# Initial Review Report

## *North Sutherland*

## *Dùthaich MhicAoidh*

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'The Dùthchas Project is leading the way in Europe in finding new ways to tackle development of remote rural areas to provide a more stable and sustainable future for the people who live and work there. We are working intensively in three communities in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland - North Sutherland, North Uist and Trotternish in Skye. We are fortunate enough to have the support of the EU LIFE Environment Programme, and the support of 21 partner organisations – including most of the key public agencies – not to mention the people of North Sutherland who have given freely of their time, attending meetings, exhibitions and conferences.

volve all those who want to have a say in the future of their area – that means local people and public bodies. The first step along the way has been to carry out an extensive survey of what these people think are the strengths and challenges of their area and, importantly, their ideas for change. In North Sutherland, this survey gathered the views of 330 people along with those of the public bodies.

'This report marks the culmination of this work and provides the foundation for the next stages of Dùthchas developing local strategies. Too often surveys have been carried out and not carried forward into action. We are determined not to let this happen and already task groups have been set up to get local projects off the ground. But the most important contribution that Dùthchas will make to these areas is to draw up strategies which will map out a development path years into the future – and because these strategies will come from the collective effort of local people and agencies, they will have the commitment to be carried through.

'We feel that it is important that this report contains the views of everyone who contributed to the survey, *in their own words*. For that reason the report is a long one! The following pointers will help you find the information you need at a glance. I hope you find the report as stimulating as I have – testament to the many good and sound ideas in our communities.'

| What do you want to know? | Go to… |
|---|---|
| What is Dùthchas about? / What is the Initial Review about? | SECTION 2 |
| How was the process designed? | SECTION 3 |
| How was the community data gathered? / How was the agency data gathered? | SECTION 4 |
| Key findings from the Initial Review / Analysis of the data | SECTION 5 |
| How sustainable is North Sutherland? | SECTION 6 |
| What lessons did we learn about the process? | SECTION 7 |
| What raw data was collected? | APPENDICES |

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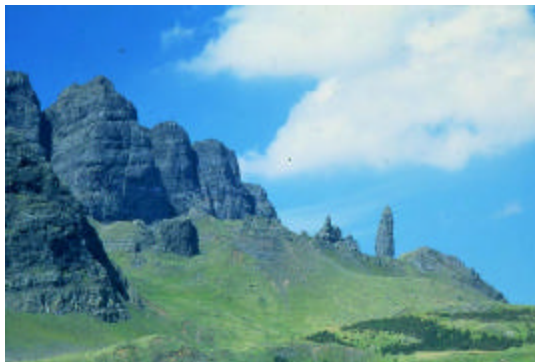
### 2.1     Introduction to the Dùthchas Project

The Dùthchas Project is co-funded by the EC LIFE Environment Programme for the period January 1998 - December 2000.  It is steered by a Partnership of nineteen public bodies and two NGO networks, and is working with three pilot areas in the Highlands and Western Isles of Scotland:

- North Sutherland
- North Trotternish, in Skye
- North Uist and Berneray

The principal aim of Dùthchas is to develop mechanisms for achieving sustainable development within remote rural areas which have both high environmental quality and fragile economies.

It is doing this by closely involving local people, interest groups and public bodies in identifying the **values** of the area, agreeing a  **vision** and **objectives** for its future sustainable development and creating a plan for  **co-ordinated action** to achieve this.  Support is given for projects that **demonstrate** ways to provide employment and manage natural resources, while respecting and building on local heritage and identity. An **award** system for measuring and rewarding the achievements of an area in relation to its sustainable development is also being designed and piloted.

The Project relates closely to Local Agenda 21, and is a lead project of its kind in Scotland and in Europe.  The work is also developing strong trans-national links to similar experiences within Europe.

Dùthchas has the following management structure:

| Group | Description |
|---|---|
| Partnership Group | 19 public sector organisations and 2 NGO networks who support and steer the Project |
| Management Group | A subset of 4 organisations from the Partnership group, who play a more regular management role |
| Central staff | Project Manager, Project Officer and Administrative Assistant. Management, coordination and support to the areas. |
| Pilot Area Coordinators | 5 individuals (4 job-sharing), who coordinate the work at a local level. |
| Pilot Area Advisory Groups | A group set up in each pilot area to support and advise the Project locally.  Made up of 50% Partner agency representatives and 50% community representatives. |
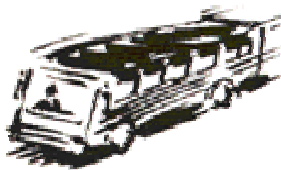
## 2.2     The context of the Initial Review

There are 4 phases to the work of the Project:

*Phase 1          Introduction and organisation     Jan 1998 – Oct 1998*
Setting up the project: selection of pilot areas and introduction of project to pilot area communities, establishing Pilot Area Advisory Groups, initial research and project planning, recruitment of staff, establishing offices, developing administrative and financial systems etc.

*Phase 2          Initial review                    October 1998 – April 1999*
Gathering evidence and producing a sustainability profile on the current status of each area in relation to sustainable development, establishing visions and ideas for the future of each area.

*Phase 3          Strategy development        April 1999 – December 2000*
Developing a strategy and action plan for the sustainable development of each area.

*Phase 4          Demonstration actions       September 1999 – December 2000*
Undertaking several groundbreaking projects in each area which demonstrate how such areas can become more sustainable.

It is Phase 2, that is the subject of this report.

## 2.3     Aims, Scope, and Outputs of the Initial Review

### 2.3.1   The Aims of the Initial Review

- The aims of this stage of the work are to:
- build a good overview of the area and its sustainability
- identify the local priority issues in relation to sustainability
- fully involve communities and agencies in this analysis
- act as a pointer to resources, information, contacts likely to be required by the Project
- raise the profile of the Project in the pilot areas

### 2.3.2  The Scope of the Initial Review

The Initial Review is not a full scale sustainability assessment but will give a good overview of:
- the area and its environment
- its people and communities
- its economy
- the issues considered most critical to sustainability
- key local initiatives and stakeholders

This Initial Review involves bringing together the information from two parallel processes:
- Community generated information
- Agency generated information



### 2.3.3  The Outputs of the Initial Review

The Outputs from this stage of the work are:
- A full report of the strengths, challenges and ideas for change for the area, as identified by the community and agencies
- A sustainability profile for the area, documenting baseline data on the key objectives and indicators
- Local priorities identified to lead into the next stage of the work

This is documented in:
- Area exhibitions
- Project Publications: Initial Review report; Sustainability profiles; Area Value Statements; Newsletter; Internet site
- Area GIS (Geographical Information System).

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## SECTION 3          DESIGN OF THE PROCESS

The Dùthchas Project has the commitment of 21 key organisations to take a new, involving approach to development in rural communities.  New approaches to community based sustainable development are being developed and adopted around the world.  This is because past experiences have shown that local contributions to planning can:
- increase the flexibility of an initiative and its responsiveness to local conditions;
- reduce chances of conflict and developmental and environmental mistakes;
- increase efficient use of resources and effectiveness of initiatives often making the difference between the success and failure of an initiative [1]

The Dùthchas Project is based on the premise that the full participation of local people with public authorities will enable the development and implementation of integrated local strategies for sustainable development and achieve measurable social, economic and environmental benefits. [2]

Initially, two separate but mirroring processes were run – one to identify community views and the other to identify agency views - then to bring these together in a common forum.  This was done to allow the views of both communities and agencies equal weight and an equal opportunity for expression.

The design of each of these strands of work is discussed in turn.


### 3.1     Design of the Initial Review Process at Community Level

Participation in sustainable development at the community level is a process by which local people organize themselves, with varying degrees of outside (or neutral, support so as to apply their skills and knowledge to sustainably manage their natural resources and environment, whilst satisfying their livelihood needs [3]
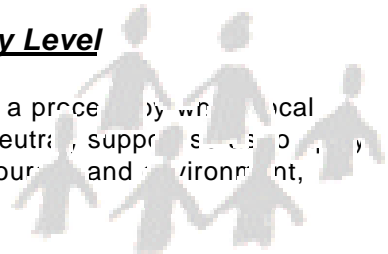
An independent organization, Scottish Participatory Initiatives (SPI), was asked to design the participatory methodology for the Initial Review. This was to start the process of fully involving local people in the development of integrated local strategies for sustainable development.  The following explains the raison d'ètre for the methodology used to carry out the Initial Review fieldwork stage of the Dùthchas Project.

SPI developed the methodology for the Initial Review field work through the following four steps:
1. assisting the project staff to develop clear, realistic and do-able objectives;
2. designing a participatory process to try to achieve the objectives;
3. modifying and inventing methods and tools which would most effectively facilitate the process;
4. designing and facilitating a training workshop for the local Pilot Area Co-ordinators (PAC) to prepare them to be good facilitators and to provide them with skills and confidence to facilitate the Initial Review participatory process.

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[1] Borrini, G: Enhancing People's Participation, FAO, Rome 1994
[2] LIFE application, Duthchas Partnership Group, 1997
[3] Pretty and Sandbrook 1991. "Operationalising sustainable development at the community level: primary environmental care". Paper presented to the DAC working party on development assistance and the environment, OECD, Paris

### 3.1.1   Developing objectives

Developing realistic and do-able objectives is the first and most important step of methodology development.  What needs to be done to carry out the Initial Review fieldwork?  The agreed objectives were as follows:

1.  to meet with as wide a cross section of people living in each sub area as possible in the time available;
2.  to enable these people to identify, analyse and record the following:
    - local initiatives (what, where, who involved);
    - local information and resources (what, where, what needed);
    - local values, issues (what do people like and or dislike about their locality and ideas for improving things in the future);
    - local priority (locally preferred) ideas for the future.
3.  to engage positively with local people;
4.  to raise realistic expectations;
5.  to build trust and rapport;
6.  to plan and execute a major publicity and dissemination event in each area at the end of the Initial Review;
7.  to monitor and evaluate how well the above objectives have been achieved.

### 3.1.2   Designing a participatory process

The rationale behind the Initial Review process methodology was based on an understanding of, agreement with and commitment to the following principals:



**Inclusive and democratic:**
The process was designed to enable the full involvement of a wide cross section of people in each sub area.  This was achieved by getting out to where ever people could be found as well as running meetings.  The process helped to ensure that there was an equal regard for everybody and all opinions.  This was achieved by enabling people to record (onto 'post-its') and map their values (likes and dislikes) and ideas in a non-confrontational way.  This was also achieved by keeping outputs (e.g. exhibitions and reports) as visual and as much in the words and writing of the participants as possible.

In particular the process was designed to involve people who do not normally have the opportunity to be heard or are not inclined to speak in public.  There are those people who go to meetings and/or fill in questionnaires and there are those who do not.  This process was designed to engage with both sorts of people but especially the latter.

Because the Dùthchas Project has the commitment to take a new approach to development, a more participative democratic approach was carried out.  Traditional planning processes often rely upon a representative system, which does not always lead to popular and sustainable initiatives.

**Relevant:**
The Initial Review fieldwork process was designed to meet specific, achievable fieldwork objectives (see above).  In this respect the process cannot be exactly replicated in another situation unless the objectives are the same.  It is important to recognise that the precise methods used need to be tailored to the situation.

The process was designed to enable the people involved to gain a positive understanding of the Project and to identify and think about local values, issues and ideas for improving their situation in the future.  The outputs of the process were to provide baseline information regarding the social, environmental and economic situations and to identify the local priority issues.  This was achieved by using mapping as a tool to enable people to record their opinions in enough detail to keep things specific and real rather than just conceptual and theoretical.  This is very important when the aim is to develop plans for a more sustainable future.  Getting quality, in-depth information about specific issues and ideas will aid in the development and implementation of relevant sustainable plans and solutions.

**Empowering:**
The methodology/ process used to achieve the objectives for the Initial Review field work was designed to contribute to social change and sustainable development.  It assisted with:
- the collection, consolidation, systematization and presentation of local knowledge, perspectives and preferences thus enhancing their visibility and official validity;
- creating outputs and a pathway for direct communication between a wide cross section of local people and their representatives, policy and decision makers;
- creating the possibility for local people to set the agenda for working towards a more sustainable future;
- starting the process for local stakeholders to assess where they aspire to be regarding the control and or management of local resources;
- starting the process for bringing out local potential, ideas and linkages, realistic solutions, expectations and natural leaders (other than those who usually get involved);
- providing a structured process for participative democratic planning.


### 3.1.3  Methods and tools

The methodologies used are outlined in detail in section 4.


### 3.1.4  Training the Pilot Area Coordinators (PACs)



SPI designed and facilitated the process of preparing the PACs with the skills and tools required for carrying out the Initial Review.  The successful facilitation of the Initial Review Process was heavily dependent upon the PACs having:

- respect for all local perceptions and ideas;
- a belief in the capacity of all people to identify, analyze and record information  about their locality;
- an open mind and no pre-conceived solutions or theories;
- humbleness, confidence and a genuine interest in peoples' right to be heard;
- the skills to prevent those who are used to dominating situations to not have more than an equal say;

- a strategy to monitor who is and who is not having an opportunity to participate;
- an understanding of how to reduce some of the barriers to involvement;
- an understanding of and commitment to keeping all aspects, as well as final reports, as visual and as much in the words and writing of the participants as possible; and
- an understanding and commitment to not use jargon and to use every day language (plain English).

An understanding of these very simple principles was essential for the facilitators to build rapport and trust with the local people about the Project.


## 3.2   The Agency Process

As mentioned above, Dùthchas has at it's core the need to bring together community and agency views in a common forum as a basis for integrated area based strategies.  'Agency' refers to those public and non-governmental organisations represented on the Project Partnership. The agency strand of the Initial Review was designed to gain from agencies the same information as communities were asked for.  Each agency was asked to give information from its own perspective.

**Objectives:**
A corresponding set of objectives for the agency strand of the Initial Review process, read as follows:

1. To engage positively with staff from partner agencies;
2. To enable these people to identify, analyse and record the following:
   - Information and resources available to the project;
   - Strengths of the area;
   - Challenges to the area;
   - Ideas for change;
   - Justification for statements;
3. To engage positively with agency staff;
4. To raise realistic expectations;
5. To build trust and rapport;
6. To monitor and evaluate how well the above objectives have been achieved.

The process which was designed to meet these objectives is outlined in section 4.3.

