

Broadford & Strath Community Company

Paths for People Project: Community Update

September 2024

Project Background

People in our community tell us they would like to see better links between key places in our area. Many also say they would like to walk, wheel (using a wheelchair or mobility scooter) or cycle more often. We want to create an environment where this 'active travel' is a safe and attractive option for everyone. 'Paths for People: A Community Paths Network for Broadford & Strath' is a project to help make this happen.

The first step in improving the network is to identify what needs to change and what people's priorities are. Earlier this year we commissioned **Alan Jones Associates (AJA)** to undertake a study of the current path network, its gaps, opportunities and community needs as a whole. We also set up a Community Advisory group to help steer the project.

Project Update

In delivering the project, the importance of community engagement was recognised as fundamental to ensuring the outputs of the work best reflect the views of those living and working in the local area. To this end, a wide-reaching community survey was undertaken with the opportunity to respond both online and via hard copy throughout April and June. A full report on the survey results can be viewed on the **Broadford & Strath Community Company website**.

During May, a paths specialist undertook a survey of existing paths in the local area. The survey involved investigating path condition, opportunities for improvements, options for new network links, and effectiveness of signage and additional needs.

To further support the work, the Consultant Team also engaged with a number of key community groups, landowners, and other stakeholders to better understand the potential links with other existing projects and opportunities.

The culmination of the above work provided a wealth of opportunities, suggestions and ideas covering paths throughout the Broadford & Strath area, all of which have been recorded as an output of this work.

From this long list, a number of initial projects and ambitions have been identified for more detailed investigation as priorities for the BSCC Paths for People Project. These projects are listed on the following page. We have prioritised improvements that will support everyday journeys ('active travel'), which is the main focus of this project.

If you are interested in getting involved with the project further, and wish to join the **Community Advisory Group**, please don't hesitate to in touch: mail@broadfordandstrath.org.

Next Steps

Alan Jones Associates are now working on a detailed report that will include the high-level costings for the proposed projects, whilst identifying opportunities for capital funding. In addition, the report will investigate options for the management and maintenance of paths, taking examples from successful projects, partnerships, and delivery models throughout Scotland. This report is scheduled to be reviewed by the Community Action Group and completed by the end of year.

The final study will provide us with robust evidence about route feasibility and community priorities. This in turn will support future funding applications to increase investment in our path network over the short, medium and long term.

Find out more about BSCC's involvement in the local paths network:
<https://www.broadfordandstrath.org/project/path-network/>.

The Paths for People project is funded by **Paths for All** and Community Regeneration Funding from the Scottish Government through The Highland Council.

Summary & Groupings

Below are the proposed priorities for funding applications. Following more detailed work on the costings, and delivery models for each investment, the final report will help to outline the next steps in delivering improvements for the Broadford & Strath Community.

Repairs & Network Wide Improvements

- Repairs – Pier Path Erosion
- Repairs – Forest Path Drainage & Blocked Route
- Repairs to Signage & Gates as identified via Path Audit
- Wayfinding Signage in Broadford Village Centre
- Interpretation Signage throughout Network
- Increased Benches & Bins

New Paths & Links – BSCC potential lead

- New Hospital Path
- Connection to Marble Line Path from Village Centre
- Forest Path to Growers Hub Link
- Forest Path to Phone Mast Link

New Paths & Links – Watching Brief

- Safe Routes to School – New Primary School
- Committee Road – Skye Cycle Way
- Old Sleat Road – Skye Cycle Network

Medium & Long Term Projects

- Retention of Proposed SSEN Lines (South of Broadford)
- Retention of Proposed SSEN Lines (Broadford to Luib)
- Full Connecting Route from Broadford to Luib
- Active Travel Route from Broadford to Elgol (Direct)

Other Suggestions

A large number of potential future projects, improvements and suggestions have been gathered through the engagement work. These will all be referenced in the final report for future consideration.

