



# OUR COMMUNITY OUR FUTURE

ERROGIE - FOYERS - GORTHLECK - INVERFARIGAIG - TORNESS - W/HITEBRIDGE

## ONLINE COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

**THURSDAY 15TH  
APRIL, 7:30PM**

**OPEN TO EVERYONE!**

Reserve your seat online at  
[www.communityfuture.net](http://www.communityfuture.net)  
now!

# WHAT ARE **OUR** ASPIRATIONS...?

The community survey results are in! 264 local folk shared their aspirations for the local community in February and March 2021. They are a fascinating insight into what we think of ourselves. What do we like about our community? What challenges do we face? What are our aspirations for the future?

The aspirations from the survey are a great foundation for the Community Assembly - the next stage in producing the Community Action Plan.

This assembly is an opportunity for all of us to shape our future. We'll use it to explore what needs to happen to take forward the big aspirations coming out of the community survey, shown in the table below. The rest of this brochure contains a full summary of the survey results.

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<b>Community Life:</b>	local facilities, services, things to do
<b>Better Connections:</b>	getting around, transport, broadband
<b>Outdoors and Nature:</b>	nature, wildness and the great outdoors
<b>Our Homes:</b>	affordable housing, care at home, zero-carbon
<b>Organising Ourselves:</b>	decision making, communications, community ownership

**Everybody is welcome, whether you want to suggest ideas or simply listen to what's going on.**

Find out more on the revamped website **[www.communityfuture.net](http://www.communityfuture.net)**, where you can add ideas to the new **Ideas Bank**, see other folk's suggestions and sign up for updates.

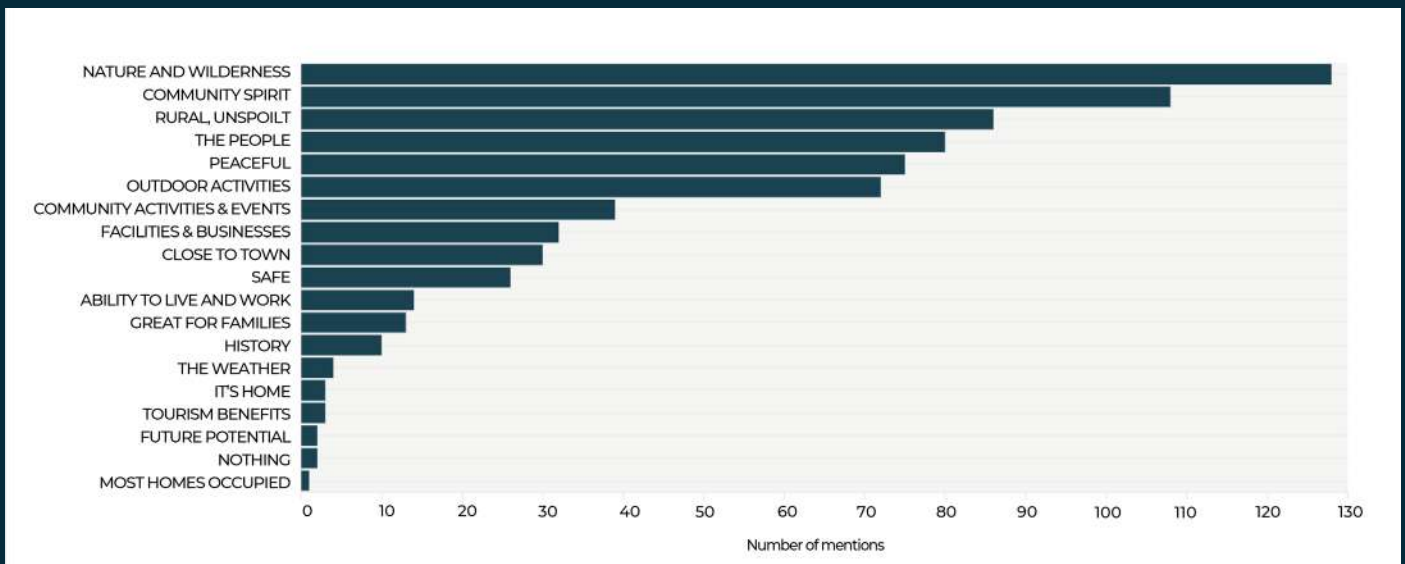
Date for your diary: the second Community Assembly will take place online on Thursday 27 May at 7:30pm. Come along to agree priorities for action.

Coronavirus restrictions means most of our consultation has to be online. We know this isn't ideal for everybody. If you want a good old-fashioned chat, please contact Nick Wright on **07900 334110**.

