

A person in a green t-shirt and dark pants stands on a dark, jagged rock formation. They have their arms outstretched, looking out over a large body of blue water. In the distance, there are rolling green hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The scene is bright and sunny.

Community Vision and Action Plan Executive Summary

live
Life
Morvern

Welcome

The Live Life Morvern Community Vision and Action Plan was developed by the community of Morvern in 2021-22. It lays out our vision for Morvern for the next 10 years and the steps we need to take to get there. This document summarises how we worked together, what we created and how it will be used.

For a full version of the Plan, please visit www.morvern.org

Live Life Morvern in Numbers

The graphic on the following page spells out the different ways that the community worked together to construct this plan from the bottom up.

GATHERING DATA



Data from 2011 census

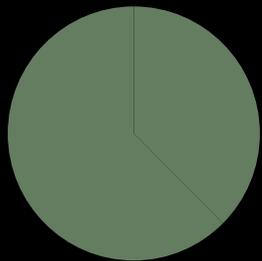


Survey Conducted between 25th October and 14th November 2021

156 households contacted

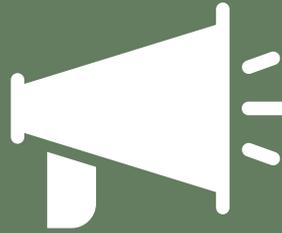
Total surveys responses submitted **134**

104 submitted online
30 hardcopy submitted
12 submitted by Children
10 submitted by Teenagers



40% of local residents responded*

SPREADING THE WORD



156 households contacted through an initial mail drop with information about how to get involved.

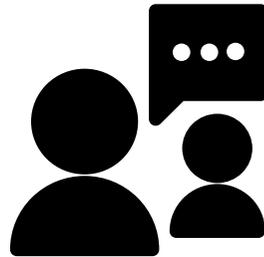
90 people joined the LLM mailing list

8 e-Newsletters sent to mailing database

48 social media posts on Live Life Morvern Facebook Page (majority reposted to the Lochaline page)

1 centre-page spread in De Tha Dol
1 week of exhibiting 6 display boards about the community vision at the hub
2 weeks of exhibiting 6 display boards at the Mine
3 different posters displayed in various different locations around Morvern
26 social media posts on Live Life Morvern Twitter Page

HAVING CONVERSATIONS



3 focussed face-to-face sessions with specific groups (teenagers, kids and the parent's council)

18 hour-long interviews with a range of local people and backgrounds

9 3-hour face-to-face drop-in sessions**

110 people connected with at the Hub in Lochaline and Drimnin Village Hall over the lifetime of the project for face-to-face conversations and input from local people

13 community groups attended the Community Group Forum

36 Community Groups contacted for Community Group and Local Services Survey, with a 44% response rate

41 businesses contacted for Local Business Survey with a 44% response rate

10 community workshops were held with a total headcount of 128 people

130 Actions suggested for the Action plan (approx.)

37 community members voted to prioritise actions indicatively

*Typically between 5% and 20% for similar community surveys elsewhere in Scotland

**This included one community survey feedback workshop, two Visioning Workshops, three Action Planning Workshops, one Prioritisation Workshop and one Community Group Forum.



Vision for Morvern in 2031 and beyond

Live Life Morvern established the following overarching vision for Morvern in 2031 and beyond – a challenging and exciting vision of a community flourishing culturally, economically and in its relationship to the environment:

In 2031 and beyond we envisage a Morvern that (in no particular order of importance):

- *is a model carbon-negative community: a leader in renewable energy creation that positively contributes to national net-zero targets.*
- *is a welcoming, inclusive and caring community that works hard to involve everyone in our life together.*
- *has a thriving and positive community spirit.*
- *is a place where people of all ages can remain as they move through each life stage, and people of all ages and stages thrive.*
- *is diverse in many ways: biodiversity, diversity of local businesses and housing, diversity of its social life and the make-up of its population.*
- *is a place that enjoys a rich social life where all generations are able to socialise together.*
- *is a community that is committed to caring for the environment.*
- *is an affordable, economically viable and creative place where people produce goods and services, share resources and spend locally as much as possible.*
- *is an ambitious community, proud of its heritage and achievements.*
- *has an established reputation for sustainability, strong community life and high-quality tourism.*

How we will achieve our vision - Action Areas

To achieve this ambitious vision, over the next 10 years we have developed a plan for action that covers 31 different areas of our life together, arranged according to six themes.

