



# Strathpeffer Community Park Business Plan January 2019-2021

## Table of Contents

Section	Page
<b>1. Executive summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Background:</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.1 The project</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.2 The local area</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2.3 About Strathpeffer Residents Association</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3. Community and stakeholder consultation, market research and assessment of need.</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4. Funding and finance</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>5. Risk analysis</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6. Operational planning</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Appendices:</b>	
<b>I List of Trustees</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>II Community survey results</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>III Outline funding strategy</b>	<b>24</b>

## 1. Executive Summary

- The proposed park would be owned and managed by the community and benefit the residents of Strathpeffer, Contin, Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon Community Council Wards.
- The community park will provide a fresh, new focus for the village and deliver important social, environmental and indirect economic benefits including activities for health and well-being, training and skills development, community food production and enhanced environmental improvement and providing an additional low-key attraction for tourists and valuable volunteering opportunities.
- Strathpeffer is a village in Ross and Cromarty with a population of just over 1,000 people. The village grew from a Victorian spa-town and is still a popular Highland tourist location. However, as the village developed, and continues to grow, there has been relatively little investment in the development of high quality green-space and recreational facilities for the local community.
- The community park project is being taken forward by Strathpeffer Residents Association (SRA), a Scottish Charitable Organisation with a board of 8 trustees.
- The board of SRA has broad and relevant experience including finance, project planning and management, social media and risk assessments (see Appendix 1 for a full list of trustees) and recently underwent training in good governance. SRA has a membership of 174, 166 of which are from the SRA's defined area of benefit.
- The project has evolved from public demand and has overwhelming community support. There has been extensive community consultation to assess support including 4 public meetings, a community survey, an open day and canvassing local schools. In addition, SRA has held a number of well-attended volunteer days to begin tidying up the site.
- A feasibility study in 2015 identified ample amenity space locally but which is of low quality and with negligible provision for positive use and activities within those spaces. In addition, a review of the surrounding area showed few sites providing equipped play and no community growing areas. There is easy access to the countryside, but this primarily provides for walkers and mountain bikes on more demanding trails. The project is also a good fit with national and regional policies and strategies.
- SRA's intention is to progress the project in a phased approach to take account of community capacity. This will also safeguard the long-term sustainability of the project and ensure assets are delivered at every stage. The board has prepared a detailed operational plan setting out how each phase will be delivered.
- SRA's first objective is to take ownership of the land from the Highland Council through a Community Asset Transfer and prepare the site for development (initial drainage and permissions). They will

then develop recreational facilities that will initially include a children's all ability play park and access path network. This will pave the way for further phases based on continued community consultation e.g. bike tracks, a multi-use games area (MUGA), orchard and community food growing opportunities.

- An outline funding strategy has been prepared (see Appendix 3) which shows the viability of securing finance for the community park. This will be developed further as a key task by the Project Officer. Total project costs for Year 1, which includes acquisition of the site, are £46,783.
- The community park will not of itself generate direct revenue, however, there are important benefits to owning and developing this asset. These include securing savings to the public purse by having a local facility which increases community physical and mental well-being and reduces the impact on the environment by providing locally-based facilities.



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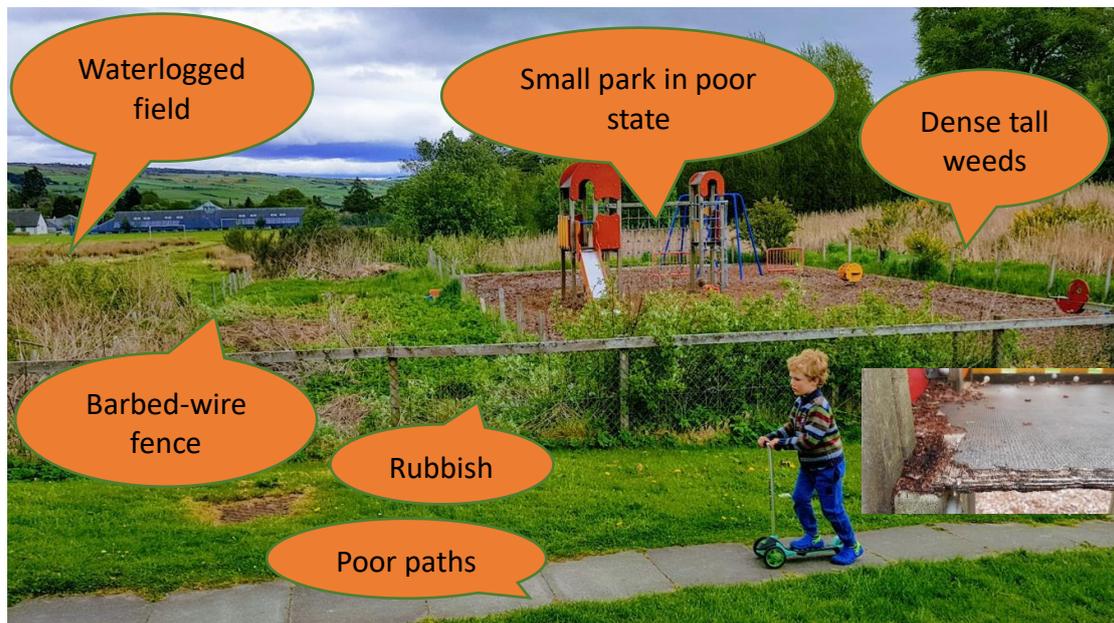
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## 2. Background