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## SECTION 4　　　　　METHODOLOGY
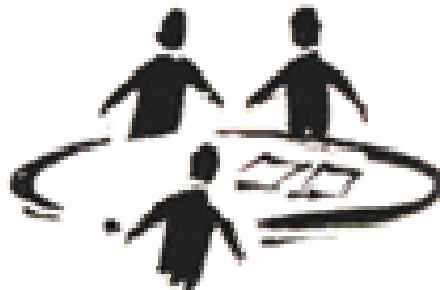
### *4.1　Overview*

There were two strands of work to the Initial Review (see Figure 1):
* Community Process
* Agency Process

These were carried out in parallel, with the findings brought together in an exhibition, in the forum of the Pilot Area Advisory Groups and in several project publications.

**Community strand :**

The community strand of the work was carried out at a subarea level, as the pilot area was too large to get meaningful participation.  The methodology used in each subarea was the same and consisted of the following steps (see figure 2):
* Open meeting
* Out and about
* Exhibitions

The methodology is explained as implemented in the area in section 4.2

**Agency strand:**

This work was carried out at the pilot area level.  The methodology consisted of the following steps:
* Partner workshop
* Postal Questionnaire
* Sustainability Profiles

The methodology is explained in section 4.3

**Dissemination of findings:**

The findings from the Initial Review were disseminated through:



* **Exhibitions -** An exhibition touring the Pilot Area displayed all the findings of the Initial Review and gave people an opportunity to vote for the ideas they felt to be the most important for the future sustainability of the area.
* **Value statement** – a creative statement of what people value about their area.  This was distributed to every household, Pilot Area Advisory Groups (PAAG) and Partners and was made available locally through Tourist Information Centres, village halls, shops etc.
* **Newsletter** – documenting the findings of the Initial Review circulated to each household, PAAGs, Partners
* **Internet site**
* **Initial Review Report** – this full report of the Initial Review will be made available to PAAGs, Partners and those developing the Sustainability Strategies
* **Sustainability Profile** – an analysis of the quantitative data relating to the sustainability of each pilot area.

**Fig 1.   Overview of Initial Review process
            (replicated in each area)**

**COMMUNITY INPUTS**

- Identify the things people like and dislike about the area
- Identify ideas for change
- Identify ways to achieve changes and who needs to be involved

Co-ordinated by the Pilot Area Co-ordinators

**Preparation**

Core staff develop the Initial Review process

PAC undertake training in the Initial Review process

**AGENCY INPUTS**

- Identify key strengths and challenges in the pilot area
- Identify ideas for change
- Identify areas of support from partners
- Support for the exhibition

Co-ordinated by core staff

**E X H I B I T I O N**

Phase 3 – Strategy Development

**Documents:**

- Initial review report
- Value statement
- Newsletter
- Internet site

## Initial Review Methodology – Community Strand

maps

Action plans

maps

Action plans

Reach people who haven't attended any meetings eg.

- Schools
- Workplaces
- Shops
- Interest groups etc…

Open meeting

Open meeting

Open meeting

maps

Action plans

Open meeting

Open meeting

maps

Action plans

Open meeting

maps

Action plans

PUBLICITY

3-4 days out and about in each sub area

QUERY: Have we met a good cross section of the community?

Priority matrix

voting

Priority matrix

voting

Priority matrix

voting

Priority matrix

voting

Priority matrix

voting

EXHIBITION

## 4.2    Community Process

In order to execute the community survey process the Pilot Area of North Sutherland was divided into eleven sub areas.  The sub areas were defined using the spread of village halls as a guide to determine each separate community.
- Durness
- Melness
- Tongue
- Skerray
- Strathnaver
- Altnaharra
- Bettyhill
- Armadale
- Strathy
- Melvich/Portskerra
- Halladale

To encourage local community involvement in the Initial Review Process a number of participatory mechanisms were implemented.  Within each community the work was undertaken in three stages:
- Gathering information
- Confirming and prioritising ideas
- Tracking participants

Each of these will be dealt with in turn.

### 4.2.1    Gathering information
To encourage local community involvement in the Initial Review Process a number of participatory mechanisms were used.  The first of these was open meetings at which any member of the community could contribute, through informal facilitated workshops.

**Open meetings**

***Step 1***    Participants were divided up randomly into groups of no more than five



***Step 2***   Three key questions were asked;
1.   What do you Like/ Value about your area?
2.   What do you Dislike about your area?
3.   What Ideas do you have that you feel would benefit the future wellbeing of your community socially, environmentally and/or economically? Everybody recorded their responses to these questions on colour coded post-it notes before discussing their answers with the rest of their group.  The post-it notes were then placed on a local map in relation to the issue discussed.

***Step 3***   Each group was then asked to begin prioritising the ideas by agreeing which one of the ideas they felt would be of most benefit to the area in the future and then, on an Action Plan, address why this idea was needed, where needed, how it could be achieved, who would be involved and what information about the idea already existed.  Continuing to prioritise, the groups were asked to work through as many of the ideas as they could in the time allowed.

***Step 4***   Each group appointed a spokesperson who explained the completed Action Plan to the whole meeting.

**Interviews out and about in the communities**
To gain a broader range of views the facilitators carried out interviews in each sub area using steps 1 & 2.  People were interviewed at their homes, at the public library, in shops and post offices and on the roadside.

**Interviewing schoolchildren**
The facilitators visited all the schools in the pilot area. The public meeting method was carried out with the P6 and P7 age group but with the senior group this was restricted to Step 1 & 2 as in the out and about interviews.  The tracking figures for Tongue Primary School include children from Melness and Skerray and those for Bettyhill Primary School include children from Skerray and Strathnaver.


## 4.2.2 Confirming and prioritising ideas

The next stage of the process was to report back to each community the findings of the survey and to get the community to prioritise their own ideas.

**Division of ideas**
The ideas were divided into two groups. Those that, if they were realised, would affect the whole pilot area were grouped as "North Sutherland Overall Ideas" and secondly, those that pertained only to one of the sub areas.

**Voting at the exhibition**

All the information gathered during the open meetings, interviews and from the schools was displayed as a travelling exhibition (on a double decker bus) and visited each of the sub areas in turn.  Both sets of ideas, the local and the overall ideas, were listed on posters and each member of the community who visited the exhibition was encouraged to vote for their favourite ideas.  They were given 10 votes to distribute on their local ideas list and 20 votes for the overall list.

**Distribution of voting forms**
To extend the number of people able to participate in prioritising the ideas voting forms were made up and distributed to the shops and post offices in each sub-area for people to pick up.  In some case the forms were dispersed by the shop and post office staff in household grocery deliveries and with pensions.  The forms consisted of the appropriate local ideas list for each sub area, the overall list of ideas, instructions on how to vote and a map and grid for voters to indicate where they live, their age range and gender.

**Collating voting results**
A record was kept of how many people voted either on the exhibition bus or on the voting sheets.   At the end of the exhibition period the votes from the exhibition and the voting sheets were counted and recorded.

### 4.2.3   Tracking

Throughout the information gathering process a record was kept of the age range, gender and location of the people participating.  At the open meetings participants were asked to plot the location of their home on a local map and the facilitator took a note of each persons' gender and age range. This was done primarily so that the facilitators could make sure that a good cross-section of the individual communities was being interviewed.

## *4.3     Agency Process*

### 4.3.1   Partner workshop

A half day facilitated workshop was held early on in the Initial Review process to identify how Partners felt they could contribute.

**SESSION 1**:

Whole group evaluation of objectives for the Initial Review:
**The following objectives were agreed:**

Key Objective :
To establish a clear "Where are we now?" situation with respect to Area Sustainability within the pilot areas.

Partner  Objectives :
- To identify the key strengths and weaknesses and corresponding opportunities and threats to Area Sustainability.
- To identify information gaps.
- To establish Partner visions for the future of the pilot areas.
- To establish priority issues from the review process for future action.

**SESSION 2:**

Participants were then split into three small workgroups (grouping similar organisations) to identify the inputs they could make to the Initial Review eg. :
- Personnel: Time, guidance and expertise
- Information: Data, strategic documents, research reports etc
- Links and networks

Each workgroup was taken through a facilitated session and worked through the following table: *(example given from Historic Scotland's inputs)*

| Input | Level | Location | Mechanism | Communication Channel | Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Info on archaeological monuments | Local | Council and National | Computer Database | Through Councils | Discuss with Council |

*This information is available upon request.*

### 4.3.2   Postal Questionnaire

It was important that the information gathered from Partners mirrored the information being gathered at a community level (see section 4.3).  This was to enable information from both communities and agencies to be integrated, analysed, and compared.

It was decided to gather information from partners via a postal questionnaire.  Each representative on the Partnership Group was asked to co-ordinate the information input from their own organisation – both centrally and locally, to give a balanced picture of the views of their organisation as a whole.

The following guidance was given to Partners:

The information supplied should relate to the sustainability of each Pilot Area from the point of view of your organisation.  NB :

- You are only expected to comment on those aspects of the areas which are directly relevant to your organisation's interests, not on the broader issues within the area.
- The level of information should not be detailed, but neither should it be too generalised or superficial.
- Where necessary identify the particular geographical part of the Pilot Area to which this information applies.  Include an annotated map if necessary.

The following template was provided for supplying the information:

|  |  | Justification | Information to support justification |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Strengths** | List the particular strengths which your organisation recognises in the pilot area | Against each item listed, briefly state the justification for your organisation's statement | Against each justification list any data sources which could be used to back up your statement, and the location of that data source. *NB. Do not list the data itself.* |
| **Challenges** | List the particular challenges which your organisation recognises in the pilot area | " | " |
| **Proposals for Change** | List any proposals or ideas which your organisation would like to put forward for making the area more sustainable. | " | " |

Some difficulties were experienced in eliciting this information from Partners and many agencies had to be contacted several times before they supplied the information. The internal links within some organisations (eg. between national and local levels) were also problematic.

Please see Appendices 7, 8, 9 for a spreadsheet of the strengths, challenges and proposals for change. The information relating to justification and information sources is available on request.

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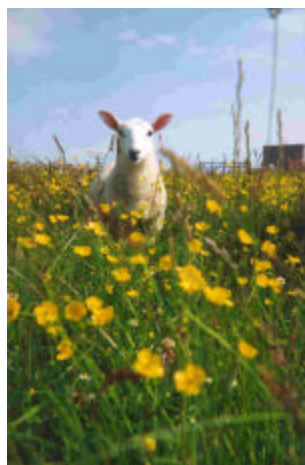
## 5.1    Overview of key points

**Likes/ Strengths :**

When asked what it was they liked about North Sutherland 67 people from throughout the area said they liked the **peace and quiet**.  63 people said they liked the **scenery and views**, particularly the beaches and the hills.

The third most popular aspect of life here in North Sutherland was the nature of its **people.** 53 of those interviewed said that the friendliness, neighbourliness and attitude were what they liked. 42 interviewees mentioned community spirit and values and the feeling of belonging as a feature that they liked. This was reflected by some of the agencies who said that the community identity and the good quality of life was definitely an asset that could be built on.

42 people commented on the **safety** and **lack of crime** in North Sutherland and that it is a good place to bring up children.  The Crofters Commission agreed that this is a strength of the area.

The **natural environment**, its unspoilt nature and diversity was mentioned by 30 people as a feature that they liked and the agencies agreed that the environment is a major strength in North Sutherland that is in many ways unique. The agencies agreed that the unspoiled nature of the natural environment - the clean beaches, fine rivers, hills and peatlands, and the wealth of flora and fauna in the area are one of its greatest strengths.

21 people said that they liked the opportunities there are in North Sutherland to participate in **sport and recreation,** for instance at Bettyhill Swimming Pool or in the village halls.

**Culture / history/ traditions** were mentioned by 14 people as something that they valued.  The agencies agreed that these were a valuable feature of the area with great potential for development.  Archaeology, Gaelic, restoration of old buildings, recording information, and the potential for heritage trails were popular ideas put forward by the community

**Crofting** was mentioned by 12 people as something they liked and the agencies felt that many of the communities were underpinned and protected by crofting legislation.

The quality of **education** available at all levels was commented on by 12 people, but a few felt that there was little opportunity for adult education, due to remoteness and lack of facilities.

**Dislikes/ Challenges and Ideas for Change**

The most unpopular issue in North Sutherland is **transport.**  135 people said that they did not like the poor roads, lack of public transport and the high fuel costs in the area.  The agencies agreed that there was a poor road network and that this was hampering the economy of the area.  Poor roads and high cost of haulage make import and export of goods difficult and expensive.  It was felt that a solution to the transport problems was paramount to alleviating many of the problems of the area.

30 people said they did not like the lack of **employment** opportunities, particularly for young people and some felt that there was little local employment beyond tourism and crofting. The communities and agencies recognised the potential for developing **tourism** and a wide range of imaginative ideas were put forward by both for the future - e.g. local brochures, more varied accommodation, develop a tourist route in the North and West.

Although most of the **shops** in the area were well stocked and well used, there was a feeling of frustration at the high prices we pay for everyday supplies and 26 people mentioned it as one of their dislikes.  People felt that this could be improved by having more shops, mobile banks and post offices, and that co-op systems for animal feeds, for example, could work well.

31 people said that they did not like the lack of **recreational facilities**, particularly for youngsters. People recognised that solutions had to be found. Some suggestions were to encourage youth clubs run by the young people, and to provide all-weather pitches and facilities. Although recreational facilities in the area are limited at the moment, the use of those existing in the area would be enhanced by improvements in public transport.

People in general felt that **community facilities** were poor - poor public services, poor communications, not enough litter bins etc.  But there were many ideas for improvement. e.g. better library facilities, more use of village halls, "heritage centres" incorporating a range of amenities and outdoor activity centres for both locals and tourists.

A number of people commented on the **pollution** free environment but felt that the dumping of old cars and general untidiness were problems which should and could be addressed. There could be a system for dealing with old scrap, more litter bins could be provided and a job could be created for a "village officer".

Multi-ownership of **crofts**, unused croft land, and absentee landlords and crofters were identified as issues that people did not like.  Both the communities and the agencies in particular had ideas for resolving some of these problems - e.g. community land ownership. Increased opportunities for agricultural diversification and the promotion of organic production were favoured, and the return of cattle was an idea common to both the communities and the agencies.

**Housing** was not identified as a major problem by the communities or the agencies, but it was felt that there was a need for affordable housing.  Attempts should be made to bring existing unoccupied houses back into housing stock.