Action Areas	
Economy and Employment	
1	Exploring opportunities for social enterprise
2	Helping people into work
3	Providing accommodation for local businesses
4	Supporting local businesses – large and small
5	Supporting slow tourism
Transport and Digital	
6	Affordable broadband for all
7	Community transport
8	Improve walking, wheeling and cycling
9	Improved public transport
10	Safer, improved transport network
Housing	
11	Affordable housing owned by the community
12	Specialist accommodation
13	Zero-carbon homes for all
Energy, Facilities and Services	
14	Community-owned energy
15	Energy resilience
16	Health
17	Local community hubs

18	Recreation facilities
19	Schools and education
20	Services and childcare
Heritage, Land and Sea	
21	Community Land Ownership
22	Community woodland and natural space
23	Conservation, stewardship & management
24	Heritage
25	Play facilities
Community Life and Local Resources	
26	Buying local
27	Gathering together
28	Promote recreation and creativity
29	Reuse and recycle
30	Sharing our resources
31	Young people

Table 1 Action Areas for the Plan

A 10 year-time frame could involve delivery of a wide variety of actions to deliver our goals – some of which we haven't even imagined yet! But from our perspective in 2022, we have come up with over 130 potential initiatives that might help us deliver our vision, and these are laid out in more detail in chapter 4 and the appendices. Some of these are already in process, some of them remain just the germs of ideas for now. But all of them together represent the collective ambition and hopes of what we can aim to achieve in this time frame.

Community Priorities for Action

Imagining everything we could and should do over the next 10 years is a big task which has resulted in a large range and variety of potential steps and actions that we can take. To help us see the wood for the trees we undertook a prioritisation exercise towards the end of the process. The aim was to help us discern more clearly as a community what the most significant and impactful actions we could take together might be. While this was necessarily indicative at this stage, a total of 12 community priorities for action ('big-ticket items') rose to the top as being particularly important for us to focus on in the next season. This is not to minimise the importance of the many other valuable ideas and actions in our plan, but rather to help us all gain a platform from which to begin to discern a way forward with delivery.

The community priorities for action are laid out below in as much detail as we have so far been able to develop, after the results of an indicative ranking of the relative strength of feeling that the community expressed about them.



