

Improving our paths for people and wildlife

Community consultation, May 2021

1. What was the purpose of the consultation?

To enable all residents in the Carrbridge community area to share their views about improving paths for people and wildlife around Carrbridge.

2. How long did the consultation last?

4 weeks from 26th April to 24th May.

3. How did people share their views?

Residents were invited to share their views online or via a paper form posted to all households in the Carrbridge community area.

4. What could residents comment on?

Residents were invited to share their views about a number of paths and outdoor spaces around the village, how they could potentially be improved; to recommend other paths or outdoor spaces around Carrbridge that could be improved (or created), and to share any thoughts and ideas that might strengthen the work.

5. What was the response rate?

16% of residents shared their views.

6. What will happen with the views shared through this consultation?

The views will be used to identify the areas that are 'really important' for improvement. All comments related to those areas will be shared with the contractor employed to survey and scope those areas this summer.



The results

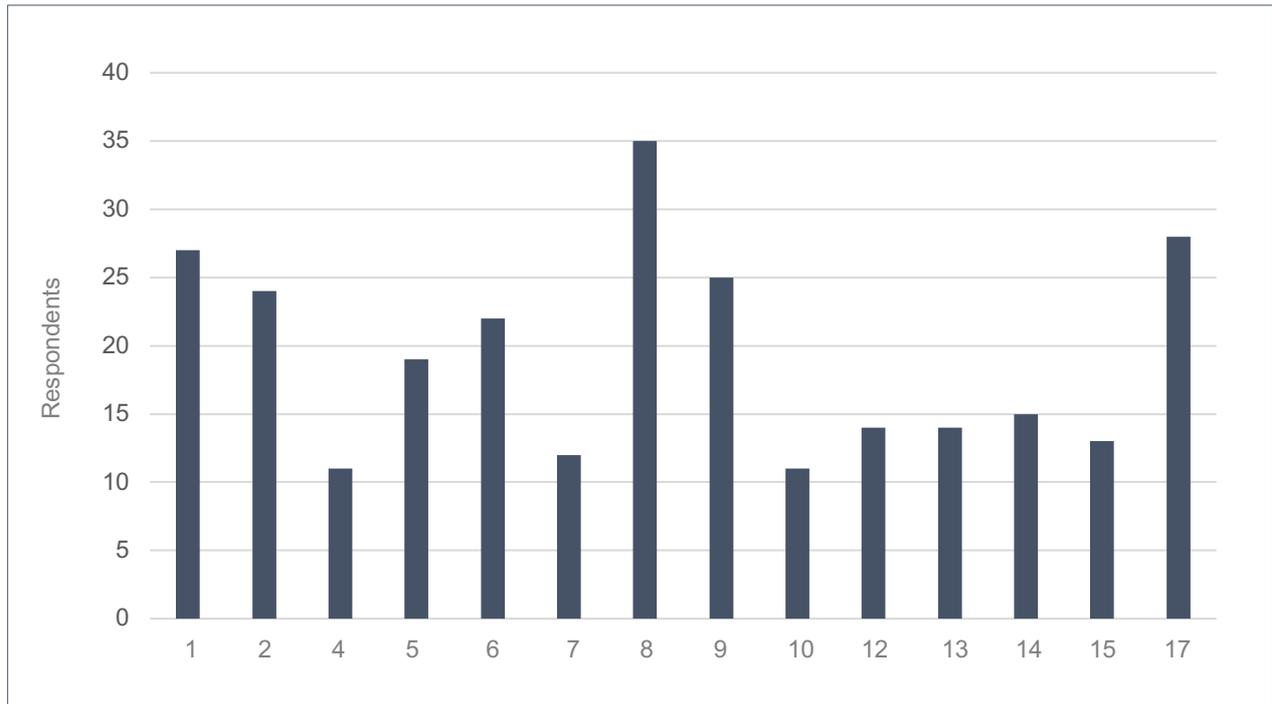


Fig 1: Areas identified as 'really important' for improvement

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| 1. Bridge viewpoint and entry to riverside path | 10. Cemetery and walkers carpark |
| 2. Riverside path | 11. Bench on Station Road * |
| 3. Seat by Ellan Bridge and access to river * | 12. Path from War Memorial |
| 4. Entrance to cemetery - Station Road | 13. Footpath from trekking to Urquharts Brae |
| 5. Entrance to Ellan Woods - Village Hall | 14. Community orchard (site undecided) |
| 6. Entrance to Ellan Woods - Landmark | 15. Undercover meeting space (site undecided) |
| 7. Entrance to Ellan Woods - Station Rd | 16. Path from Ellan Bridge to Bogroy * |
| 8. Roadside path to Carr Plantation | 17. New path from the station to Landmark |
| 9. Snakey bridge in Carr Plantation | * Removed from consultation |



If you've ticked 'really important' for any of the paths or spaces listed above, how do you think they could be improved?

