



DRUMMUIR 21 : UNLOCKING THE COUNTRYSIDE

8 September 2016

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This Local Action Plan was commissioned by Drummuir 21, a registered Scottish Charity: SCO30342

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Preparation of the Local Action Plan was funded by a CARES grant from:



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Who goes there?
D21 volunteers plus Mr. Squirrel.

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Report Summary

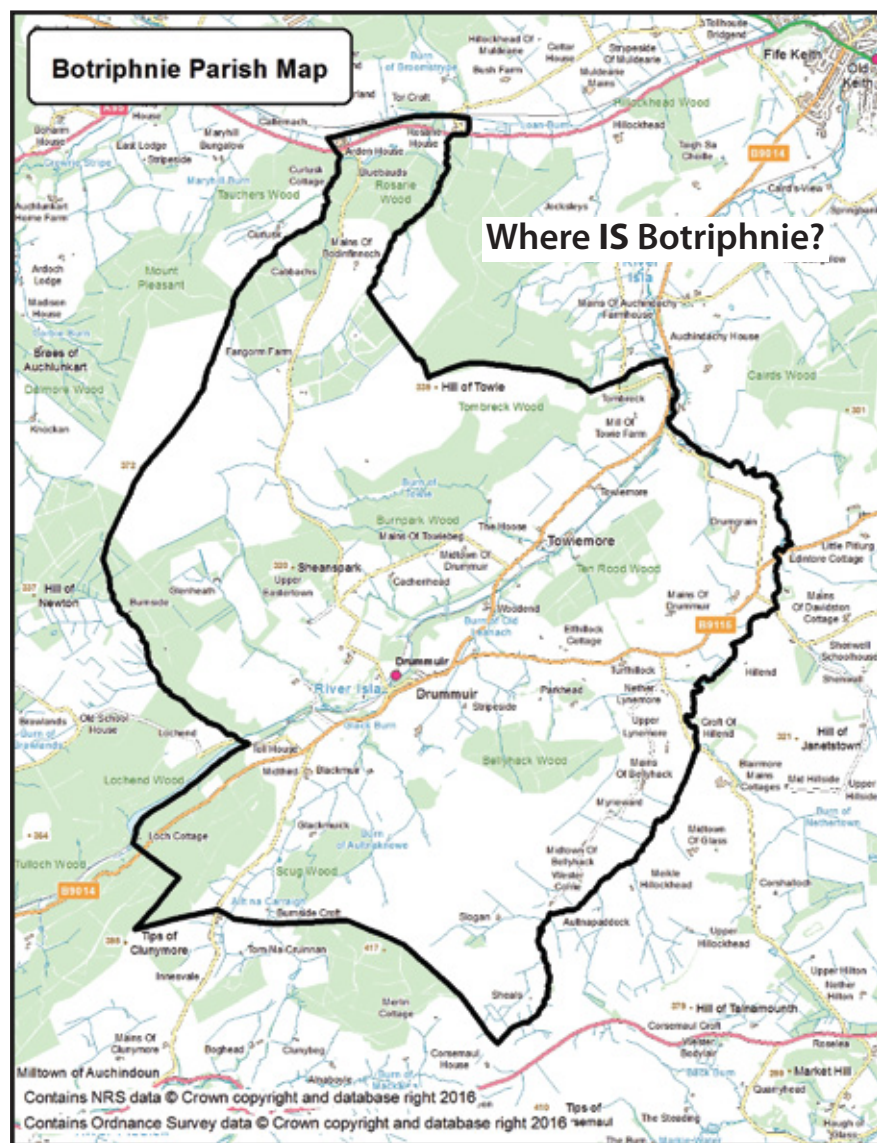
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How do we get there?
That Mr. Squirrel gets everywhere.



Report Summary

This Local Action Plan (LAP) has been prepared by Drummuir 21 (D21), a locally-based sustainable environmental charity. D21 has developed the LAP with support from Foundation Scotland and input from the local community. It sets out proposals for managing access to the countryside and enhancing the quality of Drummuir's attractive environment.

The main themes and opportunities highlighted in the report are :

1. Strong interest in enhanced access to the countryside for local people

- Support for what has been achieved with paths and the community woodland
- Support for extension and improvement of The Isla Way (off road)
- Strong support for connection to The Speyside Way
- Scope for increased capacity and activity at Loch Park (subject to lease terms)

2. A desire to see more people from elsewhere visiting the area

- The benefits of extension and improvement of The Isla Way (off road)
- Support for connection to The Speyside Way
- Support for more services to and from Drummuir Station and reinstatement of the former Curlers' Halt at Loch Park on the Keith & Dufftown railway
- Scope for increased capacity and activity at Loch Park (subject to lease terms)

3. A need to balance increased access and facilities with protection of Drummuir's character and qualities

- A need to ensure that increased activity does not damage the local environment
- A need to ensure that the character of Drummuir is respected
- A need to ensure that existing paths and projects are maintained and supported

D21 will focus on these priorities over the next five years, in partnership with public agencies and other supporters. An Implementation Strategy has been prepared to guide priorities and highlight how future projects can be delivered over the short, medium and longer term. Potential funding sources have also been highlighted.

1. Who Has Prepared This Local Action Plan?

This Local Action Plan (LAP) has been prepared by Drummuir 21 (D21), a locally-based sustainable environmental charity. Founded in 2000, D21 has successfully worked in partnership with The Moray Council (TMC), Highlands and Islands Moray (HIE), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Drummuir Castle Estate to establish a network of local paths and to produce a promotional leaflet. An accessible path running alongside the Isla between the Kirk and Loch Park now forms part of The Isla Way and is a TMC core path. In 2012 D21 achieved a Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA)/John Muir Trust Discovery Award in recognition of awareness and responsibility for wild places.

Recent and current D21 projects include :

- Ongoing monitoring and maintenance of sculptures, paths, footbridges, and the bird hide;
- Monitoring and reporting on Biodiversity (including a Moth Recording event in September 2015);
- Hosting a countryside activities event at Drummuir Station annually: St Fumac's Fair;
- Facilitated a Feasibility Study for the Isla Way link in partnership with TMC (completed 2015);
- Engaged in a 5 year WW1 project to upgrade the war memorial and to improve and manage the car park at the Kirk and access to The Isla Way;
- Promoting the profile of and disseminating information about Drummuir.

2. Why Have A Local Action Plan

D21 has developed this plan with support from Foundation Scotland and the input from a wide cross section of the community. The LAP brings together D21's objectives with the views of local people, setting out proposals for managing access to the countryside and enhancing the quality of Drummuir's attractive environment.

The LAP sets out a vision for the longer term (up to 10-15 years) with more detailed activity across identified themes or priorities for the next five years. It will be helpful in guiding D21's work and supporting grant applications for new funding.

The LAP is anchored in the objectives of D21, namely:

- to encourage and promote the construction and restoration of a network of footpaths within the Drummuir area, for local people and visitors and to encourage greater participation in the activities of walking and cycling;
- to advance the education of the public regarding environmental issues and sustainable development;
- to integrate the activities of groups and initiatives in the Drummuir area who have an interest in sustainable development;
- to encourage visitors to the area, including cyclists and walkers.

