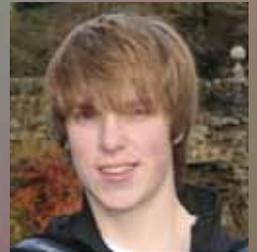




Killin's Action Plan 2012



Foreword

The current financial climate is having a noticeable effect on our community as is demonstrated by a lack of local job security, the closing of a major food outlet and the relentless rise in fuel prices. The community is aware that the Local Authority has had to reduce its expenditure and local effort will be needed to support some local services.

Co-operation with Stirling Council and the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park is needed to agree savings, maximise efficiency and support business. Community involvement is a start, community commitment is an aim.

The Action Plan will provide a framework on which local organisations can plan to build the future of Killin. It will give funders and planners a more detailed picture of current developments in Killin including local aspirations and concerns.

Willie Angus

Chairman of Killin and Ardeonaig Community Development Trust (KAT)



INTRODUCTION

This Plan sets out proposed actions that local people believe will improve their community for residents and visitors both now and into the future. It has been put together, designed and produced by local people and gives the background and main issues identified during the consultation process, before detailing some positive action proposals under the headings:

- ♦ Local Economy, Jobs & Housing
- ♦ Children & Young People
- ♦ Environment
- ♦ Tourism
- ♦ Facilities & Services

Although set out under these headings the issues and actions are in reality all interlinked to make up the community as a whole.

This Plan is meant to be a document that can be used by local people, groups and organisations to achieve action and not just gather dust. Many of the proposals identified are those that already have support and people identified to take them forward whilst others are more aspirational and long term – but all have come directly from this community.

See Appendix 1 in Library copy or on line PDF version for links to national and area strategies www.killincdt.co.uk

What is the purpose of the Local Community Action Plan and why is it important?

- ♦ Local Action Plans identify community priorities through consultation
- ♦ They cover the issues that affect the daily lives of the community
- ♦ The Actions within the Plan detail what is required to address community needs
- ♦ Delivering the Actions will mean improvements to the quality of life of local people
- ♦ The Action Plan will help guide Killin Community Council and KAT's decision making
- ♦ Copies of this Plan will be presented to Stirling Council, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority and other service providers and agencies
- ♦ The Action Plan will help prioritise what funding is required to meet identified needs
- ♦ This Action Plan will be reviewed annually to ensure that it continues to be relevant to local people and that the actions within it are reasonable, feasible and achievable

How the Plan was developed

KAT undertook to renew the previous Action Plan which ran from 2007–2010. A steering group was set up including KAT directors, Community Council and other members of the community:

- ♦ Gina Angus
- ♦ Willie Angus
- ♦ Ken Chew
- ♦ Pamela Farquharson
- ♦ Charlie Grant
- ♦ Fiona Kennedy
- ♦ Margaret MacIver
- ♦ Pete Waugh

The process was facilitated and supported by Suzanne Player, Stirling Council Rural Development Worker

A range of consultation and research methods were used, including:

- ♦ Two open community consultation sessions involving over 80 people
- ♦ 2 questionnaires distributed to every household through the Killin News asking for general views and for reactions to specific proposals
- ♦ Focus groups including older people, parents of young children, community activists
- ♦ Individual interviews
- ♦ Primary School and Youth Group consultations
- ♦ Meetings of KAT and the Community Council also helped to inform the plan together with public meetings held to discuss the future of the Old Mill

See Appendix 2 in Library copy or on line PDF version for more detail of community consultation – www.killincdt.co.uk

Our Community Now

The Killin Community Council area takes in the village of Killin and the settlements of Ardeonaig, Glen Lochay and Ardchyle. The village and the area to the west and south is in Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park whilst Ardeonaig, Glen Lochay and the area towards the loch are outside.



There have been some significant losses in local facilities since the last plan in 2006 coupled with external economic changes which have had further impact on people living in Killin. Fuel prices have soared with consequent price hikes in power, food and other consumer goods; jobs have been lost and employment opportunities are limited; visitor numbers have decreased; services have become increasingly centralised making this a good time to review priorities for action and look at how the people of Killin can be assisted to work together to build the resilience needed to sustain this community.