There were a number of issues which, although not scoring highly in the likes and dislikes categories, people felt strongly enough about to suggest ideas for future development - e.g. health, local democracy, renewable energy, marketing of local produce and the area, forestry.

## 5.2    Summary of data for North Sutherland

An enormous amount of data was collected in the process of the Initial Review

|  | Likes | Dislikes | Ideas |
|---|---|---|---|
| North Sutherland | 512 | 444 | 581 |
| Trotternish | 491 | 481 | 766 |
| North Uist | 604 | 428 | 452 |

*Table :    Number of comments made in the Initial Review*

In order to make sense of this data, similar comments needed to be categorised and grouped together.  The categories used were derived from going through a sample of the data and grouping similar comments, then naming the group.  Firstly, all comments were categorised as either:
E        Environmental
S        Social
Ec      Economic
Then, within those categorised as 'E', comments were coded from 1 – 10, to further break down the grouping.  Similarly this was done for those categorised 'S' and 'Ec'.  Each and every comment made was categorised according to this system.  This exercise was carried out centrally, to ensure comparability between the pilot areas.

This then enabled the number of times an issue was mentioned to be counted (and thus the popularity of the issue amongst respondents).  Also within each category the individual comments could be analysed as to what exactly it was about the issue that people felt was important.  A summary of this information is given below in the analysis of the data.  Further analysis of the data is given in section 6, in relation to sustainability. Full listings of the data are to be found in the appendices.

The same system was used to code the comments made by the agencies, thus enabling the data to be integrated and compared.  It was very important to do this integration, as it allowed us to see where agencies and communities agreed, the issues that agencies were particularly interested in (but communities not) and vice versa.  The table below takes each category in turn, and lists the main points made by agencies and communities as to what they liked, disliked and their ideas for change.

This is inevitably a summary of the data.  Readers are referred to the **appendices,** which list every exact comment by each and every person contributing to the Initial Review.

## 5.2  Summary of data for North Sutherland

Below is a summary of the main likes, dislikes and ideas that communities and agencies identified.  They are categorised under three broad topics :  E Environmental; EC Economic; S Social.  Each topic is sub-divided into a total of 36 sub-topics.

**KEY**:
- ❖ = just community comment
- ➤ = just agency comment
- • = community and agency comment

| Code | Topics | Likes/Strengths | | Dislikes/Challenges | | Ideas/Proposals for change | |
|------|--------|----------------|--|--------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| | | No of people | Summary of main comments | No of people | Summary of main comments | No of people | Summary of ideas |
| E1 | Scenery/Landscape | 63 | • scenery and views<br>• Landscape<br>❖ natural beauty of landscape and seascape<br>❖ rugged, spectacular and picturesque | 0 | No comments | 1 | ❖ View points |
| E2 | Walks / Access | 16 | ❖ Access to hills, beaches, mountains, river and sea<br>❖ Freedom to roam | 3 | ❖ Lack of access, signs and restrictions at beaches | 14 | ❖ Footpaths for visitors, disabled<br>❖ Paths around hills, villages, coasts,<br>• Natural heritage<br>❖ archaeology and architecture walks<br>• Wild walking, multi-day walks<br>• Taped guides |
| E3 | Natural environment | • 30 | ❖ Unspoilt environment – flora, fauna<br>❖ Esp – birds,<br>• natural woodland,<br>❖ flowers,<br>➤ bog systems<br>• Wilderness<br>➤ High conservation value – important species – national and international importance | 5 | • Lack of trees<br>❖ Lack of care for the environment<br>➤ Grazing pressures<br>➤ Need to promote value of natural heritage interest and designations<br>➤ Ensure resource use is sustainable | 9 | • Promote natural history and environment<br>❖ Plant /tidy up trees<br>❖ Ranger led activities<br>➤ Consultation on positive management agreements |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | ➤ Marine habitats<br>• coastal habitats | | | |
| E4 | Water/sea/ beach | 29 | ❖ Beautiful, clean, beaches. Magnificent coastal scenery. Fine fishing rivers<br>➤ Much of area of international importance | 2 | ❖ Lack of access<br>❖ Litter | 5 | ❖ Beach cleaning |
| E5 | Land/hills | 15 | ❖ Hills and moors.<br>❖ Ben Kilbreck and Ben Loyal | 1 | ❖ Lack of discussion on land issues | 0 | |
| E6 | Air | 8 | ❖ Clean, fresh air. | 0 | | 0 | |
| E7 | Weather | 1 | ❖ Watching it changing. | 18 | ❖ Seems wetter & windier nowadays | 0 | |
| E8 | Noise | 0 | No comments | 0 | | 0 | |
| E9 | Pollution | 4 | ❖ Pollution free environment<br>➤ Low pollution | 13 | ❖ Litter, dead vehicles, not enough bins | 3 | ❖ Appoint "village officer" to keep an eye on tidiness etc.<br>❖ Scheme for disposal of dead vehicles |
| E10 | Peace/quiet | 67 | ❖ Sense of space<br>❖ Peace and quiet<br>❖ Tranquility | 2 | | 0 | |
| Ec1 | Shops | 14 | ❖ Well stocked<br>❖ Well used | 26 | ❖ Prices – fuel/goods | 19 | ❖ More shops/restaurants – possible co-op system<br>❖ Subsidies for shops and petrol pumps |
| Ec2 | Transport | 6 | ❖ No congestion<br>❖ The new roads<br>❖ Lack of heavy traffic | 135 | ❖ Non-existant public transport<br>• Cost of fuel<br>• Predominance of single track roads<br>❖ Dependence on cars.<br>❖ Poor condition of roads.<br>➤ Remoteness – making import/export of goods expensive | 105 | ❖ Standardise fuel prices<br>❖ Public transport<br>❖ Community transport<br>❖ Roads upgraded<br>❖ Cheaper air flights from Inverness |
| Ec3 | Agriculture/ crofting | 12 | ❖ Sheep<br>❖ Peat cutting<br>❖ Having a croft | 31 | ❖ Lack of control of livestock.<br>❖ Unused croft land<br>➤ Difficult conditions for agricultural production.<br>➤ Economic dependency on primary sector<br>❖ Multi ownership/use of crofts | 49 | ❖ More cattle grids<br>❖ Crofters group initiatives<br>❖ Crofters co-ops<br>❖ Easier for young people to get crofts<br>❖ Community ownership of assets<br>❖ Promotion of organic agriculture |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | • Diversification on crofts |
| Ec4 | Game | 0 | No comments | 0 | | 5 | ❖ Development of game potential – smokehouse<br>❖ Proper parking for fishers |
| Ec5 | Tourism | 2 | ❖ Potential for tourism. | 8 | ❖ Lack of tourist information.<br>❖ Lack of amenities at beaches etc.<br>• Poor signage.<br>➢ Extend the season. | 48 | ❖ Better all year tourist facilities<br>❖ Promotion of the area<br>❖ Nationally/internationally<br>❖ Wider range of accommodation<br>• Holidays taking full advantage of wildlife/scenery/culture |
| Ec6 | Sea fishing | 15 | ❖ Development potential.<br>❖ Pier building and upgrading. | 3 | ➢ Limited scope for aquaculture developments | 17 | ❖ Pier built at Loch Eriboll<br>❖ Pier upgraded at Talmine<br>❖ Maritime resource development<br>❖ Protect fishing stock |
| Ec7 | Industry | 0 | No comments | 6 | ❖ UKAE<br>❖ Low flying aircraft | 6 | ❖ Develop units at Melvich |
| Ec8 | Power/telecom | 0 | No comments | 11 | ❖ Poor TV/radio reception<br>❖ Frequent power failures | 6 | ❖ Solar panels/windmills for crofts |
| Ec9 | Employment | 4 | ❖ People with jobs usually liked what they were doing | 36 | ❖ Lack of employment for young people<br>❖ Lack of jobs<br>❖ No local employment beyond crofting and tourism | 30 | ❖ Training in skills that would be useful locally<br>❖ Imaginative job creation<br>❖ Community generated employment |
| Ec10 | Forestry | 1 | | 0 | ➢ Exposure and growing conditions<br>➢ Distances from timber markets | 17 | ❖ Increase in forestry projects<br>❖ Forestry with local jobs<br>❖ Maximise crofter forestry<br>➢ Increase woodland area |
| Ec11 | Local produce | 0 | No comments | 0 | No comments | 21 | ❖ Develop local crafts<br>➢ Potential to market local produce as being high quality, semi-organic, with low negative impact on the environment<br>❖ Local wool use group<br>❖ Seaweed<br>❖ Mobile slaughter and local packaging<br>❖ More local processing of local products |
| Ec12 | Marketing | 0 | No comments | 1 | | 15 | ❖ Better marketing<br>❖ Quality mark for local produce |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | ❖ | Local produce available- organic food co-operative |
| Ec13 | General economy | 0 | No comments | 6 | ❖ Negative attitude towards development, new projects etc.<br>❖ Not enough control of local resources<br>➢ Sparsely populated and fragile economy<br>➢ Large proportion of area is designated Natura 2000, with strong restrictions on development | | • Help to start up small local businesses<br>❖ Community ownership of several small enterprises to give additional employment and to encourage tourist activity |
| Ec14 | IT | 0 | No comments | 0 | No comments | 0 | No comments |
| Ec15 | Aggregates | 0 | No comments | 0 | No comments | 1 | |
| S1 | Communty spirit/values | 42 | ❖ Community spirit<br>❖ Feeling of belonging<br>❖ Close knit communities<br>❖ Sense of security | 8 | ❖ Certain lack of sense of community<br>❖ Lack of "push"<br>❖ Lack of social focus<br>➢ Gradual erosion in communal working | 6 | ❖ Working together to achieve goals<br>❖ Getting young people involved in the community |
| S2 | Local democracy/ partnership | 0 | No comments | 9 | ❖ Lack of meaningful communication<br>❖ Central authority<br>❖ The remoteness of Highland Council and Tourist Board | 9 | ❖ Greater accountability from agencies<br>❖ Proper community development plan<br>❖ Community project development worker |
| S3 | People and population | 53 | ❖ The people<br>❖ Friendliness<br>❖ Good neighbours<br>❖ Attitude to life | 17 | ❖ Negative attitudes<br>• Lack of young people/loss of young families<br>❖ People trying to make the place like where they have come from<br>Out-migration | 2 | ❖ More opportunities for young people |
| S4 | Quality of life | 10 | ❖ Unique<br>❖ Peaceful<br>❖ Good for children<br>❖ Independent | 1 | ❖ A hard life – not so bad now | 8 | ❖ Dynamic publicity to point out there is life above Inverness |
| S5 | Culture/history/traditions | 14 | ❖ Gaelic tradition/language<br>❖ Archaeology<br>❖ Museum<br>❖ Preserving what life up here is all | 1 | ❖ Breaks with tradition | 12 | • Develop the positive local attitudes to culture/archaeology/<br>• Traditions<br>❖ Record local information for |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | about but also going forward while respecting the environment & heritage | | | | visitors/locals<br>➢ Develop facilities for presenting culture/arts |
| S6 | Education/ training | 12 | ❖ Good schools<br>❖ Playgroups / nursery | 3 | ❖ Lack of opportunity close by | 13 | ❖ Gaelic taught in ALL schools<br>❖ Better accommodation for nursery, primary and secondary |
| S7 | Remote/rural/ small | 16 | ❖ Remoteness<br>❖ No overcrowding<br>❖ Smallness | 6 | • Very remote from main services and settlements, with limited range of services locally | 0 | No comments |
| S8 | Safety | 42 | ❖ Lack of crime<br>❖ Ideal for children<br>❖ Feeling safe & secure | 2 | | 0 | No comments |
| S9 | Religion | 1 | | 1 | ❖ No Sunday school | 0 | No comments |
| S10 | Recreation/ sport | 21 | ❖ Swimming pool.<br>❖ Hall activities.<br>❖ Golf. | 31 | ❖ Lack of recreational facilities for all ages | 80 | • Develop outdoor activities<br>❖ Youth clubs<br>❖ Improve facilities for sports<br>❖ Develop Village Hall programmes and upgrade all hall facilities<br>❖ Improve playpark facilities |
| S11 | Housing | 6 | ❖ Caladh Sona – day & residential centre for elderly<br>❖ Most people were happy with their homes | 14 | • Need for affordable local housing<br>❖ Empty houses going to ruin<br>❖ Poor design of new houses | 14 | ❖ Sheltered housing<br>❖ Taking old houses into housing stock<br>❖ Creating affordable housing |
| S12 | Community facilities | 6 | ❖ Village Halls<br>❖ Swimming pool | 29 | ➢ Any closure of rural shops/PO's, schools or fuel outlets<br>❖ Lack of public services<br>❖ Huge expense of travelling to hospitals, vets etc.<br>❖ Poor communications<br>❖ Difficulty in providing community needs for all ages | 38 | ❖ Hall improvements<br>❖ Meeting places for young people<br>❖ Toilet facilities at tourist<br>❖ "hot" spots |
| S13 | Health | 0 | No comments | 2 | ❖ Excessive drinking | 13 | ❖ Day care centres<br>❖ More care of the elderly to be locally based |
| S14 | Water and sewerage | 0 | No comments | 6 | ❖ Poor sewerage in certain areas<br>❖ Tap water | 6 | ❖ Introduce mains sewerage |

**5.3.1   Numbers of people voting**

A record was kept of how many people voted either on the exhibition bus or on the voting sheets:

| Sub Area | No. voting at the exhibition | No. voting on forms | Total Voted |
|---|---|---|---|
| Durness | 30 | 24 | **54** |
| Melness | 20 | 7 | **27** |
| Tongue | 39 | 9 | **48** |
| Skerray | 16 | 25 | **41** |
| Strathnaver | 5 | 2 | **7** |
| Altnaharra | 17 | 9 | **26** |
| Bettyhill | 29 | 17 | **46** |
| Armadale | 19 | 7 | **26** |
| Strathy | 30 | 10 | **40** |
| Melvich | 24 | 7 | **31** |
| Halladale | 17 | 2 | **19** |
| **Total** | **246** | **119** | **365** |

- The proportion of people in the community who came forward to vote on the bus varied greatly between subareas.  People in the smaller communities tended to be more enthusiastic about visiting the bus and participating in the process and this is reflected in the voting figures. In one community this was the first time a double decker bus had ever been in the village.



- As the bus made its way from one sub area to another in the course of the week, news of the event had passed between the communities and we found that more people visited and voted in the latter part of the exhibition week when the bus was in the eastern half of the area.

