

Local Place Plans and Community Engagement

Our experience working with rural
communities in the National Park

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park

Area 1,865km²

Population 14,700

21 Communities

Land Use

65% Agriculture

27% Woodland and forestry

7% Water

Land Ownership

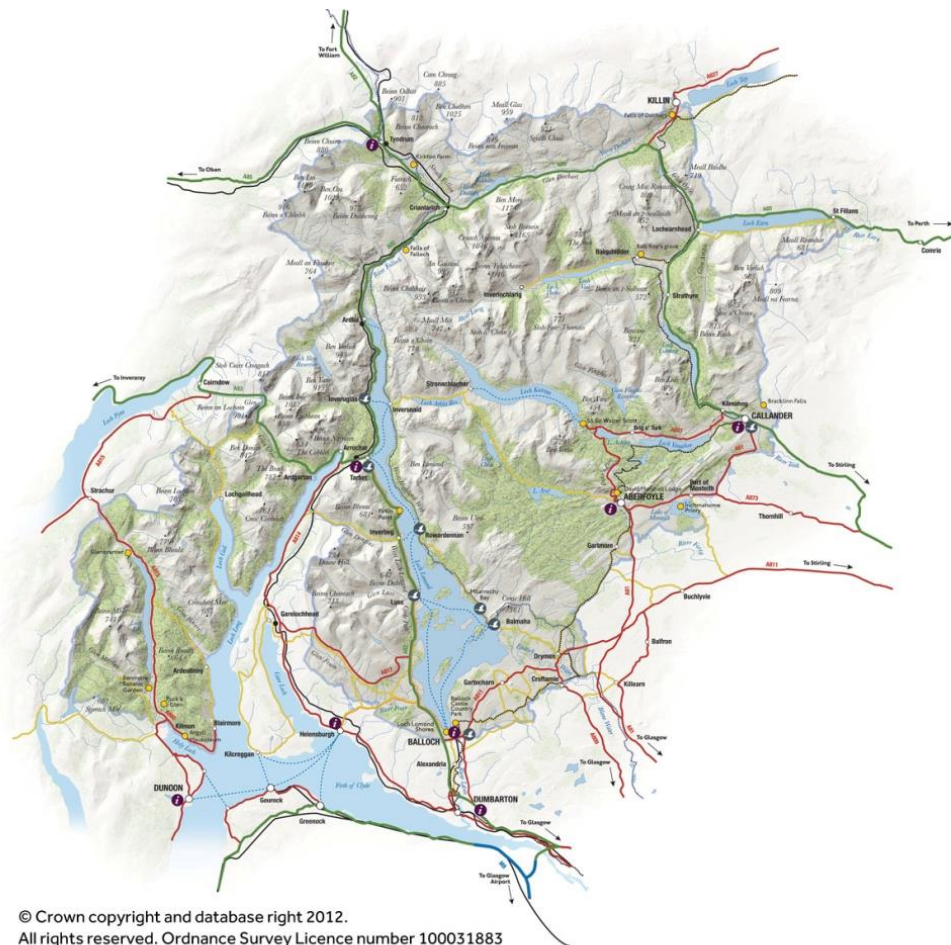
56% Private

38% Public

5% Charities/NGO's

Over **50% Scotland's population**
live within one hour travel time

Around **7 Million visitors** per year



National Park Aims

The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 sets out our responsibilities including full statutory planning and access functions. Our 4 aims are to:

Conserve and enhance the **natural and cultural heritage** of the area

Promote **sustainable use of the natural resources** of the area

Promote **understanding and enjoyment** (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public, and

Promote **sustainable economic and social development** of the area's communities.

Our team!



Current areas of focus for us

- COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT & SUPPORT
- CAPACITY BUILDING – SIGNPOSTING TO SUPPORT
- PROJECT DELIVERY & FUNDRAISING
- LOCAL PLACE PLANS
- NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN AND NEW LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