A separate publication "A Profile of Killin" gives more details about Killin and the structure of the community. Available in the Library and on line at www.killincdt.co.uk

Throughout the consultation process the following were highlighted as of great value and importance:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community Spirit ✓ Friendly atmosphere ✓ Location/Scenery ✓ Flora and Fauna ✓ Peace and quiet ✓ Safety ✓ You can get everything you need here ✓ Clubs/Groups/Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Events ✓ Primary School/Nursery ✓ Library/PO/Bank ✓ Local shops ✓ Hotels & B&Bs ✓ Police/Ambulance/Fire ✓ GP/Nursing Service ✓ Retirement Home | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ McLaren Hall ✓ Churches ✓ Breadalbane Park ✓ Killin News/Killin website ✓ Walking/cycling routes ✓ Village good size ✓ Mix of housing ✓ Demand Responsive Transport ✓ Home food deliveries |
|--|---|--|

"Killin's relatively peaceful environment and its friendly community spirit are priceless"

"Beautiful surroundings"

"Business and tourism are of paramount importance"

"Relatively safe surroundings"

"Supportive friendly community"

"Work ethic learned by teenagers doing all kinds of jobs in local businesses... and involvement in music, drama and sport"

"Children and young people are the future of the community"

And these as detrimental:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> X General appearance of the village - run down X Litter and dog mess X Fly tipping X Houses being bought as second homes X Difficult hospital access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Limited job opportunities X Decline in number of shops X No through buses to Stirling X Poor public transport information X Out of hours cover X Decline in support for mothers of new babies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Speeding traffic on Main Street X Bins blocking pavements on collection days X Few activities for under 7s X Boggy park X Play equipment in park X Asda coming into village |
|--|--|--|

"Some areas of village need upgrading"

"I feel angry every time I see the Asda van in the village"

"McLaren Hall is an excellent amenity but would benefit from being redecorated and modernised inside"

"We need much more information to direct tourists off the road at Lix Toll"

"Staying in a B&B no longer means sharing briefly in the life of a local family - sitting by their fire and talking in the evenings"

"Improved public transport would help the villagers and holidaymakers considerably"

"Local people unable to afford houses because of second home buyers"

Killin Community Vision

During community consultations the Vision from 2007 was agreed as still valid today.

- A service centre**
Killin is the natural service centre for the North West Highland area of Stirling. Its future depends on it maintaining and developing this role. It is therefore vital that it retains its existing services and that it seeks to develop and improve access to a range of other services.
- A beautiful highland community**
We want to retain the qualities of a scenic highland community. A place that has a strong identity, which benefits from its surrounding rivers, lochs and mountains and which is a safe and happy place for its residents to grow up and live in.
- Tourism**
We want to continue to develop and promote Killin as a tourist centre - but in an environmentally friendly way and in keeping with our vision of retaining the qualities of a tranquil highland community.
- Diverse community and economy**
We want to support a mix of housing, encourage the creation of diverse employment opportunities and in particular support opportunities for young people.

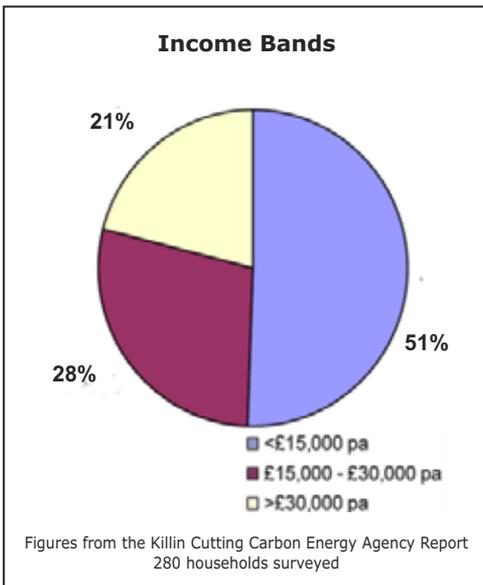
LOCAL ECONOMY, JOBS AND HOUSING

Local Economy and Jobs

The local economy remains strongly linked to tourism, local trades, retail, agriculture and the public sector. In the last few years some jobs have been lost or hours reduced through changes in agricultural practices, sale of the Killin Youth Hostel, economies at the Primary School and so on but others have been gained in businesses such as House of Cattle and the Smiddy. More recently at the end of 2011 the closure of the Breadalbane Folklore Centre has lost several part time tourist information jobs and the shock closure of MacGregors Fruit & Veg Store and Flower Shop has lost several full and part time all year round jobs.

Local trades continue to provide much needed services to the local community with some of these able to offer apprenticeships to young people, although sole traders often find this time-consuming and difficult to support. The Transerv base in Killin provides all year round employment as well as providing winter snow clearing of the main road to Lix Toll.

Although unemployment is not high compared to the national average, low wages and seasonal work are features of the local economy and the number of low income households is high.



Issues

- During the Killin Cutting Carbon research the high numbers of low income households (incomes of less than £15,000 pa) was highlighted.
- All year round jobs are not readily available. Tourist businesses employ a significant number of local people but these jobs tend to be seasonal and relatively low paid.
- Transport out of the village is not easy. Bus times and cost of fares prohibit non car owners from accessing jobs outside the area.
- Price of fuel can prohibit access to jobs outside the area.
- Access to training and apprenticeships. Distance from further education institutes and cost of travel prohibits some from accessing training. Sole traders have difficulty in meeting the requirements and expense of employing apprentices.
- Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park restrictions in planning for businesses that want to develop or expand
- Access and speed of broadband in this rural area where this is a vital need for businesses, home working, home shopping and social networking. Ardeonaig is still working with more expensive and less reliable satellite broadband which is inadequate for the farm, hotel and outdoor centre businesses based there.

Business Opportunities

Some business opportunities have been identified through the consultation process including the need for domestic/handyman support for elderly and disabled, camp site development, shopping and delivery service.



What needs to be done

- Increase opportunities for apprenticeships in all trades: building related, hospitality, business and retail
- Encourage and support entrepreneurs
- Publicity of available job opportunities and job skills in specified places so that people know where to look and where to advertise
- Make information on business incentives and start up schemes widely available to all
- Encourage volunteering as a means of learning new skills and accessing job markets
- Support the continuation of the Internet Learning Café in the Library
- Explore feasibility for a Credit Union in this area to encourage saving and borrowing at an affordable rate
- There is a perception that Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park planning restrictions are stifling the development of new business. This needs to be explored further.
- Increase speed of broadband in Killin and ensure Ardeonaig is not disadvantaged by insufficient and expensive satellite broadband

ACTIONS

- Work with Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park to extend apprenticeship scheme within the Park.
- Killin News to advertise Situations vacant and skills available to complement Library and Newsagent displays.
- Groups to advertise for volunteers underlining the personal benefits gained. Volunteer support will also be required
- KAT to form a sub group to apply for funding, manage and further develop the Internet Learning Café in Killin Library
- Steering group set up to explore possibility of a Breadalbane area credit union.
- Community Council to lead on lobbying for better broadband services for Ardeonaig and Killin

Stakeholders: Forth Valley Enterprise, KAT, Killin News, Community Council and Scottish Government re Broadband, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park, Stirling Council



Housing

Killin's housing stock has continued to grow over the last few years. Rural Stirling Housing Association has built 8 new houses at Ballechroisk while the Costcutters site has planning permission for flats which are to be developed by Stirling Council in 2012.

Stirling Council successfully applied for pressured status for this area in 2010. This means that for 5 years no Council or Housing Association rented houses can be bought by the tenants. The 5 years is extendable on application and it is likely this will be continued to ensure the stock of available social housing does not diminish.



Issues

- Through the consultation process it is evident that there are mixed feelings about the need for more housing. But overall there is support for more development of affordable rented or houses to buy and this is backed up by the number of people with local connections on Rural Stirling Housing Association's housing need list
- Many houses are still being sold for holiday homes, this tends to push prices up and exclude local people from purchasing leading to a sense of frustration that nothing can be done about this
- Is Killin big enough? This question has raised much discussion with mixed views on the subject and no definitive answer



What needs to be done

- Ensure that people moved into the area by the Council are made fully aware of life in rural area before they move in
- More housing available at affordable rate to first time buyers
- Explore other areas for housing development

ACTIONS

- Work with Rural Stirling Housing Association to offer shared ownership of any new builds?
- Work with Stirling Council and Rural Stirling Housing Association on allocations and how rural life is presented
- Creation of a welcome pack – information on local services, groups and activities.

Stakeholders: Community Council, Stirling Council Housing, Rural Stirling Housing Association, KAT

Other Ideas: Empty flats at Trust Housing – Could RSHA take it over?

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Killin has a healthy population of children and young people: the importance of providing for their needs has been recognised during the consultation process.

The Primary School currently has 56 local children on the roll whilst the Council-run nursery caters for 17 under 5s from the area. Demand for nursery places is high, reflecting the importance of this facility to parents the majority of whom are in either full or part time employment. The school and nursery employ a significant number of local people mainly on a part time basis.

54 pupils travel the 22 miles to McLaren High School in Callander from the FK21 postcode area.

Throughout the consultation process the following activities and facilities available locally for children and young people were highlighted as of great value and importance:

- ☺ Breadalbane Park play area and football pitch
- ☺ Killin Sports and Leisure club
- ☺ Primary age football
- ☺ Tiddlers and Toddlers
- ☺ Brownies
- ☺ Green Team run jointly by National Trust for Scotland & Primary School
- ☺ Badminton Club for Primary 7 upwards
- ☺ Golf Club for age 8+
- ☺ Drama Club for P5 through High School
- ☺ Killin Youth Group for High School age
- ☺ Christmas party for Primary School children run by the WRI
- ☺ Tay Fitness sports camps and sport coaching
- ☺ Abernethy Trust activity weeks

These are all variously providing local opportunities for children and young people to learn new skills, mix with older generations, gain confidence and socialise outwith school. Most are either run or managed by volunteers who give freely of their time and experience to benefit the younger members of the community.



In the last few years the community-run Playgroup for pre-school children, Guides and Fire Cadets have been lost but gains have been made with the restart of Tiddlers & Toddlers by an enthusiastic group of parents and the Killin Youth Group with the help of a partnership between the Community, Stirling Council and the Abernethy Trust.

The Callander Youth Project provides a vital bus for those attending college in Stirling or Falkirk and it is hoped that the establishment of the new campus at Kildean will provide further opportunities through more direct links with the High School in Callander.



Issues

- Killin is 37 miles from Stirling where the Council base the major sporting facilities for their residents. It is 22 miles to Callander for the nearest swimming pool and leisure centre – a long and increasingly expensive amount of travel is required to access these facilities
- The cost of public transport is often prohibitive for young people to access shops, cinema etc which makes it even more important that the facilities and activities being run locally are encouraged and supported in every way possible
- Play and sports facilities in Killin are old, worn and unattractive to locals and visitors alike.
- Consultation highlighted once again the lack of access to public toilets from Breadalbane Park
- Killin Youth Group has over 25 members attending weekly sessions in the Pavilion. The space is not ideal and feels cramped at times, particularly when the weather is bad
- Brownies and Tiddlers & Toddlers have been meeting in the Church Hall which is now closed due to cost of upgrading. School and McLaren Hall are possible alternatives in the short term but there is a need for a 'child-friendly' space with access to plentiful storage, toilets and kitchen facilities
- Part time jobs are available to many of the older high school age in various local businesses but opportunities for full time all year round jobs for older young people are limited

What needs to be done



- Facilities for children need to be upgraded and made more attractive to encourage a wider range of children to enjoy them
- Space needs to be found for groups to meet and carry out their activities
- Toilets need to be accessible from the play park
- Encourage and support existing and developing activities for all ages but particularly for under 8s.
- Develop child friendly information about the area and what there is to do here. This will encourage more use of existing facilities and help sustain them
- Develop and support job and training opportunities for young people

ACTIONS

- KAT to continue working with Stirling Council to improve the Breadalbane Park play area
Consultations within the community have helped to identify pieces of equipment that would enhance the play of all ages. Funding is now being sought by KAT to purchase and install these items
- The Sports Club to work on funding applications for new equipment
- Parent Council, Active Stirling and Primary School to work together to increase provision of activities for younger children in the village
- A child friendly 'What's on and what to do' leaflet for visitors and locals
- KAT/Community Council to explore possibilities of toilet availability for users of the park
- KYG/Brownies/Tiddlers & Toddlers to explore options for venues in the village



Stakeholders: KAT, Community Council, KYG, Sports Club, Primary School, Active Stirling, Stirling Council

Other Ideas: BMX/mountain bike track
Ramps/concrete surface
Safe cycle track for younger children possibly in the park
Junior running club
Highland dancing classes

ENVIRONMENT

The land around Killin is still a source of employment and its rivers, lochs and mountains are the main reasons for people visiting the area.

Key features include:

- ♦ The farms and estates which manage the land for livestock production, forestry, sporting purposes and conservation and offer local employment
- ♦ The mountains around Killin, which form part of the Breadalbane range of hills, are of national and international importance for their rare arctic-alpine flora. Ben Lawers, famous for its rare alpine plants is a National Nature Reserve managed by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS). The NTS Visitor Centre on the hill has been closed but information on the area is now available in the NTS centre at Lynedoch in the village
- ♦ A number of Munros and Corbetts and a range of walks on the hills and lower ground
- ♦ The National Cycle Network which runs into Killin and down the South Loch Tay Road
- ♦ The mosaic of grassland, heath, alpine, woodland and wetland habitats in the Killin area, which contain a rich diversity of plants and animals. Over 500 species of native higher plant have been recorded here since 1970, including many rare and nationally scarce species. Over 120 species of bird, including osprey, golden eagle and black grouse occur in the area, which is also important for mammals such as the pine marten, red squirrel and otter. The area is also rich in invertebrates, including butterflies such as the mountain ringlet, Scotch argus and pearl-bordered fritillary. There are 11 Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the Killin Community Council area and 4 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), which are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive.
- ♦ The Falls of Dochart – some of the most photographed in Scotland

Killin's built environment is also of interest with a wealth of heritage and historical information to promote, dating from its mythical Celtic past to recent times with the construction of the Hydro schemes.

Key features include:

- ♦ Standing Stones and Stone Circles
- ♦ Fingal's Stone
- ♦ St. Fillan's Healing Stones
- ♦ Killin Parish Church
- ♦ St Fillan's Episcopal Church (tin tabernacle)
- ♦ The Clan history of the mills, Hydro Scheme and old railway
- ♦ Finlarig Castle ruins
- ♦ Old Drove Roads
- ♦ Old Mill at Dochart Bridge
- ♦ Moirlanich Longhouse, Glen Lochay



Environmental Action Killin (EAK) was established by a group of local people to help protect the natural environment and the Primary School has also worked hard to raise community awareness of environmental issues and has been awarded a Green Flag for its efforts. The National Trust for Scotland runs Green Team for primary age children in partnership with the school to educate the children about their local environment in a fun way outside the classroom.

Litter-picking sessions are regularly organised by the Angling Club and EAK in an effort to keep the walks and lochsides clear and Stirling Council's blue box recycling scheme continues to increase the range of acceptable items

The peaceful beauty of Killin is one of the main reasons people have said they enjoy living here.

Issues:

- ♦ Killin is described by local people as looking run down and uncared for
- ♦ Litter and dog fouling have been highlighted as issues by every group consulted during this process
- ♦ Closure of the skip has led to more fly tipping and dumping in Killin and surrounding area
- ♦ Derelict buildings/sites
- ♦ High carbon footprint caused by:
 - High fuel use needed to access goods and services
 - High car ownership
 - Low use of public transport, partly due to irregularity and infrequency of services
 - Type of farming with livestock, vehicles, long distances to travel
 - Old buildings which are difficult to insulate due to building type, cost and Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park restrictions
- ♦ Lack of access to renewable sources of energy generation
- ♦ Ever increasing energy and fuel costs



What needs to be done

- ♦ The village and surroundings need to be tidied up and kept that way
- ♦ Lower our carbon footprint as individuals and as a community through improved recycling, less energy use and positive projects that allow people to make more environmentally friendly choices
- ♦ Promote, enhance and advertise public transport
- ♦ Shop locally and buy local produce. Consultation carried out at the farmers' market held during the rural sustainability event in 2009 showed that people would buy local produce if supply was regular and consistent, showing that people need incentive
- ♦ Development/tidy-up of empty buildings, Costcutters, and Youth Hostel sites

ACTIONS:

- ♦ Organise village clean up
- ♦ Volunteers to take responsibility for one small area each and keep it clear of litter
- ♦ Community Council to continue to work with the Breadalbane Community Council Forum and Stirling Council on current proposal to provide street cleaning and other services more locally, making them more flexible and responsive to local needs
- ♦ KAT to explore opportunities for developing a Community Renewable Energy scheme using natural resources i.e. water
- ♦ Explore opportunities for establishing a community woodland and local wood fuel supply scheme. EAK to speak with local landowners
- ♦ Street lights turned off for periods: EAK/Community Council to discuss with Stirling Council whether street lights could be turned off for part of the night. Full consultation with local residents to be carried out if found to be possible
- ♦ Develop Green Tourism: while tourist providers are coming together to look at how to develop and extend tourism in the area, EAK to promote and encourage development of green tourism working with the newly established tourism forum
- ♦ Run a thrift/swap shop part of each year. The Thrift Shop which ran in 2010 raised over £1500 for local community groups
- ♦ Freecycle website for selling/giving away/swapping goods: set up and promote an independent site where people can offer goods for sale or to a good home
- ♦ Explore possibility of central collection of larger items for disposal with shared cost of weekly run to Callander skip

Stakeholders: EAK, KAT, Community Council, Stirling Council, local landowners, retailers, tourism businesses

Other Ideas: Biomass development at Acharn to be used to grow local food
 Car/lift share scheme
 Incinerator
 Become a Fairtrade village
 Organise Earth Hour event as part of international event on March 31st every year
 Allotments

TOURISM

The Killin area is the tourism hub of Breadalbane. From Suie Lodge Hotel in the west to the Ben Lawers Hotel and Ardeonaig in the east, tourism supports a substantial number of accommodation and restaurant businesses. A significant number of retail businesses are largely dependent on tourism.

The highland and lochside location of Killin brings a substantial number of visitors with interests in outdoor pursuits (hill-walking; angling; water sports; golf; ornithology; botany) and these in turn support a number of businesses and organisations.

The Killin area also hosts a number of general retail businesses that benefit from tourism activity and has a large number of service providers who service tourism providers to a greater or lesser extent. The laundry is probably the service provider most directly linked to the tourist industry but many other services are essential to the maintenance of tourist facilities.

A full list of businesses can be found in the Community Profile available in the Library and on line at www.killincdt.co.uk



Issues

- The tourism business is seasonal, as evidenced by the shops that open on Sundays only in the summer months and the businesses that in the low season operate restricted hours (restaurants) or close completely (e.g. restaurants and guest houses)
- The Killin Sports Club is manned only during the school summer vacation, although some of the facilities (bowling green; tennis courts; all-weather football pitch) are available at other times
- The Youth Hostel was sold off and has now been demolished leaving a gap in the market for budget visitors looking for bunkhouse type accommodation
- Informal soundings suggest that August revenues in retail businesses are approximately double those of February – slightly less in some businesses but even more in the case of tourism-oriented businesses. This highlights the importance to the community as a whole of extending the length of the tourism season. Demand for services (e.g. plumbing and electrical) is more evenly spread with maintenance and refurbishment of tourism properties being carried out in the low season

What Needs To Be Done

There are several ways in which tourism activity in the Killin area can be increased:

- By attracting larger visitor numbers and over a greater part of the year
- By getting visitors to stay longer in the area
- By getting visitors to return in future

In turn, these objectives imply: better marketing; more things to do and visit; enhancing visitor facilities and the visitor experience.

ACTIONS

Marketing Killin

- ♦ Create an accommodation, attractions and events website
- ♦ Develop a Killin brand: Falls of Dochart; Loch Tay; Highland village; walking paradise, low-level and hills; fishing; golf
- ♦ Promote "A Year in Killin": year-round events and activities
- ♦ Breadalbane is a forgotten corner of the National Park. Invite the National Park Authority to do more to promote the area
- ♦ Erect quality "brown" signage at a distance from the village on the A85 (both directions) that highlights the number of facilities (hotels; restaurants; B&Bs) and activities (fishing; golf; water sports) in the village
- ♦ Erect signage on the Rob Roy Way/National Cycle Route 7 at the point where walkers and cyclists exit to the village
- ♦ Improve collaboration between local accommodation providers so that no potential visitors are turned away
- ♦ KAT has established a Tourism Development Forum to take forward the proposed projects



Extending the visitor stay

- ♦ Develop a locally-run Tourist Information Centre that focuses on the Killin area and its attractions
- ♦ Provide a 24/7 tourism information/interpretation centre that highlights: points of interest in the area; visitor attractions; accommodation and eating-out opportunities; local services
- ♦ Encourage tour buses to take passengers down through the village to the turning circle so that they see more of what the village has to offer before dropping them outside the Capercaille
- ♦ Provide core path routes: to Tarmachan and the Lawers Range and along north Loch Tay shore at least as far as Milton Morenish so that walkers don't face the hazardous walk along the A827
- ♦ Develop a number of events (cultural, musical etc.) throughout the year, but especially in the low season, to attract visitors to the area



Enhancing visitor facilities and the visitor experience by improving what we already have

- ♦ Support the Sports Pavilion and associated facilities, not just for locals but for visitors young and old in the summer.
- ♦ Continue to develop the NTS information room at Lynedoch, advertise it better and extend opening hours.
- ♦ Continue to fund and promote visitor attractions such as: Highland Games; New Year Fireworks; Bob MacGregor Rally.
- ♦ Keep public toilets open all year.
- ♦ Provide a much more "joined-up" transport service for visitors and residents alike, including a taxi service for visitors staying out of the village so that they can dine in the village in the evening.
- ♦ Tackle the problem of speeding on local roads, particularly motorcycles on the A827 at weekends.

Stakeholders: Local businesses, KAT, Visit Scotland, Stirling Council, Forth Valley Enterprise, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park, National Trust for Scotland, Police

FACILITIES and SERVICES

Killin is the largest village in the north west Stirling area and is the service centre for the surrounding smaller communities. The village still has a surgery, a nurses' clinic, police, ambulance and fire stations, as well as a Primary School and nursery. The shops provide for most needs and the establishment of Demand Responsive Transport has given greater flexibility to many with public transport needs.



Killin Surgery



Killin has many community-run organisations providing for a variety of local needs: village hall, sports activities, social & activities clubs for all ages. Some struggle at times through lack of volunteers or financial difficulty but most manage to survive. The members-run Golf Club celebrated its centenary year in 2011 and regular events - Highland Games, Agricultural Show, Clanscape, Hogmanay Fireworks, Pantomime and Motorbike trials - are continually added to with concerts, ceilidhs and last year the Tay Fitness 10k run. All these contribute to the health & wellbeing of those who live here and also help attract visitors to the area to contribute to the local economy.

New groups have been established recently and old groups re-started, including Killin Youth Group, Tiddlers & Toddlers, Primary football and the Community Choir. The Primary School has started a variety of out of school activities while private enterprise has introduced pilates, tennis coaching and kids' sports camps to Killin.



Killin Community Choir



Facilities such as the Library and Post Office play an important part in the life of the community. Although Stirling District Tourism has closed the Breadalbane Folklore Centre at the Old Mill, there is a strong desire to develop locally run tourist information in the village. Recent public meetings demonstrated the community wish to see the Old Mill building retained as a community asset.

The Big Shed completion at Tombreck has opened up opportunities for training, space for workshops and office rental and hosting a variety of activities and events.

Breadalbane Park has recently had some drainage improvements carried out by Stirling Council and the local community is working to improve the park further with better play equipment and permanent hard standing sites for use by the Games and Show and to renew the drainage across a wider area.

Most local retailers are surviving - with some notable exceptions - but there is concern that the arrival of Asda home delivery service is taking too much away from local business. This has been brought home by the closure of MacGregor's Fruit & Veg and Flower shops.



Falls of Dochart Retirement Home

Local people are proud of the community-owned Falls of Dochart Retirement Home, which provides residential care to the elderly whilst also providing full and part time employment to 15 local people. But the sheltered housing provision at Trust Housing has been lost with the removal of the warden post and an open letting policy.

Older people are also served by Stirling Council's once-a-week day care facility at the Nurses Clinic and by the Tuesday Club which provides an important opportunity for older people to meet in a social setting during the winter months. The Forth Valley Health Care project that supports elderly people on their return home from hospital is proving to be successful in enabling shorter hospital stays.

Ardeonaig had hoped to develop a new village hall after the closure of the Old School Hall as their meeting and activity space. However, local residents have decided to make use of existing space in the community i.e. Abernethy and the Boys Brigade centre for the time being.

Public transport has been boosted by the introduction of Demand Responsive Transport, which connects those further out of the area both to the village and to other transport links – bus and train, although there was a real sadness to see the post buses disappear. The community bus continues to provide a service to local groups with volunteer drivers covering quite a few miles to get local people out and about.

Issues

Facilities

- Some facilities are in need of upgrading to make them more attractive, functional and affordable for regular use
- Lack of centralised space to house community information and act as a base for community organisations e.g. KAT, Killin News
- Public toilets at the old station car park and by the Old Mill are still open some of the time but their future is in doubt
- The end of supported (sheltered) accommodation has removed the stepping stone between independent living and residential care
- The recent mothballing of the Church Hall has highlighted the issue of space needs and what is available in the area. Brownies, Tiddlers & Toddlers and the Pilates class are now looking for alternatives but are struggling to find something suitable. At the same time Killin Youth Group is cramped in the Sports Pavilion and space is also needed for tourist information and local history displays
- Potential loss of the Old Mill as a facility for tourists



Services

- ♦ Out-of-hours health care cover is still an issue for some who have had poor experience of the system
- ♦ There are no surgery appointments available after 5.30 pm. This is particularly an issue for those working outside the area
- ♦ The new Larbert Hospital has made visiting in-patients or attending as an outpatient an extra long journey and difficult for those using public transport who have to change buses in Stirling as well as Callander with a journey time of well over 2 hours and a cost of £26 for the round trip. Although there is a cheaper all day fare available this is little known
- ♦ Killin is regarded by locals to be untidy and dirty much of the time and the visits by a mobile cleansing team from Stirling are not regarded as sufficient, particularly in the summer months with litter and overflowing bins obvious in Main Street and other areas
- ♦ Deliveries from Perth-based Asda have been useful for people unable to shop for themselves as well as those living a long distance from shops. However, the fact that the deliveries are unco-ordinated means that they deliver several times a day, 7 days a week



Killin & Ardeonaig Church



St Fillan's Church

Roads and Transport



- ♦ Safety of pedestrians at the zebra crossing opposite the Primary School, from Bridge of Lochay Hotel to Killin Highland Lodges and on the Dochart Bridge
- ♦ State of road surfaces particularly on Ardeonaig Road and road from Bridge of Lochay to council boundary
- ♦ Snow clearing from side streets, particularly to the surgery, and pavement clearing/gritting, again particularly to surgery and around it and the steep stretches on Fingal and Manse Roads. Also siting of grit bins and grit availability
- ♦ No through public transport to/from Stirling making this journey difficult particularly for the less able and families with young children
- ♦ Public transport information not publicised enough. Visitors and local people have said that information about public transport is not easy to find
- ♦ Some local people unsure about how to access the Community Bus

What needs to be done

Facilities

- ♦ Research spaces available and what space is needed for groups
- ♦ A Community Resource Centre development to bring together several community activities and act as a central hub for the village
- ♦ Improvements to facilities such as Breadalbane Park, McLaren Hall and Sports Club would encourage more use and could provide the spaces needed in the village
- ♦ Support to all the existing facilities that are so important to the community both by using them and supporting efforts to keep them going
- ♦ Alternative solution to the existing public toilets run by Stirling Council
- ♦ Sustainable use of the Old Mill to be worked up into a business plan and funding applications made to purchase the building on behalf of the community



McLaren Hall



Sports Pavilion

Services

- ♦ Ensure that no vital services are lost
- ♦ Services to be delivered more locally so they can better respond to local need
- ♦ Support for local business: if local people don't use the shops and businesses they will not survive
- ♦ Explore alternative ways of providing home delivery services in a more co-ordinated and environmentally friendly way

Roads and Transport

- ♦ Improve public transport information about services and fares particularly the One ticket which offers a day's unlimited travel within Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Council areas for £8.80
- ♦ Ease the change of buses in Callander to make journey to/from Stirling less stressful
- ♦ Killin Community Bus Co Ltd to advertise the bus more widely and include details on how to book and use
- ♦ Improve the safety of some of our roads

ACTIONS

Facilities

- ♦ KAT to lead on an audit of existing space availability and document needs and gaps
- ♦ KAT to continue to explore opportunities for purchase of assets of community benefit using information gathered from the audit
- ♦ Employment of a development worker specifically to develop the issues identified in the Community Action Plan
- ♦ Form a Breadalbane Park users group. This group to work together to improve the facilities and protect the Park for the future
- ♦ KAT and Community Council to support funding applications for an area of hard standing in Breadalbane Park
- ♦ Loch Tay Community Interest Company to explore the possibility of hosting a Farmer's Market selling local foods and goods once or twice a year
- ♦ Community Council and KAT to work with Stirling Council to retain public toilets or find acceptable accessible alternatives
- ♦ Develop a community enterprise providing community and tourist information as well as a local food and Fairtrade retail outlet
- ♦ Establish Old Mill Steering Group to lead on purchase of the building

Stakeholders: KAT, Community Council, Stirling Council, Loch Tay CIC

Services

- ♦ Killin Community Council to continue to work with other Community Councils in the area and Stirling Council to develop a new model of delivering services across the area
- ♦ Community Council and local individuals to lobby Asda about their home delivery service. Local alternatives to be explored

Stakeholders: KAT, Community Council, Stirling Council, local community

Roads and Transport

- ♦ Police to continue to monitor the situation at the Primary School zebra crossing
- ♦ Improve safety of pedestrians on Aberfeldy Road from Golf Club up to holiday chalet park with signage and explore possibility of footpath off the road
- ♦ Community Council to work with Stirling Council to improve public transport information availability – timetables and fares
- ♦ Consultation with public transport users about the journey to/from Stirling
- ♦ Community Council to continue to lobby Stirling Council for better maintenance of Ardeonaig and Aberfeldy roads

Stakeholders: Community Council, Police, Stirling Council, KAT

Other Ideas:

- Become a Fairtrade village
- Indoor sports hall
- Roof over tennis courts
- Swimming pool
- Climbing wall
- Soft play area
- Camp site
- Dentist
- Composting public toilets
- Paid events/activities co-ordinator

If you feel inspired to get involved in any of the Actions, have other ideas or just want to find out more about this Action Plan, please get in touch with either:

Willie Angus, Chairman of KAT tel 01567 820238 or willieandgina@btinternet.com
or Suzanne Player, Rural Development Worker tel 01567 820154 or players@stirling.gov.uk



Many thanks to Hannah Robinson and John Forth (Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park), Anne Winther, John Holland, Katy MacLeod and everybody who has taken part in the consultation process for their assistance in the development of this Action Plan.



Killin and Ardeonaig Trust