Table 2 Community Priorities for Action (indicative) ranked by community poll

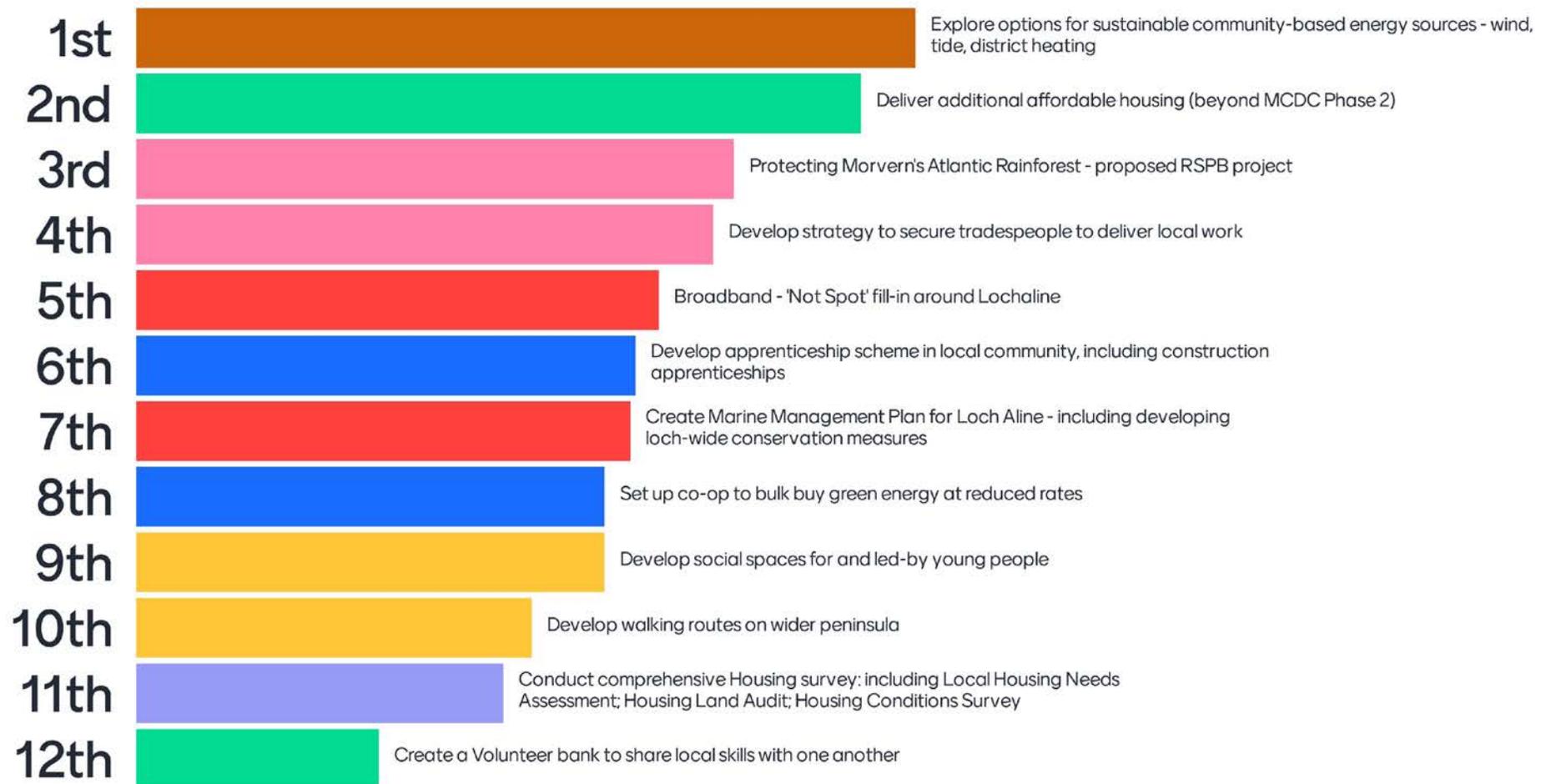


Table 3 Community Priorities for Action – detailed information

* Timeframe: Short (< 6 months); Medium (>6 months <2 years); Long (>2years)

Rank	Action/Initiative	Project Lead	Action Type	Description	Timeframe (*)	Partners identified (actual and potential)	First or next step to progress the project/idea	No. in full Action List	National Performance Framework Indicator
1	Explore options for sustainable community-based energy sources - wind, tide, district heating	MCDC including MCTC and MorVolts	Already Planned	To further aid community sustainability, self-sufficiency and self-reliance.	Long	FLS, Angus Robertson, MGGW, CC, MCW, LPS	Assess various options and engage in feasibility stage. Share good quality information with community (avoid overwhelming with wealth of information available).	52	Energy from renewable sources
2	Plan for delivery of additional affordable housing beyond MCDC Phase 2	MCDC	Proposed	Explore provision of further affordable housing provision beyond MCDC's stage 2. Option of shared ownership between businesses and housing association.	Long	Lochaber Housing, MCDC	Create forum to discuss collaboration and shared contracting of builders/architects. Consider restricted letting. Talk to Communities Housing Trust.	43	Satisfaction with housing
3	Protect Morvern's Atlantic Rainforest - proposed RSPB project	RSPB	Already Planned	Five-year landscape scale woodland restoration programme focused exclusively on the rainforests of the Morvern peninsula.	Long	RSPB, Woodland Trust, Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest, FLS, Scottish Forestry, Ardtornish & Laudale Estates, MDMG, MCW, SWT, MHS, CC, LPS	Secure additional funding. Encourage land awareness / Morvern deer group to engage with biodiversity restoration, Atlantic Rainforest protection.	99	Biodiversity, Condition of protected nature sites, Marine environment
4	Develop strategy to secure tradespeople to deliver local work	TBC	Proposed	Develop strategy to secure tradespeople to deliver work locally. Could include attracting skilled trades to live in Morvern.	Medium	TBC	TBC	10	Productivity, Economic growth, Natural Capital
5	Broadband - Not Spot Fill-in around Lochaline	Drimnin Community Broadband C.I.C	Already Planned	30 Mbps service to selected properties not served by BT Fibre.	Long	TBC	None	21	Access to superfast broadband