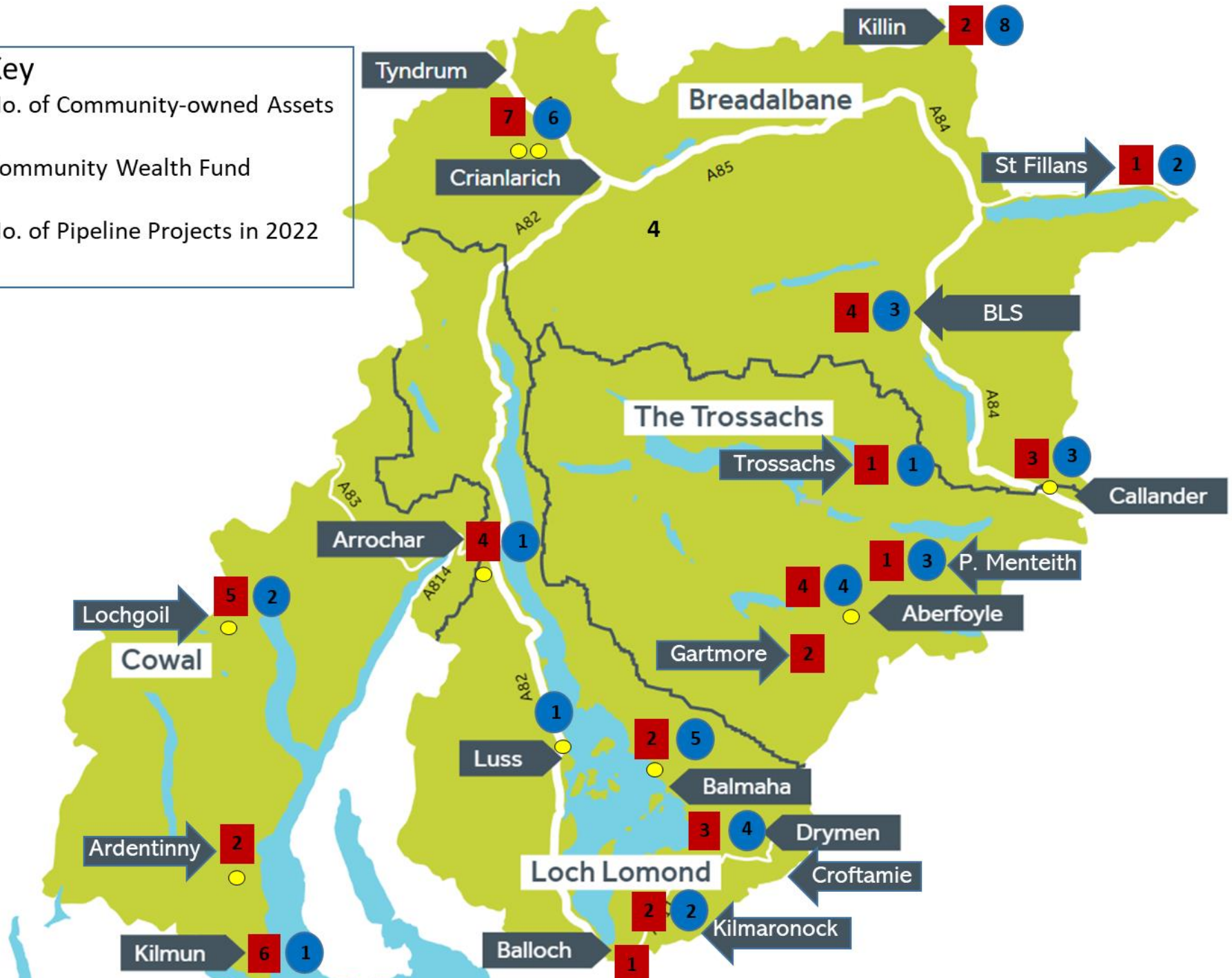
Community Activity in the National Park

Community-Owned Assets (approx)	Social Enterprises run from owned assets (approx)	Community- Managed Assets (approx)
52	34	10
Community Wealth Funds (approx)	Pipe-line Projects in 2022 (approx)	
10	46	
Funding Brought into NP by Community Trusts in 2021/22 (Income: OSCR website)	Funding spent on NP by Community Trusts in 2021/22 (Expenditure: OSCR website)	
£972,934.00	£750,351.00	

