

Improving our paths for people and wildlife

Community consultation, October 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?

3 weeks from 16th October to 7th November.

3. How did people share their views?

Residents were invited to share their views online or via paper forms available at two drop-in sessions in the Village Hall and on request.

4. What could residents comment on?

Residents were invited to share their views about 6 draft proposals for paths improvements around the village, whether they were in favour of the proposals; not in favour; or in favour with amends, and what those amends should be.

5. What was the response rate?

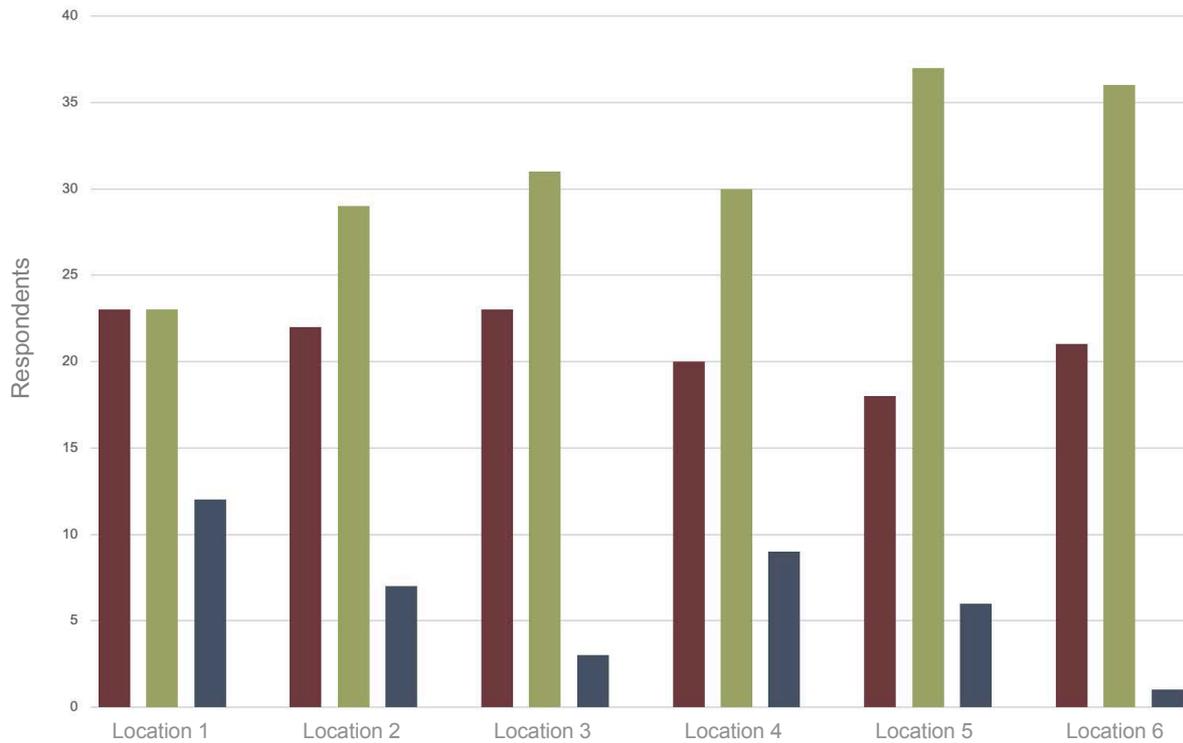
69 residents (14% of the community) shared their views.

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

The views will be used to identify which, if any, of the draft proposals should be taken forward to delivery.



The results



Location 1: Historic bridge viewpoint and entrance to riverside path

Location 2: Riverside path

Location 3: Entrance to Ellan Woods - Village Hall

Location 4: Entrance to Ellan Woods - Landmark

Location 5: Roadside path to Carr Plantation

Location 6: Snakey bridge in Carr Plantation

-  I am not in favour of the draft proposal
-  I am in favour of the draft proposal
-  I am in favour of the draft proposal with some amends



If you've ticked 'I am in favour of the draft proposal with some amends', what amends would you like to see?