**Who does the work?
D21 volunteers in the
community woodland.**



3. The Drummuir Community Now

Drummuir is located in Banffshire (part of the Moray Council administrative area), between Dufftown and Keith. A charitable community enterprise-owned railway line based in Dufftown carries leisure-based train services between these two towns, with a scheduled stop at Drummuir Station. It is home to Botriphnie Primary School, Botriphnie Kirk, Drummuir Hall (a community hall), play area and park with a grass kick pitch. Much of the land around the village lies within the Drummuir Castle Estate, which also leases Loch Park to an outdoor education company and Drummuir Castle to the drinks company Diageo, for use as a corporate conference centre.

According to the Scottish Government's SIMD statistics (see note below), the wider Drummuir community has a population of around 560 people. It has above average earnings in comparison to Scotland as a whole and relatively low unemployment. It ranks slightly above average for education, skills and training and above average for the general health of its population. Crime levels are generally lower than average. Although the community is relatively remote from main shopping centres, it is ranked above average for accessibility and public transport. However, with very limited bus services available to nearby towns and main service centres, this ranking appears incongruous and may reflect out of date information.

The area has relatively low levels of home ownership (52% .v. 62.5% in Scotland at 2012), very low levels of social rented housing (11% .v. 29.5% nationally) and very high levels of private rented housing (37% .v. 8% nationally). In 2012, almost 12% of local households had no central heating and over 5% were considered overcrowded.

The Scottish Government uses a 'National Indicator' to monitor access to 'Scotland's Outdoors', reflecting the view that outdoor recreation is beneficial for health and well-being. The indicator provides a useful measure of the numbers of people who gain benefit and enjoyment from nature and biodiversity and improve their understanding of the importance and functioning of the natural environment. The work of D21 promotes outdoor access by encouraging local people to use paths, walks, woodlands and green spaces.

(Note : The Scottish Government uses the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation statistics (SIMD) to analyse and monitor communities throughout the country. The Drummuir community is identified as forming part of area 100 4238. The above summary is taken from the 2012 SIMD statistics)



4. Community Engagement

The views of the local community have been widely sought in preparing the LAP.

Young people were involved in an art project at Botriphnie Primary School, using mapping to record how they use the local countryside and mark their favourite places. The finished map shows good use of the paths and open spaces around the village, including the Community Woodland, with activity stretching to the Hill of Towie windfarm paths, the cafe and shop at Mill of Towie and a number of woodlands in the wider area.

Pupils identified a number of environmental improvements which could be undertaken, including better signage, paths, step repairs and fencing. New activities sought included sports and leisure uses such as a skate park, mobile library and cinema, an improved park, rock climbing and a tennis court. Opportunities to improve local bus services and mobile phone reception were raised, along with requests for a local shop.

A questionnaire was posted on Survey Monkey, to record local views on a number of issues and opportunities. Mailing lists held by local community groups were used in conjunction with social media to promote the survey throughout the Drummuir area. 38 surveys were completed and additional responses to the same questions were gathered at a public drop-in session held at Drummuir Castle. The drop-in event was attended by approximately 40 people.

Engagement with key stakeholders including TMC, Drummuir Castle Estate, Diageo, Keith & Dufftown Railway Association, Loch Park Rural Skills Centre and SNH was also undertaken.

MAIN THEMES AND PRIORITIES

These are the main themes and opportunities emerging from the community engagement activities. D21 will focus on these priorities over the next five years, in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

1. Strong interest in enhanced access to the countryside for local people
2. A desire to see more people from elsewhere visiting the area
3. A need to balance increased access and facilities with protection of Drummuir's character and qualities

**Where do we volunteer?
D21 members have their say.**

THEME 1 : ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

The main findings relating to Countryside Access were :

1. Strong support for what has already been achieved with paths and the community woodland
2. Strong support for extension and improvement of The Isla Way (off road)
3. Strong support for connection to The Speyside Way
4. Scope for increased capacity and activity at Loch Park (subject to lease terms)

There is broad support for what has already been achieved with paths and the community woodland. However, a need for maintenance of existing features is highlighted as a starting point, with new routes or features enhancing the existing infrastructure.

A number of people requested additional all-abilities paths. Most responses support the creation of new paths over longer and circular routes, rather than short routes, which are already adequate. Improved way marking, surfacing and drainage are broadly supported.

There is support for a range of new facilities in the community woodland, with information on wildlife emerging as a clear preference. The need for additional parking is not an overriding issue but many support some extra parking in various locations.

If increased use of walks and new facilities is planned then this may increase parking demand. The options for wildlife projects such as an osprey nest or red squirrel project all received strong support. The wide ranging options for new facilities and projects can be prioritised by D21. These are set out in the LAP Implementation Strategy, which follows.

The broader options for local projects received varying levels of support. A new play area would be one of the least popular options (with 11 in favour, 9 against and 8 with no view). Continuation of St Fumac's Fair is strongly supported, closely followed by the WW1 project at the Kirk. Other specific projects such as allotments, a community garden and a community firewood scheme have somewhat lower levels of support, perhaps reflecting the individual preferences of respondents.

There is solid support and few specific objections to the range of options for new facilities or expanded uses at Loch Park, perhaps reflecting the different interests of those who responded (e.g. watersports, mountain biking, picnic sites). However, the need to work with the existing tenant at Loch Park was raised by several people.

Provision of new facilities and services primarily aimed at visitors to the area would also have secondary benefits for local people (e.g. toilets, organised events and activities/sports).

Focus for Action:

- Looking after the existing access provision: path maintenance
- Maintain and promote all abilities trail
- Completing the Isla Way link
- Connection to railway
- Rationalise and promote parking provision
- Improve visitor facilities : i.e. picnic areas, outdoor classroom, woodland shelter etc.
- Improve visitor facilities at Loch Park as part of a visitor management plan

Who climbed the spout?
Does Mr. Squirrel know?



5



Where do we go?
Local businesses get involved.

THEME 2 : BRINGING VISITORS TO DRUMMUIR

The main findings relating to visitors were :

1. Strong support for extension and improvement of The Isla Way (off road)
2. Strong support for connection to The Speyside Way
3. Strong support for more services to and from Drummuir Station and reinstate the former Curlers' Halt at Loch Park on the Keith & Dufftown railway
4. Scope for increased capacity and activity at Loch Park (subject to lease terms)

Many respondents saw the potential economic and social benefits in increasing visitor numbers. Existing local facilities and services could benefit from increased custom and there may be opportunities to create new employment or businesses, including visitor accommodation linked with the Isla Way or the Speyside Way, with improved connections and marketing. The economic potential of the Keith & Dufftown Railway was also noted by many.

The Keith & Dufftown Railway is operated by the Keith & Dufftown Railway Association (KDRA), a charitable community enterprise staffed by volunteers. KDRA was formed in 1993 to restore, preserve and operate passenger services on the railway line between Keith and Dufftown, self-styled 'The Malt Whisky Capital of the World'. Services commenced in 2000.