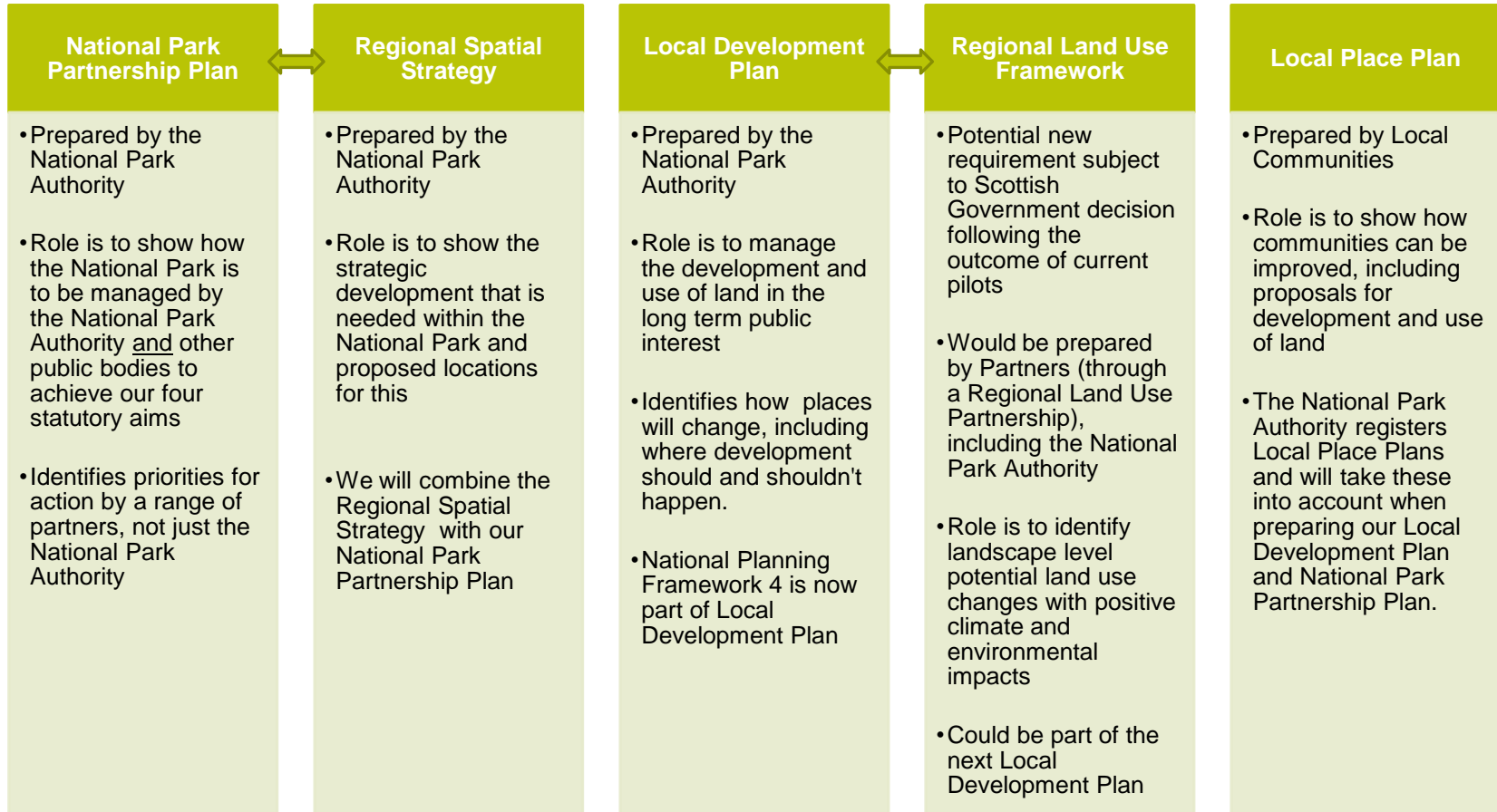


Key

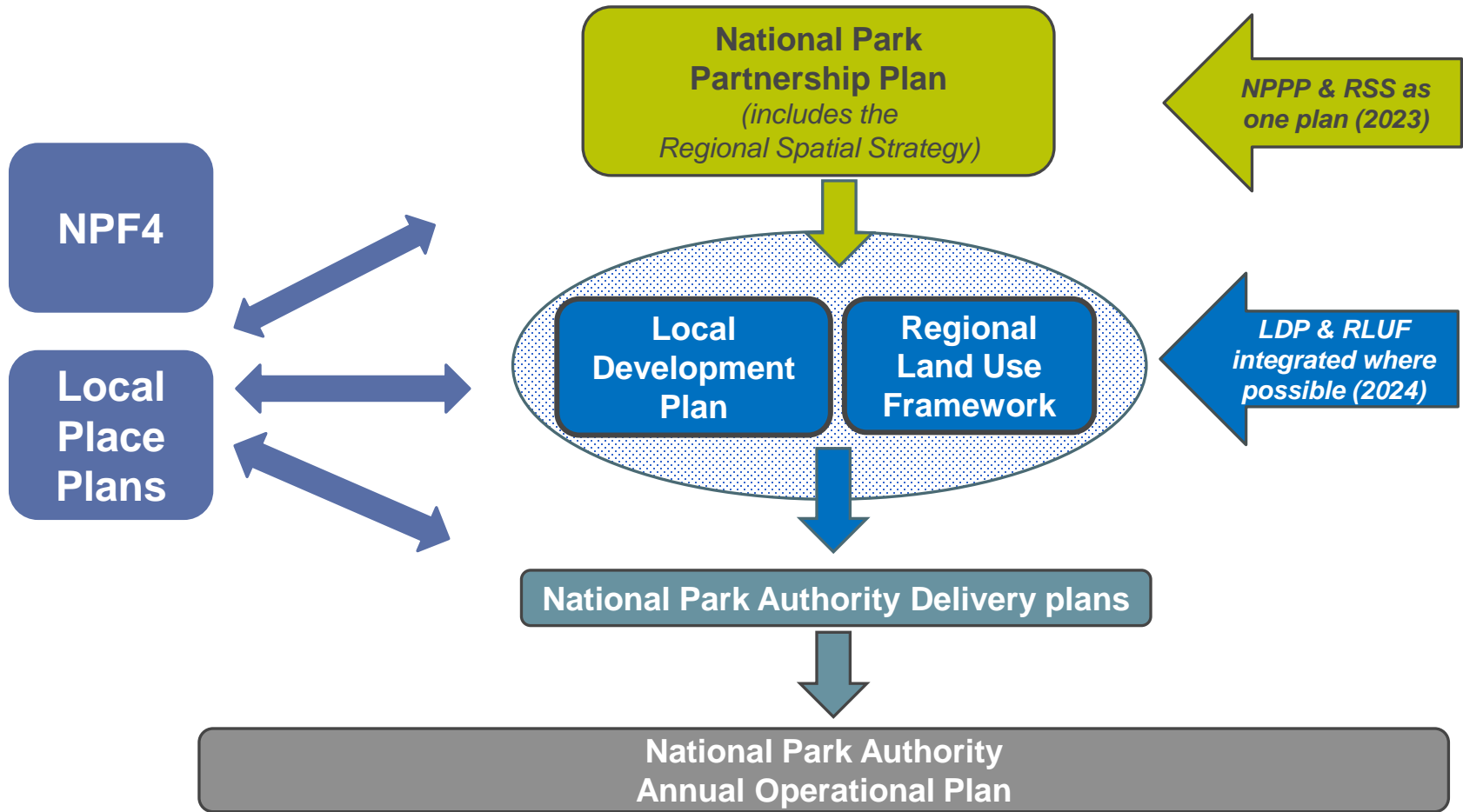
- 4 No. of Community-owned Assets
- Community Wealth Fund
- 6 No. of Pipeline Projects in 2022



