

COMMUNITY UPDATE

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How should the local tourism and visitor economy in Rannoch and Tummel be developed?

The question needs to be asked as economic development and the creation of jobs is key to the long-term sustainability of our local communities. In 2015 visitors to Scotland generated £8.9bn of spend and tourism generated over £12bn of economic activity so it is right that we should be asking ourselves whether Rannoch could or should be doing more to tap into the economic benefits that tourism can bring. RCT have pulled together a discussion paper with ideas on how the 'visitor offer' might be developed so that not only do we attract more visitors but we also ensure that more of the money that they spend is spent in Rannoch. The ideas in the paper are based partly on visitor surveys and data from Visit Scotland and also from speaking to local groups, including Rannoch & Tummel Tourist Association, and partner organisations such as the Forestry Commission and Perth & Kinross Council and include the following:

MARKETING AND BRANDING

Should we develop a marketing plan for Rannoch and Tummel including the development of a brand that will help the area stand out as a destination?

Rannoch and Tummel abounds in outstanding landscapes and scenery and is rich in historical, cultural and natural heritage but then so are many other regions of Scotland. What makes Rannoch stand out from it's competitors and what stories do we have that will lure visitors off the A9 ?

WALKING AND HIKING

Through the work of the Paths Group, we will continue to develop the network of paths and trails through upgrading, way-marking, and improving accessibility, together with the production of maps/route guides, interpretation resources and promotional materials. Is it feasible to improving connectivity to the network of ancient drover tracks and other paths that spread out from the western end of Rannoch?

CYCLING

The Etape Caledonia has given the Rannoch area a profile amongst committed road cyclists but can more be done to promote the area as a cycling destination for the more casual leisure cyclists and families through the development of 'green routes' along the south side of Lochs Tummel and Rannoch?

With its abundance of forestry trails and land-rover tracks does Rannoch have something to offer the off-road cyclist and mountain biker?



Green route between Glenfarg & Milnathort

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DEVELOPING A HERITAGE TRAIL

Is there the potential to upgrade the Clan Trail by improving accessibility, updating the interpretation panels to provide an enhanced, interactive user experience possibly using new technology such as 'augmented reality'? Could the trail be expanded in to a full heritage trail that includes other aspects of Rannoch's history (linking into film and TV programme locations such as Outlander) as well as it's natural heritage?

ECO-TOURISM

With two National Scenic Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Scientific Interest Rannoch and Tummel has a lot to attract those seeking a connection with nature. Is there more that we can offer the eco-tourist?

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Although the landscape offers plenty of opportunities for hill-walking, mountain biking and water sports, there is little infrastructure such as jetty's, slipways or outdoor activities programmes, to attract those who are novices or wanting to develop their skills and confidence. Should we be looking at ways we can attract investment to develop Rannoch as an outdoor activities destination?

ACCOMMODATION

Although the area is well-provided for in more upscale hotels/guest-houses and self-catering accommodation, there is little in the way of budget accommodation such as hostels and bunk-houses. Could better use be made of

the accommodation at the Outdoor Centre or is there the potential to develop another building to fill this gap in the market?

CAMPING

Can the range of options for camping be expanded? Although there is a camp site at Kilvrecht, facilities are basic with no electric hook-ups or hot showers. Is there the potential to attract campers who like a few more creature comforts, or to tap into the increasing popularity of 'glamping'?

Wild camping, whether in tents or motor-homes, is increasingly popular but brings with it problems of litter and emptying of chemical toilets – can this be mitigated through the provision of managed and serviced (waste and chemical toilet disposal facilities, electrical hook ups etc...) loch-side stop-over points?

VISITOR MANAGEMENT

How do we manage the impact of visitors on the local infrastructure and environment? Increased numbers potentially bring with it increased traffic, problems with parking, litter and waste etc... but can these impacts can be mitigated through developing a visitor management plan?

At the moment all the above are just ideas and we need to consult further so that we identify those that are feasible and likely to deliver the greatest benefits but also on those that enhance, rather than detract from, what makes Rannoch special. Let us know what you think by emailing projects@ourrannoch.co.uk

Paths and Open Space Group

The paths group has not met formally for a few months however individuals continue to monitor, clear paths and litter pick various areas around Rannoch.

In the late spring the group planted hawthorn and other native trees in several locations. On one day they were joined by a group of 22 French Scouts who worked on a couple of Loch side sites alongside members of the Loch Rannoch Conservation Association. Again the work was about litter clearance and cutting back overgrown vegetation.



Picnic bench at Kinloch Rannoch Village Hall

Recently the group took delivery of 6 picnic tables paid for by Community Environmental Challenge Fund. Three are wheelchair accessible. The tables will appear at various locations and two have already been delivered to the village hall.