### 2.1 The project

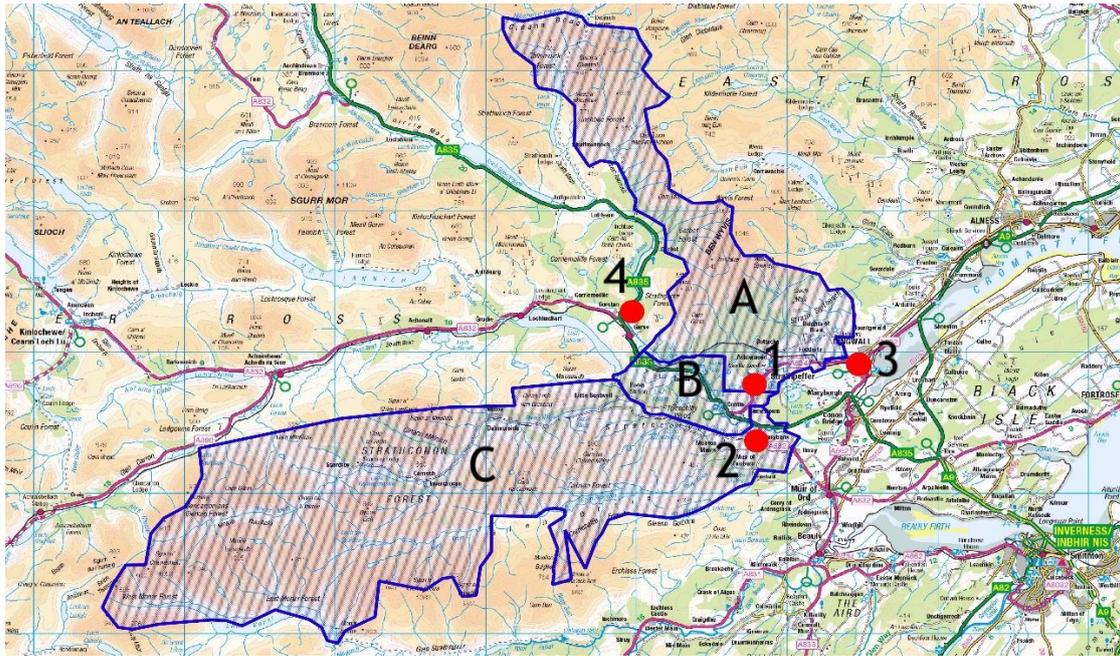
The Strathpeffer Community Park project aims to revitalise and transform a 1.84 ha semi derelict area of Public Open Space into a community-owned play park to benefit local people of all ages. The land is located in the spa town of Strathpeffer and situated between the primary school and surrounding residential areas. At present the land is part overgrown scrub and un-maintained grassland, with areas of wet ground and mature trees. There is a small poor-quality play area on the site, which is nearing the end of its usable life (Fig. 1). There is limited public access at present due to vegetation and lack of access paths.



**Figure 1. The land is currently overgrown and unmaintained with a small park that is nearing the end of its usable life.**

The proposed park would be owned and managed by the community and benefit the residents of Strathpeffer, Contin, Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon community council wards (Fig. 2).

The park would provide a fresh, new focus for the village and deliver important economic, social and environmental benefits. These include: active and passive recreation; activities for health and wellbeing; training and skills development; community food production; enhanced biodiversity and environmental improvements. In addition, the project would be a boost to the local economy by enhancing the image of Strathpeffer, creating an additional low-key attraction for tourists and providing valuable volunteering opportunities. The project has evolved from public demand and is overwhelmingly supported by the local community.



**Figure 2.** Area of benefit including (A) Strathpeffer, (B) Contin, (C) Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconnonn community council wards. Red dots show the location of the four closest play parks (1) Strathpeffer, (2) Marybank, 3.6 miles, (3) Dingwall, 5 miles (4) Wyvis Natural Play Park, 10 miles.