- As far as voting sheets are concerned the numbers returned of these reflected in some cases the enthusiasm of the people in charge of the post office or shop counter where the forms were available.  This was particularly apparent in Durness, Skerray and Bettyhill.

### 5.3.2 Top ideas in each sub-area

The five ideas which gained the most votes in each sub area are listed below:

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Durness** | Difficulties over petrol supplies to retailers ironed out | New village hall | Eriboll Pier | Durness brochure | Day care centre |
| **Melness** | Employment to keep young people in Melness | Community Centre refurbished and used more | Melness Pier upgraded | Playpark/sports area for youngsters | Further development of Caladh Sona day & residential centre for elderly |
| **Tongue** | Restaurant/ cafe | Ewen Robertson & Tongue history museum use building believed his home | Sports area adjacent to school with picnic/play area for visitors and locals | Improve football field | Tourist information point near car park to give information on local walks |
| **Strathnaver** | Renovation of Syre Barn | More use of village hall | Proper parking spaces for fishers | Get rid of stray sheep and deer | Cattle grids at the school |
| **Skerray** | Sewerage system | Re-development of site at harbour – poss. café/toilets | Availability of local produce for sale – lamb, veg etc. | Old church hall converted into war museum and memorial area landscaped | Maximise crofter forestry potential |
| **Bettyhill** | Development of Naver Telecentre | Sheltered housing/residential care for the elderly | Youth club, more activities for young people | Genealogy system set up | Cattle grid at Clachan |
| **Armadale** | Extension of speed limit and street lights through village | Small area astroturfed for sports | Community ownership of Armadale Estate | Repair to the bus shelter at Sunnyside | Tree planting – crofter forestry |
| **Strathy** | Toilets at the beach | Youth club | Improve TV, radio, mobile phone reception | Cattle grids at each end of village | Local shops – poss. co-op system and similar for feedstuffs |
| **Melvich** | Modernise village hall | Better play park | Road round village requires urgent repair | Meeting place for 12-18 year olds | Repairs carried out to Portskerra Harbour |
| **Halladale** | Hall improvements | Develop interpretation of peatlands for tourists | More social activities | More activities for children/play area | Further development of RSPB & tourism |
| Altnaharra | Local restaurant/eating facility | Cattle grids at each end of village | Mobile bank | Diesel pumps | Local facility to encourage more holidaymakers to stay in Altnaharra |

### 5.3.3  Top ideas for North Sutherland as a whole

The most popular ideas in the North Sutherland overall category are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| UK Standardised or subsidised fuel and grocery prices | 350 |
| Roads improved | 253 |
| Better public transport | 184 |
| Inter-community transport for recreational activities | 146 |
| Assistance for local young people to compete in the local housing and croft market | 133 |
| Quality mark and marketing for North Sutherland products/produce and marketing of local product | 132 |
| Proper care in the community for those requiring it | 127 |
| Grants to village halls to enable them to book professional artistes/musicians | 115 |
| Heritage trails, walks | 108 |
| Tidying up of roadside environment | 108 |
| Roads fenced | 108 |
| Preservation and re-use of older buildings | 105 |
| Better all year round and wet weather tourist facilities | 103 |
| Local timber processed locally and increase in forestry projects | 103 |

*The full voting returns can be found in Appendix 4*


### *5.4     Tracking*

Throughout the Initial Review we tracked the people we interviewed spatially and by age and gender.  This was to ensure that a representative cross section of the people in the area had been given the opportunity to participate.

We found that the people who came to the public meetings tended to belong to the mid or latter age group so we tried to interview as many younger people as possible when we were out and about in the area.  We found that the 18-25 year old group is not well represented in the area since many of the areas young people are either at college or university or working away.  In Durness alone we found that there were 15 young people attending college or university at the period of the survey. This is reflected in the low numbers of this age group that we managed to interview.

Because we interviewed all the children in the area at school the numbers are proportionally very high compared to the adult figures.

We found that gender made little difference in either willingness to be interviewed or attendance at meetings so gender numbers are well balanced.

Each participant was tracked spatially as they were interviewed.  Because of the distances involved in travelling to some part of the area we found that proportionately some sub areas were better covered than others.  We found too that it was quicker to interview people in areas of population concentration (eg Bettyhill) than scattered communities (eg Halladale) so sub areas with geographically higher concentrations of people tended to have had more people interviewed.  The postal voting process helped to mitigate this.

***Please refer to following tables.***
***Tracking maps can be viewed in the Area Project Office***

| Sub Area | Open Meeting (No. attended) | Out & About (No. interviewed) | School children | Overall Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Durness | 5 | 13 | 16 | 34 |
| Melness | 2 | 8 | 7 | 17 |
| Tongue | 15 | 18 | 37 | 60 |
| Skerray | 14 | 8 | 4 | 26 |
| Strathnaver | 3 | 2 | 6 | 11 |
| Altnaharra | 5 | | | 5 |
| Bettyhill | 9 | 16 | 41 | 66 |
| Armadale | 4 | 7 | 3 | 14 |
| Strathy | 8 | 5 | 14 | 27 |
| Melvich/Portskerra | 6 | 9 | 12 | 27 |
| Halladale | 10 | | 7 | 17 |

**Adults**



**Young people**
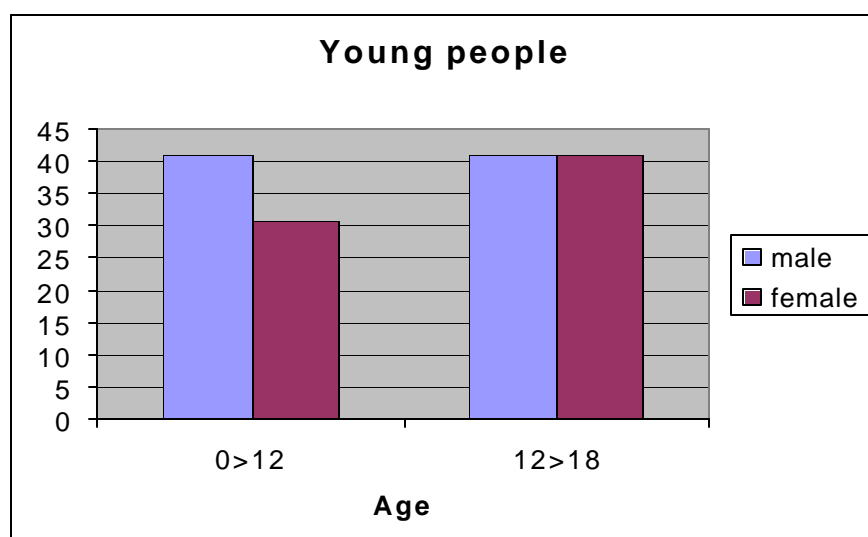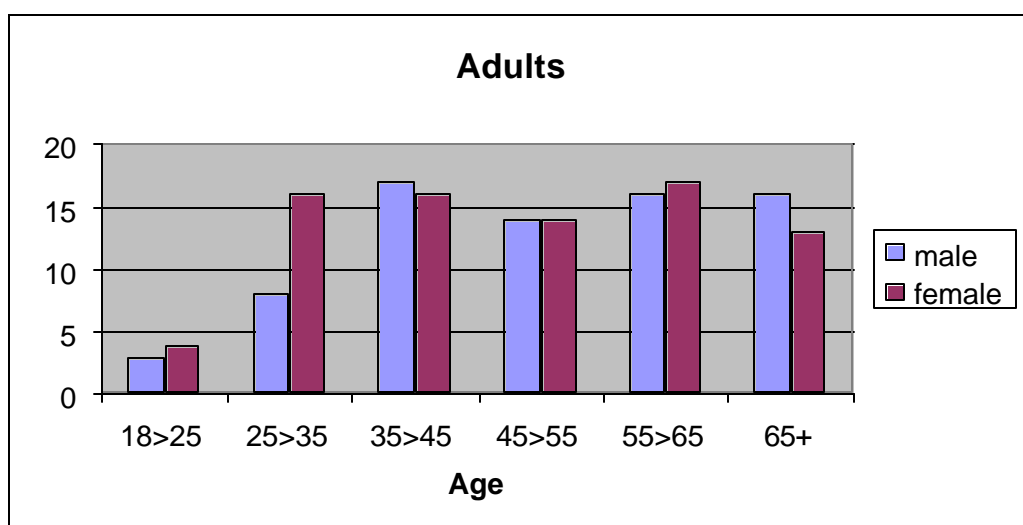
6

### 6.1    *Maximising benefit from natural and cultural resources*

The most popular aspects of North Sutherland, highlighted by the Initial Review, and those which could be built upon for maximum benefit, are the scenery, natural environment, peace and quiet and the friendly and community spirited people.

#### 6.1.1   Natural resources



During the Initial Review, 67 people said they valued the **peace and quiet** and having **access** to the open countryside they lived in, as well as the **fresh air** and the **freedom** that went with it. 63 people said that the **scenery** was of value to them, particularly the **hills** and the **beaches** and having easy access to these was important. Ben Klibreck and Ben Loyal were particularly mentioned as well as the Kyle of Tongue and the rivers Mudale and Naver. The unspoilt beaches were highlighted by people right along the coast as being clean, safe and beautiful. Freedom to roam and enjoy these natural assets was something the people living here valued and felt could be shared. The agencies agreed that there is great potential for using the local natural environment to attract visitors to the area.

**Wild birds and animals**, the summer **flowers** and the naturalness of the **peatlands** were all identified as being valuable to the people living here. They recognised, along with the agencies, that these are natural assets that have to be protected by, as one person put it, "preserving what life up here is all about - but also going forward while respecting the environment and heritage". One agency felt that "Flow Country Experience" tourist attractions to enable visitors see the peatlands would be of benefit.

**Lack of care for the environment** was of concern to a lot of people, particularly littering and the dumping or abandoning of dead vehicles, described as "blots on the landscape" which were making the area less attractive to both locals and tourists. Lack of control of livestock in villages bothered some people, particularly in Melvich, Melness and Bettyhill, as well as problems caused by day-trippers to the beaches where there are no public amenities. Ideas were put forward to deal with these problems, including the siting of public toilets at one of the more popular beaches, Strathy beach, and putting cattle grids at the entrance and exits to villages to keep the sheep out.

Sustaining **crofting** in our communities was seen as important. People felt that the land was productive and many liked having sheep and cattle. There is scope to capitalise on the healthy status of both the land and the agricultural animals in the area. Other benefits of crofting identified were being able to cut peats and having independence – "to do my own thing". The poor price that sheep and cattle are commanding at the market was seen as a problem but there were plenty ideas to improve the market. One agency said they would work with others to support the return of cattle to the crofting areas, as well as working with local people and other agencies to increase opportunities for croft diversification into sustainable non-agricultural activity. It was felt that co-operative selling and marketing of animals, as healthy stock from a healthy environment, might help save crofting in the area. Crofters co-ops to buy feedstuffs and the promotion of organic agriculture would help sustain the communities, coupled with the ability to market produce "from the hill to the table" as one person put it. Projects involving the marketing of local produce under a local and/or quality label was a common idea among both the agencies and the people of the communities.

**Forestry** was seen as another potential source of income and employment for the future, an important part of the economy of the area that should be maintained and increased. There is a demand for timber products that is not being met as well as unfulfilled opportunities for crofter forestry and a wish to increase the remit of the NW Sutherland Native Woodland Project.

**Marine activities,** such as fishing and shellfish farming, watersports and maritime leisure activities, were identified by people in Durness and Melness as things they liked to do and which could provide sustainable employment opportunities. Oyster farming was seen as an activity that a growing number of people were becoming involved in and one which depends on a healthy marine environment. However, it was generally felt that improvements would be needed to the pier facilities in the area, particularly at Loch Eriboll and Melness, for the marine potential to be fully realised.



Marketing the area as an ideal place for **outdoor activities,** such as hill walking, surfing, loch fishing, sea angling and swimming, coupled with enjoying the social life would attract more visitors to the area. A huge number of ideas for development were put forward, including watersports on the Kyle of Tongue and Eriboll, a horse riding centre, playing fields and a sailing school.

### 6.1.2   Cultural resources

As well as marketing the area for its spectacular natural beauty and uncommonly high standard of natural heritage, the **cultural heritage** was a theme that both the communities and the agencies agreed would be fertile ground for development.

Archaeological sites (dating from the earliest neolithic settlers to the Clearances in the 19th Century), historic ruins, the crofting traditions and the native culture were all seen as things that could be promoted and interpreted to the advantage of the community and to help preserve these features.

Making more of historical family links, such as the Clan Mackay, was commonly accepted as an untapped source of revenue for the area. Heritage trails, walks, development of Melness Gaelic Centre, a history museum at Tongue and an interpretation and genealogy centre at Bettyhill were just some of the many ideas put forward.

## 6.2    Retaining a viable and empowered community

The greatest strength of the communities was seen to be in the **people** themselves, who were generally perceived to be community spirited, honest, friendly, neighbourly and caring.  The viability of these communities however, was seen to be challenged by lack of **employment** and the **facilities** needed to retain people in the area.  A high **quality of life** meant people wanted to live here, and this has a role in retaining population in the area.

### Employment

Lack of **employment** was seen as a major problem, particularly for young people.  The difficulties of maintaining a community in a remote area are compounded if there is a shortage of work to keep young families.   The poor state of the roads and transport links added to the problems for people who had to travel to work.  It was felt that subsidised or standardised fuel prices would help the area, and improved public transport would help people get to work outside the area.  Better training, and access to the available training, would help and also provide employment opportunities.  Better care in the community and a Day Care Centre in Durness would generate employment and help keep the elderly in the community where they belong and want to stay.

### Facilities

Having good schools in the area was generally seen as a great asset and the most popular service provided in the area.  Lunch clubs, Bettyhill swimming pool, the Caladh Sona day and residential care unit and the village hall were liked.  People felt that some **essential services** were not being delivered, such as sewerage systems, better roads/transport and nursery facilities and they felt that these should be provided where they were needed.  In some cases the potential for increased housing development was being hampered by lack of or poor local facilities.  High **transport** costs and poor **roads** meant that the facilities that were available were made more difficult or impossible for some people to access.

Lack of **recreational facilities** and **entertainment** for younger people and children, lack nursery facilities and the difficulty in travelling within the area, as well as a lack of affordable rented **housing**, are disincentives to young families to stay in the area.