Bridge viewpoint and entry to riverside path

- Clear signage at the start of the riverside path showing it is a circular walk and the time it takes.
- The view point at the bridge is important, it's pretty shabby uninviting concrete that could be much more inviting, and the view at the top could be improved by creating an all access wheelchair friendly spot at the top of the steps, as well as pruning the trees regularly for an unobstructed view.
- Redesign the whole thing and make it 'all abilities accessible'. Platform at pavement level with glass barriers, seating and picnic benches. Historical information boards. A path down to the river to allow for kids swimming. (Sketch submitted)
- The clutter of signs at the bridge examples very well the lack of co-ordinated thinking around signage and co-ordination across management plans relating to use of public spaces in and around the village.

Riverside path

- Riverside path occasionally is badly eroded due to flooding, the low-lying areas should have a sealed surface to prevent this.
- Currently very unattractive, needs to be more "welcoming". This is a key path in the village enjoyed by many.
- Investigate ways to stop flooding, make river bank more attractive.
- Get rid of a lot of the undergrowth along the riverside path so you can see the river.
- It is obviously very prone to erosion due to its proximity to the river, and is such an important route, particularly for people with mobility issues or parents with pushchairs as it one of the few walks with no steep hills or steps. Making it flood-proof should be a priority.



- Visitors need to know what they can expect in terms of length and a map of how to do the circular walk returning via Station Rd. This in itself would draw attention to the way in. I have answered lots of questions from folk staying at the Carrbridge Hotel and out for a stroll. Dog poo bin could be further in, say where the first little seat is where the track widens after the garage. NB the riverside path already has lots of wildflowers but tidying up so they can thrive better would be great.
- Riverside Path needs repaired, poor maintenance and design has led to drainage, fencing and dog problems to the croft. Please consult crofters direct prior to any further work. Attitudes of public towards myself using accessing trail from garage is very poor and signage must be improved to inform of crofting activities. Rest bench on area behind garage is also in dangerous position.
- More seating by the river.

Entrance to cemetery - Station Road

- Entrance to the cemetery: one that I use on an almost daily basis. This past winter has been a classic example of how unsuitable and hazardous both the sloping, north-facing road and foot approaches here can be. With no sun, the ice persisted on both road and footpath for many days after the main thaw throughout the rest of the village and you may have noticed yourself on your dog walks, it often comes down to clinging on to the wobbly wire fence to get up or down the slope. On foot, either approach is quite steep for a less able walker, even in summer. It could benefit greatly from shallow steps, or some other way to reduce the gradient and improve the situation for all-ability users. Also a handrail?

Entrance to Ellan Woods - Village Hall

- Much as outlined in the strategy document for the Ellan Wood entrances - sensitive landscaping.
- Entrance to the woods here could be made more obvious from the main road. Perhaps working with the Village Hall Committee to create a 'Gateway'
- Plant with daffodils. Possibly the community council would "chip-in?"
(comment repeated for two other areas)



- Entrance to Ellan Woods - Station Road: there are two entrances, the one further up the road needs steps replaced as icy in winter and appropriate 'natural' entrance landscaping.
- Takeaway existing pillars and gate leaving entrance open. There's mention of dry stone walling for various locations in the village. Carrbridge is a traditional highland village. Erecting these walls will give the village a suburban look if there is too many. The village is looking too suburban with the amount of 'street bling' i.e. flashing speed lights, count down speed signs etc.

Entrance to Ellan Woods – Landmark

- Path is dark, muddy and overgrown. Definite room for improvement here maybe in partnership with Landmark?
- Most of the entrances into the woods are narrow compared with other local villages. Could these be improved with hard-core paths if they can't be widened? The entrance by the house and Landmark into the woods is not ideal with the electrical substation but there is some good shrub shelter and bulbs for bird life which would be good to keep. I wonder if it would be better to close this off and relocate the entrance via landmark car park where there is an existing entrance anyway.
- Entrance to Ellan Woods - Landmark: Given that it's such a busy part of the village, signage and overall appearance could be improved.

Entrance to Ellan Woods - Station Road

- Upper entrance to woods from Station Road, steps needing redone. It's also very uneven with huge puddles when it rains.

Roadside path to Carr Plantation

- Needs improved drainage and on-going maintenance. Signage and road crossing could be improved.
- This path gets very wet and is well used. Sometimes users are forced onto the road.
- Proper drainage on this path as floods in any rain.



- Needs widened and a better surface. So slippery and muddy in winter. Very tricky to manoeuvre a buggy down there and is an important part of the loop back to plantation.
- Desperately NEEDS upgraded for all users especially buggies and wheelchairs. Needs fenced off from B9153 for children or dogs. Cyclists NEED a separate route to Kinveachy Junction and Aviemore.
- The road side path to the Carr Plantation is narrow and prone to being very muddy. It is a great shortcut to get in to the woods on this side of the village and then on to Boat of Garten or Aviemore by bike, but it needs to be wider. Also the path along the railway is in particularly bad condition after rain.
- Very wet and muddy underfoot, maybe so wood chip or something to help walkers walk safely, especially the path alongside the main road.
- Roadside path at present in poor state and not immediately recognisable as part of the path system.