KDRA has a long-term ambition to reinstate the line and operate passenger trains into the main-line station at Keith. This connection would enable main-line charter trains to divert at Keith and travel via Drummuir Station to Dufftown. This could bring visitors from further afield to the area.

Additional infrastructure for visitors (e.g. toilets, campsite, information, signage) is broadly supported, again linked to improved access via an enhanced and extended Isla Way and a link to The Speyside Way. The option of outdoor events is also supported, providing activities and attractions for visitors and residents alike.

There is solid support and few specific objections to the range of options for new facilities or expanded uses at Loch Park, perhaps reflecting the different interests of those who responded (e.g. watersports, mountain biking, picnic sites). Again, there is a need to work closely with the current tenant of Loch Park to explore potential for increased activity or new services and any improvements here should be an integral part of a visitor management plan.

Focus for Action:

- Develop a visitor management plan
- Investigate a connection to The Speyside Way
- Develop a link to The Isla Way
- Promote and integrate the use of the railway with visitor facilities at Drummuir



**Who cares?
St. Fumac and all of us.**

THEME 3 : LIVING IN DRUMMUIR

The main findings relating to Living In Drummuir were :

1. A need to ensure that increased activity does not damage the local environment
2. A need to ensure that the character of Drummuir is respected
3. A need to ensure that existing paths and projects are maintained and supported

These points highlight a general view that Drummuir is a pleasant place to live and that its relatively quiet and calm character is appreciated by many residents. Some change is supported, but this should take place at a pace which protects Drummuir's character and should enhance its qualities.

The area has an unspoilt quality that feels remote although it is readily accessible by car. It is essential that any improvement and enhancement of visitor facilities is developed in line with an objective for protecting the peaceful nature of the area. There is scope for new facilities to be introduced to the area and these would greatly improve the visitor experience. However, they need to be carefully planned as part of a visitor management plan.

The area is rich in wildlife and as such there are a few flagship projects that could improve the biodiversity of the area and also encourage involvement from members of the community through membership of Drummuir 21. Ideas from the consultation are:

Water vole project
Osprey nest project at Loch Park
Red squirrel project
Control of Invasive non-native species

Focus for Action:

Project quality of area though sensitive visitor management
Develop biodiversity action projects



**Time for tea?
Volunteers take a break
whilst preparing for the Fair.**



**Who goes there?
The Fair in action.**

5. Making It Happen - The D21 Action Plan

D21 wants to facilitate and enable the improvements identified through the community engagement exercise - some projects it can lead, others it can assist with, some it can encourage others to implement.

Potential partners will include TMC, Strathisla Community Council, Drummuir and Botriphnie Community Trust, Hill of Towie Windfarm fund, KDRA, adjacent community councils (Dufftown & District; Strathbogie) and other interest groups, and Drummuir Castle Estate.

An Implementation Strategy has been prepared to guide priorities and highlight how future projects can be delivered. It reflects the findings of the community engagement studies, as explained in this report. The Implementation Strategy identifies opportunities which can be taken forward by D21 and others.

The Implementation Strategy should be monitored and reviewed annually by D21 to ensure it remains valid. Some projects will depend on action by agencies or groups other than D21. Potential funding sources have been investigated and these are set out following the Implementation Strategy tables.

Potential partners for projects:

D21 - Drummuir 21
DCE - Drummuir Castle Estate
TMC - Moray Council
KDRA - Keith & Dufftown Railway Association
BPS - Botriphnie Primary School
DBCT - Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust
SCC - Strathisla Community Council
DDCC - Dufftown & District Community Council
LA - Living Ambitions (operators of Loch Park)
SNH - Scottish Natural Heritage
BK - Botriphnie Kirk

Project priorities: **High** = 1-2 yrs, **Medium** = up to 5 yrs, **Lower** = up to 15 yrs

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

PROJECT	PRIORITY	PARTNERS	ACTION
Theme 1 : Access to the Countryside			
More long or circular paths/connections to railway	Medium	D21, DCE, TMC	Identify preferred routes, agree with landowners.
Completion of off road Isla Way link	Medium	D21 , DCE, TMC, KDRA, other landowners	Confirm preferred route, agree with landowners.
Path link to Speyside Way	Lower	TMC , DDCC, other landowners	Needs collaborative approach - work with partners to promote the project and confirm potential routes. Strategic commitment required.
Path maintenance/ way marking/ drainage/surfacing	High	D21 , TMC, DCE	Prepare a detailed action and priority plan with a long term management and funding strategy.
Community Woodland - picnic tables, woodland shelter, wildlife hide, outdoor classroom, orienteering course	High	D21 , DCE, SCC, BPS	Prioritise options for new facilities within a strategic review of the 2006 management plan of the community woodland.
Car parking options : village, station, Kirk, Loch Park	Medium	D21, DCE, DBCT, SCC	Identify and prioritise small scale parking improvements around Drummuir.
Wildlife Projects : red squirrel/water vole projects, control of non-invasive species	High	D21 , DCE, TMC, SNH	Preliminary discussions with SNH to explore potential of the area and understand fit with wider strategies. Prioritise projects within wider strategy for access management and the community woodland

PROJECT	PRIORITY	PARTNERS	ACTION
Theme 2 : Visitors			
Completion of off road Isla Way link	Medium	D21 , DCE, TMC, KDRA, other landowners	Confirm preferred route, agree with landowners. In short/ medium term, ensure existing route is operating effectively.
Path link to Speyside Way	Lower	D21, DCE, TMC , other landowners	Needs collaborative approach - work with partners to promote the project and confirm potential routes. Strategic commitment required.
Enhancements to the Keith & Dufftown Railway	Lower	D21, DCE, KDRA (and partners)	Support KDRA efforts to enhance rail infrastructure, connections and services, particularly at Drummuir.
Review Loch Park potential	Lower/ Medium	D21, DCE, LA	Work closely with current tenants to explore operational constraints and potential for increased use of Loch Park.
Loch Park : fishing, watersports, camping, car parking, mountain biking, play area picnic/BBQ sites	Lower/ Medium	D21, DCE, LA	Work closely with current tenants to prioritise potential new uses and services within a strategic plan for Loch Park.
Loch Park railway halt	Lower	D21, DCE, KDRA	Support KDRA proposals, subject to engagement with current Loch Park tenants.
Visitor facilities : signage, toilets, craft workshops, campsite, events farm shop, accommodation, etc.	Lower	D21, DCE, TMC, KDRA, SCC, DBCT, LA	Work with local partners (and others at Keith/Dufftown) to prioritise provision of new facilities/attractions, within a long term visitor strategy.
Osprey Project	Medium	D21 , DCE, TMC, SNH	Begin discussions with SNH to explore potential of area and its fit with wider strategies.



Loch Park at the close of a winter's day.



What next Mr. Squirrel?