The community has already undertaken some work to improve the site through volunteer days (Fig. 3).



**Figure 3.** Volunteers on litter-pick and scrub management days.

This business plan builds on the findings of a feasibility study ([LINK](#)) commissioned in 2015 (funded by the Big Lottery Fund), which included extensive community consultation ([LINK](#)) and produced a long-term master-plan for the community park. This consultation, together with ongoing discussions within the community, recognises that while an ambitious long-term plan is important, a phased approach to the project is being adopted to take account of community capacity. This will also safeguard the long-term sustainability of the project and ensure assets are delivered at every stage.

This phased approach has the following priorities:

- Play facilities for children to replace the existing small run-down play park that is nearing the end of its operational life.
- Improved appearance of an area of wasteland in the centre of a village that depends on its image to support the important local tourism industry.
- To reduce our carbon-footprint by increasing local outdoor recreation opportunities without the need for resident to travel by car to other parks.
- To provide a focus to unify the community, breaking down barriers of age and of social status. This must be done by linking to other village initiatives e.g. through the Strathpeffer Village Plan and Strathpeffer Saves.

This same phased approach also has three clear objectives:

**Objective 1.** To take ownership of the land from the Highland Council through a Community Asset Transfer and prepare the site for development (initial drainage and permissions).

**Objective 2.** To develop, through a phased approach, recreational facilities that will initially include a play park and access path network. This will pave the way for further phases, including bike tracks, orchard and community food growing opportunities.

**Objective 3.** To implement a sustainable long-term funding and management plan to maintain and develop the assets.

## 2.2 The local area:

Strathpeffer is a village in Ross and Cromarty with a population of just over 1,000 people (source National Records for Scotland 2016). The village grew from a Victorian spa-town and is still a popular Highland tourist location. However, as the village developed, and continues to grow, there has been relatively little investment in the development of high quality green-space and recreational facilities for the local community.

There are 96 Affordable/Social Homes in the community area. Nearly 42% of the population are claiming Key Benefits - slightly higher than the Highland Council average of just over 40%.

A number of new houses have been built in Strathpeffer over the past 10 years and the current local plan proposes an additional 40 houses including low-cost housing, west of the village. This influx of residents has increased the number of children attending the local primary school and will continue to do so in the future, increasing the demand for open space but with limited prospect of providing new quality facilities.

The number of pupils attending Strathpeffer Primary School has increased from 156 in 2004 to 175 in 2018. An additional 33 children attend the nursery.

### 2.3 About Strathpeffer Residents Association:

The Strathpeffer Residents' Association (SRA) was set up in 2012 following local concerns over the need to develop un-used land for the benefit of the local community. It became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC046287) in January 2016.

There is a board of nine trustees and who, collectively, have broad and relevant experience including finance, project planning and management, social media and risk assessments (see Appendix 1 for a full list of trustees). The board recently underwent training in good governance. SRA has a membership of 174, 166 of which are from the SRA's defined area of benefit. The current focus of the SRA is to oversee the development of the community park, on behalf of our community, and to ensure its smooth day to day running and management. Achievements to date include:

- Securing membership of 174 members
- Production of a wide-ranging [Feasibility Study](#).
- Succession to a new and active Board in 2018 that represents a wide range of skills and backgrounds from the local community.
- Extensive and ongoing community consultation
- Creation of a project [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page
- Volunteer work days on the site to control invasive vegetation, remove litter and improve site safety.
- Successful community fundraising including:
  - Winter Ball 2018 £1,000
  - Bingo Night 2018 £1,040
  - EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Strathpeffer Community Fund  
2018 £1,600  
2019 bid for £3,000
  - Dance 2019 £438
- Successful national and regional fundraising:
  - Stage I Scottish Land Fund for business plan  
2017 £11,149 awarded (£9,878 claimed)
  - Big Lottery Fund (Investing in Ideas) for feasibility study  
2015 £9,996
  - Highland Council Grants  
£270 pa
- Reviewed and redrafted constitution to enable more effective decision making.
- Awarded free access to Microsoft Office 365 suite of project management packages and secure online storage.
- Engagement with the wider Strathpeffer Village Plan and development of a good working relationship with key partners.

- Submission of an Asset Transfer Request to HC (decision due early February 2019).