Many suggestions were put forward that would help negate these problems, such as a fund whereby local people could be helped to acquire croftland and houses, football pitches and play areas for children, meeting places for teenagers and, popularly, more employment for young people.  The promotion of facilities such as the Bettyhill swimming pool, the village halls, Naver Telecentre and the golf course at Durness would help sustain the local population, it was believed.

**Quality of life**

Some people said they liked the relaxed **pace of life**.  Being able to go fishing, walking, or just watching the changing weather, the sky and the ships going past make life here enjoyable.  The smell of peat fires, well stocked shops and plenty of social activity are all things that people said they valued in North Sutherland and were part of the character of the place which could also be marketed for tourism.

People felt **safe** living here.  Some mentioned the **friendliness** of the people, **community spirit** and **neighbourliness** which prevailed in the area.  53 said they simply liked the people but didn't say why.  Close and caring communities, honesty, and a sense of belonging  were important to many people. These were all important aspects to build upon to retain people in these communities, giving them good reason to stay.  The agencies agreed that a co-operative spirit and neighbourliness were important foundations for communities to work together and upon which community development could be built.

**Lack of crime** was regarded as universal in the area and the safety of children, whether growing up or visiting the area, was surely an attractive feature to build upon.

### 6.3     *Reducing the problems of remoteness by delivering local needs locally and reducing dependence on external inputs (subsidies; goods; services etc)*

Many people felt that they were disadvantaged by living at great **distance** from the main centres.  This led to a perceived lack of opportunity**, high cost of living** and reduced choice at more expensive local shops.

The feeling of **remoteness** felt by some people was compounded by the high **cost of fuel** and lack of decent **public transport** which in turn had a detrimental effect on the tourist trade and employment opportunities.  Some people suggested that there should be assistance for people to travel out of the area to take up employment.

These transport problems were seen to be the main threat to the sustainability of the communities, listed by 135 people interviewed during the Initial Review. The agencies agreed that improvement to the road infrastructure was desirable.  Not only was it difficult for people to get about but they also felt the roads were dangerous and badly maintained**.**



The area is almost totally dependent on **imports** and it was felt by some people that this dependence could be reduced by promoting the availability of **local products** within the area. This was felt to be particularly important for the marketing of agricultural and timber products, both of which are leaving the area and being sold for a fraction of their local value, while the demand for both within the area greatly exceeds supply.  There was seen to be considerable scope for increased timber production in North Sutherland which would enhance the economy if it could be processed and sold locally.

# 7

### 7.1    Overview of key points

A full evaluation of the Initial Review was carried out by staff.  This compared performance against the objectives set at the beginning of the process :

- To build a good overview of the area and its sustainability
- To identify the local priority issues in relation to sustainability
- To fully involve communities and agencies in this analysis
- To act as a pointer to resources, information, contacts likely to be required by the Project
- To raise the profile of the Project in the pilot areas

The Initial Review was found to have been successful in achieving its objectives. The main points of the evaluation are:

**Community methodology** – the process was well designed, and was successful in engaging with a wide cross section of the population and gaining from them their likes, dislikes and ideas



for change.  The biggest problem faced by the Pilot Area Co-ordinators (PAC) was completing the exercise in the time available.  Most people felt comfortable with the exercise and, although expectations were raised, it was felt that people were realistic about what the Project could achieve and that this sparked an energy in the communities to take things forward.  There was some concern among staff that the questions should have been more focused on sustainability, but this would have compromised the simplicity of the questions. There were also a few difficulties in recording non-spatial issues.

The recording mechanism was however democratic and empowering – everyone's views counted - and at the end of the process most communities reported that the outcome closely reflected their views as to the main issues.

**Agency methodology** – First a workshop, and then a postal questionnaire encountered problems in soliciting the required quality of quality information from agency staff in a short timescale.  A third exercise was therefore undertaken to fill in the gaps in quantitative information essential to assessing the sustainability of the pilot areas.

**Training of PACs** – The training of the area staff was well designed and executed, and provided a solid foundation for the PACs to undertake their work.  There was however some evidence of different approaches being applied in the 3 areas, which to an extent affected the comparability of results.

**Division into sub-areas** – all pilot areas were divided into sub-areas, based on the locally recognised individual community boundaries.   This was found to be essential in identifying with the needs of these communities

**Publicity and press** – A high public profile was an essential tool for involving all members of the community in the work.  This was given considerable attention in each area, though new ways still need to be found to ensure more people are aware of and feel happy to attend meetings etc.  Managing the press also proved to be problematic, as some of the ideas emerging were the subject of political forces and lobbying.  There were several issues of mis-reporting which had a damaging effect on the reputation of the Project with the communities and it's Partners.

**Open meetings** – These had variable attendance, though overall the attendance levels were comparatively high for such events.  Causes of non-attendance ranged from cynicism or lack of understanding about the Project, to weather and clashes with TV programmes etc.  However for those who did attend the results were very positive.  People liked the different meeting style and the high degree of participation.  Good ideas and good will were generated.

**Out and about** – This was an essential, though very time consuming, element of the work in reaching those people who don't usually turn up to meetings.  This was really where Duthchas marked itself as being different from other initiatives, and made people feel their views counted.  The tracking of participants was essential here, in enabling staff to target poorly represented groups within each community.

**Voting** – Most people understood and were happy with the voting process, and most communities reported that the outcome closely reflected their views as to the main issues.  However some individual concerns were expressed, in a few places, that the main issues had not been prioritised.  This was thought to be because the conclusions of the workshop groups had not counted in the final voting and voting had only occurred at exhibitions, rather than being taken out and about in the communities as originally planned.   Children's voting also tended to skew results towards unrealistic desires.



In Sutherland voting was additionally carried out by forms left in village shops etc.  This had a high response rate which improved the voting results.  Voting was carried out only at a sub-area level in Skye and Uist, while in Sutherland, voting also took place for overall-area ideas – this helped to prioritise issues for the area as a whole.  Proceedurally, there were some difficulties in distilling all of the many ideas into voting sheets.  Supervision was essential for confidence in the system.

In retrospect it was concluded that the voting system would have been improved if voting had been confidential, votes had been limited to one per idea, children's votes had been separately identifiable, and more checks had been in place against double voting.

**Monitoring** – Full monitoring objectives were set for the community aspect of the work, and when these were evaluated by staff at the end of the process they found that they had achieved most objectives.  Monitoring however did not happen formally throughout and all agreed that this would have helped identify problems early on.  The Partner agency survey would have benefited from similarly full monitoring objectives.

**Recording local initiatives, information and resources –** a process was not specifically designed for this, and as a result information was patchy, many people did not understand why this was needed (including staff).

**Tracking** – Tracking of age, sex and gender took place rigorously throughout the process.  It showed that a good representative sample of the population was reached, though there was a gap in the 18-25 year olds in each area, due to their general absence in the community (for education and work elsewhere).

**Agency workshop** – This process was not well received by those attending the workshop, it was found to be too theoretical, and the data gathered was of low quality.  It was also hard for agency staff working at regional or national levels to provide detailed information at the local level.  It was decided to take this exercise no further and to try to get the information required by a questionnaire.

**Agency questionnaire** – This exercise elicited information comparable in content to the community data, however agencies did not have enough time and often did not consult widely in their own organisations, hence the quality of data was variable.  It was still felt necessary to go back to the agencies once again with very specific requests for data sets which would enable a sustainability profile to be built of the area.

**Exhibitions** – The exhibitions, and particularly the launch events were a great success in raising enthusiasm and confidence in the communities.  They were well attended and people were very interested in the findings, feeling that they did reflect the important issues in their communities.  Some problems occurred in relation to space in the various venues, and the time required to set up each venue.  All PACs felt that the exhibitions should have run for longer in each community.

**Data analysis** – The data analysis process made sense of a large amount of data and allowed an initial sustainability analysis to take place.  Categorisation of data was taken purely from the issues falling out of the community data.  In retrospect these categories should have been fully rationalised before all the data was categorised.  Data categorisation and analysis took much longer than had been budgeted for.
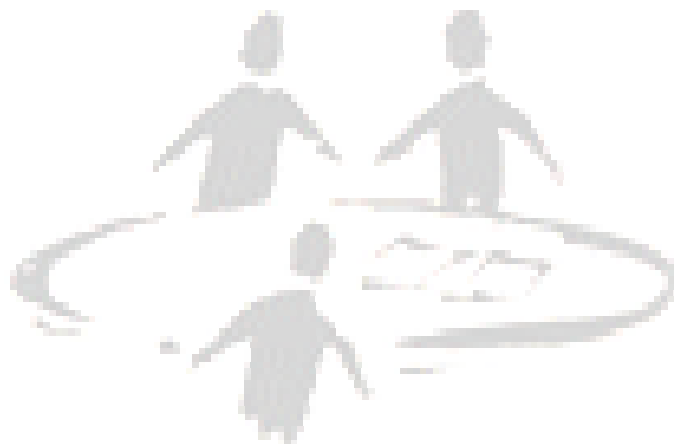
### 7.2 *Analysis of Lessons and recommendations*

The following lessons and recommendations were gleaned from:
- Submissions by each area
- Evaluation exercise carried out by staff (see below)

| ELEMENT OF THE WORK | STRENGTHS | CHALLENGES | RECOMMENDATIONS |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Overall** | | | |
| Community methodology | ▪ Method used was quick and efficient<br>▪ Everybody's opinion recorded in their own words<br>▪ Group work enabled everyone to contribute<br>▪ Method was clear and straight forward<br>▪ No jargon involved<br>▪ Recording system was friendly<br>▪ Process moved people away from single issues<br>▪ Looking to the future was very positive<br>▪ Fresh new faces were involved<br>▪ There were comments that this has been the most involving process to date | • Was the question likes/dislikes right for the purpose?<br>• Some people had difficulty in using 'post-its'<br>• Out and about interviews produced rapid response but ideas lacked depth of thought<br>• Spatial focus of maps perhaps drew attention from wider/ non–spatial ideas<br>• Process has potential to raise unrealistic expectations which happened to an extent | • Allow ample time to conduct a community survey. All areas felt a lack of time to do the job well<br>• The questions should be specific to sustainability and include reference to long term and wider issues. |
| Agency methodology | | • Agencies had difficulty with theoretical nature of exercise/ lack of specific focus<br>• Short timescales for responses<br>• Didn't ask quite the same question of agencies as was asked of communities (eg. 'strengths' v 'likes') | • Plan the agency process carefully and devote adequate staff resources to it<br>• Ask agencies the same questions as communities<br>• Be very specific about the information wanted from agencies<br>• A local agency workshop should be held in each area in addition to the postal consultation |
| Training of PACs | • Very involving process<br>• Community process well developed<br>• Positive response from staff<br>• Staff well prepared for the task<br>• All objectives for training met | • Lack of focus on agency process<br>• Some inflexibility in the community process - eg. the formulating of questions to be asked<br>• No agency representatives present to give their perspective | • Involve agency representatives in training |
| **Community process** | | | |
| General | • Community participation on a whole was good<br>• Local people continued to show interest in Dùthchas.<br>• People were enthusiastic and open<br>• The process increased people's sense of worth<br>• People were not unrealistic and had plenty of realistic expectations<br>• Expectations must be raised if energy for action is to be generated.<br>• People have had big promises before and are not | • Some people felt rushed<br>• Some people did not understand its relevance<br>• Some people had a negative view of the Project from the start<br>• Process not always taken seriously<br>• Tended to put forward ideas already on the boil<br>• Danger of seeing this as a wish-list<br>• Ideas more social and economic – whereas most likes were environmental | • Informal approach works best.<br>• Make clear at the outset what the real potential of the Project is and what will happen to their ideas<br>• If people have previously undergone similar processes and not reaped the benefits from that experience, they will be less willing to participate.<br>• Encourage sharing of experience between facilitators to increase mutual understanding and confidence in the work |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | holding their breath | | |
| Division into sub-areas | • Related work to the units that communities work in<br>• Broke down work into manageable units<br>• Able to draw conclusions for individual communities | • Difficulty in aggregating data back up again to pilot area level | • Important to work in units that the communities themselves work in<br>• Important that all sub-areas are equally represented on the Area Advisory Groups |
| Publicity and press | • Project received regular local press coverage<br>• Profile of Project raised in each area | • Although publicity for the open meetings was thorough many people declared they had no knowledge of the meetings.<br>• Many people were unaware of the Duthchas Project or if they were, were not familiar with its aims.<br>• Several issues of mis-reporting occured, with repercussions for the Project and the communities | • Local staff need clarity as to dealing with the press - what can/ cannot be said<br>• Ask for a draft of the article before printing.<br>• Make sure the Project management see copy<br>• Use colours, pictures and user friendly language in adverts.<br>• Say to people: 'we'd really value your contribution'.<br>• Remember people often felt betrayed in the past by similar initiatives.<br>• Don't underestimate the importance of goodwill |
| Open meetings | • The majority of people who came to the public meetings were happy to participate and did so fully<br>• Open meetings elicited all the information that was required by the process | • Some communities had poor attendance at the open meetings. Possible reasons: the night chosen clashed with other events, or football/soaps on TV; had been lots of meeting already that week; an expectation of "just another meeting with no tangible result" ; "no-one wants to hear what I have to say anyway"<br>• Some areas had previously experienced a similar process with other projects, felt disillusioned with the results so were reluctant to participate. | • More than one facilitator be available, when there are more than two groups<br>• At the end of a meeting, give people a chance to write any comments, which they felt unable to add as a group.<br>• Make sure you are organised and at the venue well in advance.<br>• Be prepared for difficult questions.<br>• Always behave positively.<br>• Always take care with language used in meetings, even if those present are your friends<br>• Be inclusive, share your eye contact.<br>• Judgemental attitudes have no place in this work<br>• Never let an opportunity pass to acknowledge people's efforts.<br>• Give people an idea at the end of the evening what is going to happen next in the work |
| Out and about | • People were very co-operative and frank.<br>• Many people appreciated this approach and felt it was less formal than a meeting.<br>• Many people who were spoken to said that they never normally attended meetings, therefore this was the only way that their views could be obtained. | • People themselves were short of time<br>• Travelling distances were great<br>• Weather<br>• People you wanted to see were not in<br>• Other project commitments were distracting<br>• Time needed for people to articulate their thoughts<br>• Action plans seemed difficult to achieve out and about | • Out and about is extremely important<br>• Target places where there will be a captive audience (eg. shop, youth club, school, meetings)<br>• Knowing the community is essential – where to find people<br>• Avoid shops if they are too small as people feel rushed and in the way<br>• Give people time to settle into the idea<br>• Go out and about at an appropriate time of year |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Voting | • People found the voting process easy<br>• People could see good ideas that they hadn't thought of before<br>• You clearly saw priorities emerge | • Difficulty in rationalising a large number of ideas for manageable voting<br>• Children voting influenced the scoring<br>• Lack of privacy to vote<br>• Strong personalities influenced weaker ones<br>• Not a large cross section in each sub-area<br>• Some people had problems understanding the voting system on forms (Sutherland only)<br>• Some people felt there were too many ideas to vote on<br>• No method for recording the ideas people were against<br>• There was an instance of campaigning for an idea<br>• People voted on sub areas – but not on the overall area<br>• Process did not eliminate potential for double voting | • Give under 16's a separate sheet to compare responses.<br>• Provide opportunity for confidential voting<br>• Limit to one vote per idea<br>• Get people talking before the vote – eg newsletter<br>• Voting at exhibition is not enough – need to go out and about again with voting<br>• Need a system for recording negative votes<br>• Very important that voting is well organised and supervised to eliminate double voting<br>• Need to distinguish between sub area and pilot area ideas<br>• Allow for evolution of ideas |
| Recording local initiatives, information and resources | • Found out new information<br>• Made people really think about what they had in their area<br>• Tapped into the well of local knowledge<br>• Made people realise where they could get help | • This info was not well recorded or requested<br>• Information not complete<br>• Only done in relation to action plans which were only done at public meetings therefore not every one had a chance to contribute,<br>• Didn't ask agencies<br>• Time problem – cursory<br>• People couldn't see the relevance<br>• People think you should have the answers<br>• These are only valid for a certain period | • Clarify why this question needs to be answered<br>• Give this more priority – design process specifically<br>• This may be more appropriate at the task group stage<br>• Ask those who knew for more information |
| Tracking | • Helpful for identifying gaps at an early stage<br>• Showed a good cross section of age and gender were covered<br>• Very good geographical coverage achieved<br>• Involving of children | • Difficulty in getting to 18-25 year olds<br>• Only tracked age and gender – did we get a cross section of population ? | • Tracking essential to maintaining a balanced cross-section of community<br>• Need to identify areas or groups with poor representation at an early stage |
| Monitoring | • Monitoring happened informally – you instinctively knew if something was working | • There was not a formal process planned for monitoring throughout the Initial Review<br>• We had low scores on some objectives – this would have been picked up if we had monitored throughout | • Set up a formal monitoring framework at the start, train staff in this process<br>• Monitoring needs to happen throughout |
| **Agency Process** | | | |
| Agency workshop | | • Not all agencies attended the meeting<br>• Agencies that did attend didn't fully understand why the exercise was being undertaken<br>• Resulting data was of poor quality | • Only approach agencies for specific information, they find it difficult to deal with theoretical requests given other demands on their time |