If you want to comment or find out more about the groups plans or better still, come and join them and lend a hand, email: rannochscotland@gmail.com or watch the shop window for notification of the plan for the next day.

Dawn to Dusk Festival



Annie Benson would like to say thank you to the helpers who, on the day, ran the walks, activities and food. The numbers attending this year were lower than last however those who came reported that they had a great

Broadband Update

BT painted a very mixture picture about their future plans for upgrading broadband connectivity in Rannoch and Tummel when they met with reps from RCT and the Rannoch 633 Association (R633A) recently. Gordon Brown from RCT, along with Dick Barbor-Might from R633A and Ian Bailey, a technical consultant carrying out the broadband options appraisals for RCT and R633A, met with Directors from BT at the end of June to try and find out what action they were taking to improve access to broadband.

BT confirmed that the upgrade of the Bridge of Gaur exchange was underway with work taking place during July. Although the upgrade to 21CN technology does not involve fibre it should result in significantly increased broadband speeds for many households in the 633 area, exchange particularly for those nearer the exchange. (R633A have recently issued a newsletter giving the latest position with the BoG exchange upgrade.)

However, there was disappointing news on the Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) upgrades for Tummel Bridge and Kinloch Rannoch which it had been hoped would be up and running and providing access to superfast broadband for properties within a 1 mile radius. Although the new cabinet has been installed at Tummel Bridge it still lacks power and more significantly a fibre connection from Pitlochry. This will require a fibre cable to be laid from Garry Bridge all the way along Loch Tummel. Work is unlikely to start until September at the earliest and then a further cable will need to be laid between Tummel Bridge and Kinloch Rannoch. Realistically it is unlikely that the FTTC upgrade for Tummel Bridge will be completed until the end of 2018 while Kinloch Rannoch may need to wait until sometime in 2019.

BT also advised that it would not be commercially viable for them to lay fibre beyond Kinloch Rannoch. Although alternative solutions may be put forward as part of the Scottish Government's Reaching 100% (R100) programme which is currently out to procurement, BT were not willing to say what they were proposing as it was still commercially confidential.

On a more positive note, BT confirmed that their Community Fibre Partnership programme was still in place and working with many communities and groups across Scotland to deliver full fibre solutions (CFP requires a financial contribution towards the installation costs from communities/residents). BT



Openreach claim to have become much more efficient at deploying fibre solutions and had begun to invest in infrastructure that made full fibre to the premises more economically attainable for communities. BT advised that they had done a preliminary assessment of bringing fibre to 103 properties around Loch Rannoch including out to Rannoch Station and would be willing to share this information with 633A/RCT if the communities were interested in assessing a Community Fibre Partnership in the future.

OPTIONS APPRAISALS

Ian Bailey, our technical consultant, is continuing to on the broadband options appraisals although the delay in the FTTC upgrades for Kinloch Rannoch and Tummel Bridge means that he will not be able to get a true picture of broadband speeds until these upgrades are completed. However, he has concluded that even when the various upgrades are completed the properties on the southside of Loch Rannoch between Finnart Lodge and Carie are likely to have broadband speeds of less than 2mps. The installation of a number of 4G mobile phone masts by EE and O2 look as though they may offer an affordable and effective alternative solution (fixed wireless broadband) offering broadband speeds of up to 40mps. Although there are number of properties where 4G coverage remains patchy, particularly on the south side of Loch Rannoch, there is potential funding available to enable mobile operators to build additional infrastructure where it would otherwise be commercially unviable.

Ian intends to issue an interim report in the near future assessing the broadband capacity and capability offered by the upgraded Bridge of Gaur exchange and by the 4G mobile phone network together with 'How to Guide' for homes and businesses thinking of signing up to 4G Mobile Fixed Wireless Broadband.

Rannoch Community Befriending Service

Although relatively new, befriending services are now found in many areas of Scotland. The aim of the service is to befriend and support elderly and vulnerable people who may be lonely or isolated and need a little bit of help to continue living independently.



In Rannoch, The **We Care Community Befriending Service** was developed by Sandra Winter and the We Care group with support from Rannoch Community Trust who successfully applied for funding from the NHS Tayside Innovation fund.

Working closely with the 'Ask Task' group, Tricia Burgon, the newly appointed Befriending Service Co-ordinator, seeks to match up community volunteers with people who have been referred to the service because they are in need of a helping hand. Referrals can come from a range of sources from a GP or other health professional to family member. Once a referral has been received Tricia will contact the person concerned check that they are happy for her to visit to and start to work with them to assess what help and support is needed. Depending on the type of support identified Tricia may also work with other service providers such as Adult Social Care, the NHS or other voluntary sector groups as well as local volunteers.