PROJECT	PRIORITY	PARTNERS	ACTION
Theme 3 : Living in Drummuir			
Protecting Drummuir's character/managing change	High	D21, DCE, KDRA, BPS, DBCT, SCC, LA	Work closely with local partners to continue to build community identity, participation and support for new projects, and to build a sense of place for Drummuir
Securing previous gains	High	D21, DCE, KDRA	Review management and maintenance of previous projects as part of a strategic review of paths, access the community woodland and the Drummuir Station area.
New services : community firewood scheme, community garden/allotments, play area	Lower/Medium	D21, DCE, SCC , DBCT	Work with local partners to prioritise and design potential new projects
St Fumac's Fair	High	D21, KDRA	Continue to promote the Fair and seek additional support, capacity and funding.
War Memorial Project	High	D21, DCE, BK, KDRA, DBCT, BPS, TMC	Firm up plans for the project and identify key partners.

POTENTIAL FUNDERS

Big Lottery Fund (Scotland) - Awards for All	A Lottery grants programme that funds small, community-based projects across the UK. Grants of £500 to £10,000 are available.	http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/Awards-For-All
Big Lottery Fund (Scotland) – Investing in Ideas	Investing in Ideas awards grants of £500 to £10,000 to organisations to enable them to think about, develop and test new ideas or improved ways of working that will bring real improvements to communities, and the lives of people most in need. There are no deadlines and applications can be submitted at any time.	https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/investinginideas
Big Lottery Fund (Scotland) - Community Led Activity	Funding to support communities to bring real improvements to the places they live and the wellbeing of those in need. They will fund organisations to deliver work that achieves the following outcomes: Everyone in the community has the opportunity to influence and get involved in community led activity; people in the community are better connected and work together to improve their wellbeing.	https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/scotland/grants-for-community-led-activity
Forestry Commission Scotland - Community Fund	The fund aims to support community groups and organisations that are encouraging and facilitating greater use of woods by people to derive health, well-being and community benefits	http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/strategy-policy-guidance/communities
Heritage Lottery Fund - Sharing Heritage	The Sharing Heritage programme is for any type of project related to national, regional or local heritage in the UK. They will fund projects that: make a difference to people, heritage and communities in the UK; have not yet started; and will last for no more than one year. Grants of £3,000 to £10,000.	https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/sharing-heritage

Heritage Lottery Fund – Our Heritage	They fund projects that make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities in the UK. The outcome they value most is that 'people will have learnt about heritage'.	https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/our-heritage
LEADER	European investment programme to increase the capacity of local rural community and business networks to build knowledge and skills and encourage innovation and co-operation to tackle local development objectives. Moray has 6 objectives which it will fund, and the relevant one for D21 is: "Objective 3 To enhance the quality of the Moray tourism product. To stimulate local involvement in tourism networks to enhance product quality through collaborative action."	http://morayleader.org.uk/
The MacRobert Trust	Grants of between £1,000 and £50,000. The only relevant theme included is the support of organisations providing encouragement for young people to engage in exercise and sport.	http://www.themacroberttrust.org.uk/grant-making/monetary-awards/
The Robertson Trust	The Trust now has three funding strands, the relevant one for D21 being "Funding Strand 2 – Strengthening Communities" and the theme within that strand "Empowering communities". The Trust will prioritise projects which aim to reduce inequalities by responding to identified needs and disadvantage.	http://www.therobertsontrust.org.uk/
Greggs Foundation – Large Environmental Grants	The main grants programme is aimed at organisations with an idea to improve a local area so that it can improve people's lives. The programme aims to deliver demonstrable improvements to the environment. There would also be an educational aspect to the grants to help people learn about their impact on the world around them. Grants of up to £2,000.	https://www.greggsfoundation.org.uk/environmental-grant

Hugh Fraser Foundation	The Trustees make grants in many different sectors including Conservation and Environment and pay special regard to applications from parts of Scotland where the local economy and/or circumstances make fundraising difficult.	Turcan Connell Princes Exchange 1 Earl Grey Street Edinburgh, EH3 9EE
Bank of Scotland Foundation - Small Grants Programme	This fund supports local, regional and national charities across Scotland, particularly those which are developing and improving communities.	http://bankofscotlandfoundation.org/small-grants-programme-0
Scottish Community Project Fund	Grants of up to £2,000 to community-led projects to enable them to employ an architect or other building professional to prepare a feasibility study for building or environmental improvement projects or employment/other initiatives which have social benefit.	http://www.rias.org.uk/services/scottish-community-projects-fund/
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	The fund covers four main sectors – Arts, Children and Young People, Environment and Social Change – as well as the Food funding strand. The fund aims to unlock and enable potential, back the unorthodox and unfashionable, build collective networks and catalyse system change.	http://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/what-we-fund/environment/
War Memorials Trust - UK: Small Grants Scheme	The Small Grants Scheme focuses on assisting with the conservation and repair of war memorials. Work should aim at managing the process of decay without damaging the war memorial's overall appearance, altering the features that give it its historic or architectural importance, or unnecessarily disturbing or destroying historic fabric.	http://www.warmemorials.org/grants/
People's Postcode - Postcode Local Trust	Postcode Local Trust invites applications that encourage lasting benefits by bringing people together to improve local ecology and habitats, encourage bio-diversity and benefit the wider environment – including creation/restoration of green spaces and sustainable energy for community groups/charities.	http://www.postcodelocaltrust.org.uk/

People's Postcode - Postcode Community Trust	In 2016, Postcode Community Trust will invite applications that help communities to overcome barriers to participation in creative and sustainable ways, and increase social cohesion through developing access to community facilities and activities – such as sport, play, training and employability programmes.	http://www.postcodecommunitytrust.org.uk/
WWF Scotland/People's Postcode Lottery - A Grand Green Idea	This annual competition offers prizes to community groups, clubs and schools for green projects. Applicants must apply under one of two categories: Climate & Energy and Wildlife & Nature. The prize structure offered is a £1,000 prize for the winner in each category and an additional £1,000 for the overall winner (one of the two category winners will be selected by a judging panel).	http://www.wwf.org.uk/how_you_can_help/people_s_postcode_lottery/grand_green_idea_competition_page/
Tesco - Bags of Help	The carrier bag levy will support a large number of local environmental improvement projects in communities. Projects will include building new pocket parks, sports facilities, woodland walks and community gardens. Tesco customers will get the chance to vote in store and online for the projects they most want to go ahead in their own local areas. Six projects will receive funding in each of 432 regions annually, which means that around 2,500 different projects will receive funding from the bag charge after just one year. The amount of funding available for individual local projects will range from £8,000 to £12,000.	http://www.tesco.com/carrier-bags/
Scotmid - Community Grant	Small, one-off grants are available for the benefit of local communities around Scotmid stores. Key areas supported are: children / education (e.g. schools groups); health (e.g. promotion of healthy eating); fairtrade; homelessness / poverty; arts & culture (e.g. community musical festivals); environment (e.g. promoting a clean /healthy environment); elderly; active lifestyles (e.g. encouraging exercise / fitness /sport).	http://www.scotmid.coop/community-and-charity/supporting-local-communities/scotmid-community-grant/