| | Positives | Negatives | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agency questionnaire | • Managed to elicit data from most agencies which was comparable to community data, in a short timescale | • Questionnaire was sent to agency reps. on the Partnership Group who didn't always consult with the relevant people in their organisation<br>• Some uncertainty about what was being asked of them<br>• Data was of very variable quality | • Direct personal contacts should be made with agencies to support the exercise<br>• Contact should be made directly to local staff as well as regional and national staff |
| **Analysis/ presentation** | | | |
| Exhibitions | • Support for the Project from the communities increased enormously, reflected in the visitor numbers to the exhibitions and the tape slide shows.<br>• Relaxed atmosphere at exhibition<br>• People surprised by the amount of information<br>• Raised local confidence<br>• Venues/ locations were right<br>• Good Area Advisory Group support for exhibitions<br>• Raised profile of Project<br>• Well attended<br>• All information was there and transparent | • Difficulty of fully representing huge amount of data – space problem<br>• Needed more press coverage<br>• Uist should have had a launch<br>• Time of year – cold and wet – disadvantage | • Exhibition launches very important in raising profile/good will/ confidence<br>• Should have more time in each sub-area and more evening exhibitions<br>• Push the boat out for this kind of thing – it's worth it<br>• Use the skills of as many local people (especially children) as possible.<br>• Write thank you letters to everyone who has helped<br>• Allow plenty of setting up time<br>• If possible employ a professional to guide exhibition design<br>• Have support from Area Advisory Group in each area |
| Data analysis | • Made sense of a large amount of data<br>• Allowed conclusions to be drawn<br>• Allowed sustainability analysis to occur | • Not enough time budgeted<br>• Data processing contributed to delay in the overall project. | • The categories used should fall naturally out of the comments made however time should be taken to stand back and amend/ rationalise before all the data is grouped<br>• Categorisation of data should ideally be carried out by the same person<br>• Realistic time period should be budgeted for this work |

### 7.3    Evaluation

#### 7.3.1    Evaluation by communities

At each exhibition, visitors were asked to evaluate the exhibition, the survey process, the tape slide and the voting process.  Below are the results of this evaluation, given by pilot area.

**North Sutherland**

| Sub area | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| How well did it reflect the main issues for your community? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Very well* | | * | * | * | | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| *Quite well* | * | | | | * | | | | | | |
| *Not very well* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| How satisfied were you with the community survey process? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Very well* | | * | | * | | * | * | * | * | * | |
| *Quite well* | * | | * | | * | | | | | | * |
| *Not very well* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Did the tape-slide give a good idea of the issues in your area? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Very good* | * | | | * | | * | * | * | | * | * |
| *Quite good* | | | * | | | | | | * | | |
| *Not very good* | | | | | | | | | | | |

\* majority opinion

**Key to sub areas:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1= Durness | 2= Melness | 3= Tongue | 4= Skerray |
| 5= Strathnaver | 6= Altnaharra | 7= Bettyhill | 8= Armadale |
| 9= Strathy | 10= Melvich | 11= Halladale | |

**North Uist**

| Sub area | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **How well did it reflect the main issues for your community?** | | | | |
| *Very well* | 21 | 16 | 31 | 24 |
| *Quite well* | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| *Not very well* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **How satisfied were you with the community survey process?** | | | | |
| *Very well* | 17 | 10 | 28 | 22 |
| *Quite well* | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| *Not very well* | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| **Did the video give a good impression of the ideas?** | | | | |
| *Yes* | 10 | 9 | 21 | 19 |
| *No* | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| **Did you find the voting…** | | | | |
| *Easy?* | 23 | 17 | 32 | 24 |
| *Difficult?* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

1= Berneray     2= Lochmaddy   3= Bayhead     4= Sollas

NB There was no space at the Carinish /Grimsay exhibition to carry out this evaluation exercise.

## North Trotternish

In Trotternish, data was gathered for the pilot area as a whole.  This method and the questions asked were amended after the Trotternish exhibition, and before the exhibitions in Sutherland and North Uist.

| Questions | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| Was the information clear? | 79 | 7* |
| Does the information present a good picture of your area? | 82 | 8* |
| Was it easy to vote? | 84 | 7* |

\*  These votes all came from the same teenagers in Uig.

### 7.3.2    Evaluation by staff

A participatory Evaluation day was held for the Duthchas Project Team, facilitated by Scottish Participatory Initiatives, in May 1999.  This enabled staff to:
- review the Initial Review process they had conducted
- evaluate how well they had achieved the Initial Review objectives
- identify and record the positive and negative reasons for their evaluation
- identify and record the lessons they learned for the next phase of the Project
- to do the above in a non-threatening, structured and documented way.

Staff were split into two groups and evaluated how well they had achieved the Initial Review objectives, set at the initial training day  (listed in Section 3.1.1).

| Objectives | Group 1 Score | Group 2 Score | Average score |
|---|---|---|---|
| To meet with as wide a cross section of people living in each sub-area as possible in the time available | 9 | 8.5 | 8.75 |
| To enable these people to  identify and record what they like and dislike about their locality | 6.5 | 9 | 7.75 |
| To enable these people to identify and record ideas for the future well being of their locality | 7 | 7.5 | 7.25 |
| To enable these people to identify what ideas they prefer | 6 | 7.5 | 6.75 |
| To enable these people to identify and record what local initiatives exist and who is involved with these in the locality | 1.5 | 10/5 | |
| To enable these people to identify and record what local information and resources exist | 5.5 | 2.5 | 4 |
| To identify potential task group members for the top 3-5 local priority ideas | 8 | 1 | 4.5 |
| To engage positively with local people | 9.5 | 9 | 9.25 |
| To monitor how well the above objectives were being achieved throughout the process of the Initial Review | 5.5 | 2.5 | 4 |
| To plan end execute a major publicity and dissemination event in each sub-area at the end of the Initial Review | 9 | 9.5 | 9.25 |
| To not raise unrealistic expectations | 7.5 | 7 | 7.25 |

*NB.  The full Report of the Evaluation of the Initial Review is available upon request.*

# *APPENDICES*
## to the Initial Review Report

## *N o r t h   S u t h e r l a n d*

## *Dùthaich MhicAoidh*

## INITIAL REVIEW REPORT - APPENDICES
## CONTENTS

This document contains the appendices to the main report of the Initial review carried out by the Duthchas Project in North Sutherland over the winter of 1998/99. These appendices contain the raw data that was collected from both communities and agencies in the course of the initial review – in order to interpret this data, readers are referred to the main report.

An enormous amount of data was collected in the process of the Initial Review

|  | Likes | Dislikes | Ideas |
|---|---|---|---|
| North Sutherland | 512 | 444 | 581 |
| Trotternish | 491 | 481 | 766 |
| North Uist | 604 | 428 | 452 |

In order to make sense of this data, similar comments needed to be categorised and grouped together. The categories used were derived from going through a sample of the data and grouping similar comments, then naming the group. Firstly, all comments were categorised as either:

E        Environmental
S        Social
Ec      Economic

Then, within those categorised as 'E', comments were coded from 1 – 10, to further break down the grouping. Similarly this was done for those categorised 'S' and 'Ec'. Each and every comment made was categorised according to this system. This exercise was carried out centrally, to ensure comparability between the pilot areas.

This then enabled the number of times an issue was mentioned to be counted (and thus the popularity of the issue amongst respondents). Also within each category the individual comments could be analysed as to what exactly it was about the issue that people felt was important. A summary of this information is given below in the analysis of the data. Further analysis of the data is given in section 6, in relation to sustainability. Full listings of the data are to be found in the appendices.

The same system was used to code the comments made by the agencies, thus enabling the data to be integrated and compared. It was very important to do this integration, as it allowed us to see where agencies and communities agreed, the issues that agencies were particularly interested in (but communities not) and vice versa.

The table below lists the categories used to sort the data:

| No. | E | No. | S | No. | Ec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Scenery/landscape | 1 | Community spirit/values | 1 | Shops/ cost of living |
| 2 | Walks/access | 2 | Local democracy/partnership | 2 | Transport/traffic |
| 3 | Natural environment /animals/plants | 3 | People & population | 3 | Agriculture/ Crofting |
| 4 | Water/sea/beach | 4 | Quality of life | 4 | Game – shooting/ angling |
| 5 | Land/hills | 5 | Culture, history & traditions | 5 | Tourism |
| 6 | Air | 6 | Education/ training | 6 | Sea fishing/ harbours |
| 7 | Weather | 7 | Remote/rural/small | 7 | Industry/factories |
| 8 | Noise | 8 | Safety/crime | 8 | Power/telecom |
| 9 | Pollution/ waste | 9 | Religion (inc Columba 1400) | 9 | Employment |
| 10 | Peace quiet/ space | 10 | Recreation/sport | 10 | Forestry |
|  |  | 11 | Housing | 11 | Local produce |
|  |  | 12 | Community facilities | 12 | Marketing |
|  |  | 13 | Health | 13 | General economy |
|  |  | 14 | Water & sewerage | 14 | IT |
|  |  |  |  | 15 | Aggregates |