This summary has been prepared by the independent Community Action Planning team led by Nick Wright Planning.

**Question 1: “What do you like about our community? For example, what’s good about living or working here? What do you love about the area? What needs to be protected for the future?”**

The graph below shows how many times each topic was mentioned.

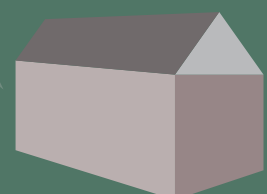
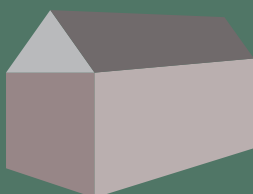


View interactive infographic on [www.communityfuture.net/surveyresults](http://www.communityfuture.net/surveyresults)

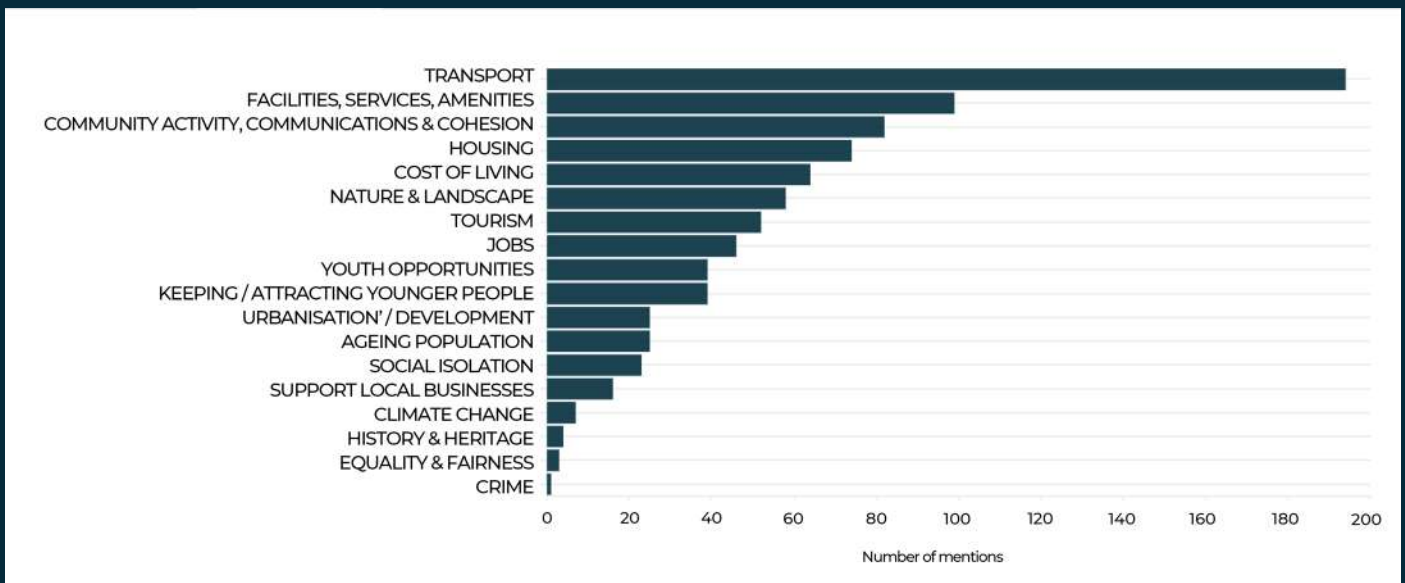
The things people most liked about the community all relate to nature, community spirit, people and quiet unspoilt countryside. Each of those was mentioned by over 70 people, and they are summed up by these two quotes:

**“Of course the landscape, fresh air, natural habitat - but especially the people. This is a caring community - we can’t always get on with every single person, but the vast majority of folk in our area are kind, generous”**

**“It still feels like a ‘rural’ community due to the number of people still working in land-based industries and working collaboratively”**



**Question 2: “Other than COVID-19, what are the big challenges facing our community? What’s difficult about living or working here? These could be issues you face personally, or problems that apply to others or indeed the whole community.”**



View interactive infographic on [www.communityfuture.net/surveyresults](http://www.communityfuture.net/surveyresults)

By far the biggest challenge was transport, mentioned by 194 people (75% of respondents). The main specific concerns were potholes and winter gritting, followed by public transport and the amount and speed of traffic.

The quotes below show that people were concerned about getting around the local area, and also getting to Inverness and Fort Augustus.