Historic bridge viewpoint and entrance to riverside path

- Not happy about trees being pruned they form a lovely backdrop to the view of the bridge and promote wildlife.
- Traffic and parking near the bridge is an issue none of the plans outline where visitors should park.
- Whatever's done, make sure it is in keeping with the bridge, age, material-use of stone.
- Opposed to trees being pruned behind bridge, they create a beautiful iconic view. No need to 'cleanse' or urbanise. Bench up station road is unnecessary. Think local stone steps would be well worth the extra cost. Bins/ dog poo bins should be included. Parking/ traffic close to the bridge and at the end of Station Road is a concern. Visitors already block drive to our house and have caused damage. Clear sign posting to suitable car parking is needed as part of the plan.
- As long as trees are not removed.
- Signage for car park at bridge.
- The bridge proposal will encourage lingering traffic danger at the corner, litter and vermin. This should not happen at all.
- Wouldn't like to see interpretive boards that were TOO big.
- Seating needs improved and more welcoming signage at entrance to path, but why replace railings if they are still sound? Seating with backs would be preferable.
- I'm not sure if it's necessary to replace the railings 'down' at the bridge and is it necessary to have so many viewing points. I would welcome cutting back some of the vegetation more than is proposed but appreciate there are neighbourly challenges. Very small things really.



- I have concerns about how any developments will directly affect us, in particular the view from our window, and parking problems we already have. View - Sympathetic pruning. We can see these trees from our window and they are beautiful (especially in the Autumn) and we also feel they provide a perfect backdrop to the Old Bridge from the new bridge and opposite bank. I am concerned pruning may alter this. However, the ones between the top of the steps to the viewing platform and the bridge should be kept trimmed. Parking problems - Our driveway is directly next to the road opposite the bridge and we have an ongoing problem with people parking in, turning and parking across our drive. We have also had people driving into and knocking down our garden wall numerous times. I would like any new signage to really stop people doing this by directing them to the public car park. The problem is normally that people stop, thinking it, is ok for 5 mins to take a pic and leave again, but of course, everyone doing this adds up to be a big problem for us over time, as well as potential safety issue.

Riverside path

- Remaining and continuing concern that works will be subject to destructive flooding that happened within a year of the last 'significant' repair works.
- No picnic site at Bridge. Seat to have backing at certain points. Clear the veg on riverside path to give view of river. All trees to be cut back not taken out.
- I think it is particularly important that the interpretation panel planned for this location gives all the necessary info about the riverside walk. With new boards on the other side giving the info about the bridge. Should focus on the walk. The fencing will be important here as it is quite a drop to the river one side and the entrance to a busy garage on the other side.
- I am making a strong appeal against your suggested improvements to seating and signage at the piece of land adjacent to our house and our cottage (Riverside) which is very close to the area of Ellan Bridge. People are already reaching the water edge at this point which is very close to both our properties. A larger seat placed at this point on the path only encourages unwelcome noise and litter from teenagers gathering on a summer evening.



Entrance to Ellan Woods – Village Hall

- Not convinced it is worth £9000 for an entrance which is 'reasonable'.
- Upgrade the track for wheelchair access. This track is used by residents in wheelchairs to access the "all abilities track from Ellan Wood to Landmark. No sign any larger than the present one situated at the entrance to the wood.
- It would be good to include anything that could improve the safety of kids, pedestrians, wheelchairs, cycles etc coming down towards the road. The surface is slippery due to the loose stones etc. The visibility of children exiting this point to the road is poor due to the church wall and mound of earth.

Entrance to Ellan Woods – Landmark

- There is no reference to the regular flooding of this entrance. The substation regularly floods and the path turns to mud. Is there ground works to stop the flooding? The flooding has become markedly worse and more regular since Landmark built the back car park, clearing trees and making an expansive run off area which flows into the grounds uphill from this entrance point.
- As this entrance is right by a residential property would it be possible to keep signage to a minimum and also keep tree area between house and Landmark as helps to reduce noise from the adventure park and also provides cover for birds and wildlife and snowdrops too. The sub station is prone to flooding as is this path into the woods. Do you have drainage plans?
- If proposals are taken forward, I would want provision to be made for maintenance in the long term - shrubs, plants.
- Happy with all proposals but suggest the area between road and substation is grass/ paving with seats and interpretation panels/ maps.
- The proposal to obscure the substation with shrub/flower bed is a positive step. The photomontage however shows this bed with no apparent fencing or barrier round the proposed beds. Large stones to prevent people taking a shortcut over the corners??



