

community
enterprise

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Feughdee West Community Action Plan

APRIL 2019

Supported by



About the Project

This Community Action Plan (CAP) has been developed to ensure that priorities identified for, and by, the Community are clearly evidenced and stated. The aim is to develop a long term vision which will assist the community to align funding available from a range of sources, including funds gained from wind farm development.

Feughdee West Community Council is one of 16 in the Marr locality area of Aberdeenshire. Following restructuring of the community council, it now has 11 elected Councillor members as well as 3 junior members. These reflect the constituent area of Feughdee West with members from Strachan, Inchmarlo and people from outlying communities of Tilquhillie, Blackhall, Auchattie, Bridge of Feugh and Glendye.

FWCC was keen to gather a wide range of views and opinions from across all sections of the Feughdee West community and commissioned Community Enterprise to conduct independent research to inform the Plan. The research involved community consultation and engagement as well as desktop research.

What We Did

FWCC commissioned Community Enterprise to carry out a range of tasks to identify key themes and priorities for the community in order to develop a Community Action Plan. The research that was conducted included:

- a statistical analysis of the area
- an Asset Map of facilities and spaces in Feughdee West
- four Open Meetings

- one to one interviews with some key individuals, stakeholders and groups
- Stakeholder meeting
- Focus Groups with schools and older people
- a community Survey

In total we engaged with around 400 people. As a result of the feedback, we have developed a Community Action Plan to help achieve our long term vision of Feughdee West being an energetic and progressive community - one which is open and safe, and welcoming to all.

FWCC is the catalyst and enabler for change. A number of projects have been identified in the Community Action Plan and we will need your support to take these forward.

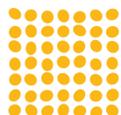
To help manage the projects identified in the CAP, we will need to consider setting up a new separate constituted organisation with support from the Community Council and other local groups. This could also involve recruiting a Community Development Coordinator to manage all the projects. The whole community's input is key.

What We Found Out

Analysis of the findings generated from the research tells us about the Feughdee West community:

Assets

We value the natural environment as our greatest asset and this should be reflected in all projects with the aim of enhancing and protecting it for both local residents and visitors to our community. Ongoing discussion regarding Strachan Primary School will impact



on how to improve use of our Hall in Strachan and we are also keen to develop the Inchmarlo Hall and Bothy. Another asset is the skills our residents have and this will be central to developing successful projects under the CAP.

Challenges

We want to be better connected by improving our path and cycle networks and improving road safety and access. This is further exacerbated by the lack of public transport and poor telecoms, contributing to a feeling of isolation in our rural community.

The two main communities of Strachan and Inchmarlo are seen as being very different in a number of ways; our CAP will seek to connect our communities better, celebrating our assets and through sharing resources and potentially embarking on other joint projects.

Our research has led us to develop four themes.

Themes under a Single Vision

Overarching the themes and priorities shown below, should be the adoption of a vision that Feughdee West will become:

“energetic, diverse, open, progressive, welcoming, connected, safe and strong”

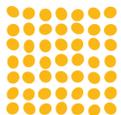
To achieve this vision, the research has led to us developing the following themes for Feughdee West.

Connecting our Communities

Vibrant Feughdee West

Improving our Infrastructure

Developing Our Assets



What our Community Action Plan will deliver

Building on what we have learned from the research, we have identified a number of projects that existing and new groups in our community can deliver and they are summarised here.

Connecting our Communities

To connect our communities, we will focus on projects that will create a better path network both for walkers and cyclists, improving the links into Banchory as well as in more rural areas such as over Scolty Hill.

Developing our Community

We want links within the community to be improved, bringing more people together socially and making people more aware of what's going on, providing activities for a range of age groups and interests and encouraging everyone to participate.