### **3. Community and stakeholder consultation, market research and assessment of need**

There has been extensive consultation with the community to help assess the need and support for the project. The methods used were:

- 4 public meetings
- 750 questionnaires door to door in the local area (of which 348 were returned) highlighted the overwhelming support (97%) from local residents for improvements to the park area. The provision of exciting play equipment was a key request from the community (see results summary in appendix II or the full consultation response in [Appendix C](#) of our feasibility study)
- Open day attended by 79 local people
- Canvassing of local schools

The community survey had a good response rate with 39% of questionnaires returned (including primary school children returns). The results showed overwhelming local support in favour of the project (97%) and clear preferences on the key priorities which are:

1. Paths and seats
2. <12 year old play
3. 12-15 year old play
4. Natural play
5. MUGA
6. Provision for bikes
7. Outdoor gym
8. Provision for growing food
9. Opportunities for public art

Subsequent consultation and engagement have demonstrated ongoing support for these priorities, e.g. see Table 3.1. However, there is a general acknowledgement that development will have to be phased whilst keeping the final grand-plan clearly in sight. We will therefore deliver a sustainable park that delivers for all of our community and creates assets at every stage.

**Table 3.1: Recent examples of ongoing community support and consultation.**

Date	Description	Residents	Type
17-Mar-19	Community willow planting and litter-pick morning	24	Volunteer
16-Mar-19	Community dance fundraising event	60	Support
21-Jan-19	Neighbours of the park area attended SRA board meeting to discuss concerns	7	Consultation
01-Dec-18	Local resident and SRA member organised a Winter Ball. Well attended by the community raising £1,000	100	Support
17-Nov-18	Strathpeffer Primary School 'Outdoor Ninjas' provided fresh ideas on what they would like to see in the new play park. Lists and drawings provided.	13+	Feedback
22-Oct-18	Members' meeting - update and opportunity to comment on priorities - all in support of proposal to focus on drainage, parks and then bike track.	30	Consultation
29-Sep-18	Facebook poll on drainage options receives	97	Consultation
19-Aug-18	Pavillion Dance organised by local hotel raises funds for the park		Support
19-Aug-18	Volunteer site management day	9	Support
28-Jul-18	SRA bingo night - full house raises over £1,000	55	Support
22-Jun-18	Facebook poll on play park styles receives 102 responses with 78% in favour of a natural look/wooden.	102	Consultation
May-Nov 18	SRA membership increases from 90-174	174	Support
03-Nov-17	Focus group meeting to give the community opportunity to prioritise. It was agreed that the priorities are drainage and access, play park, shed for tools.	12	Consultation

In researching the market and making the case for need it is clear the community park project will meet some areas of unmet demand locally.

An open space audit of Strathpeffer was carried out as part of the 2015 Feasibility Study. This identified ample amenity space, but which is of low quality and with negligible provision for positive use and activities within those spaces.

In addition, a review of the surrounding area showed few sites providing equipped play and no community growing areas. There is easy access to the countryside, but this primarily provides for walkers and mountain bikes on more demanding trails.

For children and younger families, for teenagers, for people with mobility issues and for many of the elderly, there is little to offer without travel out of the village, which cost money and the environment.

And while there are other playpark facilities (one in our 'area of benefit') none of them are in Strathpeffer and can only be accessed, by most local people, via car or public transport.

**Table 3.2: Other local facilities:**

Location	Strengths	Weaknesses
Marybank playpark	Good current facility	4 miles from Strathpeffer; access only by car; no shelter from weather
Dingwall playpark	Good current facility	5 miles from Strathpeffer; poor public transport connections
Dingwall Leisure Centre	Wide variety of staffed activities offered	Charge for all activities; 5 miles from Strathpeffer, poor public transport connections.
Wyvis Natural Play Park	Recently opened	10 miles from Strathpeffer.

The community park project is also a good fit with national and regional strategies, policies and targets including the Highland Play Strategy, the Scottish Government's strategy for physical activity and Highland Play - Play Matters. These strategies are designed to:

- Maximise opportunities for children to learn, develop and enjoy active play.
- Promoting physical activity and improving the environment to encourage activity
- The development and maintenance of long-lasting, high quality environments to support inactive people to become active.
- To encourage safe, nurturing, active play

## 4. Funding and finance:

An outline funding strategy has been prepared (see Appendix 3) which shows the viability of securing finance for the community park. This will be developed further as a key task by the Project Officer. It should be stressed that the community park will not of itself generate revenue. However, the benefits of owning and developing this asset are around securing savings to the public purse by having a local facility which increases community physical and mental well-being and reduces the impact on the environment by providing locally-based facilities. In addition, an attractive well-maintained park will help maintain and improve the image of a village, which is important for local tourism which is an important component of the local economy.