Roadside path to Carr Plantation

- Path improvements are very welcomed as is the road signage. Might it be possible to have a painted surface across the road. This may help to alert drivers and promote right angled crossing by pedestrians who currently cross diagonally so being on the road longer and with backs more to approaching traffic than if at right angles.
- With improvements to the path could result in more useage and better road signage so drivers are aware of the crossing. Better drainage needed too.
- The proposed NMU to Aviemore is in this area so may be some duplication of work or costs.
- Roadside path to Carr Plantation 'Rumble strips' alike to 'Old Logging Way' at Glenmore to ALERT traffic to a CROSSING.

Snakey bridge in Carr Plantation

- The proposed new bridge looks great but I wonder if the edging will result in water lying on the boards making the crossing very slippery especially in winter. Hopefully we will see more wildlife again but this year it's been disappointing - no tadpoles or frogs!
- No need for the rubbing posts. Board walk definitely yes, but no hand rails.



If you've ticked 'I am not in favour of the draft proposal' - for any of the proposals - what amends would you like to see?

Historic bridge viewpoint and entrance to riverside path

- There is too much congestion of the bridge as it is.
- The last thing Carrbridge village needs is more vehicular traffic, more parking, possible road congestion, obstructed pavements and health and safety hazards. The plans for the Old Bridge as well as the proposed new viewpoint about 50 metres upstream will tick all of these boxes. Station Road has a tricky junction where it joins the High Street. And I can well imagine how this will be exacerbated by increased car traffic and parking, including on the narrow pavement there. We do not want the unique 'feel' of our small Highland village to be compromised, and we certainly do not want even more double yellow lines everywhere. We enjoy not being a townscape!!
- It's not clear to me that any consequences with regard to wider pedestrian traffic management around the bridge have been addressed. I'd prioritise changes that encourage folk away from the bridge.
- Any enhancement around the bridge will cause even more congestion which is already bad enough with chaotic parking blocking the road at busy times. Something needs to be done to mitigate this.

Riverside path

- Riverside path needs to be raised or a walkway because of flooding. Beware of making this area accessible to public as there are nesting birds on opposite side and public regularly disturb (gooseanders).
- Sympathetic pruning - cutting back riverside could result in bank erosion and more flooding of path. I was assured at consultation that there will be no new benches/ seating however on concept layout- costings there is bench demolitions £250 and benches etc £1000.
- Replacing fence at garage with identical which only repair needed. Erecting platform by river and not pruning shrubbery. Replacing/ repairing fencing at riverside walk when owner of livestock is surely responsible for this.



Entrance to Ellan Woods – Village Hall

- This track is the responsibility of the residents for upkeep. Much more consultation needed before any changes being made. Village hall committee and friends do a great job with upkeep of the ground beside the hall.
- The proposals seem very very marginal (same comment for Location 4)
- The location of the wall is not clear on the ownership on which piece of land it will be placed?
- The replacement of the gate at the hall access to woods is very wasteful - surely a paint would be enough.
- Basically I do not feel that 3, 4 and 6 (locations) achieve much more that is either necessary or desirable. Change a gate when painting would suffice. Repair the bridge rather than replace etc.

Entrance to Ellan Woods – Landmark

- New shrubbery at Landmark entrance- who will keep this neat and tidy. A lot of cutting back etc on paths is done by villagers.

Roadside path to Carr Plantation

- The roadside path - is a shame to lose the character of the path. This can also be said about Snakey Bridge.
- This detracts from the need for a safe cycle path to Kinveachy which is much more important to the community than low level cosmetic changes to paths

Snakey bridge in Carr Plantation

- Snakey bridge needs only some repair and non slip covering.