## Transport

194 mentions

“Awful state of the roads”

“Transport issues - particularly for young people and the elderly. No connectivity between Gorthleck and Foyers for example”

“No bus links to Fort Augustus from Whitebridge, or busses from Inverness after 7pm, NO service on a Sunday”

“You could cover the pot holes but it wouldn’t make the journey any quicker”



“Increasing traffic speeding through Foyers”



Facilities and services was the second biggest challenge, mentioned by 99 people (40%). This included broadband and phone access, maintenance (including paths, bins and woodlands), playparks, sports facilities and so on. The quotes below give a flavour.

## Facilities & services

99 mentions



**“Infrastructure is falling apart. The woodlands, country paths and footpaths are overgrown & in disrepair”**

**“no open outdoor space for play, a new playground for Gorthleck would be fantastic”**

**“A bigger and better place for BCC”**

**“In general the broadband service is poor”**

The quotes below illustrate some of the other challenges.

‘Community’ includes information and decision-making about how community benefit money is spent (mentioned by 40 people, 15%), and general community spirit and strain on volunteers (mentioned by 30 people, 10%). ‘Housing’ focussed mainly on the lack of affordable housing (mentioned by 53 people, 20%)

## Community

82 mentions

## Housing

74 mentions

## Cost of living

64 mentions

## Nature

58 mentions

## Tourism

52 mentions

**“Lack of communication, and misunderstandings causing bad feeling. (Often exacerbated by social media)”**

**“The vast sums coming in are having a negative effect on our community and causing frictions”**

**“heating bill is through the roof due to storage heating”**

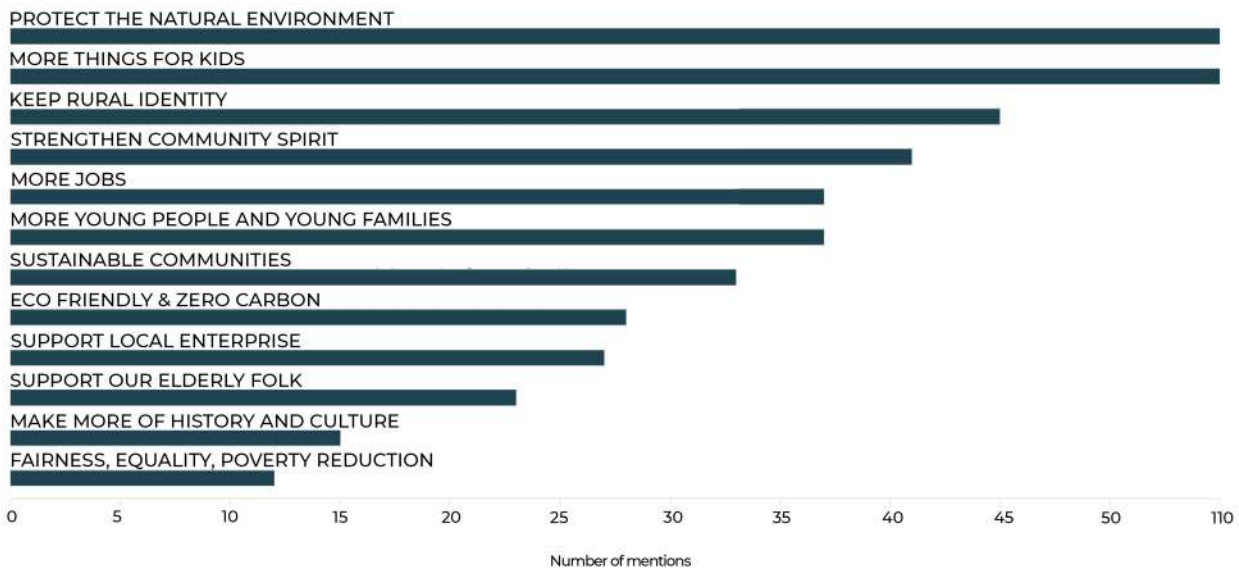
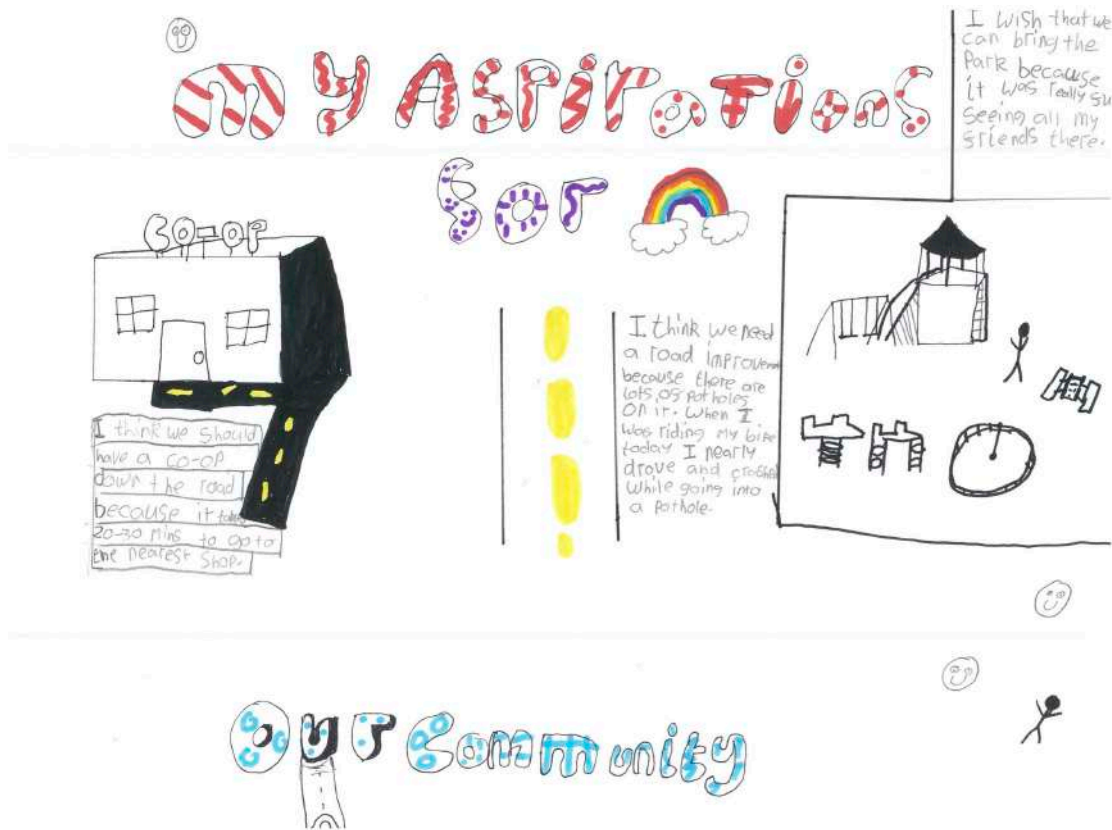
**“appreciate needing tourism but do like the quietness too”**