Snakey bridge in Carr Plantation

- Needs a more robust structure, possibly a curved boardwalk, raised above the bog to allow for the increasing water levels experienced since the building of Tulloch Homes Orchard Place.
- This is currently in a very poor state of repair so needs fixing and it is very slippery in winter - just an improved surface on a new boardwalk might be enough.
- Needs redone, water table now higher due to new development. Super slippery in winter.
- Snakey Bridge - please leave this.
- Raise above bog, widen with one rail. Accessible to all incl. MTBs.
- Snakey bridge has character- so improvements may lost that.
- Really dangerous when wet/icy. Needs rebuilt.
- Used by so many.
- Requires improvement.



- In my view perhaps the highest priority of all the immediate improvements. It really can be VERY dangerous in icy and wet conditions now and it is one of the most frequently used access points on this side of the village, from Ellanwood Road, Rowan Park, etc. I commented on it before, ideally it needs to be raised up out of contact with the water, extended onto firm, dry land on each side, be wide enough for buggies, etc., and have handrails on both sides. I would also say that it is important to include repair work on the footpaths on each end of the bridge - where forest operations and frequent use by mountain bikes have exposed rocks and roots to make it difficult underfoot, especially in icy conditions in the dark in the winter.
- Snakey Bridge is a great bridge and it would be very sad to see this go. Many children love to pass over this.
- The Snakey Bridge is almost impassable when icy or very wet - a safety priority.
- My thoughts on Snakey Bridge are, it should be replaced like for like with perhaps some anti-slip strips for walking on in the rain or winter. I don't want to see any drastic changes on this iconic little bridge as it has been there for as long as I can remember and probably much older than we think. Please do not spoil the charm of it as it's been part of my childhood and my children's childhood and personally I want to see it continue that way for future generations!! Do not change for the sake of change this is how our village becomes sterile and nondescript. These little gem make our village what it is! Thank you

Cemetery and walkers carpark

- I would strongly discourage any development here. Upgrading the car park and introducing more picnic benches will only encourage campervans who should NOT be permitted to use this area in any circumstances, contributing to litter a disturbance to nearby homes. A covered area here would only encourage badly behaved teenagers.
- Personally I don't think we want to 'advertise' parking by the cemetery.
- Car park signage/ spaces- not clear currently. Places to sit.
- I do not think that walkers should be encouraged to drive to this spot. Parking here should be reserved for the disabled only and funerals.



Path from War Memorial

- Widened and better surface so accessible to all. Nightmare with a buggy, even an off-road one!
- All ability access up to memorial.
- Could be better. The hill is quite steep and could be made to look more attractive given the importance of the cemetery and war memorial in this location.
- This path is not important in the big picture but some hard-core may help to dry it up a little. To improve it to all abilities status may require the purchase of land from residents?
- Plant with daffodils. Possibly the community council would "chip-in?"
- War memorial to be visible from main road, sign posted at road; hall/houses entrance (Fairwinds) and path improved.
- I haven't ticked really important for the path from the War Memorial, but my house backs on to it and it gets very muddy and almost impassable between my house and the Archers house. Any improvement would need to tackle this issue before any cosmetic work on the entrance.
- This has 'character' and there are other routes to the war memorial.
- Probably pretty important to local funerals where people are not necessarily wearing suitable outdoor wear - upgrade to similar high standard ones in Ellanwood.

Footpath from trekking to Urquharts Brae

- Again, not important in the big picture but if this path were to be improved, it would be nice to include some interpretation about the history of this location, particularly in relation to the Trekking Centre which provided visitors with much enjoyment for almost 50 years. It also played an important role in forestry operations in WWII. Robert McInnes at Ellan House may be able to help.
- Urgently requires maintenance from Station Road.
- Right of way from stables to Urquhart Brae is overgrown in places and too narrow, with a very uneven surface.
- This is an alternative path into the woods and other routes are already accessible.



- At present unsafe for use by anyone- serious trip hazards and horses kept off this and paths round Ellan wood.

Community orchard (site undecided)

- Brilliant idea. Centre field opposite main car park (across road)?
Action orchard with potential for allotment?
- Plant with daffodils. Possibly the community council would "chip-in?"
- The orchard seems a good idea.
- Create a community orchard: Lots of reasons to do this. Environmentally useful. Educationally useful for children. Financially useful to those struggling to feed their families. Another opportunity for the community (of all ages) to come together on a project.
- A community orchard is a fantastic idea and I would give it full support. Not sure it 'fits' in this project but if it is a way of getting one, I'm all for it.
- Community orchard with wild native fruit bushes/ trees

Undercover meeting space (site undecided)

- Why an outdoor meeting place, when a perfectly good one already exists within the Primary School grounds (unused all w/end and after 4pm daily)?
- Think an outdoor meeting space is a great idea, especially in current covid times.
- Brilliant idea.
- May encourage antisocial behaviour - health walk leaders already pick up beer cans etc. from cemetery / station road junction.