Please feel free to share any other comments related to the proposals

- VERY supportive of all this - we are very lucky to get this opportunity. When the Snakey bridge fails for instance there will be a lot of annoyance. Over the years many residents have asked for it to be 'looked' after and this has been done informally and adhoc over the years due to cost and worries about liability. A lot of worries about it's condition etc etc. Here is an opportunity to bring this to a great standard for the next generation. The same applies to the other locations which will be greatly improve for all abilities. The road side path to Carr PI has had many complaints about its condition - currently it ruins the connectivity between lots of walking route opportunities. The Riverside path is well loved and this modest upgrade will make such a difference. The current viewing area at the bridge again could well fail any day now - it is borderline dangerous and has been highlighted by many as needing replaced - here now we have this opportunity to do this for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. If we didn't take advantage of this fantastic funding opportunity we would be very negligent.
- The money spent on path repairs will not save one capercaillie. It is a total misuse of Heritage Lottery funds. Who cherry picked the list of which paths to repair? This is NOT and never has been a community led project. Furthermore this is just another farcical CNPA CONsultation with no doubt the results twisted to fit the CNPA's own agenda backed by the working group puppets and leaving in its wake even more angst and upset in the village. The CNPA board and officers should be ashamed and so should those on the working group who are supposed to be representing the community. CON, CON,CON... the CNPA's interpretation of the word CONsultation.
- Please consider how all the new signage can be used to get tourists to use the correct carparks im finding that some areas are often dangerous with pavement parking increasingly common. I feel the CNPA should have an obligation to do this in plans whilst building paths that are going to concentrate visitors closer to the centre of the village.
- All in all an enhancement to village paths should be welcomed.
- Overall the state of the paths should be improved before visitors are encouraged into the woods/ paths. Also signage boards at entrance points with maps and 'you are here' marked. Many of the other suggestions are cosmetic and could be done as money allows.



- Location 5 - Roadside Path at south of village: this path is very narrow and normally wet and boggy, proving very difficult for the elderly and those with buggies and push-chairs. Improvements to the path on both sides of the road would greatly improve the connectivity with the network of paths around the village. Location 6 – Snakey Bridge: this well-loved local feature has been “repaired” several times in the last 10 or so years, but is very dangerous if wet and is a barrier to many people’s use of that part of our woodland path network. Minor repairs have been accepted by the owners of the land, but we feel that a more formal approach is now needed to construct something which will increase its use and benefit to many. Location 2 – Riverside Path: we (CVCC) are totally in favour of this proposal for this very popular walk. Action to counteract flooding events is to be encouraged. Location 4 – Ellan Woods (Landmark): tidying up and reducing the visual impact of the sub-station is very welcome. Location 3 – Ellan Woods (Village Hall): this entrance to the woods could certainly be made more visually appealing. Location 1 – Historic Bridge Viewpoint & Entrance to Riverside Walk: much work is required here to tidy up and improve the viewing area access and its environs. In certain conditions the steps can be extremely slippery. Whilst some judicious pruning of the snowberries would enhance the visual aspect of the bridge, there are concerns about the safety and security of the adjacent banking. Improvements to the entrance to the riverside path would be welcomed, including upgrading the fencing bordering the riverbank. The participation of other stake-holders (The Highland Council, Historic Scotland etc) would no doubt lead to the possibility of further funding being accessed to permit this work to be further developed. This particular project is the subject of very mixed opinions and much more work and discussion is required.
- It is causing too much agro in the village.
- Unnecessary work and money should be spent on cycle path to aviemore.
- Sealed surfaces not always necessary and can lead to over-developed feel.
- I think generally the village and its paths are doing very well as they are. Some repairs are required to some areas but at what cost?
- None of these things need to be done or have been requested by the community. It is all a waste of money and not money well spent to benefit local people.