Reviewing our Plans and Strategies



How to these all align?



Local Place Plans within the National Park

2020/21

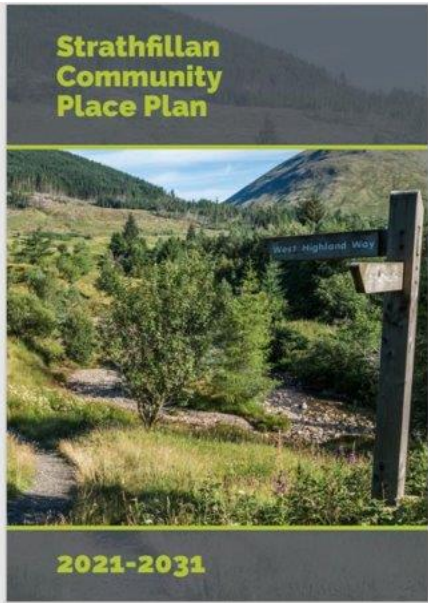
- Early Pilots
- 4 communities
- Spatial considerations
- LPP community sounding board set up to help prepare LPP training event
- LPP training event for Community Councils and Development Trusts
- Identified staff resource and budget

2022

- Formal Invite to prepare to all communities
- Information on our website
- In-kind technical support in mapping, engagement, process and planning to 8 communities
- funding so communities could choose to commission and manage their own specialist support.
- Also tried to ensure communities thought more widely than they historically have on climate, nature, land, assets and enterprise.
- Monitored, reviewed the LPP Programme

2023/24

- LPP preparation ongoing
- Drafted LPP validation procedures and reporting framework
- LPP Advisory Group Terms of Reference Drafted
- Consideration of support requirements to facilitate delivery of NPPP priorities
- Consideration on delivery support not just process to prepare
- Dilemma! 5 communities not yet started/unclear on intention to prepare



The map below pinpoints places, issues and opportunities for improvement referenced within the plan

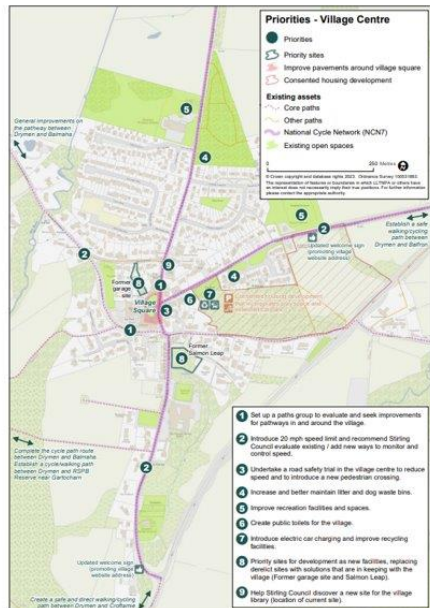
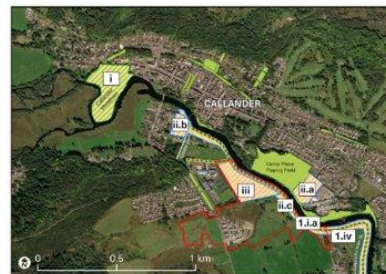