### **Year 1:**

£15,000 for purchase of the land

£1,600 Stage I drainage plan

£1,280 legal fees

£10,000 required to implement stage I drainage plan (estimate)

£1,500 planning drawings and design work (estimate)

£401 planning application fees

£17,002 for Project Officer

*Total Year 1 £46,783*

### **Year 2:**

£11,000 Stage II drainage plan and works (estimate)

£150,000 for Play Park (all components)

£50,000 paths and access (scalable within limits)

£12,000 fencing and hedges

£7,742 Project Officer

*Total Year 2 £230,742*

### **Year 3:**

£5,000 maintenance equipment and fuel

£2,000 tool and mower storage shed

£1,000 insurances

£200 independent safety inspections

*Total Year 3 £8,200*

**TOTAL COSTS: £285,725**

## 5. Risk analysis:

The key risks for this project, and how they can be mitigated, are set out below:

Table 5.1:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Impact on the project</b>	<b>How we will mitigate</b>
<b>Capital funding for play park not secured in 2019</b>	Provision of a play park delayed with potential loss of community support. However, having drained the top field we will still have created a new asset for the community by providing flat open green-space for recreation and events.	Continue to raise match funding for larger funding pots. Negotiate longer spend deadlines with successful funders. Consider sub-phasing play park in line with funding (e.g. toddlers > old children's) or consider slightly smaller play park. Implement lower cost elements of wider park project and volunteer management to demonstrate progress to the community. Good communication with the community.
<b>Project management on day to day basis - volunteer board members</b>	Project deadlines missed, contracts unsuccessfully let, capital funds not raised.	Secure funding for a part-time project manager. Phase project appropriately. Enlist volunteer help from the wider membership.
<b>Highland Council do not agree to a community asset transfer</b>	The community do not gain control of the site and loose access to a range of funding pots where applicant must be landowner.	Appeal decision. Negotiate long-term lease with HC. Work with HC to raise funds for HC managed park.
<b>Long-timescale results in loss of community support</b>	Funding applications rejected, local fundraising initiatives fail, and reduced contribution of the community to the park's development.	Progress the project as quickly as possible. Maintain good communication with the community to ensure the project fully reflects the

		community's ambitions and requirements.
<b>Planning permission not granted</b>	Major elements of the park cannot progress	Address planning concerns and resubmit application.
<b>Drainage permission not obtained from Scottish Water</b>	Drainage less effective, potentially making areas of the site unsuitable for park development.	Locate development on drier areas of the site. Explore on-site attenuation options (attenuation tank, pond).

## 6. Operational Planning

**Table 6.1**

This table gives the operational plan for **Objective 1**. To take ownership of the land from the Highland Council through a Community Asset Transfer and prepare the site for development (initial drainage and permissions).

Strategy	Task	Resources required	Community involvement	Date	Success criteria
Identify the key components of the park	Conduct public consultation and feasibility study	Paid	Community consultation events (see Annex C of feasibility study)	Sept. 15	Delivery of a feasibility study outlining options that have full community support.
Submit a successful asset transfer request to the Highland Council	Write business plan	Paid		Mar. 18	
	Land valuation	Paid		Jan. 19	
	Submit asset transfer request			Jan. 18	Highland Council agree to sell the land to SRA.
Secure funding for purchase of the land	Review and revise business plan	Board/ Just Enterprise	Shared via project website	Jan. 19	
	Submit successful stage II SLF application			Jan. 19	Awarded stage II funding
	Negotiate 50% land value contribution from Highland Council			Mar. 19	HC agree to a discount the purchase price by 50%
	Continue with local fundraising events		Fundraising - attending and organising events		
Purchase Land	Subject to SLF funding, appoint solicitor for purchase	£1,280		Apr. 19	
	Negotiate and complete purchase			Jun. 19	SRA receive Land Certificate
Implement first phase of site drainage through a SUDS	Secure funds for stage I drainage plan from EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Strathpeffer Community Fund			Nov. 18	Funds secured through successful application.
	Appoint drainage engineer to produce a drainage plan and secure pre-Development & connection applications to Scottish Water. Competitive tender once funds have been raised	£1,600		Mar. 19	Drainage plan delivered along with successful pre-development and connection applications
	Raise funds for construction of SUDS (swale) (EDF and other local funding sources)			Jul. 19	Funds secured.
	Liaise with local contractors/businesses to negotiate donation of materials and equipment		Liaison with local contractors and businesses as identified by our community network	Mar. 19	Materials and equipment donated or discounted.
	Commission stage I drainage works once funding and permissions secured.	£10,000	Ensure local residents fully aware of construction impacts.	Sep. 19 - Apr. 20	Stage 1 drainage works installed.