- The money already spent on this fiasco to date is a disgrace. If paths need to be repaired then repair them. It does not require engagement of consultants and designers at vast expense wasting £'s that could be better spent. The fact that money has been wasted on such things already goes to show that those in charge of this are not the right people and most certainly spending it in the ways proposed will save not one single capercaillie. The group that has put these proposals together have failed to follow the most basic of procedures such as contacting landowners and neighbours in advance of publishing a booklet with their proposals. There is far too much focus on what tourists and visitors might want or require and little to no consideration to the views and wants of local people who live in the village. Too much of what is being attempted is eroding the natural landscape of this small highland village. The very fact that recycled plastic is being considered suitable for a boardwalk (snakey bridge) shows that this group have no grasp of what sort of materials should be used in a natural environment. These are the same people who think that it's ok to put plastic netting up on deer fencing using plastic ties. Plastic? Really? Microplastics anybody? Why is it considered necessary to "localised footpath realignment to reduce gradient" on roadside path to Carr Plantation. That is the natural rise and fall of the terrain and it does not need 'realignment' it is part of the joy of a varied terrain encountered while out walking/biking. Stop trying to urbanise everything. There is absolutely no need to further encourage any increase in usage or traffic in or around the historic bridge area. This area of the village is a bottle neck at the best of times and the terrain around the bridge is not suitable for gatherings of people and therefore should not be encouraged. Visitors should be encouraged to use the local car park not park on the yellow lines and on the bridge blocking flow of traffic and stopping customers for the local Spar shop from being able to park outside to go shopping.
- A good surface is important for older people as well as for pushchairs, wheelchairs, and bikes.
- I hope you'll be able to find funding for this wonderful project. Thanks to all the hard work and time invested thus far.
- HC have not expressed an opinion on the bridge viewpoint. Relevant landowners and neighbours have not given support to project. They have given support to proposals being share with community!



- The proposals are very welcome and are done in a 'light touch' manner which I hope will be supported. There remains a significant disconnect with, or lack of communication around the link between the entrance improvements and the steadily worsening conditions of the path network in the woods. Localised flooding exists both as a result of increasing footfall and resultant damage left after harvesting and inadequate departing repairs by the estate. New housing developments are increasing local population so footfall can only increase - are we planning for this? 1. Is there a path network maintenance plan that is being developed in conjunction with the entrance works? 2. Is there a co-ordinated signage and orientation plan for the village that will guide new signposting. Delighted to see Snakey Bridge on the list as it is treacherous over winter months. I noted this year being the first for more than 10 years that there were no frog spawn and tadpoles in the water around the bridge. The water had a oily surface film which I hope was caused by seasonal stagnant water rather than unwelcome run off from the new housing development. Some great efforts by many to get this far so congrats to those involved giving of their time and patience.
- As well as the improvements I think there is a clear need for a plan for how visitors could use the visitor paths. This should include: Where to park, carpark should be hub of information; Walking signage eg. Only 200m walk to bridge from carpark; Bins, dog poo bins; Information about local businesses.
- Great, thanks to the team of people taking this forward and focusing on the most used paths, much appreciated.
- The residents of Carrbridge have not been consulted about how they would like to see the £100,000 allocated to the community spent. Therefore this is not a consultation as the decision about how to spend the money has already been made without any consultation with the community by a small unelected group of half a dozen or so people who are directed by CNPA and who do not listen to any views unless they concur with their own. Honesty and integrity are both sadly lacking in this whole procedure and it is embarrassing to see such sums of money being squandered in the way proposed.
- This a great opportunity to sort the snakeybridge and the stairway down to the River. The money is there so please use it to do at least some of these walks. It will make a HUGE difference to connectivity and health.
- Tone deaf project.