New path from the station to Landmark

- Would be great for visitors, so many walk down station road and along the high street - too long for young kids especially before and after long day at Landmark.
- Realise this is difficult but I think a new route for visitors getting off train would be a great asset.



- A footpath to the station would benefit everybody in the village who uses the train or volunteer to make it attractive with flowers etc. as well as visitors to and from Landmark. Such a route would be preferable to the long straight stretch of Station Road. A purpose-built link from Landmark to the station could be accessed from several of the existing paths currently linking different part of the village. The main problem with using a path to the station is that it involves a long, time-consuming connection at the station end: going east to Station Road then west again to the platform 2. This must be shortened.
- Have you looked at train times and costs? Travel from Glasgow 01/07/21, 2 adults+2 kids, costs £222.30 or £178.20 + Landmark entrance fee £92. Only 2 trains stop at Carrbridge. We'd assume most visitors to Landmark are people holidaying in the area, or are locals, and wouldn't be arriving by train. Path is an expensive idea.
- A path from the station to Landmark would encourage people to travel by train rather than by car.
- Away from people's gardens - central to forest.
- The path between the station and Landmark is already present and maybe just needs some sign posting.
- Better signage.
- Station to Landmark doesn't need a new path it just needs signs on the paths which are there already.
- Path from station to Landmark supported by HML CRP. May not need to be all ability as woodland paths are not. Would half distance walked, many will walk back via village. Small signs to village centre and shops and bar required.
- There is No Access at present but would be really useful so top of the list please.
- Entrances to popular paths need to be made welcoming. A new path from the station to Landmark would be a very good idea but it must be well signed and advertised so people know about it in advance.



General comments

- The woods can only be improved by removing all the signboards and the only path we need is a NMU from Carrbridge to Kinveachy.
- A lot of paths become muddy in the wet so walkers find a new way round the mud creating wider patches- which is never good.
- Several paths are uneven with roots exposed. These become very slippery when wet.
- To have all large paths around the village will force people further afield to get a bit of enjoyment.
- Most of the existing entrances, paths, benches are perfectly adequate given their image. 'Prettifying' them would simply be wasting money which would be better used on other aspects of village life such as better facilities for children and young people.
- Overall more: seating, signage, shelter.
- Better access required from main street and church. Current path not suitable for those with limited mobility.
- This is a very leading question- only wanting comments on 'really important'?
- Allotments and community coppice would be good as well.
- Great you are doing this - keep at it.
- I don't understand why Capercaillie money is being used for paths around the village where there are no Capercaillie.
- I like the ideas outlined in your plan.
- Important to prioritise within "really important"- level of use, propose, seasonal usage.
- Why is there only a question and space to write about really important? Many of the paths you are wanting to change have real character and add adventure to trips.
- Smarten up much of the public spaces in the village.
- Better signage, more bins, signs displaying information about the area.



- Leave well alone and trust people to behave responsibly and stop advertising where the capercaillie are. All about money!!
- This goes for everywhere really, lots of maps and signage stating how long walks take, then clear signage for where walks go. And times rather than distance as different countries use different measurements.
- I think the entrances from the main road are most important, as they are the ones visitors will see as they drive through.
- Locals already know where all the paths are.
- Our paths are fine as they are. LEAVE THEM ALONE.
- These are all brilliant ideas making the village a more attractive place for residents and visitors alike.
- You have said it all in the booklet. Very well put together.
- The existing path network is a fantastic natural asset to Carrbridge. The character of the path network as it is, is what draws people on foot, bike, ski or horse to enjoy the woods. Being able to experience walking through nature on natural paths, softened by pine needles, with exposed tree roots, rocks and mud is what provides a sense of experience and adventure for all ages' groups. Making 'improvements' to the path network will most likely jeopardise/sanitize the very natural character that encourages people to go to these woods in the first place with the risk that people move into potential areas of capercaillie habitat instead.
- The Carrbridge capercaillie group has caused unpleasant feelings in the village and instead of taking people with them is have a divisive effect.
- It would be really great to see improvements.
- A general tidy up of the verges past Urquhart Brae, under the bridges and outside the industrial units, as these are neglected by the council. Not a good impression for walkers etc. Also a rubbish bin at the barrier beside the old sawmill as this is a dumping place for litter used by cyclists and dog walkers.
- Most people are in favour of conservation but not to the extent of feeling alienated if their views do not coincide with the group.
- Entrance needs tidied up with better signage.



