

**Notes from Ballachulish Community Action Plan meeting,
Tuesday 23rd June 2015
Held in Committee Room, Ballachulish Village Hall, 7pm**

Present: Brian Dickie, Rob Malpas, Sheila McLean, Kath Small, Kevin Smith, Mike Smith
Apologies: Jo Watt

Sheila has arranged for a consultant, Colin Roxburgh, to come and give us some preliminary advice on gathering information for the plan. The meeting will be in the Committee Room at 7pm on Thursday 25th June.

Kath has been gathering data on the community (Ballachulish, South Ballachulish, Glenachulish and Lettermore) from the census and Voters Roll. A summary is included at the end.

Discussions on the following items for inclusion within the plan followed:

- Need for Affordable Housing, (and a need to question method of allocation of Council and Housing Association properties following concerns from residents)
- The National Scenic Area (NSA) and other 'zones' such as the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Land use within the community
- Hydro Scheme and allocation of monies generated by the scheme

Hydro Scheme

The Community Company will progress the start up of the Hydro scheme (should approval from community be granted) and then hand over to a new Hydro Company, with directors chosen from the community at large, not just the Community Company. This new company will need to be VAT registered, and will then pass profit onto a trust of independent trustees who will decide which applicants are awarded money from the trust. Ideally these trustees will be completely independent from all other groups in the community, but realistically there will simply be a need where they cannot be involved in any decision making where they have a conflict of interests. No profit will be distributed to any individual or company for private purposes.

The Hydro scheme is approaching the final planning stages, with a community ballot taking place on the 20th August. At least 50% of those eligible to vote must support it for the project to progress.

The Action Plan survey will launch after this ballot, to avoid any potential confusion or conflict between the two. It will need to be a simple A4 sheet with tick boxes and space for comments to maximise response. Also to look into a Survey Monkey version to make more accessible for younger residents.

Scouts (and school) to also be involved in process as appropriate.

Houses: 363 total

Residential – 314 Empty – 3 Holiday Lets – 14 Second homes – 24 Tied – 8

Population: 719 (inc 36 in Abbeyfield)

Under 5	6-12	13-18	19-59	60-80	Over 80
31	65	33	343	196	51
4.3%	9.1%	4.6%	47.7%	27.2%	7.1%
			Abbeyfield:	9	27

Employment:

Tourism	95	Forestry, Agriculture etc.	9
Outdoor Sports	18	Other Local Businesses	57
Health & Social Care	40	External Businesses	27
Education & Child Care	37	Offshore	10
Local Services	51		
Not Working (18-60)	22	Retired	166