- I feel like Location 6: snakey bridge should be the highest priority, this is due to the likelihood of an accident here. It is so slippery you can lose your footing with no warning, so a fall into the bog is a likely scenario and could have serious consequences. I also know of a few residents who avoid this bridge when wet, so it's reducing some people's ability to access the path network. Really pleased to see this work going ahead and appreciate the time that residents and the project are taking to move it forward. Thank you. I realise that the path into Carr Plantation at the old Bull Field is not on this consultation and therefore likely this is irrelevant; however, the gate into the woods here is about the same width as some double buggies, it's very difficult to negotiate. Ideally the gate posts would be widened, but if the gate could be removed as was done during 'lockdown' that would help several. The gate has no purpose as the adjoining fence is not complete.
- This is another project steam rolled through by an unelected secretive capercaillie committee who do not represent the community. Why are their meetings not published, where are the minutes? The paths beside the river are a CNP responsibility and are in a dire condition. Why CNP need a further ~£100,000 for this work? Once again we are being bullied into changes by a very small group of people claiming to know what is best for the community. Landowners were never consulted and many are not in agreement despite your statement to the contrary.
- I really like the look of the proposals overall. I am definitely keen to encourage people to visit the village, explore our pathways and admire the bridge and am happy to be contacted directly for an further chat/consultation. Cheers!
- We have enough sign pollution. No additional signs please. No non-local material especially plastic. No additional tarmac. What does this project have to do with saving capercaillie? Where has the initiative come from?
- In wider terms, I struggle to see any of these items as high priorities. I'd strongly favour anything that assists, facilitates or best of all accelerates the development of the NMU to Aviewmore. Second highest priority is planning for and development of an orbital path for the village.
- Visitors and locals congregate under the bridge anyway during the day to swim etc. which we have enjoyed seeing for many years but we feel opening this area up with a seat only further exasperates matters and is too close to my cottage.



- Our village paths are fine as they are. They don't need any interference from the National Park. People should be able to experience walking in the woods without motorway paths and information boards.
- We are appalled at the amount of money spent on this capercaillie project. It should be spent on the NHS and those in need. Far too much money has already been spent on capercaillie with no evidence of any success or even any figures to show how many capercaillie still survive in the park area. It needs investigating.
- Our paths are fine as they are. This is a waste of money. This Capercaillie Project is an embarrassment to Carrbridge.
- Most of these seem to provide little improvement at considerable cost.
- If these developments go ahead is there any provision for ongoing pruning, tidying up etc. which certainly along the riverside is done a present by a small number of volunteers. The cost of these 6 proposals is ~£140k with possible extras of ~£230k + development/ management costs. I still fail to see how this is going to help capercaillie to even the slightest extent. Spar shop owner told me she had never had hard copies of the papers to distribute- I had to ask someone to print off for me!
- Concentrate on improving paths etc in areas to increase enjoyment of users. Forget about tourist hot spot,ie. The old bridge.
- I think that path improvements should come from a separate fund rather than using capercaillie money.
- Where has this whole idea come from? How will we see how you deal with the feedback. How will we know how many people- local- responded and that they only responded once? Under no circumstances should more plastic or non local and natural material be put into our precious and rare woods. No additional signs to pollute out woods.
- All the proposals were thought up by a couple of resident capercaillie group members with not regards for landownership, responsibility etc. Project is being run by CNPA - not capercaillie group and not with the majority support of the village. We were informed that the funding for the paths is Nat Lottery Heritage Fund about but Paths for All is being mentioned - explore effective ways in which improvement be funded, delivered and maintained.



- The Capercaillie committee want an American type entrance/ big signs- totally inappropriate. No consultation with the residents. How can a wall save the capercaillie.
- Waste of money. Leave our paths alone. Everything is fine.
- We are not interested in the Carrbridge capercaillie group or the national park's ideas for fiddling around with our woods and pretending it will save EVEN ONE capercaillie. That is a complete nonsense. Our paths are fine as they are and should be left well alone. This secret capercaillie group which continues to refuse to listen to local opinion has caused too much upset in the village and needs to be disbanded. Furthermore this project demonstrates that the park officers are clearly in need of community project management training. So far this capercaillie project which was imposed on the village just serves to highlight the incompetence, unprofessional behaviour, arrogance and the complete lack of understanding by park officers from the chief executive downwards of local Highland culture. It is shocking to see the capercaillie exploited as a cash cow. It is urged that this project is wound up now and the public monies remaining returned to the Heritage Lottery to be used for supporting much more worthwhile projects. Shame on the Carrbridge capercaillie group and the Cairngorms national park.
- Who came up with these ideas? i have never heard anyone ever ask for any of this.
- Who asked for this? It is just another attempt by CNPA to push their ideas ahead spending money that has been allocated to other people.
- Waste of money. Carr-bridge deserves better than this. Who are the people making these choices and who have they asked? This money should be spend on local kids.
- Another disappointing effort from this project. When will they stop pushing their own ideas forward and listen to people who live in Carr-bridge that are the ones that have to put up with all their silly ideas.
- I don't believe this is how the money should be spent and I don't believe that the work proposed is work that needs to be done. It is as if money is being spent for the sake of it. People who don't know what they are doing should not be putting proposals like this forward.