**Table 6.2**

This table gives the operational plan for **Objective 2**. To develop, through a phased approach, recreational facilities that will initially include a play park and path network (articulated here). This will pave the way for further phases based on further community consultation e.g. bike tracks, MUGA, orchard and community food growing opportunities.

Strategy	Task	Resources	Community involvement	Date	Success criteria
Prepare and submit full planning application for play park and path network.	Seek refreshed pre-planning advice in light of re-phased approach that excludes buildings and services.			Feb. 19	
	Secure in-principle construction access from Ulladale Crescent via Highland Council		Consult with immediate park neighbours.	Apr. 19	Site access granted
	Preparation of planning drawings/design work	£1,500	In consultation with direct neighbours.	Jun. 20	
	Submit planning application	£401	Community response to planning application.	Jul. 19	Planning permission obtained.
Prepare and submit capital funding applications	Appoint/let contract for Project Manager with responsibility for fundraising and contract management. Reports directly to Board.	£24,744		Jun. 19	Best available contractor appointed.
	Refresh capital funding strategy and develop relationships with major funding providers.			Jun. 2019 (ongoing)	Funding strategy successfully identifies appropriate funding sources and match-funding requirements.
	Submit and manage major grant applications		Continue to seek fundraising expertise from SRA community membership	Apr. 2019- June. 2020	Funding targets met following successful applications.
Secure village expansion developer S75 contribution to recreational facilities	Flag the need for a contribution to the park project through the planning system (40 house development to west of Kinellan)			By June 2020	Contribution secured. Unknown value at present, however, the Ulladale development of c. 25 houses resulted in a £10,000 contribution in 2008.
	Follow-up with Highland Council and Highland Housing Alliance if planning permission for development approved.			By June 2020	
	Investigate potential contributions from existing developments e.g. Ulladale Crescent where £10,000 was paid to the Highland Council for provision of play facilities (but apparently not spent).			By June 2020	
Commission and construct first phase of path network (access and core)	Subject to securing adequate capital funding - follow standard procurement and tendering procedures to award path design and construction contract.	£50,000		Sep. 2020	Paths installed to enable all ability access from main entry points.

Strategy	Task	Resources	Community involvement	Date	Success criteria
	Coordinate stage II drainage and paths works with play park installation.			July. 2020 - Sept. - 2020	Construction well-coordinated to minimise community disruption and increase efficiency.
Commission and install toddler and main play areas	Source additional designs and refreshed quotes from potential suppliers			Jun. 19	
	Put park designs out to community consultation again via Facebook and email to SRA members.		Community consultation.	Jul. - Aug. 2020	Community rank park designs to input to tender evaluation.
	Commission preferred play park	£150,000 - 200,000		Sep. 2020	Play park installed and commissioned successfully.
	Oversee installation and commissioning			Oct. 2020 - Apr. - 2021	
	Coordinate stage II drainage with paths works and play park installation.	£10,000		Sep. 2020 - Apr. - 2021	
Fences, hedges, trees and maintenance	Produce fence, hedge and tree plan.		Community consultation.	2020	Hedges and fences successfully planted/erected.
	Let fencing contract	£10,000	Potential volunteer input for smaller tasks	2020	
	Procure hedge plants	£2,000 Double hedge 350 m double planted beech @ £5.50/m		2020	
	Procure 'standard' trees	TBD			
	Coordinate volunteer hedge and tree planting		Volunteer community contributions		

**Table 6.3** This table gives the operational plan for **Objective 3**. To implement a sustainable long-term funding and management plan to develop and maintain the assets.

Strategy	Task	Resources	Community involvement	Date	Success criteria
Progress additional phases of the masterplan following further consultation	Specify, consult, fundraise and commission installation of a tarmac pump track e.g. velo-solutions quality (Indicative)	TBD	Consultation with the very active local cycling community	2021	Highland Trail Riders and Ben Wyvis Cycle Club, in association with local cycle shops, set up an active programme of mentoring and tutoring with integration to other local cycling opportunities. Residents are more active.
	Plant orchard/fruit bushes (Indicative)	TBD	Involve community in variety selection and planting. Future involvement in harvest and processing.	2021	Community provided with seasonal fresh fruit. Groups formed to process fruit e.g. baking, fruit juice, wine production. Revenue generated from products.
	Install raised beds for all ability community herb and flower garden. (Indicative)	TBD	Recruit gardeners from the village to set up a herb-garden club	2021	Flowers and herbs provided for the local community.
Continue local fundraising events	Recruit local volunteers to arrange a series of events.		Fundraising - attending and organising events	2019-2021	2-3 fundraising events p.a. raise £2,500 - £3,000.
	Set up Park100 Club			2019-2021	Potential to raise c. £5,000/yr
Secure ongoing site management	Purchase sit-on mower suitable for site (or rent)	£5,000		2021	
	Purchase additional maintenance equipment (strimmer, tools etc...)			2021	
	Arrange Independent Safety Inspection	£200		Annual post 2020	
	Insurances	£1,000			
	Coordinate volunteer vegetation management		Volunteer engagement	2019-2021	
	Move towards a situation where more roles and responsibilities such as maintenance, cleaning, promotion, and daily running concerns are taken on by paid and committed contractors, possibly shared with other village resources, from within the community (as funds allow)			2021	Sufficient sustained local fundraising to contract out key maintenance tasks.
	Purchase and install shed for mower and tools.	c.£2000			

