

LPP report December- January 2021

Focus groups.

We have now held 5 of these sessions and Andy and I feel we have reached saturation. This is to say that the issues emerging from the sessions are much the same across demographic categories.

A short precis of findings here. I'll produce a more detailed one once I have analysed the full transcripts over the next 3 weeks.

- All participants enjoy the benefits of the landscape, access to larger conurbations and rail links.
- Many were frustrated by the lack of public transport connection to Stirling and other cities
- Most participants took part in organised or casual exercise outdoors.
- All feel that Callander is 'a complete town' in the services it offers residents.
- A significant majority of participants praised the facilities that the Leisure Centre provides for the community.
- A majority expressed frustration with communications within the town. 'I don't know how to find out what's going on' being the most common complaint.
- The social media conflicts also attracted anger 'tourists may read the discussion page, what does it say about the town? It would put me off visiting or moving here'
- Many expressed frustrations with influxes of tourists, especially in relation to traffic congestion, although long-time residents remember far worse congestion in the past.
- There was frustration around the past conflict between CCC and CCDT and a feeling that some would like to get more involved with these organisations but did not know how to do so.
- Older, rather than younger, residents were more aware of the conflicts. Interestingly, younger (aged under 35) participants do not use Facebook frequently.

- A significant majority of participants commented on the lack of evening (restaurants, cultural activity, community events) facilities in town.
- The majority lamented the limited retail choices within the town.
- Lack of early years childcare was a concern for younger parents – specifically the cost (upwards of £1000 PCM) in Stirling and Dunblane (nearest day care centres)

- High school parents were concerned about drug use ‘ my daughter says that the high school is actually two schools’ one for academically included students and one for kids who would rather drop out – the two never meet or mix.

Obviously, some of these issues can be addressed within the LPP but most will fall to the community to resolve.

High School Survey

This has now closed with 155 responses, and I have shared the headline findings with the school staff. I have now finished looking at all the comments and, taking the five most remarked upon issues, have compiled a list for public access. I am in the process of filtering out responses from Callander-based pupils to examine any significant divergence from the headline findings and will make these available, when complete.

Place Standard Survey

The Place Standard survey was rolled out on December 15th. Delays with the Post Office mean that the printed leaflets were distributed in the Christmas week. The survey will run until t until February 28th 2022, allowing 2 calendar months for participation. I have adapted the survey for SurveyMonkey collection and there are 100 printed copies available for those without internet access. There will be available at the library or people can leave a message and I will deliver, weekly. To date (6/1/22) there have been 211 responses. I will be regularly reminding people to take part until the survey closes. Ideally, I would like to achieve household participation of between 33-50%.

Masterplan Review

The SC review of the Callander South Masterplan is underway, and Drew Lesley has withdrawn as lead. At the CP meeting it was stated that this will not be a full review of the masterplan – merely consultation with the landowners whose land is earmarked for development in the existing masterplan. I have asked the consultant to share his findings with me for inclusion into the LPP. I did receive an odd email from an employee of Ogilvie (one of the potential developers of the site adjacent to the Mollands estate) questioning the ‘point’ of the place Standard survey in relation to the Masterplan redux. I pointed out that the Place Plan consultation had been active for some time and that, under law, residents have the right to comment on any new or existing planning proposals.

Drummond Estates

I contacted the estate manager to ask if they would consider selling the field next to the Camp Place playpark to the community. This was a investigative enquiry relating

to a possible location for community allotments, rather than any form of offer. The response was as follows:

We are negotiating with another party at the moment concerning the field. It is zoned for light industrial use in the local plan and our negotiations take that into account with regard to value.

We have supported the development of allotment ground in Crieff but I do not think that this area is going to be a solution.

I asked SC (via S. MacDonald) if they were the other party. He enquired and reported that SC are unaware of this development.

If the care home planning application is approved and the field is sold for development, the only remaining, accessible, green space for residents in the east end will be the playpark. The Drummond plot at Camp Place is also one of 2 options as the site of a pedestrian bridge – the other being at the end of Geisher road, next to the sewage treatment plant. It is with noting that the zoning of this plot for light industrial use was not put to the community for consultation. It appeared in the Park's 2010-15 development plan. The Charrette consultation specifically stated that the land should be used to enhance pedestrian access to the Teith.

Looking at the flurry of activity from landowners and developers it is not unreasonable to consider the possibility that there is a rush to either cash out or reassert planning allocations in the existing Park development Plan, ahead of Callander's final Place Plan report.

It is important to understand that the community decisions made in the Charrette are not the same as those taken by the Park in their 2010 or 2017 Development Plans and that the divergence could be challenged, if the community wished to do so.