- One example being to take down all the orange fencing up station road and replacing it with more sustainable materials that are more environmentally friendly. It appears that the people making the decisions as to what the money is spent on wish to change the village. We say leave the village alone and save the capercaillie. Concerned locals who feel unheard and too worried about reprisals to give our names.
- On the riverside path details the picture states that the stock fencing is to be repaired and on the costing it shows replaced- is this not the landowners responsibility!
- To hold both consultation meetings in the same week of the October holidays really restricted the people who were able to come and view the proposals. There are differences between the printed sheets and the online data. Very misleading.
- Who put these ideas forward? This is not what the village or local community wants or needs.
- A lot of these changes seem wasteful. Most of the things getting replaced could just be repaired and save both money and unnecessary replacement.
- We should be trying to preserve as much as possible rather than just replace everything. Many of these areas are great as they are and it just seems that there is money available so let's waste it.
- We have read through the proposals and are concerned. We understood that the money allotted to the capercaillie project was for the conservation and to save the capercaillie. Now we find that this money is to be spent on paths around the village. How is this allowed. If there is nothing better to spend the money on but paths perhaps it should have been given to another project. We think that there are other proposals that could be implemented.
- As a "Community Project" the residents should have been consulted and given the opportunity to input their ideas on where the ~£100,000 should be spent. Unfortunately a few unelected members of the Carrbridge Capercaillie Group have put the "Cart before the horse" and caused more discontent in this village. An absolute waste of money approaching consultants without considering ideas from residents.



- The group who came up with these ideas are not in touch with what Carr-bridge community needs or wants.
- Please ask first and dont assume what you want is what Carr-bridge residents want. Fed up being pushed about by cnpa who do what they want regardless of local views.
- why are you upsetting everyone? why is the national park even considering plastic albeit recycled for Snake Bridge? why have you not included removing that horrible carving at the entrance to the village? is all this path stuff just for tourists?
- "I feel that this project has been forced on us as a village. It has caused a horrendous rift in a small community. That saddens me as a born and bred local. I am basically in favour of the upkeep of paths which I believe are the responsibility of the council and the park. But I am not in favour of any massive amount of signage. We are not Yellowstone national park and I happen to like my village just the way it is. I would like to know if these plans have been put forward for tourists or people who actually live in the village? I am totally against any trimming/ cutting of trees and bushes or any enhancement to attract tourist along the Station Road side of the river by the bridge. There is enough congestion along here already."
- In prolonged cold weather the entrance to Ellan Woods (Village Hall) and Carr Plantation can be icy and lethal to pedestrians preventing them from entering the woods. This is caused by cars compacting the snow to ice; understandable beside the village hall where there are houses but less so at Carr Plantation where there are no houses apart from the pair at the road end. The cars' occupants can access the woods but not walkers!
- Entrance to Ellan Woods - Village Hall & Roadside path to Carr Plantation. In periods of prolonged cold, snowy weather, the approaches to both walks become very icy and difficult to avoid. This is mainly caused by vehicles either to gain access to properties or to park in order to walk in the woods. Difficult to see what could be done in case of Ellan Woods (unless it can be added to the salting/gritting/snow clearing done by the council. For Carr Plantation, perhaps a simple path with low stone wall to segregate it from vehicles?