The Hugh Stenhouse Foundation	The trust will support social welfare causes, children and young people, medical and health organisations and the environment/conservation and heritage. Mainly aimed at Perth & Kinross.	Bell Ingram Durn Isla Road , Perth, PH2 7HF 01738 621 121
The Mary Salmond Trust	Grants of up to £500, including for the advancement of community development, in particular rural or urban regeneration.	http://www.marysalmondtrust.com/
Buchan Countryside Group Community Travel	The grant provides up to half the cost of travel to help community groups get their clients to a local site where there are opportunities for enjoying the natural heritage. It is explicitly targeted at groups which support people with special needs those who are normally excluded from enjoying the natural heritage.	http://buchancountrysidegroup.org.uk/criteria.html
Gordon & Ena Baxter's Foundation	To promote the conservation and preservation of the natural environment.	http://www.gordonandenabaxterfoundation.com/apply.html
Highlands and Islands Enterprise - Maximising Community Assets	This helps to develop the skills and knowledge of people involved in community ownership of income-generating assets. Includes costs of attending events, undertaking study visits and hosting training seminars.	http://www.hie.co.uk/community-support/community-assets/capacity-building.html
Highlands and Islands Enterprise - Community Asset Ownership	Start-up assistance is designed to help community groups with early investigation of a proposed purchase. Eligible costs include professional fees such as valuation, study visits to other related projects and initial community consultation.	http://www.hie.co.uk/community-support/community-assets/types-of-assistance.html
Big Lottery Fund (Scotland) – Community Assets	Grants from £10,000 to £1 million to create strong and resilient communities through assets. Capital funding, revenue funding, or the cost of acquiring an asset.	https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/scotland/community-assets

Paths for All Community Path Grants	Grants of up to £1,500 to help community groups improve, maintain and promote their local community paths. Fund closed at present but may re-open in 2017.	http://www.pathsforall.org.uk/pfa/support/community-path-grants.html
VisitScotland Growth Fund	Supports collaborative tourism marketing projects which focus on growth in the tourism sector. Needs a strong digital focus.	http://www.visitscotland.org/business_support/marketing_opportunities/growth_fund.aspx
Scottish Landfill Tax Grants	Grants for providing, maintaining or improving a public park or other public amenity; and for the conservation or promotion of biological diversity through the provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat or the maintenance or recovery of a species in its natural habitat. Available from a variety of approved bodies. Can apply to any.	http://www.wren.org.uk/apply/fcc-scottish-action-fund http://www.landtrust.demon.co.uk/index.htm http://www.sepa.org.uk/media/219234/register-of-approved-bodies.pdf
The Tree Council Tree Futures Grant Scheme	Offers small grants up to £700 for tree planting through two programmes: the Trees for Schools and the Community Trees funds.	http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/Grants
The Steel Charitable Trust	Although primarily focused on Luton and Bedfordshire, will also award grants elsewhere including Scotland. Grants between £2,500 and £25,000, and one of the five categories supported is Environment.	http://www.steelcharitabletrust.org.uk/grant_policy.htm
The Foyle Foundation Small Grants Scheme	Makes one year grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 to charities which can demonstrate that such a grant will make a significant difference to their work.	http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/small-grants-scheme/
RES Hill of Towie Wind Farm Fund	Aims to improve the social and community life and to improve the environment in the area of benefit.	http://www.reapscotland.org.uk/community-grants/hill-of-towie/
Vento Ludens Edintore Wind Farm Fund	Should open for applications early in 2017.	http://www.reapscotland.org.uk/community-grants/edintore/

Foundation Scotland	Express Grants programme; Baillie Gifford community awards; Heineken Fund community awards; Comic Relief Local Communities Programme.	https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/
The Ibrahim Foundation	The grants usually range from £500 to £10,000. Grants can support building community capacity, strengthening non-profits, and its environment grants seek to foster greater awareness of, access to, and stewardship of the natural environment.	http://www.ibrahimfoundation.com/grants.html
The NatureSave Trust	Grants are made to projects which specifically address the promotion and implementation of sustainable development, environmental and/or conservationist improvement and or general 'green' issues.	http://www.naturesave.co.uk/the-naturesave-trust/funding-guidelines/
Garfield Weston Foundation	Supports a wide range of charitable activity rather than having specific priorities for funding or regional bias. Regular grants of up to £100,000.	http://www.garfieldweston.org/About-Us
Scottish Natural Heritage	Currently closed to applications as SNH are reviewing the basis on which it will offer our grant funding in future.	http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B920641.pdf http://www.snh.gov.uk/funding/our-grants/
SRDP Improving Public Access	The aim is to support new and upgraded paths for public use.	https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/management-options-and-capital-items/improving-public-access/
SRDP Environmental Co-operation Action Fund	Promotes the delivery of landscape-scale environmental projects by groups of farmers, foresters and other land managers.	https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/environmental-co-operation-action-fund/
Scottish Power Foundation	Will re-open in 2017 for grants for 2018. Single year funding, which includes the theme "the advancement of environmental protection or improvement".	http://www.scottishpower.com/pages/applying_for_funding.asp

Appendix 1 : Consultation and Questionnaire Responses

Sample drop-in sheet



Drummuir 21 Local Action Plan : Unlocking the Countryside

Tourism and Visitors

place a sticky dot to add your answer

Would you like more tourists/visitors in Drummuir?	YES	NO	No View
If YES, should the area be branded as a 'destination'?	YES	NO	No View
Should signage be improved?	YES	NO	No View
Improved facilities (toilets, campsite, website etc)?	YES	NO	No View
An increased role for the Keith & Dufftown railway?	YES	NO	No View
More craft workshops and retail?	YES	NO	No View
A farm shop?	YES	NO	No View
Woodland lodges?	YES	NO	No View
Events (eg activities, outdoor music/theatre/light show)?	YES	NO	No View

Any other comments on tourism and visitors?

Developing the Station area, the Community Woodland & access to Loch Pate in partnership with D21 would encourage use without cars.

A Plan for visiting grounds/visitor centre, REGISTERED with the Green Club * I agree *

Farm shops are quite handy and well frequented some days.

Question 1: Local walks and access to the countryside

	YES	NO	No view	Total Respondents
Do you think Drummuir needs more paths?	26	7	3	36
If YES, should these be short walks - less than a mile?	8	11	4	23
Longer walks - more than a mile?	20	3	3	26
More circular walks?	25	2	1	28
Walks that connect with long distance routes like the Speyside Way?	29	3	1	33
Walks that connect with the railway?	26	3	4	33
Improvement and extension of the Isla Way?	33	2	1	36

NB : Black text shows public comments from survey returns, red text shows clarification by D21.

Current paths and walks on the Estate are excellent.

I wouldn't want too many paths, as it could spoil the look of the Estate.

Greater variety of walks would be welcome.

Like the wilder and natural look of the Estate and feel it is very important to maintain this.

An extension of the Isla way would be good, in particular an improvement of the Drummuir to Keith stretch so that people can walk into Keith but off the road (x2).

Better to have less paths well signed and maintained than a huge network not looked after well (x3)

It would be a good idea if a path was created and signed around the loch.