Leaflets and other publicity about the service and how to make a referral will be distributed in the very near future but in the meantime if you would like to find out more email wecare.befriender@gmail.com or call 07340 292433.

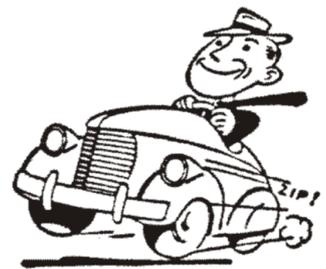
New sessional worker for Mother & Toddler group



We are delighted to welcome Aycan Stevens as the newly appointed Sessional Worker for the **Little Acorns Mother and Baby/Toddler group**. We reported in our last Community Update that RCT together with Kinloch Rannoch Primary School had secured grant funding from the Souter Trust that enabled the Little Acorns group to move from monthly to weekly meetings. The same funding is also being used to employ Aycan to work with and support the group. Aycan has lots of ideas and in the past two months, numbers in the group have increased. The group are friendly and welcoming so if anyone is interested in joining in please get in touch if you have a child 0-5 years.

Bravo to our Volunteer Drivers

Huge thanks to our Volunteer Drivers who provide an invaluable service providing transport to hospital appointments for local residents. Another huge thanks goes to the **Leng Charitable Trust** for their generous donation to support the expenses incurred by the drivers.



Rannoch Community Trust AGM

Thanks to everyone who attended the first Rannoch Community Trust AGM at the end of June. The event went very well and despite competition from the glorious summer weather attracted a good attendance. The annual report was well received with audience members asking questions about the future work of the Trust, and all the following Directors were re-elected to the Board:

- ◆ Richard Barclay
- ◆ Barry Foley
- ◆ David Holland
- ◆ Gordon Brown
- ◆ Bob Benson
- ◆ Ali Penman



Copies of the annual report are available by emailing projects@ourrannoch.co.uk

Great response to Housing Needs Analysis Survey

A big thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the Housing Needs Survey. Over 300 questionnaires were delivered as well as being made available on-line and 90 were completed and returned – a response rate of 30% which Rural Housing Scotland say is excellent. Rural Housing Scotland have now completed their analysis of the completed questionnaires and have provided RCT with a draft report of the findings. The results of the survey will be shared more widely once the board have had a chance to consider the report and meet with Rural Housing Scotland to discuss their findings in more detail.

Finally, a **big thank you to all the volunteers** who helped to deliver the questionnaires and contributed to a successful survey.

Missed the housing survey? – If you missed the opportunity to participate in the housing needs survey you can still share your views on the need for affordable housing in Rannoch, email projects@ourrannoch.co.uk

Progress made in securing future funding for Rannoch Community Trust

As many of you will be aware, last year RCT received six months funding from the Rural Perthshire LEADER programme to employ a staffing resource to help take forward the Rannoch Development Plan. This funding expired at the end of May 2018 and two applications for approximately £50,000 of continuation funding have been submitted to the LEADER programme.

The first application is focussed on **developing infrastructure and services** in connection with things like tourism, employment and housing, while the second application is focussed on **community development and capacity building**.

LEADER funding requires 50% match funding to be secured before an application will be considered. RCT have been successful in obtaining match funding from

the Gannochy Trust which will allow the first LEADER funding application to be submitted and we hope to have a decision in the near future. An application for match funding in support of the second LEADER application has been made to a grant-making trust and we hope to hear the outcome in the next couple of weeks. If successful we will then be able to make a submit the second application to Rural Perthshire LEADER.

While we are very hopeful that we will secure continuation funding, the Trust is in a sort of limbo while we await the outcome of our funding applications. Although Gill and David, our Development Workers, continue to work with us, there is inevitably a slow down in the work of the Trust can do until we can secure the funding that will enable us to employ staff and commission other work. In the meantime, we will continue to progress some of the bigger projects we have started such as the community hub/pub, affordable housing, and the We Care Befriending Service.

Rannoch Community Trust

The Rannoch Community Trust (RCT) was formally established in January 2017 as a Company Limited by Guarantee and is also a registered charity. Our purpose is to be an anchor organisation for Rannoch and Tummel by working with and supporting local community groups and organisations to promote the community life and the social and economic regeneration of the area as detailed in the Rannoch & Tummel community plan '[Delivering Rannoch's Sustainable Future](#)'

Directors: Richard Barclay (Chair), David Holland (Secretary & Treasurer), Bob Benson, Gordon Brown, Ali Penman, Barry Foley.



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