**“Keeping our young people here by offering local employment and local houses that are affordable”**

# Question 3: "What are your aspirations for our community in the future? If you had a magic wand, how would you like the community to be in say 2040?"

We analysed the responses to Question 3 in two ways.

Firstly, we picked out common themes. The answer below from a pupil at Stratherrick Primary School contains two popular themes: poor roads (making it unsafe for people to walk or cycle along roads) and lack of facilities (in this case a playpark and shop in Gorthleck)



The second way we analysed the responses to question 3 was by recording specific ideas and how often they were mentioned.

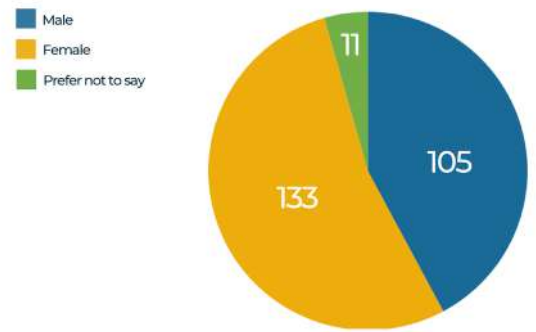
The diagram below summarises people's ideas, grouped into categories. The size of the circle relates to how often they were mentioned.



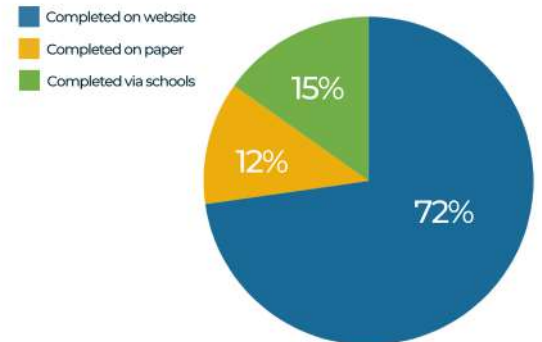
The community survey took place in February and March 2021. Paper copies were distributed to every household in the area and the survey was made available online. It was promoted via community networks.

264 responses were received from a local population of around 820. That represents 32% of the local population. Response rates for similar community surveys elsewhere in Scotland are typically between 5% and 20%.

Respondent's gender



Responses by medium used



Number of responses 264  
Population 818 (Census 2011)