- Paths around the village are adequate for what they are there for. Things are more important in the village just now like our teenagers who are needing things to keep them out of trouble and entertained instead.
- Staggered stile is difficult to negotiate- remove. Path goes onto steep/ rocky section so main, wider already resurfaced path along road probably better to signpost to
- The booklet produced to illustrate your ideas seems a ludicrous waste of money. The cost of putting it online would have been minimal and as effective.
- Chicken wire on steps loose/ broken- Have sliced toe on it. Not grippy underfoot- new safer.
- Seating for less physically able or elderly on level spots and arm rests- to help us old stiffies stand up after our rest and spell watching and enjoying the environment. I was sorry to spot that the bend halfway up station road had got fenced off. It was a great bit for a rest even though the ground under it was difficult to walk on. Why is it closed off?
- Some viewing spots/ hides where our local species could be watched. Especially birds and wildlife not so common elsewhere.
- Nest boxes strategically place with secluded benches so that they can be watched.

If you think there are other paths or outdoor spaces around Carrbridge that could be improved (or created), please tell us where they are and how they could be improved...

- Access path down to river below Packhorse Bridge to all families to access for swimming.
- Create an orbital path with footbridge across river from games field to Dalrachey Lodge Hotel.
- Empty land beside train station and at tarmac yard up Station Road- I've always thought these would be prime for community buy-out and orchard/ community meeting space/ allotments/ car parking/ outdoor covered space opportunities.
- Creating a cycle path from Carrbridge to Aviemore.
- Something created for older kids.



- Centre of village, around 300 bridge carving, could be better community space and more inviting to spend time.
- I think your coverage is fairly comprehensive but 2 additional options might be included: Footpath from Carr Road to the primary school (this is being discussed as part of the anticipated development at the Bullfield on Carr Road but it would be good if this project could ensure that it's done properly). New river crossing (?) from primary school to Dalmore would be great (realise this is a long shot!).
- A circular route north of the Bogroy road would take in the existing forest tracks from the road, looping across the back of the golf course and Lochanhully down to the Grantown road opposite Dalbuiack. One very big attraction of that particular route is the spectacular hairpin in the middle where the path dives down to the burn and then back up again on the other side - very attractive for walking visitors and a considerable challenge if the route was being used for any kind of organised running, skiing or cycling event. Adding this top loop to the network would mean that the only missing section for a complete boundary route would be a link and footbridge to join up between Dalbuiack and the end of the Sustrans cycle track on Carr Road. Access from Landmark carpark. The substation could certainly be prettier (disguise with facing up with stone?). But if you remember back to before about 2004, when the Council upgraded the route from Landmark through to the cemetery (removing the old pinch points at the wooden bridges and filling in the boggy bits) there was access straight through from the far corner of the front Landmark carpark. After the path work was completed and the wire fence replaced, however, the access was moved to a much narrower gap right in the corner of the car park. In practice, although it is a squeeze through (impossible for buggies or mobility aid users) this entrance is still heavily used by locals and visitors to Landmark, not least the dog walkers. Rather than concentrate on having to direct people from the car park back out to the substation entrance, it would seem better to try to negotiate with Landmark for a second, restored, wider and more inviting direct access (all ability) at that corner of the carpark. From what I observe, both people and poo bags abandoned by the path or hung on trees, my guess is that the vast majority of owners of dogs that arrive by car never actually pass by the poo bin at the substation.
- The path from CRANNICH park into the woods.
- Main path to Carr plantation/Docharn from Carr road - often really boggy. Path becomes not accessible. Spring loaded gate is narrow and awkward for buggies/prams, bikes, wheelchairs.



- The path going behind the 6th green on the golf course up to the woods, could be a good candidate for improvement, this path can lead to Allt Bog nan gabhar, or the fairy glen, which is a popular route for kids and tourists alike.
- Maybe more could be made of the football pitch area?
- On Station Road, create a pavement on both sides of the road from the cemetery entrance to the train station.
- There is also the path in Ellan Woods, down the long steps, by the wolf structure, that could be improved. Surface is eroded. Additional benches dotted along the paths
- I would love to see planning towards and work towards an orbital path around the entire village. I imagine that the most significant expense would relate to creating a footbridge at the downstream end of the village. From a walkers perspective this would be a complete game-changer.
- Path from village to Lochenhully
- Remove the ugly wooden carving at the north entrance to the village. It looks like Carrbridge is some sort of dippyhippy commune. Remove the dated 1960's style wooden bench in the village car park and the out of place urban flower beds. Remove all of the signs in the woods. Our woods are no place for signs boards and there are far too many of them. Small discreet directional markers are more than adequate.
- Create dedicated cycle routes/ paths to allow more people to cycle. In particular create safe cycle ways for children to cycle to and from the Primary School and the park.
- Create a path along south side of river, access is from Carr Road down behind water treatment plant.
- The land at Tarmac yard and the old sawmill have huge potential for the village, and there uses should be explored. The land next to Carr Cottages could be put to much better use, particularly with the new housing development. Either as a play park or other community asset.
- I would love to see fruit trees planted around the village car park and in the field across the road, which there could also be raised bed vegetable planting.