Figure 4. Green and active – proposal locations



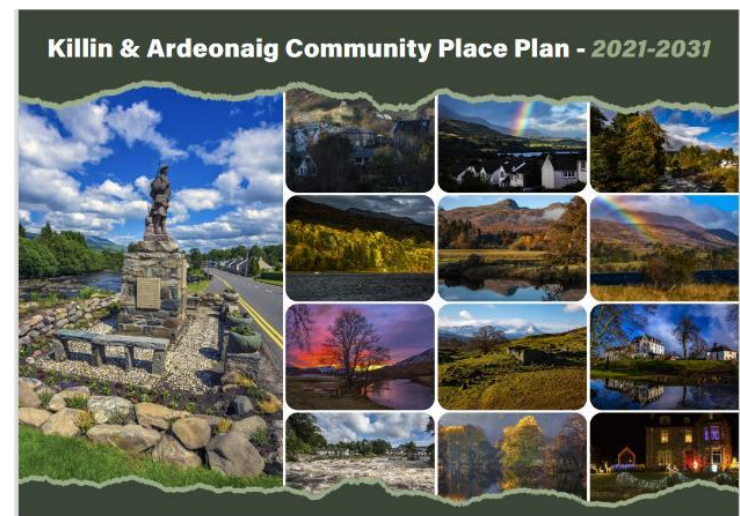
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- KEY**
- Mixed use site (MUZ) as indicated in LLTNP's Local Development Plan 2017-2024 (LDP)
 - Green spaces identified in LLTNP's LDP 2017-2024
 - New proposal in our plan for an LLTNP-identified green space
 - New proposal in our plan for green space not identified as such by LLTNP
 - Proposal number. Note that proposal numbers 1.i.a and 1.i.v from the previous section are included to show how they complement this section's proposals.

and that readers of our Place Plan should be reminded of some of its proposals.

While Callander's landscape is open and beautiful, in or near the town centre

there is very little suitable land available for play, team sports, recreation or large community gatherings. Where such land does remain unused, it has either been purchased for development, designated



Local Place Plans – our thoughts so far!

Working well ...

National Park
context- **working
well**

Strong legacy of
**Community Action
Plans**

Relationship building
**for us with
communities**

Relationship building
**within and between
communities**
Empowering

Golden opportunity
for us to engage at
this stage

‘Local Framing
Drives Engagement’

Local Place Plans – our thoughts so far!

Working with ...

All different – good thing but **content varies**

Support generally needed on **spatial elements**

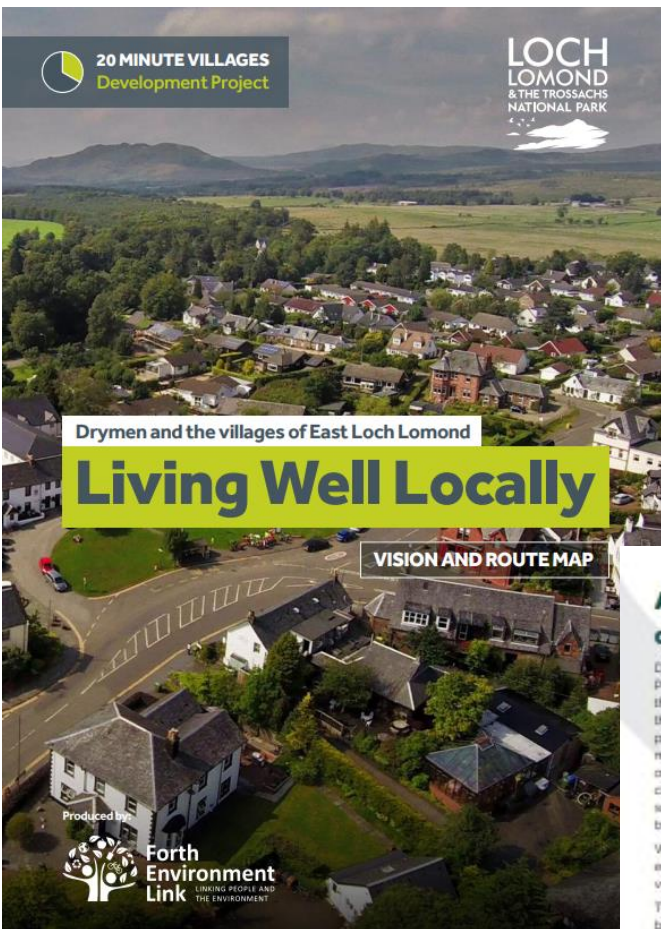
Support needed on **data and stats, wider policy context**