## APPENDIX 1
## NORTH SUTHERLAND - COMMUNITY LIKES

| Comment | Code | No. | Suggested by |
|---|---|---|---|
| Scenery | E | 1 | Altna |
| The beautiful views | E | 1 | Altna |
| Views | E | 1 | Altna |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Arma |
| Landscape | E | 1 | Arma |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Arma |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Arma |
| Scenic beauty | E | 1 | Betty |
| Beautiful scenery | E | 1 | Betty |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Betty |
| Rugged scenery | E | 1 | Betty |
| Spectacular scenery | E | 1 | Betty |
| The scenery | E | 1 | Betty |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Betty |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Betty |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Betty |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Betty |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Betty |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Betty |
| Like the situation where I live – best views in the country | E | 1 | Betty |
| Beautiful country | E | 1 | Dur |
| Lovely environment | E | 1 | Dur |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Dur |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Dur |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Hal |
| The setting in the countryside | E | 1 | Hal |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Hal |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Hal |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Meln |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Meln |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Meln |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Meln |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Meln |
| The place | E | 1 | Meln |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Sker |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Sker |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Sker |
| Natural beauty | E | 1 | Sker |
| Scenic area to live in | E | 1 | Sker |
| The view from my house across Torrisdale Bay | E | 1 | Sker |
| The scenery | E | 1 | Sker |
| The views | E | 1 | Sker |
| Autumn colours | E | 1 | Strathn |
| Beautiful countryside | E | 1 | Strathn |
| The scenery | E | 1 | Strathn |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Strathy |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Strathy |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Strathy |
| Views | E | 1 | Strathy |
| Landscape and seascape | E | 1 | Strathy |
| Landscape | e | 1 | Strathy |
| Scenery | E | 1 | Ton |
| Views | E | 1 | Ton |
| Picturesque views and scenery | E | 1 | Ton |
| Peaceful scenery | E | 1 | Ton |
| Beautiful scenery | E | 1 | Ton |
| Beautiful scenery | E | 1 | Ton |
| Beautiful scenery | E | 1 | Ton |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beautiful scenery | E | 1 | Ton |
| Beautiful scenery | E | 1 | Ton |
| The scenery is wonderful | E | 1 | Ton |
| Views – Coldbackie Sands, Kyle, Ben Loyal | E | 1 | Ton |
| Glorious scenery | E | 1 | Ton |
| Walks / fishing | E | 2 | Betty |
| Nice walks | E | 2 | Betty |
| Access to mountains, rivers and sea | E | 2 | Betty |
| Freedom to roam on these beautiful hills | E | 2 | Dur |
| There's plenty to walk about | E | 2 | Dur |
| Go for a walk without worrying about trespassing | E | 2 | Melv |
| Access to beaches | E | 2 | Strathy |
| Scenery | E | 2 | Ton |
| Walks | E | 2 | Ton |
| Hill walking | E | 2 | Ton |
| Hill walking | E | 2 | Ton |
| Hill walking | E | 2 | Ton |
| Hill walking | E | 2 | Ton |
| Hill walking | E | 2 | Ton |
| Hill walking | E | 2 | Ton |
| Walks (off road) | E | 2 | Ton |
| The flora and fauna | E | 3 | Arma |
| Wilderness, unspoilt, flora & fauna | E | 3 | Betty |
| Relatively unspoilt environment | E | 3 | Betty |
| Being close to nature | E | 3 | Betty |
| Environment – cliffs, walks etc | E | 3 | Meln |
| Wildlife | E | 3 | Meln |
| Natural world (sea, land, beach) | E | 3 | Melv |
| The countryside/seaside environment | E | 3 | Melv |
| The countryside | E | 3 | Melv |
| The animals | E | 3 | Melv |
| Environment | E | 3 | Sker |
| Environment | E | 3 | Sker |
| Physical environment | E | 3 | Sker |
| Wild, clean countryside and wildlife | E | 3 | Sker |
| The wild life | E | 3 | Strathn |
| Unspoilt area | E | 3 | Strathn |
| Birds | E | 3 | Strathy |
| Flowers | E | 3 | Strathy |
| Wildlife | E | 3 | Strathy |
| Environment | E | 3 | Strathy |
| Wildlife | E | 3 | Strathy |
| Environment | e | 3 | Strathy |
| Nature | E | 3 | Strathy |
| Scenery | E | 3 | Ton |
| Nature/birdlife | E | 3 | Ton |
| Wildlife | E | 3 | Ton |
| Wildlife | E | 3 | Ton |
| Wildlife | E | 3 | Ton |
| Trees (not pines) | E | 3 | Ton |
| Nice woodland | E | 3 | Ton |
| The River Mudale | E | 4 | Altna |
| The beach | E | 4 | Arma |
| The beach | E | 4 | Arma |
| The beach | E | 4 | Arma |
| The beach | E | 4 | Arma |
| Good beaches | E | 4 | Arma |
| Beaches | E | 4 | Arma |
| Sandy beach to walk on | E | 4 | Betty |
| Beaches | E | 4 | Betty |
| Unspoilt beach landscape | E | 4 | Betty |
| Beaches | E | 4 | Dur |
| Coastal scenery and habitats | E | 4 | Hal |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| The beach | E | 4 | Melv |
| Beach | E | 4 | Melv |
| River | E | 4 | Melv |
| Beaches and views | E | 4 | Melv |
| Unspoilt beaches and rugged landscape | E | 4 | Melv |
| Sea coast | E | 4 | Sker |
| Beautiful beach | E | 4 | Sker |
| The river | E | 4 | Strathn |
| River | E | 4 | Strathn |
| Beach | E | 4 | Strathy |
| Beach | E | 4 | Strathy |
| Seaside | E | 4 | Strathy |
| Sea | E | 4 | Strathy |
| Beach | E | 4 | Strathy |
| Beaches | E | 4 | Ton |
| Beaches | E | 4 | Ton |
| Coldbackie beach | E | 4 | Ton |
| Ben Klibreck | E | 5 | Altna |
| Ben Klibreck | E | 5 | Altna |
| The hills | E | 5 | Altna |
| Rocks | E | 5 | Arma |
| Peat hill | E | 5 | Arma |
| Hills | E | 5 | Arma |
| The naturalness of the peatlands | E | 5 | Hal |
| The hills | e | 5 | Hal |
| Land opportunities | E | 5 | Meln |
| The hills and open space for walking | E | 5 | Melv |
| Hills | E | 5 | Melv |
| Hill | E | 5 | Strathy |
| Hills | E | 5 | Strathy |
| Hills and moors | E | 5 | Ton |
| Ben Loyal | E | 5 | Ton |
| Clean air | E | 6 | Betty |
| Fresh air. Smell of peat fires | E | 6 | Betty |
| Clean air | E | 6 | Betty |
| Fresh air | E | 6 | Betty |
| Fresh air | E | 6 | Dur |
| Lovely clean air | E | 6 | Sker |
| Fresh air | E | 6 | Ton |
| Clean air | E | 6 | Ton |
| Watching the sky and weather | E | 7 | Arma |
| Lack of pollution | E | 9 | Arma |
| Pollution free | E | 9 | Betty |
| Clean environment | E | 9 | Strathy |
| Clean environment | E | 9 | Ton |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Altna |
| The peace & quiet & the remoteness of it | E | 10 | Altna |
| Peacefulness | E | 10 | Arma |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Arma |
| Open spaces | E | 10 | Arma |
| Tranquility | E | 10 | Arma |
| Sense of my own space | E | 10 | Betty |
| Lots of space & fresh air | E | 10 | Betty |
| Freedom to roam | E | 10 | Betty |
| The ambience | E | 10 | Betty |
| Open space | E | 10 | Betty |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Betty |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Betty |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Betty |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Betty |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Betty |
| Freedom | E | 10 | Betty |
| Tranquility | E | 10 | Betty |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Space | E | 10 | Betty |
| Open countryside | E | 10 | Betty |
| Calm | E | 10 | Betty |
| The open space | E | 10 | Betty |
| Peaceful | E | 10 | Betty |
| Peace and quiet (usually!) | E | 10 | Betty |
| Scenery and open space – not built up area | E | 10 | Betty |
| Peaceful, remote | E | 10 | Dur |
| Tranquility | E | 10 | Dur |
| Quiet place | E | 10 | Dur |
| Nice place | E | 10 | Dur |
| Freedom | E | 10 | Dur |
| Peaceful | E | 10 | Hal |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Hal |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Hal |
| Freedom of space | E | 10 | Hal |
| Space | E | 10 | Hal |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Meln |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Meln |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Melv |
| The peace and quiet | E | 10 | Melv |
| The peace and quiet | E | 10 | Melv |
| Freedom | E | 10 | Melv |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Sker |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Sker |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Sker |
| The ambience | E | 10 | Sker |
| Peace and quiet | e | 10 | Sker |
| The atmosphere and everything | E | 10 | Sker |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Sker |
| Peace quiet & tranquility | E | 10 | Strathn |
| Quietness | E | 10 | Strathn |
| Freedom | E | 10 | Strathn |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Strathn |
| Tranquility | E | 10 | Strathn |
| Quietness | E | 10 | Strathn |
| Freedom | E | 10 | Strathn |
| Space | E | 10 | Strathy |
| Freedom | E | 10 | Strathy |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Strathy |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Strathy |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Strathy |
| Freedom | E | 10 | Strathy |
| Peace and tranquility | E | 10 | Strathy |
| Wide open spaces | E | 10 | Ton |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Ton |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Ton |
| Peace and quiet | E | 10 | Ton |
| Quiet | E | 10 | Ton |
| Well stocked shops | Ec | 1 | Betty |
| Local shop and hotel open all year round | Ec | 1 | Hal |
| Shop and community | Ec | 1 | Melv |
| Post office | Ec | 1 | Melv |
| Post office | Ec | 1 | Melv |
| Shop | Ec | 1 | Melv |
| Shop | Ec | 1 | Melv |
| Hotel | Ec | 1 | Melv |
| Hotel | Ec | 1 | Melv |
| Restaurant | Ec | 1 | Melv |
| The village shop | Ec | 1 | Sker |
| Jimsons | Ec | 1 | Sker |
| Local shops | Ec | 1 | Ton |
| Bank | Ec | 1 | Ton |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| The post bus | EC | 2 | Altna |
| No traffic congestion | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Lack of heavy traffic | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Quiet roads | Ec | 2 | Hal |
| The new roads that have been done | Ec | 2 | Meln |
| Not much traffic | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| The sheep | Ec | 3 | Arma |
| The sheep | Ec | 3 | Arma |
| The sheep | Ec | 3 | Arma |
| Sheep on the hills | Ec | 3 | Arma |
| Being able to cut peats | Ec | 3 | Arma |
| Farming | Ec | 3 | Dur |
| Cut peats | Ec | 3 | Melv |
| Productive land | Ec | 3 | Sker |
| Crofting | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Having a croft | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Sheep and cattle | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Horses | ec | 3 | Ton |
| Vast potential for tourism – e.g. water sports | ec | 5 | Dur |
| Visitor centre RSPB Forsinard | Ec | 5 | Hal |
| The fishing | EC | 6 | Altna |
| Pier and harbour | Ec | 6 | Meln |
| Pier and harbour | Ec | 6 | Meln |
| Pier and harbour | Ec | 6 | Meln |
| Potential of sea/forestry land | Ec | 6 | Sker |
| Fishing | Ec | 6 | Strathy |
| Fishing | Ec | 6 | Ton |
| Fishing | Ec | 6 | Ton |
| Fishing | Ec | 6 | Ton |
| Oyster farming | Ec | 6 | Ton |
| Kyle of Tongue fishing | Ec | 6 | Ton |
| Fishing off the beach | Ec | 6 | Ton |
| Fishing | Ec | 6 | Ton |
| Fishing | Ec | 6 | Ton |
| Fishing | Ec | 6 | Ton |
| My job | EC | 9 | Altna |
| Job | Ec | 9 | Dur |
| Job | Ec | 9 | Dur |
| Scope for artistic and practical work activities | Ec | 9 | Sker |
| Forestry | Ec | 10 | Sker |
| The community | S | 1 | Altna |
| Freedom – as free as you can be in any country | S | 1 | Arma |
| Freedom to come and go as wanted | S | 1 | Arma |
| Local self-reliance | S | 1 | Betty |
| Equality within community | S | 1 | Betty |
| Fantastic community spirit | S | 1 | Betty |
| Caring community | S | 1 | Betty |
| Feeling of belonging | S | 1 | Betty |
| A good caring community | S | 1 | Dur |
| Close community | S | 1 | Dur |
| I belong here | S | 1 | Dur |
| Relatively original local communities | S | 1 | Hal |
| Community spirit | S | 1 | Hal |
| Good community | S | 1 | Hal |
| Community working together | S | 1 | Hal |
| Good community | S | 1 | Meln |
| The culture | S | 1 | Meln |
| Not needing to rush | S | 1 | Meln |
| Decision making | S | 1 | Meln |
| Member have their own say and control in community | S | 1 | Meln |
| I like the place because its where I belong | S | 1 | Melv |
| Home for many generations | S | 1 | Melv |
| Born in the village | S | 1 | Melv |