- After the tree felling by Scotrail/Abelio and then Seafield Estates there has been a deterioration of the path network from Landmark tower to along the railway line. Areas now prone to flooding and very bogey and causing braiding to paths. Businesses that damage paths should be asked to reinstate the paths properly not just in a token way which is mostly what happens.
- When I first moved to the village I wasn't sure about the sculptures/seats in the area of the woods beyond the cemetery but have grown to love them over the years and watched them weather and blend more and more into the woodland. The artist is/was really significant and it would be good to have better signage to these sculptures and more info about him. Similarly with Alice's sculptures - a sculpture trail would be great.
- There is a need for a path connecting the track/path alongside the main road from Ellan Woods exit back into the village. This however may be established with the creation of the new cycle path to Aviemore dependent on the route it takes.
- Station access road (to the station gate). Perhaps just signage for pedestrians on the road.
- There are already plenty of paths in a good network to give a variety of walks- length, difficulty, types of environment; so maintaining and upgrading is sufficient with little need for more.
- Most people in the area enjoy what we have and should be pleased that this work is going on.
- We want a bike path from Carrbridge to Aviemore!!!!
- I think there would be some benefit to put in some signage including (distances) up behind the golf course.
- Right of way from Carr Road to path behind. All ashwood houses- in front of Ritchie's house. This was closed off, but was a Right of Way. Please check.
- With the new houses at Orchard Place, would a path into the woods be possible, to join up with the paths in Carr Wood?
- We have a great network of paths and it will be a shame to lose of the quirky paths.



- The Snowberry and trees by the old bridge should be tidied up to give a view of the bridge from the 'coronation bench' by Mole Catchers cottage. Also better access down to the water so litter picking is easier and safer- The whole area gets a lot of litter by the end of summer!
- Some effort could be put into restoring old paths, particularly to Duthil and return by other river bank. Many paths exist behind golf course with some old marker posts which could be restored or renovated. Many of the existing uneven paths are exciting for youngsters to use, particularly walking over tree roots. Narrow winding paths are typical of a village. Carrbridge is a country village and some of the proposals to change the path system are typical of those found in town or city parks. Most of the paths are useful and useable as they are.
- A safe path along Carr Road for the children to get to school would be a far better use of money! Protect the children is surely a more important issue. Where was the Cappa Project when the 47 houses were in for planning.
- Path improvements sounds great and aids access for all. However, this needs to be balanced as the avoidance of "urbanisation" of the natural landscape is essential. We need to retain some semblance of a natural environment.
- From seat at top of golf course to Lochanhully. Lochanhully into the village by side of busy Grantown road?? Separate cycle track once path for cyclists to Kinveachy Junction sited or better signposting for cyclists down Carr Road.
- This may be covered by No. 17 (other side) but there needs to be a decent path from the Station to Landmark essentially along the fence line. But it needs to link up with the paths in Ellan Wood to the rear of the houses on Station Rd. This would create a great circular route without much work. An access point at the station beside the old yard would also allow walkers to link down onto the Riverside and back to the village centre.
- Railway path- drainage improvement. Many avoid and go off trail to avoid very wet, boggy bits.
- A hide? Would it take an awful lot of maintenance? One that would be accessible to disabled and able footed alike. Please :) It's not just the sport itself that needs to be level but the access too. Aviemore forgot about that!



We're working to create and maintain fantastic paths and outdoor spaces to enjoy around the village, to ensure capercaillie also have the space they need to thrive. If you have any thoughts and ideas to help our thinking with this work, please feel free to share them...

- More doggy poo bins. I'm not sure whose job it is to empty them, or if it's possible to have more. But a few more at entrances/exits to the forest would be useful.
- Better signage at the main car park about paths would be good too.
- And mentioning the public toilets on signage.
- For something that purports to be a conservation strategy there appears to be little consideration given for the environment or sustainability when choosing to consult through a full colour booklet mailed to each household. This consultation offers very little in the way of a meaningful or a genuine form of consultation. It is clear that the direction and approach to be taken has already been determined as suggested in the next steps phasing work, appointing contractors and timescales even to the extent that it states that 'funding applications will be submitted to deliver the proposal/s identified as a priority this year'.
- Thank you for all of your work - I really appreciate it and the leaflet is great.
- What absolute rubbish. This has nothing to do with saving Capercaillie. Leave our paths, capercaillie and village alone.
- Do improve paths - don't be bullied into not doing - can't do them all - Riverside one really important.
- Organise regular guided walks in the woods, with community ranger on local volunteers
- I am disappointed by the glossy nature of the leaflet though - I really think it's a bit 'over the top' - our household for one would be very happy with simple electronic communication. Could there be an option to 'opt-in' for electronic communication only I wonder? I would really like to see environmental issues (in relation to low impact productions for example) as being central to all of our actions.
- Will be great to see paths improved - well done.
- I would assume (and expect) any footpath improvements to be carried out in the lowest impact way possible.