Improving access to services

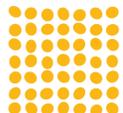
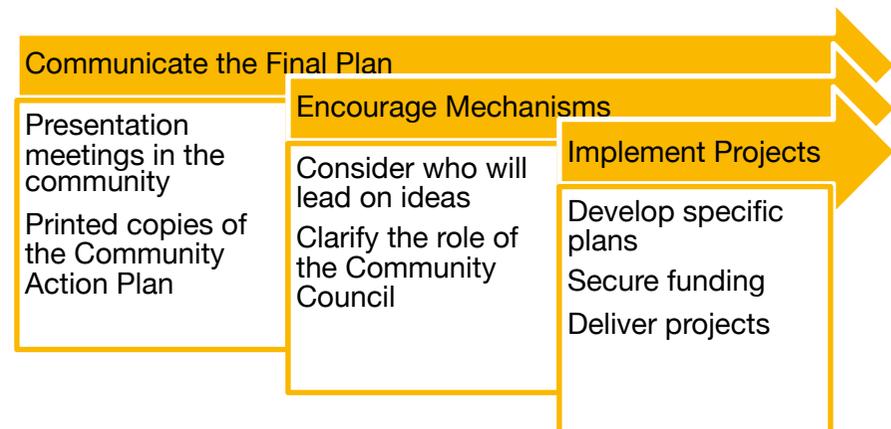
We will work with partners to ensure our infrastructure is improved, which will focus mainly on making our road networks safer, increasing provision of car parking and improving telecoms and broadband reliability, particularly in our more rural and remote communities.

Building on our assets

We want to see Inchmarlo Hall continue to increase the social and learning activities and opportunities it holds and build up what's offered in the Bothy. We are also keen that the future of Strachan Primary School is determined to allow us to decide if this facility could support the newly refurbished Strachan Hall and provide a further focus for our Community. This will include continuing with the Strachan Hall improvement plan and researching how Strachan Hall can once again become a focal point in the community.

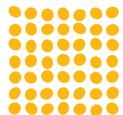
With improved pathways and better use of our Halls, we will be able to develop Feughdee West as a "destination" for visiting cyclists and walkers. This could provide our community with opportunities to generate income which will support funding secured from windfarm developments and other funding sources.

Next Steps for our Community Action Plan



Local People in Control : What our Community Could Deliver

Time scales	Paths Network linking our communities	Community Broadband Initiative	Develop Assets in Strachan	Develop Assets in Inchmarlo	Improve Infrastructure	Build Community Cohesion
Short Term	Agree newly constituted legal enterprise representing all individual communities, to drive the Community Action Plan forward					
	Consider engaging a Community Development Coordinator					
	Form steering group	Research similar community initiatives	Form steering group; with Hall committee	Liaise with Hall Committee	Form steering group	Set up steering group
	Set parameters for partnership working (who, what)	Arrange study visits	Agree future of Primary School	Agree plan to develop use of Hall	Set parameters for partnership working (who, what)	Devise communications strategy
Review existing provision		Roll out programme of community activity (pending improvements)	Co-ordinate a schedule of repairs	Liaise with Aberdeenshire Council	Encourage community champions	
	Align plans with Banchory Paths Plan	Agree priority areas; development plan	Conduct feasibility study on uses of Hall/School	Agree funding plan	Consider plans for community transport initiative	Secure communications volunteers
	Agree key path routes		Review options for uses, consider viability	Support from Development Worker to secure funding	Identify priority infrastructure projects	Agree social media plan



Medium Term	Determine capital costs	Identify key partners	Agree way forward	Communications Plan	Agree capital projects and costs	
	Secure funding	Secure funding	Draw up Business Plan		Launch community transport initiative	Agree communications plan
			Secure funding			Roll out communications
Long Term	Proceed with capital works	Capital Development	Communications Plan	Agree training or workshop programme	Secure funding for capital works	Ongoing communications and coordinating community and social events in both Halls
	Promote paths network	Launch initiative to community	Launch new Strachan Hall	Launch programme	Roll out capital development works	
	Open/launch paths	Roll out provision				
	Secure maintenance funding					
	Deliver maintenance programme					

The plan was funded by the generous support of Local Energy Scotland.