Executive Summary

Rank	Action/Initiative	Project Lead	Action Type	Description	Timeframe (*)	Partners identified (actual and potential)	First or next step to progress the project/idea	No. in full Action List	National Performance Framework Indicator
6	Develop apprenticeship scheme in local community, including construction apprenticeships	TBC	Proposed	Develop programme to give local young people an option to learn a skill here and remain in the community (apprenticeships).	Medium	Fort William College, local businesses e.g. Whitehouse restaurant, CLAM, MCW	Identify funding. Demonstrate links to further, higher education available through UHI (West Highlands/(Lochaber College), and development of modern apprenticeships.	7	Income inequalities, Work-place learning; Skill shortage vacancies
7	Create Marine Management Plan for Loch Aline - including loch-wide conservation measures	TBC	Proposed	Explore possibility of a shared loch management plan for Loch Aline.	Medium	CC, LPS, MHS, CAOLAS	Encourage divers to collect data (underwater videos) to inform plan. Consider wider catchment area.	111	Biodiversity, Condition of protected nature sites, Marine environment,
8	Set up co-op to bulk buy green energy at reduced rates	TBC	Proposed	To bulk-buy discounted green energy off the grid.	Medium	CC	Needs an admin aide to manage on a daily basis.	54	Energy from renewable sources
9	Develop social space for young people	Local young people, LPS	Proposed	Space managed by and for young people to hang out in.	Medium	LPS, MCW, SWT, CAOLAS	Ensure autonomy for young people to drive the project - let them lead. Use former building in the woods which was previously used as a temporary nursery. Liaise with existing venues to prevent unnecessary duplication - feasibility study.	132	Young people's participation, Children's voices

Rank	Action/Initiative	Project Lead	Action Type	Description	Timeframe (*)	Partners identified (actual and potential)	First or next step to progress the project/idea	No. in full Action List	National Performance Framework Indicator
10	Develop walking routes on wider peninsula	TBC	Proposed	Enable use of FLS walking routes, improving access, wayfinding and publicity.	Medium	Forestry & Land Scotland, CC, MCW, MHS, SWT, DH	Establish relationship with FLS. Create social event for route clearing. Create database of routes. Joint funding bid to maintain/improve paths (all groups).	29	Carbon footprint, Physical activity, Journeys by active travel
11	Conduct comprehensive housing survey: Local Housing Needs Assessment; Housing Land Audit; Housing Conditions Survey	TBC	Already Planned	Audit of existing housing provision, quality and future needs, including map. Include insulation survey and windows, renewable sources of heating/insulation to help community-wide programme of work.	Medium	MCDC, Lochaber Housing, local community, architects, builders	Lochaber Housing working on Housing Needs Assessment. Map sites with willing landowner/existing servicing.	42	Satisfaction with housing
12	Create a volunteer bank to share local skills with one another	TBC	Proposed	Create a volunteer bank of retired craftspeople/professionals and mentors.	Medium	Drimnin Hall	TBC	128	Social capital

* Timeframe: Short (< 6 months); Medium (>6 months <2 years); Long (>2years)