- The strategy booklet does not make any direct reference to the draft management plan for Glencharnoch issued by the Woodland Trust last year. Most of what they plan would seem to fit well with the Capercaillie strategy but it might be worth mentioning specifically in future plans that every effort will be made to coordinate with the activities of the Woodland Trust. Section 14, community orchard. I have advocated for years that a good way to enhance and protect the public asset of the areas of Carr Wood nearest to the village would be to designate an area for the long-term planting and development of an aboretum - "The Carr-Boretum" (cf; Faskally Wood north of Pitlochry, which goes back to its use as a training area for forestry students, or the famous giant trees at the Hermitage). The area I have always suggested is the triangle marked by the first crossroads south of the Snakey Bridge, the Carr Road gate and the cairn of stones where the path joins the Sustrans cycle route. That might be considered a bit too far out from the village and rather different from a community orchard, but still on a related theme. As for an orchard, my thought would be the area of the woods immediately alongside Rowan Park. Originally it was envisaged that a second line of housing would be built on that area, but that idea is long gone now. If you go along there, you will see that the area has been really neglected and poorly used for many years - just as a convenient place for dumping rubbish in many places. With existing accesses from Rowan Park beside the Cards and the Telfers, plus from the end of Ellanwood Road, and the opportunity to border onto the wider woodland/bog areas, I would suggest that it could be a good location both for village people and for wildlife. Section 15, undercover meeting place. I always thought that the outdoor classroom/Gathering Place at the school was intended to be available for the community as well. Perhaps rather than trying to develop a rival covered area, it would be better to consider how the existing Gathering Place could be developed/upgraded to meet the joint needs of school and community? Access points on Station road - there seems to be some confusion in the booklet between the two footpath entrances. The pictures and description in section 7 relate to the access nearest the station, whereas on the plan in the booklet area 7 is focused around the other access, opposite Helen Banks and Jane Melon. I would argue that both should be considered in any improvements, but it is not really clear from the present strategy.
- Happy to have proposed improvements for our important community with its diverse natural environment while public money can be wasted on a project with no future until decisions are taken to address predation.



- Create a keep fit trail around part of the wood, part closest to the village, easily accessible. With equipment like swing bars, parallel bars, sit up bench.
- Is it time for the CNPA to consider planting more trees and keep our woodlands safe for future generations?
- I think we need more frequent village litter picks. Also a dog poo bin at the village hall entrance to the woods - that entrance is used by lots of local people with dogs. Suggest moving the bin from the bus stop to there?
- This path improvement plan is described as a contribution to help give capercaillie the space they need to survive. I am sorry, but IT IS NOT! This plan is in my view a contribution to the demise of these birds because money and precious time that should have been spent on actions with an immediate positive effect for capercaillie are being wasted on symbolic stunts that may look good in a newsletter, but will not save a single capercaillie. This path improvement plan is also a contribution to potential tensions between residents because it was published without land owners consent. Landowners who say no for any reason might be accused of not wanting to contribute to save these birds. If people who are used to walk their dogs on rougher tracks or off path in further afield areas decide to reduce the disturbance to capercaillie by using village woodlands paths for their walks, they are perfectly able to do so without path improvements. Most visitors seek areas with ancient woodland and open scenery because that is exactly what they come here to enjoy. They don't have Carr Plantation or Ellan Wood as their preferred options but feel forced into more scenic areas because they are unable to cope with the path standard in the village woodlands. If they were happy to walk in parklike areas or plantation forest, they would probably stay home. People with limited mobility don't swap from using paths in capercaillie sensitive areas to village paths because of path improvement. They most likely cant access capercaillie sensitive areas anyway.
- The notion of improving access points is laudable and very much needed.
- Clarity and (colour coded(?)) mapping that illustrates the places where it is 'safe' to walk dogs off lead, versus, where you should be more cautious.
- Closed reserve for Pine Martin will help the re introduced Caper increase in numbers.