Strategy	Task	Resources	Community involvement	Date	Success criteria
Liaise formally and informally with the community in order to identify ongoing needs and interests, and to develop the parks programme of activities and events.	Provide opportunities for the community to offer suggestions		Feedback given	2019-	The park continues to be developed by the community with continuous fresh ideas.
	Liaise with the community at events, formally and informally		Attendance at events and engagement	2019-	
	Test the market by offering new activities for pilot periods, to gauge interest, level of commitment and pricing (in collaboration with other village resources e.g. Community Centre)	Funding for short blocks of tester activities.	Suggestions to try and participation in clubs and events	2021-	New activities become established in the new park.
Use a wide range of methods to promote and market the park facilities and events	Promote and market events, activities, and facilities to the whole community using a variety of methods.		The whole community is well informed	2020	Raised awareness within the community. Increased participation in activities. Increased membership of the SRA.
	Maintain a user-friendly, informative and interesting website which promotes the events and opportunities available and showcase past events.			2019-	
Ensure the park is used by all sections of the community and not just specific age/user groups	Encourage new volunteers to come forward to help with events and fundraising initiatives.		Community volunteers contribute to fundraising.	2019-	Park recognised widely as an important feature of community life. Membership of SRA increased.
	Encourage new SRA Board members to come forward from all sectors and interests within the community.		New Board members recruited from the community	2020-	
	Encourage and support new events and initiatives by other groups within the community.		Other community groups benefit from the park	2020-	
Set aside funds for future foreseen maintenance and capital costs	Design maintenance schedule			Five year review	Regular maintenance programme and funds set aside for capital costs.
Install services as funding allows	Install lighting, solar powered if possible or through a grid connection, as funds allow.	-	Consultation with direct neighbours	Review	
	Install rainwater capture tanks to support the development of community gardening projects, as funds allow.	-	Following community consultation to reassess need.	Review	

## Appendix I: List of Trustees

### David Genney (Chair)

David has lived in Strathpeffer since 2006 when he was employed as a policy and advice officer by Scottish Natural Heritage. Prior to this he was a research scientist at the University of Aberdeen/James Hutton institute in Aberdeen. He plays an active part in the local community e.g. taking part in the infamous Strathpuffer24 cycle event and sitting on the committee of the Strathpeffer and District Community Rowing Club. He has two young children who attend Strathpeffer Nursery and Primary School. His skills include project management, partnership development, budget management, website development, planning, GDPR, risk assessment, and habitat management.

### Graham Macdonald (Vice chair)

Graham has lived in the village for four years, moving to Strathpeffer to raise his young family. He is a qualified land / engineering surveyor and currently works off-shore. He is a passionate mountain biker and actively volunteers in the local trail maintenance and building scene. In addition to his work for the SRA, he is a leading figure in the local Highland Trail Riders, a group committed to improving trail access to all, youth training and skills development. His skills include, GPS / land survey, Autocad drawings, project management, reporting, financial management, risk assessments, organising volunteer work parties and has a wide range of other skills.

### Jane Stewart (Treasurer)

Jane grew up in Contin and has been living in Strathpeffer for 15 years. In addition to the SRA she plays an active part in local fundraising for the Contin Community Trust. She has a young daughter who attends Strathpeffer Primary School. She is employed as a manager at drainage merchant (20 years) and has knowledge of civil engineering industry. This gives her experience in drainage and construction, contract management and customer service. She runs a successful holiday chalet business in the village.

### Richard Jones (Secretary)

Richard has a young family who attend the local school. Richard has experience in project management, programme development, evaluation and planning.