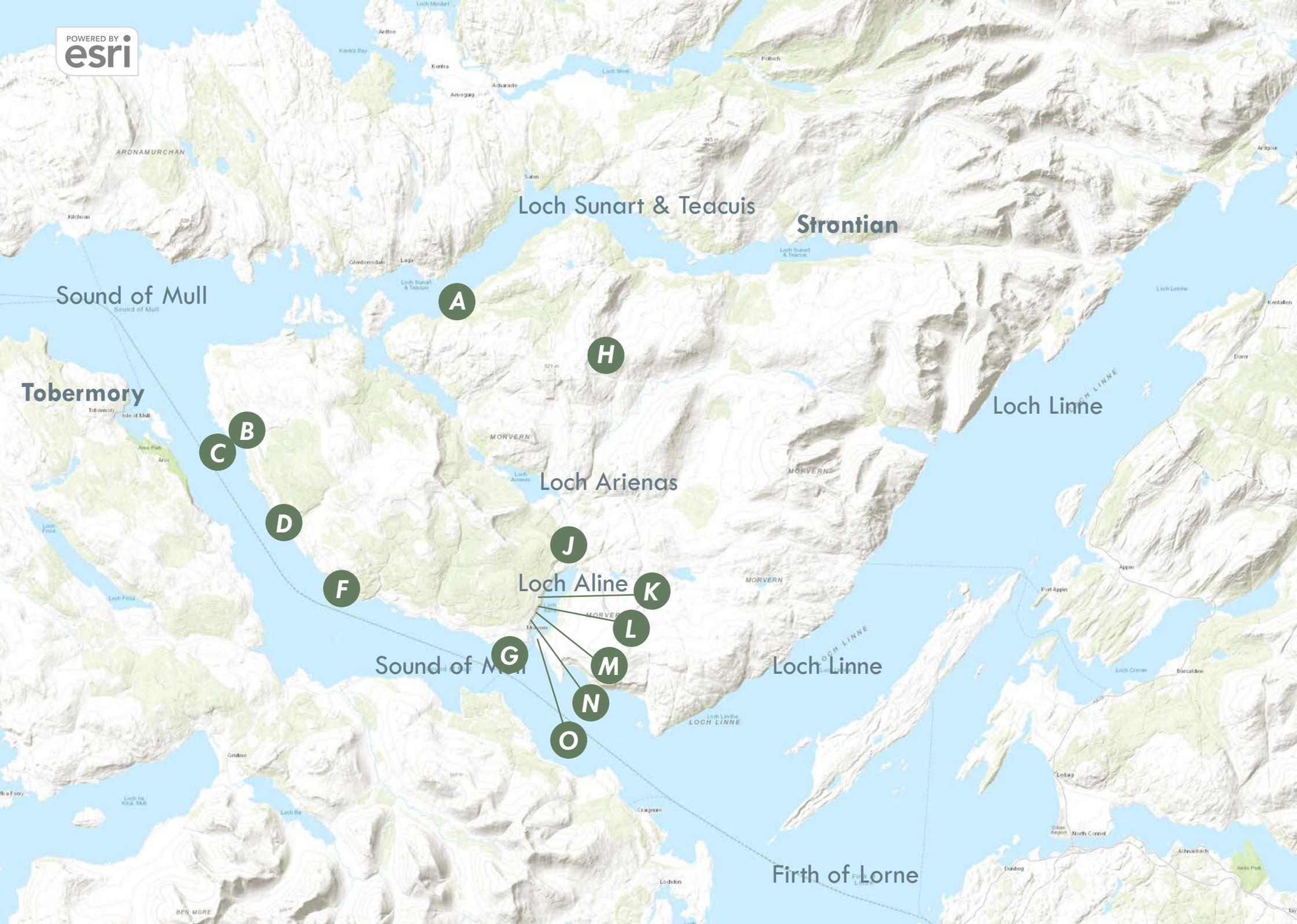


A Comprehensive Action Plan: 133 Actions Peninsula-wide (a selection indicated here)

On the next page is an indicative map of locations for a small selection of the actions in the plan (see chapter 4). As can be seen below, the action plan is intended to cover the whole peninsula

- A. Protecting Morvern's Atlantic Rainforest - proposed RSPB project (99)
- B. Repair and restoration of Drimnin Village Hall (66)
- C. Restart Drimnin water taxi (22)
- D. Repair shelter, all access paths, and boardwalks - Achnaha Wood (91)
- E. Conduct a comprehensive housing survey: local housing needs assessment; housing, land audit; housing conditions survey (42)
- F. Improvement to Drimnin Road (35)
- G. Create Lochaline Sand Mine Trail along former railway (26)
- H. Artist in residence project - Rahoy Hills Nature Reserve (76)
- I. Develop walking routes on the wider peninsula (29)
- J. Larachbeg Telephone Box (St. Kilda Museum) (112)
- K. Develop Workshop/Retail Units at Knock Park (9)
- L. Broadband - Not Spot Fill-in around Lochaline (21)
- M. Lochaline Primary School Wildlife Garden (74)
- N. Protecting and enhancing the heritage of Kiel church and grounds (114)
- O. Create a marine management plan for Loch Aline - including loch wide conservation measures (111)

Numbers in brackets after each action refer to the Action Numbers, not page numbers.