- Always happy to help with things on an ad hoc basis if needed, and supportive of your groups efforts.
- It seems to us that very little of this has any +ve or -ve relevance to capercaillie protection, except that better access to Bogroy would be a -ve. The riverside/cemetery/Landmark sector isn't caper territory, and changes to the paths there won't stop dog walkers from going farther afield (i.e. usually driving up Station Road) in order to let their dogs run loose. If anything, attracting more walkers close to the village makes dog owners less likely to let their dogs loose there, and more likely to drive somewhere else that actually is caper territory.
- In my response above I think all of the footpaths listed above are 'important' but I have only recorded them as 'important' if I think they need to be improved as part of this work. I think many of them are in good condition and don't need further improvement.
- Very useful to maintain path structure in the village and encourage more outdoor activity.
- Keeping the path network feeling as natural as possible is important, but it should also make sure that the paths take in to account people with mobility issues. Gentle slopes, limited use of stairs, etc. In terms of outdoor spaces, an audit of useable spaces would be useful. Following which we could have a discussion as to how they could be used best.
- What a load of absolute nonsense. Who talks this complete drivel? Who is the WE? It is certainly not the community. Paths have never been at the top of the community development plan apart from a NMU from Carrbridge to Kinveachy which has been a priority for the past 12 years. Why not put efforts to getting that work done? Our village paths and outdoor spaces are just fine as they are. We don't need them changed. These proposals have nothing whatsoever to do with capercaillie conservation and is just a scandalous use of Heritage Lottery money. It should be investigated by the fraud squad.
- Some of the paths have steep sections which can be very difficult when it's wet, ice and snow covered. A few steps at the side would help.
- I understand that dogs off leads to be a problem for Capercaillie but surely there are other things to consider too. Bikers and horse riders use the paths too and these are important activities for health and well-being but keeping these groups informed about their impact should be part of the plan too. Has the group considered the impact of tree felling on capercaillie habitats and other wildlife including red squirrels and bird habitat?



- Carrbridge has developed around woodlands but over the last few years the felling has been carried out on every side of the village and the creation of an industrial car park at the back of Landmark. We are about to see more trees lost when Tulloch Housing start to build.
- Congratulations for initiating this survey. I cannot help but feel this initiative is diving into a perceived solution prior to really understanding the wider issues that exist around the village that require to be addressed.
- The need for a strategic review of our public space is clearly exemplified at the bridge. There we have a mix of inadequate signage that does nothing for the village and do not coordinate with entrance signs and current path signage. I would much prefer this initiative on path entrances being tied into a wider review of our public spaces, paths, and signage and how we share the immediate space around the village with commercial neighbours.
- Better entrances are needed as described however the fact remains the path infrastructure is failing. To tempt more people to the woods around the village will: compound degradation and result in significant levels of disappointment as to the quality of the network 'tempted into'. Path conditions may be further degraded with additional footfall and of course the growing population of the village.
- The path network has come under assault in the past 3-5 years and reminds us we live in an industrial area. The forestry thinning works have left scarred and changed landscapes with paths and the community being left with degraded path assets after each section of work. The paths towards the railway line from Landmark tower regularly flood at points left un-reinstated. The prime example being the collapsed sleeper bridge (and inadequately remedied by Seafield) along the railway line section. This is compounded by the damming effect on natural flow lines by heavy tractor wheel trenches resulting in regular flooding leading to path degradation and braiding of the edges. In addition, we are left with more regular flooding at the Landmark entrance by the substation due to the run-off drainage from the overflow Landmark car park. Only in the last week has heavy digger movements along the path by the Tower left rutted puddled and muddied path! Beyond these very identifiable sites there are some 20+ locations that regularly flood. Seasonal weather, increasing footfall, bike traffic and horse traffic leave many areas very muddy and very unpleasant to walk through.



- In terms of shared use perhaps a path Users Group could be considered. Drawn from differing demographics and user profiles. The group could act as a sounding board (not a decision maker) around ideas, options and considerations. The group may well provide a balanced view of resident use of the paths and future demand profiles. This could also bring in the commercial sectors operating in our neighbourhood, forestry and tourism. This refers back to the need for a more strategic assessment of village public spaces and networks. There is however an immediate 'fix' required to specific damaged areas that cannot wait for a wider strategic review.
- I would be very interested to know what primary research has been carried out to ascertain the habitat disturbance created over the past 5 years by: leisure users and forestry harvesting. Carrbridge is all but surrounded by harvested sites what I can only assume to be rich wildlife habitats. Are we in danger of playing the fiddle whilst Rome burns around us?
- From reading the 'consult to community' paragraph in the booklet it seems that the most popular proposals will form phase 1 and 'all other areas' will be scheduled for attention at a later date. Surely if any proposal is not supported by the majority it should not be proceeded with.
- The health walk group use most of these paths apart from Snakey Bridge and the roadside path. Wonderful if the path system can be looked after and repaired/ upgraded where necessary and in keeping with the environment. Upgrading toilets may also be useful or even ESSENTIAL.
- A lot of these ideas will push people further into the woods.
- The questions asked here are very directed and do not allow a freedom of answers.
- Stop putting up signposts with pictures of caper on them- advertising where to find them!! Been asked where they are near signs???
- I think reduction in caper numbers caused by aggressive destruction of natural habitat by massive machinery in forestation management/ rather than minimal predation of domestic pets, walker or cyclists who mainly adhere to paths.
- People need to be made more aware of the legal obligations to dog walking during ground nesting season! A lot of people (locals) seem to think they can do what they like in 'their' woods.

