With 18 days before the Place Standard Survey closes there are 200 submissions. I have started to code the responses and categorise suggestions into subject-specific groups. Current indications suggest that the three community priorities are: Pedestrian bridge and paths along the south bank of the Teith to the McLaren campus, the need for better transport connections and routes, and better play parks. The latter priority connects with a separate demand for a complete overhaul of the Meadows. Instinct tells me that the majority of participants are younger residents, although there is no way of knowing if this is accurate. Other significant priorities are: the need for better maintenance and lighting on pavements and paths, the need to tackle littering and dog mess, creating interconnecting cycle routes and paths and the run down appearance of the Main Street.

I have been told that the Callander South Masterplan redux now includes a pedestrian bridge and connecting path to the McLaren campus, but we will need to wait until it is published. This could be raised at the Partnership meeting this week. If there are any significant changes to the existing Masterplan I will either extend the current consultation or initiate a separate poll.

The placecheck webpage is now closed and I have forwarded a list of comments that directly relate to Stirling council (rather than planning concerns) to Susan. 105 people submitted 273 comments and details of these can be found on the LPP website at https://callandersfuture.uk/placecheck_feedback

Together with representatives from Aberfoyle, Killin, Doune and Dunblane I have contacted David Hopper at SC to open discussions about the potential for a more interconnected local transport network. My suggestion, in December, that we investigate a service linking our communities to Dunblane station has gained traction in the Place Standard comments — many of the transport-related comments reflect the need for a service that provides this connection.

My main concern is that certain sections of the community are not engaging with the LPP process. We need to engage more effectively with the (estimated) 25% of the population who are over 65. Hopefully the BLV article this month will provide the impetus for this group to contribute.

Ultimately my aim is to produce an LPP with 10-15 feasible outcomes, rather than one with 90. The lack of progress in the past has stoked a level of scepticism within the community as to the efficacy of public consultations and the willingness of statutory authorities to listen, communicate and take action.