Limited staff time and resource and capacity for some communities

How to encourage community consideration of **new national or important NP issues?**

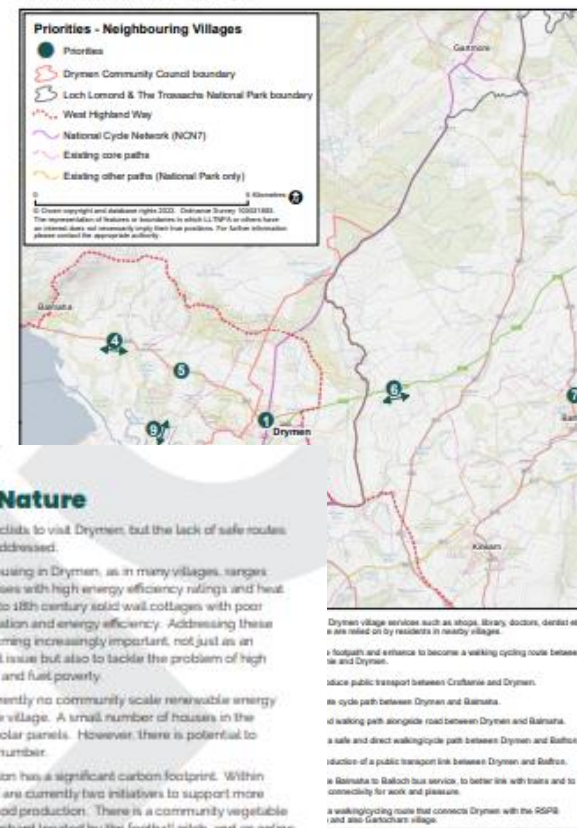
Still tendency to be **inward looking** when some common issues better addressed at wider area based level

Local Place Plans – Drymen example



Working with Neighbouring Communities

Consulting with neighbouring communities and RSPB Loch Lomond for this plan has helped us understand the importance of facilities in Drymen, which are relied on by far more than just its residents, and the shared desire for improved connectivity between nearby villages.



Action Plan: Environment, Climate & Nature

Current Situation:

Drymen is located in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, just a few miles from the shores of Loch Lomond, and the beauty of its surrounding landscapes are highly valued by the community. Drymen is surrounded by a mixture of grazing pasture, commercial forestry, deciduous woodland and grazed moorland. Many of these habitats are already poor in terms of supporting biodiversity and are increasingly threatened by climate change. Conversely, sensitive management of the land surrounding Drymen can significantly increase its capacity to both support biodiversity and fight climate change.

Within the village there are some excellent initiatives to encourage wildlife and biodiversity, such as the wildflower verges and the orchard next to the football pitch.

The lack of public transport and safe active travel routes between Drymen and its neighbouring villages and cities means that there is currently a high level of reliance on private cars. As society transitions to electric cars, there will be a growing requirement for chargers, particularly for tourists visiting the village. There is currently no charging provision in Drymen.

While there are many keen cyclists (including e-bikers) within the village, the Active Travel survey highlighted that a lot of people are put off using bikes for journeys to local villages by the need to use fast, busy roads. DCSD has installed a bicycle tool station and e-bike chargers in the village square to

encourage cyclists to visit Drymen, but the lack of safe routes needs to be addressed.

Residential housing in Drymen, as in many villages, ranges from new houses with high energy efficiency ratings and heat pumps, back to 18th century solid wall cottages with poor levels of insulation and energy efficiency. Addressing these issues is becoming increasingly important, not just as an environmental issue but also to tackle the problem of high energy prices and fuel poverty.

There are currently no community scale renewable energy projects in the village. A small number of houses in the village have solar panels. However, there is potential to increase this number.

Food production has a significant carbon footprint. Within Drymen there are currently two initiatives to support more sustainable food production. There is a community vegetable garden and orchard located by the football pitch and an online local food market, Neighbourhood, which allows customers to order food from local producers and collect weekly in the Village Hall.

Domestic waste management within the village includes fairly comprehensive recycling, although some specialist waste types (e.g. paint, batteries, electrical items) need to be taken to the recycling facility in Balloch. There is currently little support for repair and/or re-use of items.

Local Place Plans – our thoughts so far!

Working on ...

Continued support
to LPP's with limited
staff capacity and
budget

How to encourage
and enable LPP's to
say more on
**climate nature and
CWB opportunities**

**Validation and
registration**
procedure

Dissemination

**Weight given to
LPP in decision
making pre new
LDP**

LDP spatial strategy
and content

We are at a 'Pivotal Moment'



Role for Local Place Plans in relation to this wider context?



DRAFT

NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2024 – 2029



Our National Park matters...