### Christopher Alan Birt,

Chris Birt has lived in Strathpeffer since 1998, and before that in Fodderty since 1988. Chris is a retired public health physician; he used to work for the Highland Health Board until 1993, when he moved to academic public health, specialising in particular in public health nutrition at European level. Although retired, Chris maintains some involvement in this work; he is Vice-Chair of a Board which advises on future European nutrition research policy, and on to which research groups research grants should be awarded. Chris is a member of a working group charged with developing European



sustainable food-based dietary guidelines. For eight years until November 2018 he has been President of the Section on Food and Nutrition of the European Public Health Association; he remains its Vice-President. He also teaches occasionally at the University of Maastricht.

#### Gavin Scott

Gavin has lived in Strathpeffer since 2012 and has since had a young family who attend the local nursey. He currently employed as an Electrical and Instrument supervisor offshore UKCS. Gavin has experience in Project management, Personnel supervision and management, HSEQ control and implementation, IT, Budget control and Planning.

#### Ann Sant

Ann has lived in the community for nine years, previously serving as Chair of the Residents' Association, and minutes secretary for the Strathpeffer Community Council. She has recently qualified as a nurse having spent 12 years employed by the Department of Work and Pensions at a regional executive level. This role included 12 months working in Westminster as Focal Point for Freedom of Information, and two years developing new procedures and regulations.

#### Karen Coburn

Karen has a young family and works as a Child Minder based in Strathpeffer. Brought up in Dingwall she moved to Strathpeffer 20 years ago. Karen has a good understanding of local history and ambitions. She particularly enjoys organising local fundraising events.

#### Neil Forrest

Neil, a founding member of the Strathpeffer Residents' Association, grew up in Strathpeffer so knows the village very well. He has two children and is a keen mountain biker and local trail builder.

## Appendix II: Community survey results

Question or feature	Overall	Comment
Support for the project in principle	97% yes	There is overwhelming support.
<b>Should we provide:</b>		
<12 Play	90% yes	Clear majority in favour, with 58% 'must have'
12-16yr old play / activity	89% yes	Clear majority in favour, with 54% 'must have'
Provide for bikes and skateboards	87% yes	Clear majority in favour, with 39% of residents, 60% of secondary children and 84% of primary children selecting 'must have'
Dirt track (in favour of stunt bowl)	57% yes	No clear overriding preference.
Stunt bike bowl (in favour of dirt track)	53% yes	
MUGA	89% yes	Clear majority in favour.
Natural Play	89% yes	Clear majority in favour.
Should natural Play take priority over formal equipped play	37% yes 46% no	Small majority in favour of equipped play over natural play.
Outdoor Gym	87% yes	Clear majority in favour: 'must have' for: 25% adults; 82% of primary children; 59% of secondary pupils.
Ornamental Gardens	71% yes	A majority in favour but, amongst residents, 33% 'no' and only 13% 'must have'.
Sensory Garden	76% yes	A majority in favour but, amongst residents, only 17% 'must have'.
Growing food as part of the Garden?	77% yes 21% no	A majority in favour. Amongst residents 31% must have; 45% nice to have and 20% no. Of secondary pupils 37% 'no', but 61% of primary children 'must-have'.
Individual allotment plots? OR	40% yes 53% no	Small majority in favour of community / shared allotments.
Communal Plots?	59% yes 30% no	
Do you want a plot?		13 residents said 'yes' +38 primary children + 13 secondary pupils
Orchard as part of the Garden?	76%	Clear majority in favour, although only

	yes	14% residents and 7% of secondary pupils chose 'must have'
Community Shed?	79% yes	Clear majority in favour.
Outdoor meeting area/ events space?	80% yes	Clear majority in favour.
Whole site as Community Woodland?	61% no	Community as a whole is against whole site being wooded, but general support woodland on the sloping ground. Woodland popular amongst <16yr olds.
Sloping hill side as woodland?	62% yes	
Small wildlife area?	56% yes 39% no	Slight majority in favour. Amongst residents 64% in favour; primary children evenly split; secondary 67% in favour.
Path network?	91% yes	
Seating?	94% yes	
Public Toilet?	79% yes	Majority in favour of considering the feasibility of a WC, although amongst residents a significant number (34%) were against it. In discussion this was due to lack of need and / or cost and maintenance.
Public Art?	80% yes	Clear majority in favour.
<b>Safety</b>		
Do you have concerns about your safety at present?	77% no	Generally safety <b>not</b> a concern, although 33% of primary children indicated that they did feel unsafe and comments revealed concern over vandalism.
Do you have concerns about road safety at present?	71% no	Generally road safety not a concern, although 37% of primary children indicated that they did feel unsafe. Comments raised traffic speed on the main road and crossing that road as an issue.
Will you help?	56% yes 37% no	50 residents willing to help. 88% of school children want to be involved in the design. 11 secondary pupils were interested in helping/