A

H

C

B

D

F

J

K

L

M

N

O

Loch Sunart & Teacuis

Strontian

Sound of Mull

Tobermory

Loch Linne

Loch Arienas

Loch Aline

Loch Linne

Sound of Mull

Firth of Lorne

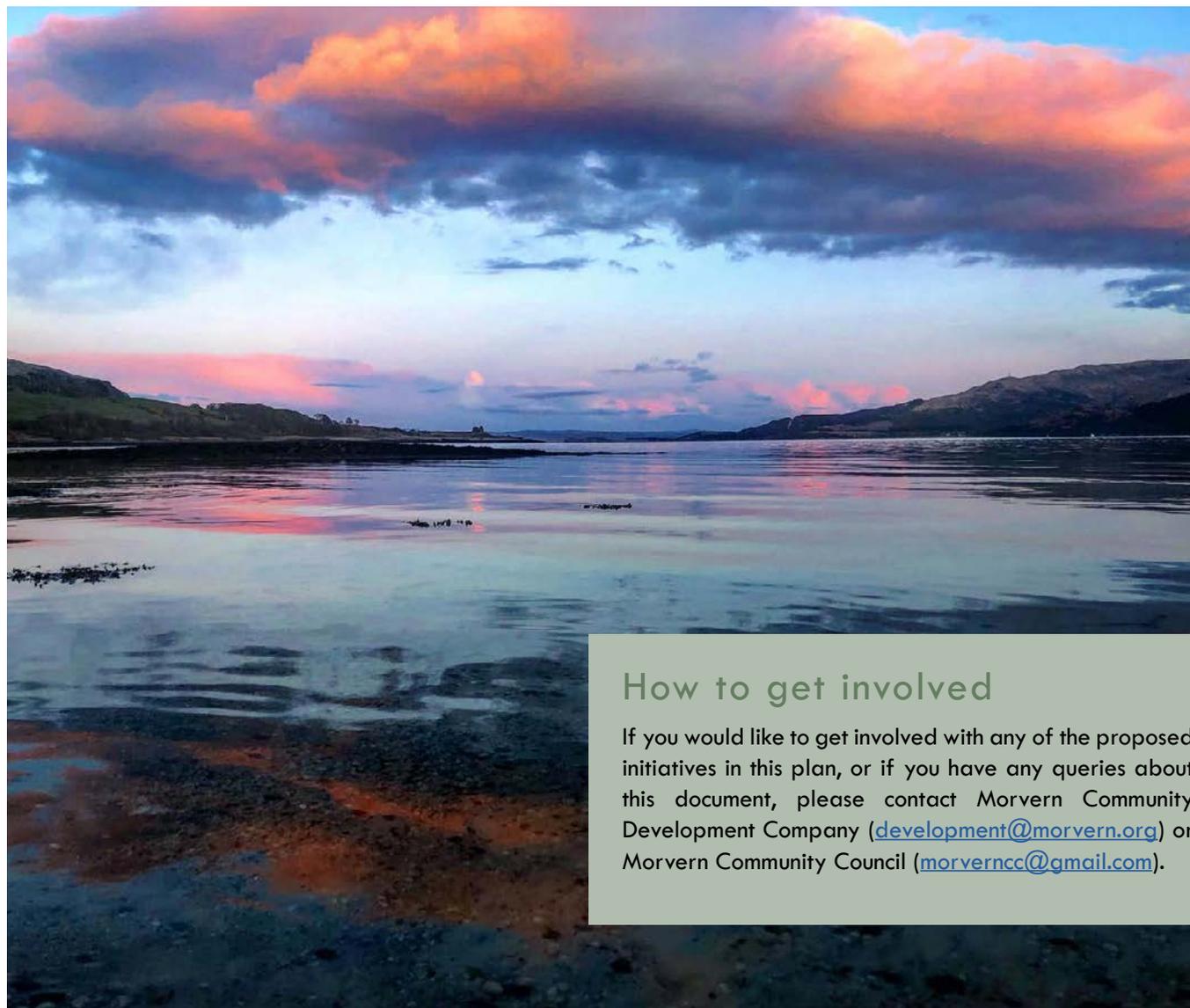


How the plan will be used by MCC, MCDC and MCT

The plan is intended to provide support for community groups pursuing priority projects and to strengthen their applications for funding. The hope is that it will also facilitate partnerships between local groups to enable more effective delivery.

The plan will help guide the decisions and priorities of MCT, MCDC and MCC (the three sponsoring organisations) over the next period:

- MCDC are delighted to have this resource and having a better understanding of the community priorities. MCDC will work with other community groups in delivering on the community's priorities and building on the momentum of the Life Life Morvern report in the next 10 years of our development.
- MCC will continue to facilitate collaboration and opportunities with local people and interest groups to realise the plan over the next 10 years and beyond. MCC will also take initial responsibility for reviewing and updating the plan annually.
- When considering grant applications, MCT will give weight to whether the initiative is given priority in the plan (as updated from time to time) or not.



How to get involved

If you would like to get involved with any of the proposed initiatives in this plan, or if you have any queries about this document, please contact Morvern Community Development Company (development@morvern.org) or Morvern Community Council (morverncc@gmail.com).





www.pas.org.uk

