landscape and changing seasons
- Good friendly people - there to help a hand if needed eg Laggan Helping Hands
- Small community feel with a sense of belonging
- Easy access to outdoors, wild open spaces, walking, cycling, kayaking, the hills
- Great medical facilities: first class GP practice
- The Coffee Bothy & Pottery Coffee shops
- Amenities such as Wolftrax: good community involvement
- Wildlife on doorstep (squirrels, otters, birds of prey, wildcats)
- Lots of heritage
- Local community events / community involvement
- Rural location
- Availability of local businesses for locals and tourism
- Relatively easy access to principal transport links (A9, railway)
- In striking distance of Central Belt by car, close to long distance bus and train facilities
- Creag Meagaidh NNR
- Great international mix of visitors in summer: encourages mutual respect and consideration

Appendix ii

What changes would you like to see for Laggan by 2030?

SOCIAL

- Make more of our community hubs: Village Hall, Wolftrax Centre, Church; as community resilience hubs with some winter evening activities and events
- Use Hall for Warm Space project for people badly affected by energy and cost of living crisis.
- A thriving village hall more used by locals, with updated facilities and a wide variety of regular events and leisure activities for all ages, to promote community well-being (summer village fair?). Like all things in a small community, it depends on locals to run these events, which needs a push for more volunteer support
- Village Hall has many overnight(s) lets from walkers, cyclists, army etc - opportunities for meal provision?
- Sustainable public transport solution, to connect Laggan with other parts of the strath. Community bus/taxi?
- Insulation and energy efficiency programme/support for local housing
- Affordable housing project to be accelerated
- Promote food larder/food exchange to help those in need and reduce waste
- More seating along road from shop towards hall, to encourage people to stop and chat and meet people within their community (especially elderly). That empty length of road tends to isolate one end of the village from the other. Bench seats could be built into the bank/bolted down and have a story associated with each one.
- Reduce holiday home ownership - community is slowly dying

- Make Laggan a *Disabled-Friendly Community*
- Signs to Playpark from road end to encourage people to use it
- Climbing wall at Wolftrax
- Sustainable model to support elderly care at home
- A local cycling group or rambling group (similar to Kingussie cycling group)

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Deliver on active travel cycling and walking paths throughout the community area, including connection to Newtonmore off-road
- Ensure future of public toilets by bringing up to proper standard, including update to waste treatment
- Programme of insulation and energy efficiency inspections undertaken in all tenanted properties and community owned properties to reduce energy use and costs
- Improve village appearance with suitable planting, benches and litter picks
- Better facilities for visitors in caravans/campers/tents etc. including toilet waste facilities, general waste/recycling
- Develop Hall as a community resilience hub to cater for the increasing likelihood of power outages. Will require investment in a stand-by generator and necessary electrical works to hall, as well as ongoing running and maintenance costs
- Clean up pond area and woods to make into a fantastic area for wildlife
- Community garden and growing area (polytunnel)
- Dark Sky project with better street lamps
- Clear tree branches from street lights and where pavements are restricted, moss from Gergask pavements
- Community renewable energy scheme (Speyside dam)
- Wind turbine/s for Laggan: money to go into a bespoke pot to help insulate homes and reduce cost of electricity for local households
- Reinstate/improve visible East Highland Way from Laggan to Newtonmore & Feagour/Pattack to Laggan
- Plan future of community forest areas (with support from Trees for Life?)
- EV fast charging points in village/at Wolftrax
- Re-introduction of annual dredging the Spey to stop flooding
- Improved network of signposted paths to enable walkers to get away from the road & enjoy the amazing scenery Laggan has to offer
- Encourage local landowners to increase biodiversity. Might include: a) planting of mixed native woodland on land not actively used for farming; b) working with conservation bodies eg RSPB to consider reintroduction of red kites to the area. Establish a Red Kite centre eg Tollie nr Dingwall <https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/tollie-red-kites/>

ECONOMIC

- Campervan/motorhome facility at Wolftrax with electric hook-ups (sustainable income source for charity)
- Replace dated brown signs – more welcoming for visitors
- LFT to start a wood fuel business for local residents
- Explore place for small business unit development to help with regular employment in area
- Business Development & Marketing project to promote Laggan

- A community shop for basics, linked with the food shed (suggested location Wolftrax). To serve the needs of visitors and community and remove any stigma for those using the food shed
- Could/Should all community owned facilities be developed, organised and managed "as one"? This could provide local employment for a number of trade specialists
- Expansion of mountain bike facilities at Wolftrax. Working with Forestry & Land Scotland to expand current offering or to look again at possibility of expansion to Blackwood area. Building on the success of the mountain bike centre would encourage more people to the area thus helping support local business, as well as potentially increasing local job opportunities

KEY INFRASTRUCTURE /ISSUES

- Better waste disposal options for visitors to prevent rubbish being dumped on road side, public toilet getting blocked and residents' private bins being filled with camping equipment, food waste etc. Issue won't go away and getting worse, creating bad feeling between residents and tourists who have nowhere to dispose of their waste
- Secure the future of the public toilets - and be connected to "mains" waste treatment works
- Energy efficient public transport stopping in Laggan & Dalwhinnie, connecting to Fort William
- Active travel: implement good and **safe** paths for cycling and walking between the various sections of the Laggan community eg Laggan to Strathmashie, Laggan to Catlodge, Laggan to Balgowan
- Subject to demand have a regular minibus service to Newtonmore & beyond
- Improve safety of A86 and A889: put pressure on Bear Scotland to bring roads up to standard / calm traffic
- Push for reduction of speed limits in ALL residential areas of the local community to 30 mph if not 20 mph including Laggan, Catlodge, Strathmashie, where residents may be walking or entering / exiting driveways etc. Especially important in residential areas where there is an absence of pavements
- More affordable housing for young people and families. Encourage local land owners to consider selling land to young local residents, so locals who wish to stay in the area can afford to buy land to build on (conditions could be attached to ensure prices do not get inflated by land purchase outside of community eg for second homes)
- Increase resilience of services to stormy weather effects/disruption
- Replace 'Welcome to Laggan' road signs
- Review street-lighting with a view to upgrading
- Measures &/or new equipment provisions to increase security of essential services ie mains water, electrical power supply and broadband service