D21 Group - we feel have plenty of walks. What is required is improved maintenance, esp. in the Community Woodland, improved interpretation re history and wildlife and a new leaflet. If paths interconnect, people can choose to do as much or as little of them as they wish (x2).

I think the improvements to existing paths is more important than new paths

Improvements required to the Existing Isla way rather than an extension.

The walk from church to loch is well used and flat and easy.

The uphill walk to the wind farm could be publicised more or consult with Estate for other harder routes.

Due to the nature of Drummuir's weather, paths need to well drained if possible and also of a material that offers a surface that is safe when it is icy, snowy or frosty if that is possible.

Access to the current network of paths from the village and school is via the Gullet. This road in my opinion is highly dangerous. There is mud all year round and heavy lorries etc. regularly churn up the verges of the narrow road. Not only that, vehicles drive at ridiculous speeds and I think there should be a very low speed limit on that stretch of road. It is just a matter of time before someone is involved in a serious accident.

The Isla Way Connection should be the priority, with offshoots to local businesses such as the railway stations and Mill of Towie and any other relevant place.

There are plenty of existing small walks with perhaps the only requirement being that they could do with better signage. Perhaps more thought could go into where walkers (who generally come in vehicles) could park.

We need more joined up paths for walkers and other users too such as cyclists and horse riders.

Isla Way link to long distance routes v important - could mean more use of bunk house for overnight stays. Would also help support railway as it also links the three communities - Keith Dufftown and Drummuir.

The existing paths are not particularly well used (NB, Moray Council Ranger usage counts suggest 8000+ walkers on Kirk path in 2015) or looked after and a huge amount of grant money was acquired to install them, so can see no reason for extra paths apart from a link to the Speyside Way or Isla way to extend long distance routes.

Question 2 : How could existing path routes be improved?

	YES	NO	No view	Total
Better way marking?	23	7	3	33
Improved surfacing?	21	3	6	30
Improved drainage?	24	4	4	32

Paths don't have to be fancy expensive surfacing but boggy bits drained would be helpful.
 Only short all abilities routes need surfacing.
 Paths need better maintenance particularly vegetation control on all abilities path (x3).
 An annual allocation of funding for Maintenance, to be held by TMC Access Officer or by D21.
 The All Abilities Path was made over 16 years ago and is deteriorating, especially since TMC regular maintenance has been reduced.
 The narrow road leading down to the Station is used by very large vehicles and the bend at the top increases the hazards to pedestrians.
 A footpath, formed over 30 year ago on the edge of the Community Woodland is underused due to lack of maintenance and signage.
 More sitting areas. More points of interest such as noticeboards and sculptures.
 Existing path needs widened in places as its too narrow for wheeled modes of transport i.e wheelchairs and prams.
 Bridge over Ford at Westerton as the stepping stones are too slippery to cross.
 Some dog litter bins to encourage those owners who don't pick up.
 Locally available maps in information centres and libraries perhaps.

Question 3 : The Community Woodland

	YES	No	NO view	Total Respondents
Would you like more facilities in the community woodland?	27	4	5	35
If YES, would you like to see picnic tables?	19	5	2	26
A woodland shelter?	17	3	4	24
A wildlife hide?	18	1	4	23
More circular paths?	23	5	1	29
More information about wildlife and the area?	28	3	0	31
Better way marking?	17	5	3	25
An outdoor classroom?	17	4	7	28
An orienteering course and map?	19	5	3	27

Keep everything natural and not 'hard' furnishings.

D21 thinks this is a prime area for improved management and that the CW Feasibility Study could be revisited. It is a great resource that could work better. It is a link between the village of Drummuir, the Hall, the Playing Field, the Railway Station and the Estate. It provides a steep and rather challenging walk as well as a gentle walk beside the Isla. The Station has a very easy circular walk. These two easy walks would be an alternative for All Ability promotion and be a welcome addition to the linear walk from the Kirk to the Loch. The Bird Hide at the Station could be used more, whilst balancing this with the need for quietness and the attraction of solitude.

All of the above would encourage all age groups and more families to take advantage of the community wood. Toilet facilities might be useful for people travelling from out of the area. It has been known as the community woodland for a number of years but was it actually ever handed over to the community?

A woodland garden in partnership with the school.

A son et lumiere event.

Minor improvements needed to the existing infrastructure.

Already have unused picnic tables.

It is nearly always cold in the community woodland. A better place for picnic tables would be by the walled garden or even in the walled garden.

The community woodland is a fantastic area but seems very under used. I don't know if increasing the facilities would encourage more access, but would like to think it would improve it at least for people already taking access and we would be grateful for the improvement.

Local use, controlled for fuel supply, perhaps through local membership.

An app giving details of local interest - wildlife etc. (NB: The mobile phone signal is very poor in the area, particularly around the station, so an app may not be feasible).

This facility has very little use apart from dog walkers mostly from the village. Youth Club also use it sometimes. Would this be value for money?

NB : Black text shows public comments from survey returns, red text shows clarification by D21.

Question 4 : Car parking for walks

	YES	NO	No view	Total
Do you think car parking for walks is adequate?	12	17	3	32
If NO, should more parking be provided in the village?	14	7	4	25
Should more parking be provided near the station/ railway?	16	8	2	26
Near the Kirk?	17	8	4	27
At Loch Park?	18	2	4	24

I am local and so car parking is not an issue or relevant to me. I imagine that car parking is adequate at the moment for the numbers of people who visit from day to day, but if more people were to come to Drummair or for an occasional event or for walks, then better car parking would be needed. This would best be provided without spoiling the look of the Estate which is so picturesque - I therefore think that further parking near the kirk or railway station should not be the first choice.

At the moment the owner of the station yard is not prepared to sell the land. Extending the car park in the future would be a worthwhile project should the land come on to the market. Increasing parking in the village would be an impetus for improving the paths down to the Station. The Drummair 21 Strategy has been to increase the number of visitors who a) live locally and could park in the village b) walk in ..hence need to link Speyside Way to Keith via the Isla Way c) arrive and depart by train.

I think a village car park is the most important one but that would rely on the landowners being willing to sell/gift a piece of suitable land for the project.

Not on the actual railway area.

There is no room available at the railway station.

Car parking is adequate, but walkers still use the end of the Avenue to park. Consider some parking space there. More parking is required in the village, but not for walkers.

It needs to be discrete and landscaped so as not to spoil the charm of Drummair.

It is not clear if it is public parking at the loch, or if it is private - for the centre only.

The Kirk car park is used by walkers' vehicles, but there seems to be a need for car parking at the village for other reasons i.e. residents' parking and hall parking. The Kirk car park is in need of maintenance and improvement due to such a high use.

It would be handy if we could purchase the old station yard for car parking/toilet facilities etc I believe there is adequate parking at all these venues. Loch Park could be more welcoming!

At the moment the owner of the station yard is not prepared to sell the land. Extending the car park in the future would be a worthwhile project should the land come on to the market.

Question 5 : Loch Park - opportunities for enjoyment

	YES	NO	No view	Total
Would you like to see Loch Park used by more visitors?	28	2	5	35
If YES, should there be more and better car parking?	23	3	6	32
Circular and way marked walks?	25	2	5	32
A play area?	16	4	9	29
An informal camping area?	21	3	7	31
Picnic sites?	23	0	5	28
A woodland shelter for hire?	18	4	8	30
Access for fishing?	22	3	6	31
Water sports?	14	4	6	24
Mountain biking routes?	20	5	3	28
BBQ sites?	21	4	2	27
A halt for the railway?	30	1	4	35

Loch Park - opportunities for enjoyment

Loch Park is very picturesque and an asset to the Estate. On the one hand I think it is a special place as it is quiet and could be spoiled if too many visitors and tourists were to start coming. However, this does not mean that opportunities for activities there should not be taken advantage of in a controlled way e.g canoe or rowing boat hire, some more picnic tables and BBQ sites. It would certainly be nice to see the Loch Park area taken more advantage of. I would love for loch park to be more open for walkers and canoers etc but not to be a 'honeypot' for car based visitors who just have a picnics, leave litter and go away again. BBQs and so on encourage this type of visitor. There are plenty of other areas locally that provide fishing and mountain bike trials and these are incompatible with walks and wildlife.

I think Loch Park is very under utilised. It is a fantastic natural resource.

I have concerns that the current users of the site would conflict with members of the public who might arrive unannounced to use the facilities. It may compromise the tenants' ability to carry out their purpose. Therefore I think it's best not to promote more widely.

Loch Park already has play area, camping, fishing, etc. - no need to duplicate or take customers away from them.

Rarely see the public using this facility. Do they know it exists? Needs to be promoted more and made aware of what a great facility this can be for the public.

Again - is it a private jetty at the moment or not? I've thought about going down with my kayak but not sure if that is OK.

All of the above are good ideas and would be a 'yes' in all the boxes. However, perhaps a view should initially be sought from the existing users of the loch i.e. the business that operates at Loch Park. They would perhaps welcome more visitors but perhaps not. Thought would need to be given to how facilities are provided such as bins, and how they are managed. Who would empty all the bbq bins and dog poo?

Would the business at Loch Park do this for free, or be able to charge?

Facilities should not be in direct competition to those already provided by Loch Park. Do they want to develop their business further?

Huts are the way forward.

It's someone's business already - what role for them?

Rail halts needed at Mill of Towie and Loch Park. (NB : These have been under consideration by KDRA for a while. There are costly technical issue to resolve at Mill of Towie. A new halt at Loch Park is less likely to pose such problems and could be advantageous in encouraging more visitors to Loch Park.)

Loch Park improvements could take a lot of money and who benefits in the long run?

NB : Black text shows public comments from survey returns, red text shows clarification by D21.

Question 6 : Tourism and visitors

	YES	NO	No view	Total
Would you like to see more tourists and visitors coming to Drummuir?	33	1	4	38
If YES, should the area be branded as a destination (website, signage, business collaboration etc)?	21	1	6	28
Should signage be improved?	25	3	2	30
Should there be improved facilities (toilets, campsite, website etc)?	29	1	3	33
An increased role for the Keith & Dufftown railway (more trains/a rail halt)?	30	1	3	34
More craft workshops and retail?	21	4	5	30
A farm shop?	24	3	4	31
Woodland lodges?	17	5	7	29
Events (eg woodland light show, outdoor music/theatre, workshops/crafts)?	27	2	4	33

Sustainable tourism is always best- involving local people. Promotion should focus on the 'great outdoors'. Also need to highlight using the train to explore local walking and cycling routes.

D21 pleased to work in partnership with others who may wish to organise events. D21 resource focuses on St Fumac's Fair. Toilets are an issue. D21 has a website. Local economy important and D21 has a role to play in contributing to this, but unable to take the lead. If a balance can be made between visitor access and encouraging more wildlife to the area, Nature Walks could be offered in addition to the provision of a hide.

A balance is needed to maintain a peaceful environment for people and animals. However, much more could be done before we reach any kind of saturation point.

Currently KDR is operating at its maximum train frequency for the manpower resources available. There is no reason why this cannot be increased in the future but would require a major upgrade at Drummuir station with a passing loop for service frequencies to be increased. This is a long term objective of KDRA.

I definitely think the Drummuir area could be developed for Tourism but not if this has a detrimental impact on the area and our Wildlife. I would be for low impact Eco-Tourism and for the area to be marketed as such.

It's a great venue for all the above events.

I have the cafe at Mill Of Towie and it would be nice to work together on bringing tourism in, maybe try and get the mill open/operating in future and do events on the grounds of the Mill of towie.

The Mill of Towie lies unused!

All are good ideas. Thought should be given as to who is benefitting. It is great for outsiders to be able to come to Drummuir and use the area, but who will empty the bins and manage the paths? To offset this, local businesses would need to take advantage of the potential income.

More toilet facilities would be good, that does not necessarily mean campsites and notices to 'take all rubbish home'.

I would support eco-tourism.

Any lodges/camping shouldn't cause detriment to wildlife/environment.

Small site for campervans and caravans registered with caravan club x 2 comments.

Farm shops are trendy these days.

Developing community woodland, station area and loch park with D21 would encourage use without cars

Who runs this and is there any reason to believe this is sustainable. There is no History of Drummuir being particularly attractive to tourists.

Question 7 : Wildlife and conservation

	YES	NO	No view	Total
Would you like to see a red squirrel project - monitoring and surveying?	29	1	4	34
A water vole project?	27	3	4	34
An osprey nest project at Loch Park?	28	2	4	34
Control of non-native invasive species in the watercourses?	25	4	3	32

I don't know enough about these kind of wildlife projects for an informed opinion on which ones may be good/bad/preferable, but in principle they all sound like positive ideas. Lots of other opportunities for surveying species and improving quality of habitat for wildlife. Consider a part time ranger post to lead on this and develop public events etc- funding available?

This is a very important aspect of D21's work. The Group would like to see increased appreciation of the wildlife and quiet environment. As above re working in partnership and resources. All of above are good ideas but only if they are long term projects and not just set up to get funding and then abandoned.

Plenty of squirrels already - don't need money/time spent on a project.

I keep wildlife recordings and send to NESBReC as a D21 member. I have red squirrel feeders up near my home on the Drummuir Estate and also log these recordings and recordings of Pine Marten's etc.

Designated a local nature reserve?

Very desirable but control of non-native invasives is time consuming and expensive

These should be happening anyway!!!

Question 8 : Community schemes and ideas

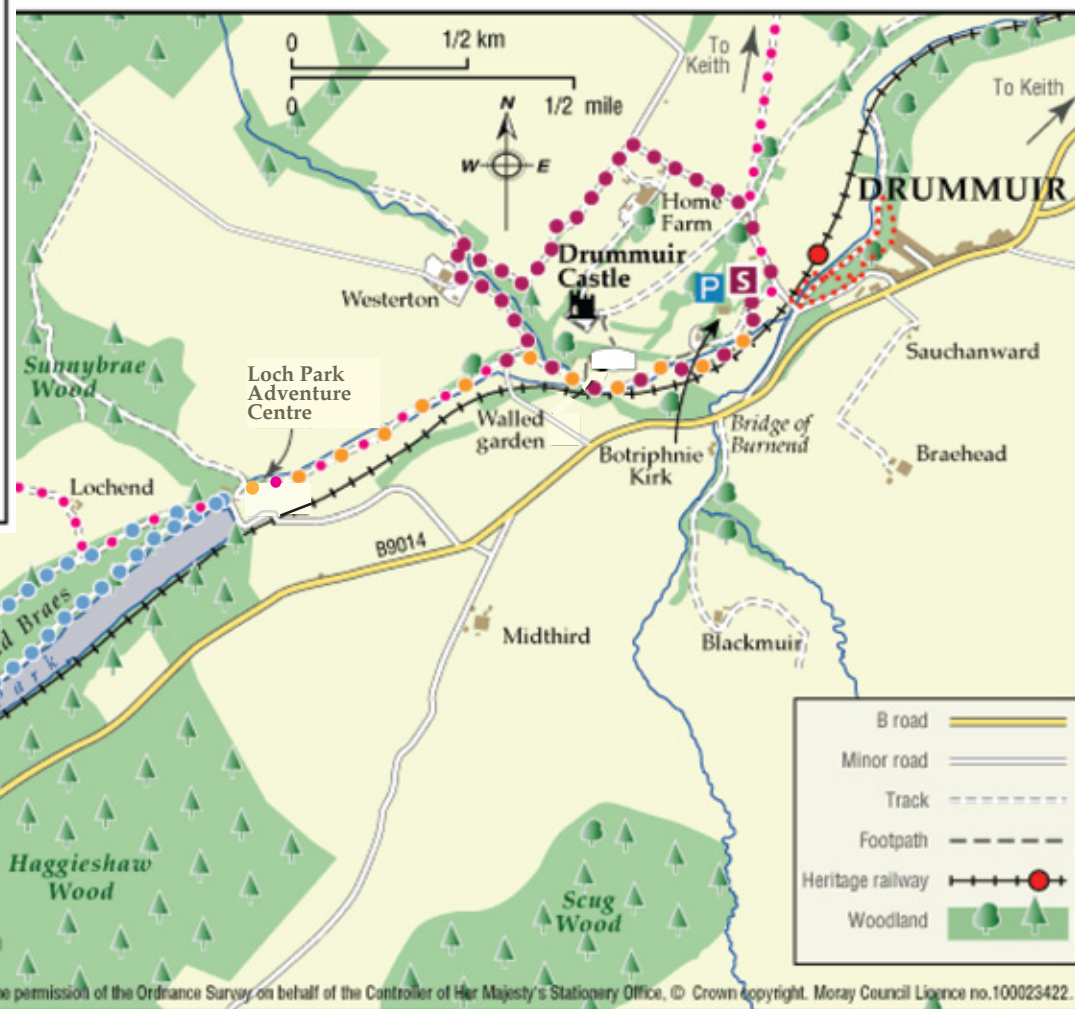
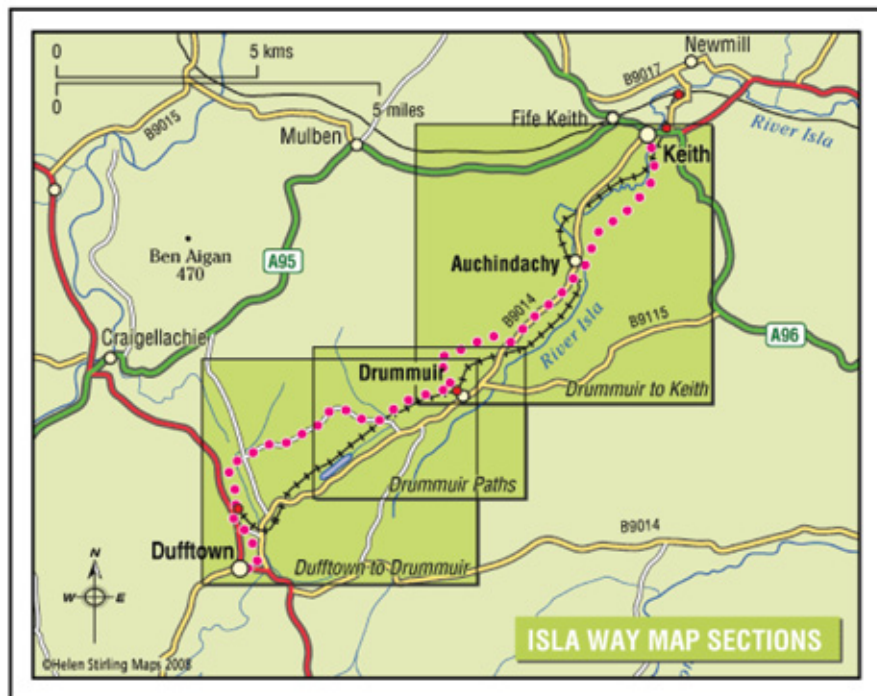
	YES	NO	No view	Total
Would you like to see a community firewood scheme?	18	5	12	35
A new play area?	12	10	8	30
A community garden?	20	7	8	35
Allotments?	18	6	10	34
Continuation of the annual St. Fumac's Fair?	27	1	9	37
A war memorial project at the Kirk?	25	1	7	33

Community events are a good idea for such a small village. I would like to see the old mill restored and working again. The playing fields are seldom used as they are permanently waterlogged. Current play area underused - perhaps because of poor quality. I would rather see the football field improved so it could be properly used. Firewood scheme would need properly managed and serious consideration for the landowner of the trees as to the safety implications of firewood processing on their property. Unrealistic to have a village shop again, but there is a community somewhere that uses a machine to dispense milk, newspapers, etc. and Drummuir could use one. As a D21 member I have organised the St Fumac's Fair Events but feel it should not currently be an annual event unless more people are prepared to help run it and we get the funds to do so. Every second year would be better. Running the fair during the spring whisky festival provides a different type of event to the normal festival offerings bringing in people that otherwise would not likely attend. It also brings additional revenue to KDRA. Last year there were about 50 visitors arriving by train. Additionally, St Fumac's Fair is listed on the Festival's on-line event booking system and gives Drummuir world-wide internet exposure free of charge. Integrate allotments into the school system. It is very difficult to get the majority of the community to engage. Both Drummuir 21 and the Hall are viewed warily by most. Local enthusiasm needs to be converted into more active encouragement and support for local community projects.

Question 9 : Any Other Comments?

Drummuir Estate is such a lovely place and it is a privilege to be here. What a great idea to do this survey and give people the opportunity to have a say - well done! There are no litter bins in the village and only one poo bin at the start of the walk at the church. Drummuir will never be a tourist attraction but it is great the way it is. We don't have the population or enthusiasm to do big new projects.

Appendix 2 : The Isla Way and Local Paths





DRUMMUIR 21 : UNLOCKING THE COUNTRYSIDE



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