| Do my own thing | S | 1 | Melv |
|---|---|---|---|
| I live here because all my family are here and I can let my children out themselves and not have to worry | S | 1 | Melv |
| Good social life | S | 1 | Sker |
| Sense of community | S | 1 | Sker |
| Community | S | 1 | Sker |
| The community | S | 1 | Sker |
| Community spirit | S | 1 | Sker |
| Community spirit | S | 1 | Sker |
| My roots | S | 1 | Sker |
| Sense of belonging | S | 1 | Sker |
| The community | S | 1 | Sker |
| Friendly and active community | S | 1 | Sker |
| Community way of life | S | 1 | Strathn |
| Community | s | 1 | Strathy |
| Close-knit community | S | 1 | Strathy |
| Community | S | 1 | Strathy |
| Community spirit | S | 1 | Ton |
| Close community | S | 1 | Ton |
| Everybody knows everybody | S | 1 | Ton |
| Friendliness | S | 3 | Altna |
| Friendliness of the people | S | 3 | Arma |
| No hassle from neighbours | S | 3 | Arma |
| The people | S | 3 | Arma |
| Friendly people | S | 3 | Betty |
| People | S | 3 | Betty |
| People | S | 3 | Betty |
| People | S | 3 | Betty |
| People | S | 3 | Betty |
| Fascinating family interconnections | S | 3 | Betty |
| People | S | 3 | Betty |
| The local people | S | 3 | Betty |
| Friendly people in the area | S | 3 | Betty |
| People friendly | s | 3 | Dur |
| Acquaintanceship and knowing people | S | 3 | Dur |
| Plenty friends | S | 3 | Dur |
| People | S | 3 | Dur |
| People | S | 3 | Dur |
| People | S | 3 | Dur |
| Good neighbours | S | 3 | Hal |
| Neighbours | S | 3 | Hal |
| The people | S | 3 | Meln |
| The people | S | 3 | Meln |
| The people | S | 3 | Meln |
| The people | S | 3 | Meln |
| Neighbours | S | 3 | Meln |
| Community and neighbours etc. | S | 3 | Melv |
| The people (some exceptions but in general good) | S | 3 | Melv |
| People | S | 3 | Melv |
| All my family live here | S | 3 | Melv |
| Good neighbours | S | 3 | Melv |
| Honest living people | S | 3 | Sker |
| Neighbourliness | S | 3 | Sker |
| Co-operation of neighbours | S | 3 | Sker |
| Friendly neighbours | S | 3 | Sker |
| Co-operation with tasks | S | 3 | Sker |
| Nice people | S | 3 | Sker |
| The people | S | 3 | Sker |
| Friendliness of everyone | S | 3 | Sker |
| The people | S | 3 | Strathn |
| The people | S | 3 | Strathn |
| The people | S | 3 | Strathn |
| The people | S | 3 | Strathn |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| The people | S | 3 | Strathn |
| Able to do what you want without any neighbour complaining | S | 3 | Strathn |
| People | S | 3 | Strathy |
| People's attitiude towards life | S | 3 | Ton |
| People | S | 3 | Ton |
| Locals | S | 3 | Ton |
| People | S | 3 | Ton |
| Nice folk | S | 3 | Ton |
| Friendly local folks | S | 3 | Ton |
| Good neigbours | S | 3 | Ton |
| Quality of life | S | 4 | Betty |
| Unique part of British Mainland with different lifestyle to townships | S | 4 | Dur |
| Peaceful way of life | s | 4 | Dur |
| Independence | S | 4 | Hal |
| Raising children in a generally above average environment | S | 4 | Hal |
| Way of life | S | 4 | Hal |
| Good environment for children | S | 4 | Sker |
| Pace of life | S | 4 | Sker |
| Good environment for children | S | 4 | Sker |
| Pace of life | S | 4 | Strathy |
| Museum | S | 5 | Betty |
| Historical family links | S | 5 | Hal |
| Potential talent for artistry of all kinds | S | 5 | Meln |
| Clan Mackay | S | 5 | Meln |
| History | S | 5 | Meln |
| The Gaelic Centre | S | 5 | Meln |
| The Gaelic Centre | S | 5 | Meln |
| Our tradition and heritage | S | 5 | Meln |
| Heritage (preserving what life up here is all about but also going forward while respecting the environment and heritage) | S | 5 | Melv |
| Gaelic culture and language | S | 5 | Sker |
| The culture | S | 5 | Strathn |
| Historic ruins | S | 5 | Ton |
| Archaeology | S | 5 | Ton |
| Historical and  cultural values still of interest/available | S | 5 | Ton |
| Primary and secondary school nearby | S | 6 | Betty |
| Good school/education | S | 6 | Betty |
| School – children get an excellent education | S | 6 | Betty |
| Good education for kids | S | 6 | Hal |
| Schooling | S | 6 | Meln |
| Schooling | S | 6 | Meln |
| School | S | 6 | Melv |
| Schools | S | 6 | Melv |
| Education system | S | 6 | Melv |
| The schools | S | 6 | Strathn |
| Tongue School | S | 6 | Ton |
| Playgroup | S | 6 | Ton |
| Population density | S | 7 | Altna |
| Living in a small community | S | 7 | Arma |
| Not too many people | S | 7 | Betty |
| Better than town life | S | 7 | Betty |
| Close enough to communicate with the rest of the world | S | 7 | Betty |
| 2 hours from Inverness | S | 7 | Dur |
| It's small | S | 7 | Dur |
| Small population | S | 7 | Hal |
| Small community | S | 7 | Meln |
| Country living instead of town and city living | S | 7 | Melv |
| Remote | s | 7 | Sker |
| Remoteness | S | 7 | Sker |
| Distance from urban centre (no rurality) | S | 7 | Sker |
| Sparsity of population | S | 7 | Sker |
| Rural environment | s | 7 | Strathy |
| Lack of overcrowding | s | 7 | Strathy |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| You don't need to lock doors (house or car) | S | 8 | Arma |
| Feeling safe | S | 8 | Betty |
| Children's wellbeing | S | 8 | Betty |
| Low crime | S | 8 | Betty |
| Freedom from crime | S | 8 | Betty |
| Safety | S | 8 | Betty |
| Honesty | S | 8 | Betty |
| No crime | S | 8 | Betty |
| Safe environment for bringing up a family | S | 8 | Betty |
| The fact that I do not have to worry about the security of my property | S | 8 | Betty |
| No crime in this area | S | 8 | Dur |
| There are no drugs | S | 8 | Dur |
| There are no drugs | S | 8 | Dur |
| No crime | S | 8 | Hal |
| Not having to lock up all the time – safe | S | 8 | Meln |
| Lack of crime | S | 8 | Melv |
| Safe for kids | S | 8 | Melv |
| Great place to bring up children – safe and space | S | 8 | Melv |
| More freedom for your children than there would be in a town | S | 8 | Melv |
| Freedom from crime | S | 8 | Sker |
| No crime | S | 8 | Sker |
| No crime | S | 8 | Sker |
| Safe, nice area | S | 8 | Sker |
| not having to lock up everything | S | 8 | Sker |
| Being able to leave doors unlocked | S | 8 | Sker |
| No crime | S | 8 | Sker |
| The lack of crime | S | 8 | Strathn |
| Safe environment | S | 8 | Strathn |
| Free of crime | S | 8 | Strathn |
| Freedom for children | S | 8 | Strathy |
| Not too many security worries | S | 8 | Ton |
| Safe environment for children | S | 8 | Ton |
| Low rate of crime | S | 8 | Ton |
| Hardly any crime exists | S | 8 | Ton |
| Safe area to bring up children | S | 8 | Ton |
| Children are safe | S | 8 | Ton |
| Children can still play safely outside | S | 8 | Ton |
| Very little or no crime | S | 8 | Ton |
| No crime | S | 8 | Ton |
| No crime | S | 8 | Ton |
| No crime | S | 8 | Ton |
| Little or no crime | S | 8 | Ton |
| I love my church | S | 9 | Melv |
| Sport | S | 10 | Altna |
| Watching ships going past | S | 10 | Arma |
| Going on quad | S | 10 | Arma |
| Going surfing | S | 10 | Arma |
| Good dances | S | 10 | Arma |
| Local swimming facilities | S | 10 | Betty |
| Creative opportunities | S | 10 | Dur |
| Golf course | S | 10 | Dur |
| Sport | S | 10 | Dur |
| Sports | S | 10 | Dur |
| Swimming pool at Bettyhill | S | 10 | Melv |
| Country pursuits like fishing and walking | S | 10 | Melv |
| The hall activities | S | 10 | Sker |
| Like to see things happen and keeping the place alive | S | 10 | Sker |
| Social life!! | S | 10 | Strathy |
| Lunch club | S | 10 | Strathy |
| Beach bathing | S | 10 | Ton |
| Swimming | S | 10 | Ton |
| Playpark | S | 10 | Ton |
| Cycling around the Kyle | S | 10 | Ton |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Outdoor recreation sports | S | 10 | Ton |
| My home and my garden | S | 11 | Altna |
| Home | S | 11 | Dur |
| Home | S | 11 | Dur |
| Caladh Sona unit | S | 11 | Meln |
| Caladh Sona | S | 11 | Meln |
| Caladh Sona | S | 11 | Ton |
| Everything convenient at your hand – school, swimming pool etc. | S | 12 | Betty |
| The hall | S | 12 | Sker |
| The hall and things in it | S | 12 | Sker |
| Village hall | S | 12 | Sker |
| Hall | S | 12 | Strathy |
| New hall | S | 12 | Strathy |

# APPENDIX 2
# NORTH SUTHERLAND - COMMUNITY DISLIKES

| Comment | Code | No. | Suggested by |
|---|---|---|---|
| Signs and restrictions at the beach | E | 2 | Melv |
| Lack of access to beaches | E | 2 | Tongue |
| No paths | E | 2 | Tongue |
| Lack of trees | E | 3 | Arma |
| Lack of care for the environment | E | 3 | Meln |
| Lack of trees | E | 3 | Melv |
| Wasting money on the bushes and plants in areas that don't require it and are not even kept tidy | E | 3 | Melv |
| Deer on the road | E | 3 | Strathn |
| Dogs running loose – especially at the beach | E | 4 | Melv |
| Beach | E | 4 | Strathy |
| Mucky beach | E | 4 | Strathy |
| Lack of discussion on land issues | E | 5 | Meln |
| The short days of winter | E | 7 | Altna |
| The weather | E | 7 | Altna |
| Rainy weather | E | 7 | Arma |
| Wind and rain | E | 7 | Arma |
| Weather | E | 7 | Arma |
| The winds | E | 7 | Betty |
| Climate | E | 7 | Betty |
| Weather | E | 7 | Dur |
| Wet weather | E | 7 | Halla |
| The cold | E | 7 | Melv |
| The wind | E | 7 | Melv |
| The wet and windy weather | E | 7 | Melv |
| Weather | E | 7 | Sker |
| Inclement weather | E | 7 | Sker |
| Wind | E | 7 | Strathy |
| Too much rain nowadays | E | 7 | Strathy |
| Weather | E | 7 | Tongue |
| Weather | E | 7 | Tongue |
| Untidiness – no grass cutting | E | 9 | Arma |
| Litter in village | E | 9 | Betty |
| The acceptance by some people that they can dump rubbish (incl. old cars) anywhere they like making Bettyhill look like a tip at times | E | 9 | Betty |
| Litter | E | 9 | Meln |
| Litter | E | 9 | Meln |
| Litter | E | 9 | Meln |
| Rubbish left around | E | 9 | Meln |
| Lack of public notices in areas like the beach to try to stop people leaving their litter | E | 9 | Melv |
| Remains of dead vehicles | E | 9 | Sker |
| Blots on the landscape – dead vehicles | E | 9 | Strathy |
| Litter | E | 9 | Tongue |
| Litter | E | 9 | Tongue |
| Junk | E | 9 | Tongue |
| Barren-ness | E | 10 | Betty |
| Too bare, not enough growth | E | 10 | Betty |
| Prices in shops | Ec | 1 | Arma |
| Lack of facilities (ie shops) | Ec | 1 | Arma |
| Cost of living | Ec | 1 | Betty |
| High retail prices | Ec | 1 | Betty |
| Pubs | Ec | 1 | Betty |
| No proper restaurant | Ec | 1 | Dur |
| Lack of facilities: banks, shops, cinema, swimming pool, bowling alley etc. | Ec | 1 | Dur |
| High cost of everything | Ec | 1 | Meln |
| High cost of everything | Ec | 1 | Meln |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lack of interesting food in the supermarkets | Ec | 1 | Melv |
| I don't like travelling to Thurso etc. for shopping especially in the winter | Ec | 1 | Melv |
| Post office is too far away | ec | 1 | Melv |
| Fuel/goods too expensive | Ec | 1 | Sker |
| Expensive shopping | Ec | 1 | Sker |
| The Borgie Hotel as it is now | Ec | 1 | Sker |
| Poor amenities | Ec | 1 | Sker |
| No shops | Ec | 1 | Sker |
| High cost of living | Ec | 1 | Sker |
| Lack of shops | Ec | 1 | Strathy |
| No shopping facilities | Ec | 1 | Strathy |
| Distance from shopping facilities etc | Ec | 1 | Strathy |
| No shops | Ec | 1 | Strathy |
| No shopping centres ie. Tescos, clothing, shops | Ec | 1 | Tongue |
| Far too expensive! Petrol! And food | Ec | 1 | Tongue |
| High cost of living | Ec | 1 | Tongue |
| The difficulty of single track in the summer | EC | 2 | Altna |
| Lack of maintenance of roads & verges | EC | 2 | Altna |
| Street furniture at cross roads | EC | 2 | Altna |
| Cars driving too fast through the village | EC | 2 | Altna |
| The price of petrol | EC | 2 | Altna |
| Traffic management in the village | EC | 2 | Altna |
| Non existent public transport system | EC | 2 | Altna |
| No buses | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Condition of the roads | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Condition of the roads | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Condition of the roads | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| No transport to entertainment | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Single track roads | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Not enough transport to Thurso by buses | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| No real dislikes but transport is a major problem for non car users | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Transport | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Mangled cutting of trees at road | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Constant travel for work | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Poor public transport | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Poor roads | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Untidy verges | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| The transport | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| State of roads, degrading side roads | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Lack of public transport | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Single track roads and Poor State of repair | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Poor roads | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Transport – individualised, expensive, hard on cars and environmentally blinkered.  Need for better provision and lift sharing systems | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Not enough public transport | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Poor road maintenance | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Lack of public transport | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Lack of road and paths maintenance | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Poor public transport | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Lack of public transport | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Difficult to get about | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Street lights (only to be in built up areas) | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Double track roads | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Too many large signs | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| HC waste money e.g. New road (Strathy – Armadale) repair cost loads – still a bump.  Money would have been better spent on cattlegrids for Farr School | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| No proper sign for the swimming pool – cars park at Munro Pl. and residents can't park – no room left | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Single track roads | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| The state of the roads in Sutherland | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| No lighting at the public telephone box in Kirtomy | Ec | 2 | Betty |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| No transport for the Kirtomy/Swordly school children by the Education Authority | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| All the costs including travel which we think of as extra tax | Ec | 2 | Dur |
| Public transport | Ec | 2 | Dur |
| Roads and transport links | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Cost of fuel/petrol in the North | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Roads could be improved | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Transport costs | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Petrol costs | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Necessity and cost of transport | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| No public transport | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Petrol prices | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Poor roads | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Fuel prices!!! (particularly hurtful in an area like this – no transport, long way from shops etc. | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| No transport | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Cost of transport (deliveries and personal) | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Roads in winter | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Too dependent on cars for transport | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Transport | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Train times | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Roads – passing place problems | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Lack of consultation when studies are done ie. the pier | Ec | 2 | Meln |
| Poor roads | Ec | 2 | Meln |
| Difficulty in getting about for shopping etc. | Ec | 2 | Meln |
| Difficulty in getting about for shopping etc. | Ec | 2 | Meln |
| Poor roads | Ec | 2 | Meln |
| No public transport | ec | 2 | Meln |
| Condition of the public roads | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Lack of co-ordinated transport system | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Poor road system west of Melvich | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Roads in poor condition | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Insensitivity upgrading roads into speed lanes | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| No regular affordable transport (car required) | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Cost of petrol | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| The roads (local) | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| Price of petrol | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| Lack of public transport | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| Roads | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| The astonishing amount of traffic | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| The road beside the cemetery a hazard in icy weather | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| Cutting of whins, trees etc at the roadside | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| Dangerous road system | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| Poor services eg. buses, power supply, shops | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| Petrol prices increase the cost of living | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| Poor road conditions | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| The roads | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| Poor road maintenance | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Roads | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Use of brushcutter to cut verges | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Lack of maintenance of roads | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Lack of maintenance of roads | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Condition of forest car track | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Salt pit at roadend | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Salt pit at roadend | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Salt pit at roadend | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| No public transport system | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| The cost of fuel | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Roads | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Roads | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Speeding trafic through middle of community | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Bus service | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Lack of a speed limit through Strathy | Ec | 2 | Strathy |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Transport facilities | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Bad road network | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Lack of transport | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Cost of fuel in remote areas | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Transport/roads | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Lack of public transport | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Better bus service – shouldn't have to have a car | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Bad roads | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Limited walking with prams | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Bad roads through the village | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| No street lights or paving at Brae | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Lack of regular transport facilities | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Bad roads | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Lack of road sweeper in village – vehicle's visits infrequent | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Road surface/pavement uneven in main street | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Lack of public transport | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Lack of public transport | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| The quality of our roads | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Road conditions | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Fuel prices | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Poor public transport and roads | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Roads | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Lack of good roads | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| High cost of commercial transport and services ie. Council and water costs to local businesses | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Poor speed limits | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Having to pay the same road tax as the rest of the country | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Lack of regular public transport all year round that is advertised properly | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| High cost of petrol | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| High cost of petrol | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| No public transport | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Lack of public transport | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| Lack of public transport | Ec | 2 | Sker |
| Sheep in the garden | