

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Pàirc Nàiseanta Loch Laomainn
is nan Tròisichèan



2008 – 2011

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



ST FILLANS

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2008 - 2011

ST FILLANS COMMUNITY FUTURES STEERING GROUP

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

ST FILLANS COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The community of St Fillans prepared this - its second Community Action Plan - with the assistance of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Community Futures Programme.

The plan revises and replaces our initial Community Action Plan which is now out of date. We have achieved some of the priorities in that Plan - such as:

- Encouraging responsible use of the loch
- Working to influence planning
- Lobbying for improved public transport links and better co-ordination of services
- Lobbying for local speed monitoring and traffic calming measures

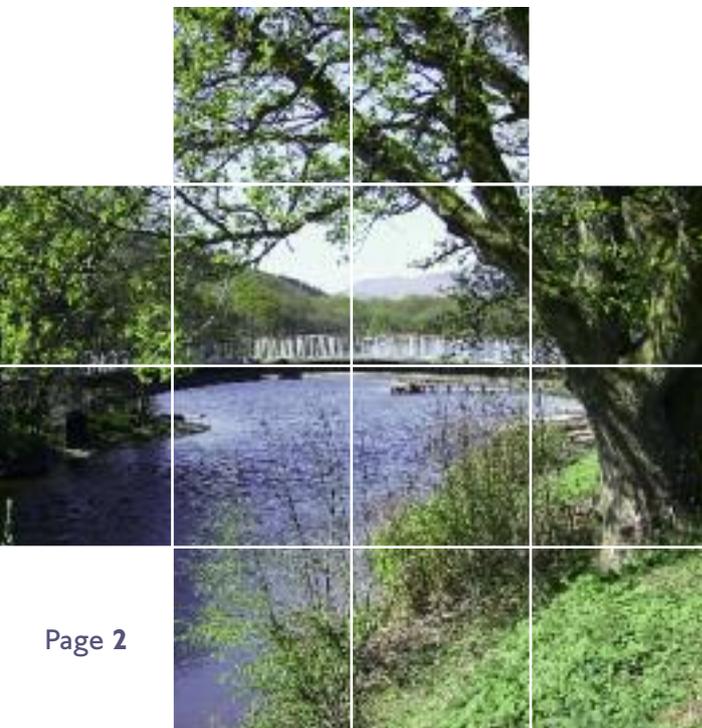
Some other priorities are carried forward, while a few important new issues have been identified to reflect the changes in our community over the last few years.

The Plan summarises community views on

- St Fillans now
- The vision for its future
- The issues that matter most and
- Priorities for action

The Plan makes a clear statement about the type of place St Fillans aims to be - and what needs to be done.

Front cover picture by courtesy of Fraser Ballantyne Photography



ST FILLANS COMMUNITY FUTURES STEERING GROUP AND SUPPORT

A Local Community Futures Steering Group was established from members of the local community and Community Council. Members were

Willie Phillips, John Murray, Kay Stockton and Margaret Phillips.

Marion McCahon and Joyce Russell from Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority worked with the Steering Group to support the consultation process.

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

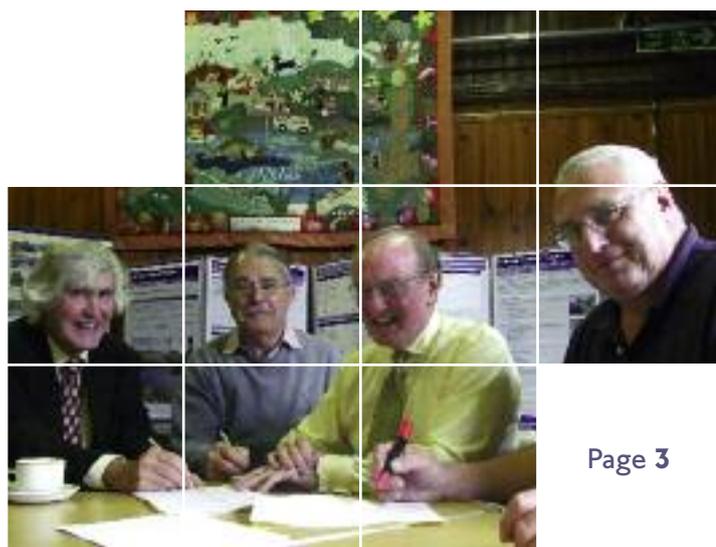
The Plan was prepared following extensive consultation with the community over a five month period from May to August 2007. Consultation included:

- A series of interviews with different groups and individuals representing all aspects of the community
- A community views survey went to all households
- A community profile detailing facts and figures about the community
- A “drop in” Local Plan development day
- A Community Futures workshop

**79 SURVEY FORMS WERE COMPLETED BY OUR
90 HOUSEHOLDS WITH RESIDENTS**

**18 INTERVIEWS WERE HELD WITH GROUPS AND
INDIVIDUALS**

**60 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE COMMUNITY
WORKSHOP OR THE LOCAL PLAN OPEN DAY.**



OUR COMMUNITY NOW

We have summarised below the views from our COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY.

COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY		
WHAT WE LIKE - THE TOP SEVEN		% Responses
1	Natural beauty of the village and the surrounding area	57%
2	Friendly people and good community spirit	50%
3	Peace and quiet	36%
4	Good range of community activities, events and recreational opportunities	34%
5	Location, including proximity to Loch Earn, and ease of access to major towns and cities (including Perth, Stirling and Edinburgh)	23%
6	Good local facilities (including the Sandison Hall and Church) and local services (including the shop, hotels and mobile services)	21%
7	Character of the Village (including the beautiful architecture of the traditional buildings)	14%

QUOTES FROM THE SURVEY

“St Fillans is a lovely, quiet country village. It has beautiful scenery and great views over the loch and surrounding hills.”

“It’s a pretty, peaceful village with great people, a friendly atmosphere and a good sense of community.”

“The sense of belonging to a very caring and friendly community.”

“The way the community gets together when organizing events like the summer weekend and the New Year party.”

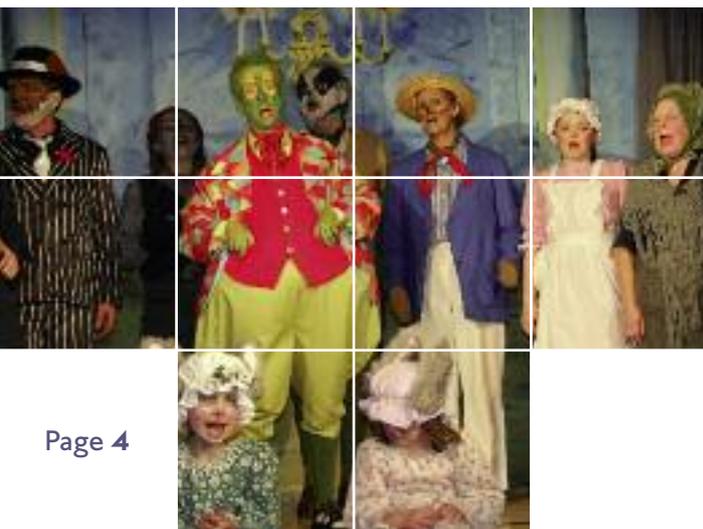
“Access to water sports and a good range of hotels, restaurants and bars”

“Good village shop run by enthusiastic owners.”

“Easy access to cities when needed.”

“I find it congenial to live in a village in which so many activities take place, especially during the winter months”.

“This is a very pretty village with so much character.”



WHAT WE DON'T LIKE - THE TOP NINE		% Responses
1	Speeding traffic, particularly motorbikes	47%
2	Litter (on loch-side and in village) and dog-fouling	40%
3	Anti-social behaviour linked to loch-side recreation	21%
4	Boat traffic (including noisy jetskis)	19%
5	Lack of services - school closure and no post office	14%
6	Lack of facilities for children/teenagers, including no play area	10%
7	Unsightly caravan site	9%
8	Lack of public transport	9%
9	Too many holiday/second homes and empty properties	7%

"The A85! In particular the road and the south loch road appears to be viewed as a rally track at certain times over the weekends."

"The litter, mess and disruption following the arrival / departure of the weekend warriors who arrive, drink, camp, litter, defecate and depart."

"The lack of a school - very much a requisite for ensuring that young people move into the village."

"Present time-tables do not permit a St Fillans based person without a car to work a full day in Crieff and be able to commute."

"People pouring into the area on a Friday, pulling a jet-ski with which to destroy the peace and quiet of the entire area for the whole weekend."

"The launching of water craft opposite the village and the lack of control over them. The lack of an imposable speed limit adjacent to the village."

"No area/playground equipment for young children and teenagers."

A survey was also carried out of young people in St Fillans

They particularly like:

- the friendly people
- the football field
- the village shop/café
- the loch and the golf-course

They dislike:

- The lack of activities and facilities - there is 'nothing to do' and 'it can be boring in the village'
- Lack of equipment and the poor condition of the football field
- Litter
- Lack of buses
- Not enough children and young people in the village



OUR COMMUNITY NOW

We have summarised below some of the information from the COMMUNITY PROFILE.

COMMUNITY PROFILE 2008

Location

The community of St Fillans is situated at the eastern end of Loch Earn. It comprises the village of St Fillans, a small community outlying the village and a string of individual houses on the loch's southern shore. It lies 30 miles west of Perth, 60 miles from Glasgow and 60 miles from Edinburgh. It is uniquely situated in both Perth and Kinross Council area and the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority area.

Population

St Fillans has an estimated population of 224 people, the majority of whom live in the village of St Fillans. The age-structure of St Fillans residents has changed considerably in recent years with a decline in the number of people in the 18 to 40 age group and more than 75% of people aged 40 and over. 25% of people are aged 65 and over.

Housing

There are 130 houses in St Fillans and of these 91 have permanent residents (Census, 2001). The number of holiday and second homes has doubled between 1991 and 2001 and now accounts for 27% of housing stock in the community. There is currently no social housing provision in St Fillans. The average house price in St Fillans is very high at just under £300,000.

Employment & The Local Economy

52% of economically active people commute to work in Stirling, Perth, Comrie, Crieff or Edinburgh.

Tourism and leisure (in particular the 3 hotels and large caravan site) are by far the biggest employers in St Fillans. The number of people employed in traditional industries like agriculture and forestry has declined over the past 10 years.

The village is the base for a diverse range of businesses and consultancies, many of which are home-based.



Social & Community

The Community Council is very active and takes forward issues on behalf of the community. St Fillans Community Trust Limited is currently being established and will be able to take forward projects for the community.

There are many different local groups and clubs in St Fillans. These include everything from drama groups to lunch and book clubs. There are many local events including a summer festive weekend, bon-fire night and a Hogmanay party.

St Fillans has a range of local services which include:

- A village shop/ café.
- Many local hotels and pubs
- The Sandison Hall
- Dundurn Parish Church
- Many other services are available in the nearby towns of Comrie and Crieff.

Environment and Recreation

The local environment is St Fillans' major asset. Situated at the eastern end of Loch Earn, surrounded by spectacular hills and scenery, its natural beauty makes it an attractive place for residents and visitors alike.

There is an abundance of flora and fauna in the area including areas of ancient woodland and protected species such as osprey, eagles, red kites, otters and bats.

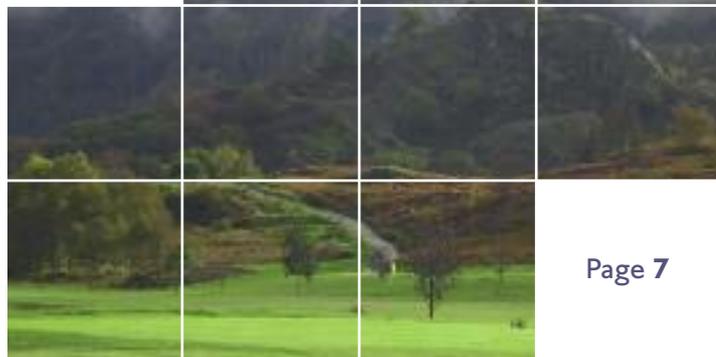
There are many recreational opportunities in the St Fillans area including: water sports on Loch Earn, hill-walking, cycling, golf, river and loch fishing. St Fillans has its own golf-club and there is a sailing club on Loch Earn.

There is a small recreational area behind the Drummond Hotel, which is used by the children for football, but no play area.

Heritage

St Fillans has a rich cultural heritage. Important cultural sites and buildings include:

- Dunfillan Hill - This hill at the eastern edge of the village is associated with the missionary Faolan, from whom the name St Fillans derives.
- Dundurn Cemetery - this is the ancient burial place of the Stewarts of Ardvorlich.
- The Queen of Lochearn. This was a popular steamer which operated until the outbreak of World War 2. She made two daily trips between St Fillans and Lochearnhead.
- Neish Island - This island was used by the Clan Neish in the 17th century. Legend tells of a raid on the island by the Clan McNab (from Killin) which almost wiped out the Clan McNeish.
- Sandison Hall - The village hall is named after Alexander Sandison, who bequeathed his extensive library to the residents of St Fillans.



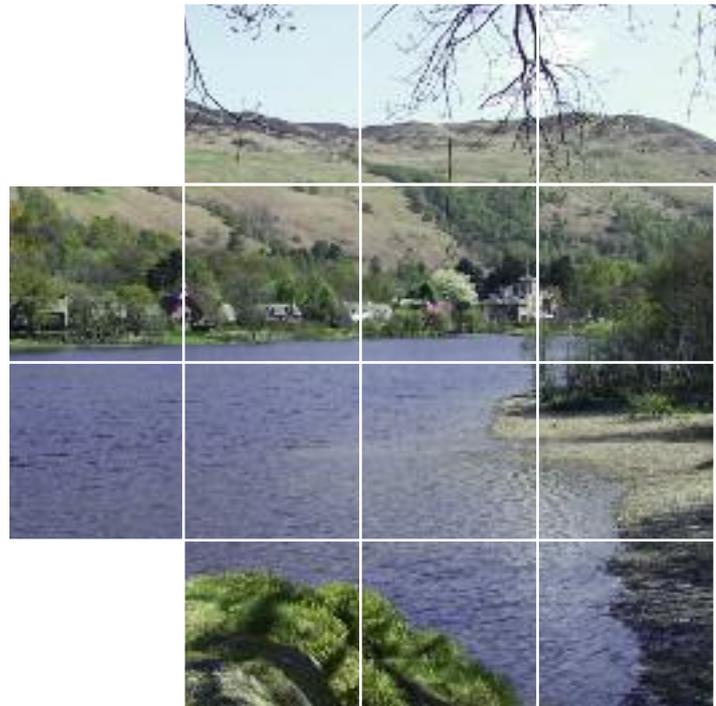
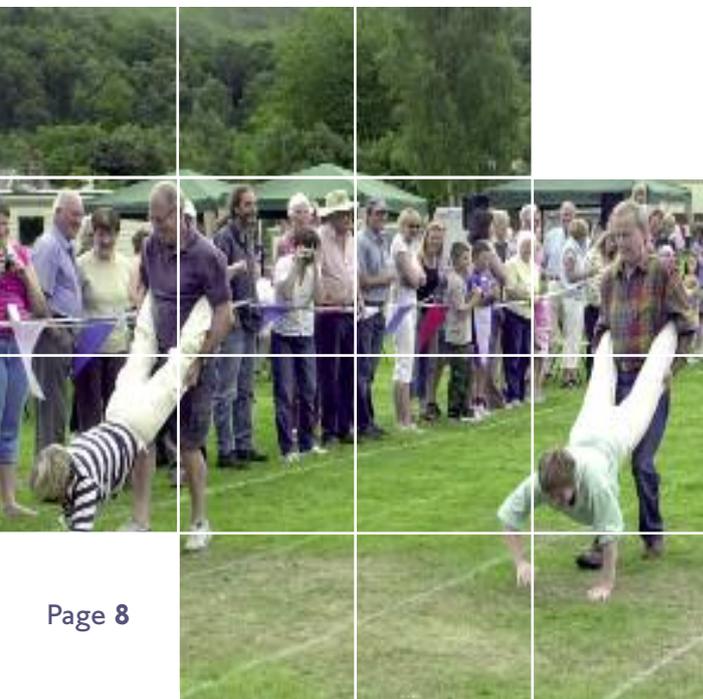
OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF ST FILLANS

This new vision statement has been prepared to reflect the aspirations of our community.

ST FILLANS VISION STATEMENT

St Fillans will be:

- A vibrant, mixed community, with a good balance of young and old, local families and new residents.
- A peaceful village, with a beautiful environment, which is respected by visitors and residents.
- A village with good infrastructure, services and facilities which are supported by the local authorities.
- A village which retains its traditional character and is not over-developed for housing or tourism.



MAIN THEMES & PRIORITIES

These are the things that the community, in partnership with a range of agencies and supporters, will aim to achieve over the next few years.

THEME 1 - COMMUNITY RECREATION

In our vision of a vibrant community, recreation facilities and activities play an important role by bringing community members together and helping to create community spirit.

MAIN PRIORITIES

- Provision of indoor and outdoor community facilities and activities.
- New activities and facilities for young people and teenagers.
- New and improved paths and signage
- Maintain existing numbers of community events

THEME 2 - TRAFFIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The retention of well maintained and necessary infrastructure is important for the future of St Fillans. Facilities such as public toilets play an essential role in providing for the many visitors to St Fillans and by encouraging them to stop in the area.

Creating a safe and peaceful village by reducing the speed of traffic is also a significant priority for local people.

MAIN PRIORITIES

- Reduce speeding traffic through St Fillans
- Retain the public toilets and investigate placing new toilets on the south shore of Loch Earn
- Improvements to sewage infrastructure



THEME 3 - ENVIRONMENT

The stunning natural environment of St Fillans and its future protection is important to local residents and visitors to the area. Litter and invasive species are some of the most immediate threats to this natural environment.

MAIN PRIORITIES

- Encourage greater litter awareness and control of litter and loch-shore debris
- Eradication of invasive species - particularly Japanese Knotweed



THEME 4 - LOCAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Local services and facilities make a valuable contribution to the quality of life in St Fillans. Improvements and greater access to these will encourage more people to move to and stay in the St Fillans area.

MAIN PRIORITIES

- Seek an integrated local transport service
- Greater access to medical and dental services
- Investigate alternative community uses for the old school building
- Improved recycling facilities
- Improved gritting and snow clearing on roads

THEME 5 - TOURISM AND VISITORS

Tourism and visitors are essential to the local economy of St Fillans and many local businesses are keen to encourage people to visit the area - particularly those who will appreciate it as a location for a 'peaceful and relaxing' holiday.

Some visitors to the area create anti-social behaviour issues and improvements in visitor management would help to reduce the impact of this behaviour on local residents.

MAIN PRIORITIES

- Greater management of visitors on and around Loch Earn to reduce anti-social behaviour
- Create more opportunities for sustainable tourism in St Fillans, including more visitor activities, facilities and information

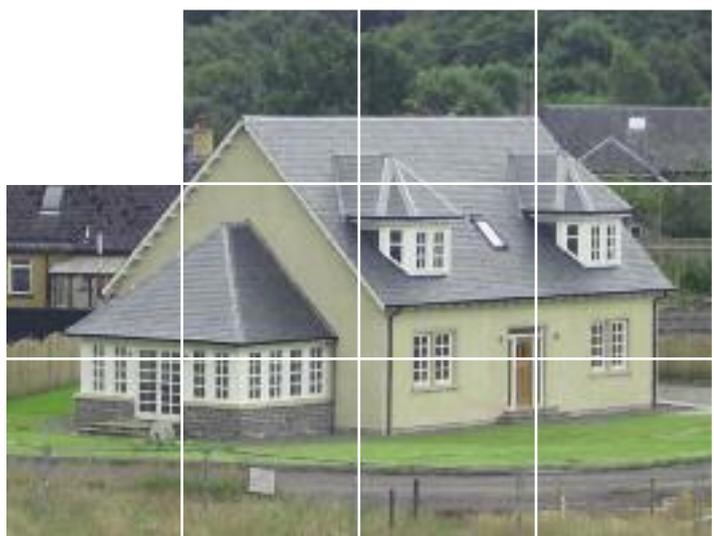
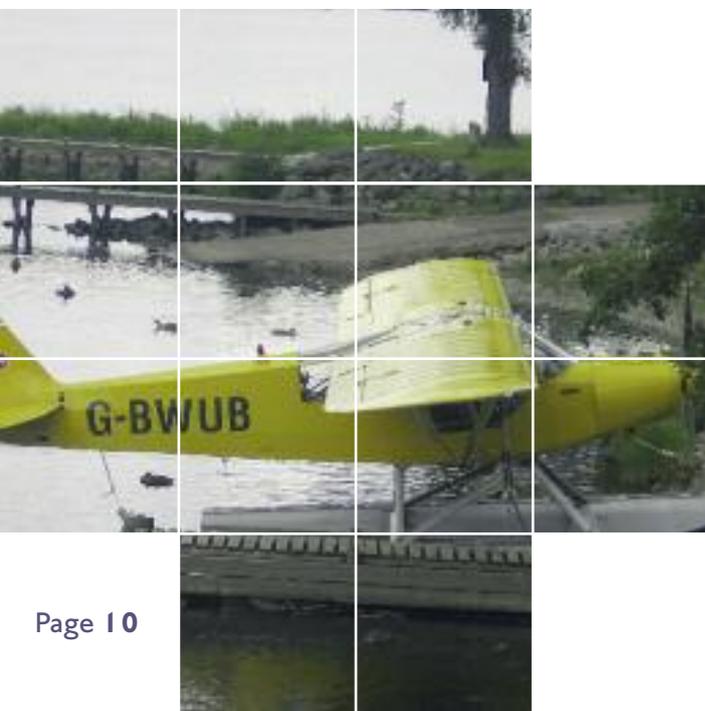
THEME 6 - HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

Retention of the traditional character of St Fillans and making sure that the village doesn't become over-developed is an important part of our vision for St Fillans.

The vision also sets out a desire for a vibrant, mixed community in St Fillans. To work towards this, a clear understanding of current housing provision and demand is required.

MAIN PRIORITIES

- Greater dialogue with local authorities on planning issues
- Assess the housing need in St Fillans



ACTION

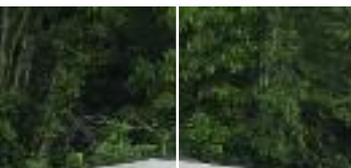
Making progress – some of the action steps to be taken over the next 12 months:

THEME 1	COMMUNITY RECREATION
PRIORITY 1	<p>PROVISION OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Research what recreation, education, sports and other activities the community would like to take part in ■ Review the current facility provision for these activities ■ Explore other options for facilities like the old school or a new hall ■ Agree a plan for any new facilities required
Action by	Community Members, St Fillans Community Trust Ltd, Sandison Hall Committee, Perth and Kinross Council, St Fillans Community Council, Drummond Estates
PRIORITY 2	<p>DEVELOP NEW ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND TEENAGERS</p> <p>PLAY AREA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Collect children’s and young people’s ideas for the play area ■ Commission designs ■ Secure a gift of or buy an area of land ■ Begin fundraising <p>OTHER FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work with young people to take forward other ideas for activities and facilities
Action by	Community members, young people, St Fillans Community Trust Ltd, National Park staff, Perth and Kinross Council, St Fillans Community Council, Drummond Estates
PRIORITY 3	<p>NEW AND IMPROVED PATHS AND SIGNAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Research improvements needed to local paths, signage and path information ■ Form a local path group ■ Raise funds to carry out improvements ■ Speak with the National Park, Perth and Kinross Council and Sustrans about developing cycle-paths in the area
Action by	Community members, local path group, St Fillans Community Trust Ltd, National Park Access Officer and Rangers, local Access Forums and Perth and Kinross Council
PRIORITY 4	<p>MAINTAIN EXISTING LEVELS OF COMMUNITY EVENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identify new events organisers and volunteers within the community ■ Encourage more young people to assist with local events
Action by	Community members, St Fillans Community Trust Ltd, local hotels, Festive weekend committee

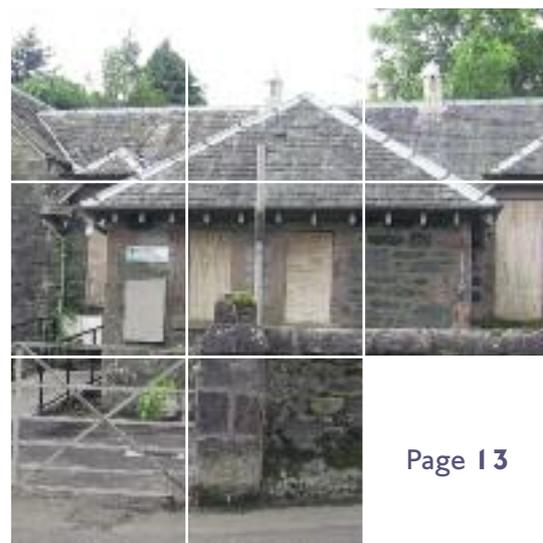
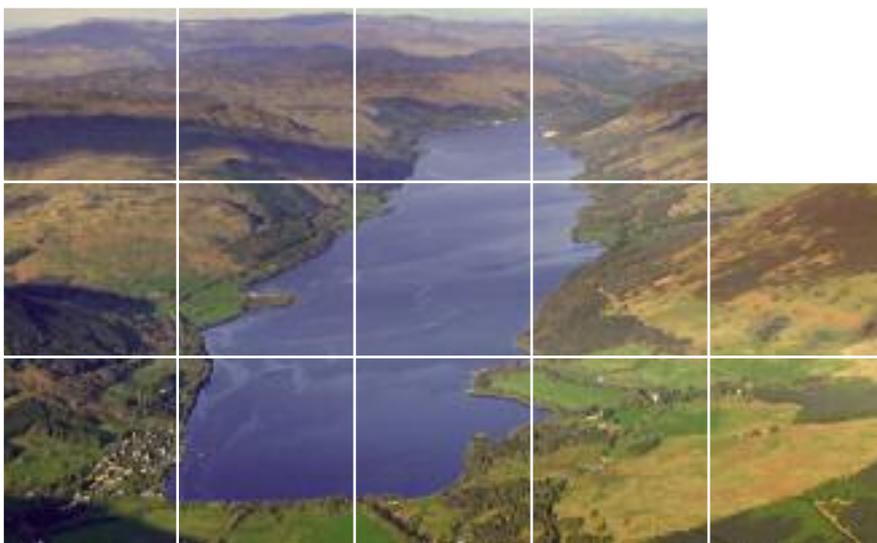


THEME 2 TRAFFIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
PRIORITY 1	<p>REDUCE SPEEDING TRAFFIC THROUGH ST FILLANS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure that traffic calming measures (identified as a result of the Scotland Transerve traffic survey) are put in place ■ Ask police to carry out regular speed checks in St Fillans
Action by	Tayside Police, St Fillans Community Council, St Fillans Community Trust Ltd, Scotland Transerve, Scottish Government
PRIORITY 2	<p>PUBLIC TOILETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lobby Perth and Kinross Council to keep the toilets open ■ Review alternative options for retaining the toilets, e.g. community ownership ■ Investigate installing toilets on South Loch Earn (work with landowners, Perth and Kinross Council and the National Park)
Action by	St Fillans Community Council, Perth and Kinross Council, St Fillans Community Trust Ltd, community members, National Park and local landowners
PRIORITY 3	<p>IMPROVEMENTS TO SEWAGE INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Raise existing issues with Scottish Water ■ Lobby Scottish Water and planners to ensure that suitable improvements are made
Action by	St Fillans Community Council, Scottish Water, National Park, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

THEME 3 ENVIRONMENT	
PRIORITY 1	<p>LITTER AWARENESS AND CONTROL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Request improved and co-ordinated litter clearance by Perth and Kinross Council, Drummond Estates, National Park and Scotland Transerve ■ Highlight litter problem areas using Community Partnership Litter Campaign materials ■ Organise an annual community litter clean ■ Lobby for more litter bins on the south side of Loch Earn ■ Ask local authorities and landowners for assistance with clearing up winter debris on the loch-shore
Action by	Community members, St Fillans Community Council, Perth and Kinross Council, National Park, Drummond Estates, Scotland Transerve, Crieff Hydro, Scottish Hydro Electric and Scottish Water
PRIORITY 2	<p>ERADICATION OF INVASIVE SPECIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Map the location of Knotweed and other invasive plants ■ Seek funding to eradicate Knotweed
Action by	St Fillans Community Council, St Fillans Community Trust Ltd, community members, National Park, Perth and Kinross Council and Drummond Estates



THEME 4 LOCAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES	
PRIORITY 1	<p>SEEK AN INTEGRATED LOCAL TRANSPORT SERVICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identify improvements to services required ■ Contact transport operators to request changes and better promotion of the time-table ■ Investigate alternative transport options ■ Request repairs to bus shelter
Action by	Transport operators, St Fillans Community Council, Perth and Kinross Council
PRIORITY 2	<p>GREATER ACCESS TO MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lobby for an improved local out of hours service ■ Request a satellite surgery at the Sandison Hall ■ Lobby Tayside Health Service for local NHS dentist provision
Action by	St Fillans Community Council, Tayside NHS Trust, local doctors and dentists
PRIORITY 3	<p>ALTERNATIVE USES FOR THE OLD SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Speak to Perth and Kinross and Drummond Estates about community use of the building ■ Investigate possible uses and the costs of these
Action by	St Fillans Community Trust Ltd, St Fillans Community Council, Perth and Kinross Council, Drummond Estates and community members
PRIORITY 4	<p>IMPROVED RECYCLING FACILITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lobby Perth and Kinross Council for improved recycling for residents, visitors and businesses ■ Research alternative recycling options
Action by	St Fillans Community Council, Perth and Kinross Council, local businesses
PRIORITY 5	<p>IMPROVED GRITTING AND SNOW CLEARING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write to the Scottish Government to advise them of improvements needed to gritting and snow clearing on roads and pavements
Action by	St Fillans Community Council, Perth and Kinross Council, Scotland Transerve, Scottish Government



