

# **Update from:- Blairmore Village Trust & Blairmore Hall Trust**

## **Prepared for Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group (4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020)**

### **1. Joint Statement of Intent**

For a number of years, community developments in Blairmore have been blighted with difficulties in forming a collaborative approach, to the development of community owned assets (land and buildings). Following support from **A&B TSI** in the Spring of 2019, the two Trusts with overlapping responsibilities have more recently been able to forge a positive pathway. This has resulted in the creation of a **Joint Statement of Intent** (attached). We are all delighted to have made this breakthrough, and are now making great strides forward.

Each of the two Trusts have major strategic developments, which are inter-linked.\* As part of the new Joint Strategy Meetings we have agreed to combine the planning of those developments and take a co-ordinated approach to **community engagement**, progressing in a united way.

**\*BVT** is progressing the outcome of the Charette process in 2014, including the creation of self-catering holiday lets, public toilets, car and coach parking and Blairmore Gardens. With the aid of grant funding from LLTNP, the **architects design options** are imminent; to be further consulted on.

**\*BHT** has a need to upgrade and expand the facilities at Blairmore Hall, including accessibility, kitchen, toilets, heating, lighting etc. There is a concern about the long-term future of the Hall, which has listed status, if this work is not carried out in a timely fashion.

### **2. Place Standard**

Following a period of research, the group has decided to utilise the **Place Standard** toolkit to help address the engagement and dialogue needed across the community of Blairmore. Those who use these local facilities will also be included.

In December we made a simultaneous approach to **Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park** and **A&BC Community Planning & Development**, to request guidance and expertise to assist us in the use of the Place Standard. In response, this has led to the offer of support from two officers from the Park (Fiona Jackson & Kirsty Sweeney, Community Planning). And although it wasn't possible for anyone from the A&BC team to directly assist; their efforts through Sharon MacDonald, resulted in the offer of support from Sam Whitmore, Senior Health Improvement Officer with **NHS Scotland**.

Through dialogue, it was recommended that we form a small **Steering Group** to plan the implementation of the Place Standard. This group will hold its first meeting on **24<sup>th</sup> February 2020** and will include two members from each Trust and the NHS and Park advisers. It is hoped that we will make rapid progress, and be in a position to start the process of engagement during the Spring.

### **3. Year of Coasts and Water 2020 (YCW2020)**

As a community, Blairmore will be engaging in series of events throughout the summer and Autumn to celebrate YCW2020. Integral to our celebrations will be the **165<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blairmore Pier** in July. PS Waverley is due to return to Blairmore in May and will mark our start of the YCW2020 events; building up to the pier's 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the end of July. This will culminate in Waverley's final visit of the season in October. This programme of events will be undertaken jointly and will aim to include as many other groups and agencies as can be encouraged.

**between**

**and**

**Don Moore Village Trust**

Laura Farina	_____
Agnes Harvey	_____
Gordon Holm	_____
Margaret Le May	_____
Malcolm Le May	_____
Catherine Rae	_____
Anne Stephenson	_____