...to all of us, to Scotland, to the planet...

...but it can't and won't stay the same.

People, nature and climate are all connected and we are facing unprecedented challenges to nature, to climate and to our lives that depend on them.

This is a unique moment in time – we have a small window of opportunity to make transformational change in the face of these huge challenges.

A thriving future for the National Park is a thriving future for all of us. But we all have to work together.

We're opening up a conversation to help us imagine the future of the National Park together.

With your help, we CAN do it.

Our Draft Plan lays out the
actions we all need to take
over the next few years
to achieve the
transformational
long-term change needed.

We believe the National Park can be:

...a **climate-resilient** place,
where **people and nature**
thrive together.

The Draft Plan is **bold** and **ambitious**.
It sets the tone for
doing things differently.

Our approach to engagement
will do the same.

**RESTORING
NATURE**

Big issues and
challenges

**CREATING A
SUSTAINABLE,
LOW-CARBON
DESTINATION**

Need for urgent
action

**ENABLING A
GREENER ECONOMY
AND SUSTAINABLE
LIVING**

Role for Communities
to help address

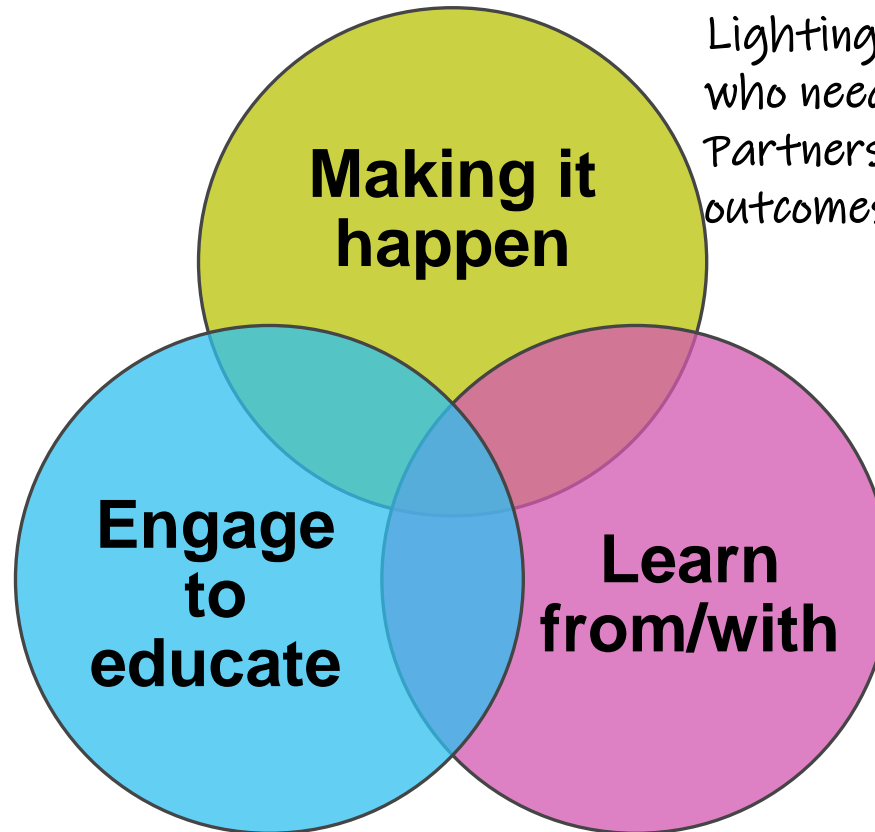
Important role for
Local Place Plans

How we engage with communities

- THROUGH OUR WORK AND CONSULTATIONS
- DAY TO DAY WORKING AND RELATIONSHIPS
- OUR TEAM
- OTHER TEAMS AND THROUGH OUR BOARD MEMBERS

National Park Plan Engagement

Raising awareness by prompting conversations with those who might need more understanding of the challenges facing the National Park and why things need to be done differently here.