THEME 5 TOURISM AND VISITORS	
PRIORITY 1	<p>VISITOR MANAGEMENT TO REDUCE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bring community concerns to the Loch Earn Management Group and ensure St Fillans community members are represented on the group ■ Ask the Loch Earn Management Group to develop a launching policy for local landowners to sign up to ■ Encourage community members to report anti-social behaviour to the police ■ Request an increased police presence around Loch Earn. ■ Investigate ways of reducing boat speed near the village - this could include installing buoys and signage to mark the 5 mph zone
Action by	St Fillans Community Council, St Fillans Community Trust Ltd, Tayside Police, Drummond Estates, National Park, Loch Earn Management Group, launching site owners
PRIORITY 2	<p>IMPROVE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES IN ST FILLANS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Create a St Fillans tourism action group ■ Agree a tourism plan for St Fillans ■ Work with other tourism groups e.g. Breadalbane Tourism Association and Loch Earn Tourism Initiative ■ Explore promotion of St Fillans as a peaceful holiday destination ■ Investigate ways of improving visitor activities, facilities and information ■ Create a leaflet to highlight activities and places to visit from St Fillans
Action by	Community members, local tourism businesses, National Park, Perth and Kinross, Scottish Enterprise, Breadalbane Tourism Group and Loch Earn Tourism Initiative

THEME 6 HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT	
PRIORITY 1	<p>GREATER DIALOGUE WITH NATIONAL PARK ON PLANNING ISSUES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Encourage community members to contribute to the local plan consultation ■ Arrange meetings between Community Council and National Park to discuss planning issues
Action by	Community members, St Fillans Community Council, National Park
PRIORITY 2	<p>ASSESS THE HOUSING NEED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bring together research into housing needs in the St Fillans area ■ If appropriate, carry out a local housing survey to determine local need and a range of possible solutions
Action by	Community members, National Park, Perth and Kinross Council



MAKING IT HAPPEN

St Fillans Community Trust Ltd and St Fillans Community Council will take a lead role in delivering the priorities identified in this action plan. They will work in partnership with other community groups, organisations and local authorities.

The Community Council will have mainly a lobbying function to request improved services and support from Perth and Kinross Council, the National Park, Tayside Police, Scotland Transerve and other service providers.

The new St Fillans Community Trust Ltd will help to drive forward the delivery of projects identified in the action plan. It aims to deliver these by setting up action groups for each major project. It is hoped that these will include groups for community facilities and activities, young people's projects, local paths etc.

To deliver the tourism projects identified in the action plan, a local tourism action group could be established by local businesses.

For St Fillans Community Trust Ltd to be successful in raising funding and delivering projects, it needs to be able to show that it has the support of the community. To show your support and become a member, please complete the form included with this action plan or contact:

Kay Stockton on 01764 685376

The St Fillans Community Futures Steering Group would like to thank everyone in the community who supported the development of this action plan, including everyone who completed surveys, took part in interviews or attended the community workshop.

This new action plan is for the whole community of St Fillans and it can only be achieved by working together to deliver our priority projects and actions.

If you would like to be involved with any of the projects listed in the action plan please contact:

Kay Stockton (St Fillans Community Trust Ltd) on 01764 685376

Willie Phillips (St Fillans Community Council) on 01764 685238





Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Pàirc Nàiseanta Loch Lomhainn
& nan Trosachan

COMMUNITY FUTURES

PROGRAMME

COMMUNITY FUTURES PROGRAMME

St Fillans has been supported in the preparation of its new Community Action Plan by the National Park's Community Futures Programme.

Through the Community Futures Programme, all communities in the Park prepared their first Community Action Plans between 2001 and 2003. These Action Plans assisted communities to identify and develop their priorities for projects and actions. They also helped communities to clearly represent their main needs and aspirations and to influence the preparation of the National Park Plan.

Communities have also been assisted to develop local and area based organisations and 20 Community Development Trusts have been established as well as 4 Area Networks.

The Community Futures Programme is supporting all 21 communities in the National Park area to revise and renew their Community Action Plans.

In revising their Community Action Plans, communities are continuing to shape and influence their own development by:

- Updating facts and figures and views about their community
- Developing a clear set of priorities for their community over the next 3 - 5 years
- Ensuring that there is a strong community mandate for projects and actions
- Offering opportunities for new people to be involved and new ideas to flourish
- Enabling informed community input to the National Park Local Plan

For more information contact:

Lesley Campbell

Rural & Community Support Manager

TEL: 01389 722600

email: Lesley.campbell@lochlomond-trossachs.org



Community Futures Programmes of local community planning and community engagement are designed and supported by the Small Town and Rural Development Group. www.stardevelopmentgroup.org

