


## CAP REVIEW




**Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston  
Community Action Plan review**

Summary of progress & future priorities  
(Traffic light system)

Theme	Progress to date	Future work	Priority	Priority
Community & Recreation	Orange circle	Green circle	Icon of people playing	Icon of a building
Housing & Local Economy	Green circle	Green circle	Icon of a house	Icon of a person with a shopping bag
Environment & Heritage	Red circle	Green circle	Icon of a person walking	Icon of a tree and a hand holding a leaf
Access to Services & Transport	Orange circle	Green circle	Icon of a person with a shopping bag	Icon of a bus
Parking, Roads & Traffic	Orange circle	Green circle	Icon of a car and a 'P' sign	Icon of a 30 speed limit sign

You can find the full report here  
<https://communitycompany.co.uk/cap/index.php>  
or scan the QR code



Some of you will have seen the details we posted recently on Facebook to summarise the Community Acton Plan review findings. The full document is available on our website <https://www.communitycompany.co.uk/cap/index.php>

It has been great to meet so many of you and hear your thoughts and suggestions.

The next step will be to organise a meeting for those parties who will be involved in taking projects forward and we hope that will be possible in the coming month. It will certainly help the Community Company Directors in determining the priorities for future projects.

## DIRECTORS

As promised in the last Ness News we would like to introduce you to our other new Director, Lynne West from Invermoriston.

*I retired to Invermoriston in 2018 with my husband: our daughter lives in Dundreggan with her rescue Staffie. My background is in education: I started my working life as a Secondary teacher in London, progressing to be Principal of a Further Education College and Director of an Education Action Zone in the North East.*



*Community life is very important to me. I am Secretary of the Glenmoriston Improvement Group, a community action group set up in 2020, and of the recently re-formed Glenmoriston Heritage Group, as well as treasurer of the Fort Augustus and Area Gaelic Group. I am an Archery coach (looking forward to seeing a Sports Centre in this area!) and my interests include canal boating, travel, heritage and the environment. I am pleased to join the Directors of the Fort Augustus and Area Community Company, because their emphasis is on action, not just talk, in supporting the area's communities.*

We have also been lucky enough to find two new volunteer Directors to join the team. They have been co-opted onto the Board, as they became interested after the AGM. They are Fiona MacCormick from Fort Augustus and David Francis from Dalchreichart. We are delighted to have them join us and there will be a bit more about them next time.



## Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

### 'SUDDEN IMPACT IN GLENMORISTON



Not what you're thinking, Harry Callahan hasn't been spotted in Dalchreichart or Invermoriston, but we do have a new member of the community caretaking team taking care of business in Glenmoriston.

David Campbell has recently joined us and his relentless enthusiasm to improve the area has made a big impact already. His role is far more hands on now and will make a welcome change to being on the Board as a director.

Feedback from many members of the communities was that there was just not enough presence from the community company, which is a fair comment, hence one of the driving

forces behind employing a new member of staff, (our own Harry Callahan), to improve and maintain the two villages. Duties and responsibilities are varied and wide just like the FA based team including improving the aesthetic appearance of the area. This will include all aspects of soft landscaping, maintaining hard standing areas, waste management and more specialist projects.

David will also work alongside the rest of the community caretakers especially when a larger team effort is required.

The villages are already starting to have that looked after feeling about them and just as for the rest of the team, if you spot him working do stop and say hello. You've got to ask yourself 'do I feel lucky', well go ahead punk, make his day.

### COMMUNITY GROWING

The first meeting was held in May for people interested in starting up a community growing group. The next meeting is on site, at the Convent Land in early June. The land available extends to approximately 1 acre, with the possibility of more being available. It's a blank canvas and we hope an active group of volunteers growers will plan and develop the land into a productive and inclusive community space. FAGCC directors Fiona and Michael are keen to be involved and the staff of FAGCC will be on hand to support the group to bring their ideas to fruition. The group is open to anyone. There are other areas of ground that may become available so that one day there'll be community growing spaces dotted all round the area on this project.

### COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 introduced new Community Rights places requirements on public agencies.

This includes the right to:

- request information on any public asset that interests them
- request the transfer of a public asset (and it doesn't have to be surplus)
- acquire that asset if the public body cannot offer a good reason not to (i.e. there is a presumption in favour of transfer)
- to decide on the price it wishes to offer, based on the economic, social, health or environmental benefits the proposal will add
- to appeal any adverse decision

### FORT AUGUSTUS MEMORIAL HALL

FAGCC has just started the process of applying for a Community Asset Transfer of the Memorial Hall from the Highland Council. We want to see the hall re-opened and retained for community use in the heart of the village. The success of the Asset Transfer request hinges on demonstrating community support for the Asset Transfer. Our plan is to move FAGCC office into the Memorial Hall so we are more accessible and available, continue with a Service Point or similar and refurbish the Hall and Kitchen to make a comfortable and cosy meeting space. Freeing up space elsewhere provides options should a dentist be encouraged to set-up in the village.



### GLENTARFF HOUSE

Similarly to the Memorial Hall, FAGCC are going to apply to Scottish Canals for an Asset Transfer of Glentarff House on Canalside. It has lain empty for twelve years but despite that remains dry and ready for finishing off. FAGCC will complete renovations and let the property out at an affordable rent in line with council rent and the other FAGCC homes. There remains a need for affordable housing in the area, this would secure the property for local housing need rather than it becoming a holiday let.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE ASSET TRANSFERS

We need to be able to demonstrate community support for the Asset Transfers so if you do support us it would be great if you could sign the petitions in either Girvans Hardware or Great Glen Trading.





## Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

### GRANTS

In the first quarter of this year the following grants were awarded:

- Glenmoriston Improvement Group - £ 9,949 for grass cutting equipment to maintain the playing field
- The Community Company - £10,000 to supplement other funding and provide an ELSAN tipping point in Fort Augustus
- The Community Company—£10,000 to support other funding to purchase E-vehicles to be used by 3 Glens Community Care
- Invermoriston Millennium Hall, The Hub at Dalchreichart and Fort Augustus Village Hall—£10,000 each to help with increased running costs and enable them to continue offering a service to the community at reasonable rates.

### E-BIKES FOR SUNFLOWER HOME CARE



The Community Company recently purchased 2 E-bikes . These are for use by Sunflower Home Care workers when they are visiting residents in Fort Augustus. The intention is to make it quicker and greener for them to get around the village. No more wearing out their shoe leather or using a car for short distances for them!

When the team collected the bikes they had a trial ride in the Village Hall. Every one of them squealed when the electric boost kicked in, apparently it is a weird sensation till you get used to it and in an enclosed space was even more peculiar.

They left us to go and test them out before they set off on their visits.

There will be more on the plans for those visiting 3 Glens residents who are further afield another time, that is a work in progress.