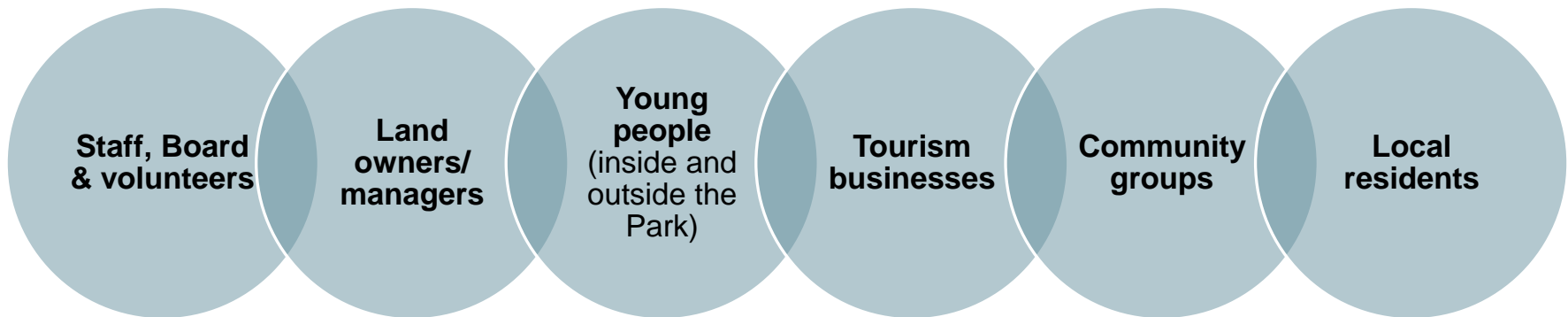


Lighting a spark among those who need to help deliver the Partnership Plan to discuss the outcomes and actions outlined.

Talking to those who will be impacted by what's in the Plan or hearing their experiences to help build our understanding to shape the detail of the Plan.

Who do we need to reach and why?

Engage to educate



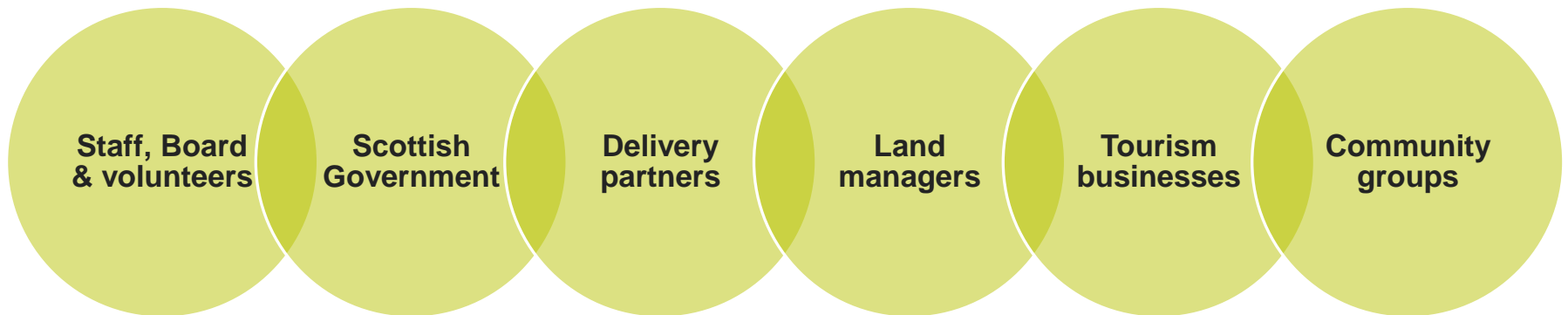
Who do we need to reach and why?

Learn from/with



Who do we need to reach and why?

Making it happen



Using user research findings to help design our engagement methods

The best way to engage people is through **personal invite** or through **existing community networks**.

Going to where people already are and speaking with people in environments where they feel comfortable is key.

Co-designing events, activities and communications with community networks is vital



In person workshops, walking workshops and attending events and meetups that already exist will work well but we need to ensure we enable a **spectrum of engagement across a variety of channels**.

Making each area of the plan tangible and **show the impact** it could have for people and their community then it will increase your chances of engagement.

Keeping people updated and showing the impact is very important to encourage future engagement.

Opportunities

- **LOCAL PLACE PLANS CAN HAVE A KEY ROLE FOR**
- **CLIMATE**
- **NATURE**
- **LAND USE – WITHIN AND AROUND COMMUNITIES**
- **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT, WEALTH BUILDING AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

Between 26th April – 19th July 2023 we are holding a conversation on the future of the National Park.

WE WANT TO KNOW:

- » Which of the objectives and actions outlined in this Draft Plan can you or your organisation help to deliver? What role can you play in delivering these?
- » Are there any challenges or barriers we need to overcome to help you do this?
- » Can you suggest any other objectives or actions to help us meet our aims in each area of this Draft Plan?
- » Can you suggest any other delivery partners needed to help deliver these?
- » Do you have any comments on the policies outlined in each area of this Draft Plan?
- » Do you have any comments on the measures of success proposed? How can you help us to measure them?

HOW TO RESPOND:

Join the conversation online:
lochlomond-trossachs.org/future

Send us an email:
NationalParkPlan@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Or respond in writing:
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG

My ask of you today 😊

IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, CAN/SHOULD LOCAL PLACE PLANS DO MORE TO IDENTIFY COMMUNITY LED ACTION FOR CLIMATE AND NATURE?

WHAT ELSE?

AS PLANNERS DO WE HAVE ROLE IN MAKING THIS HAPPEN?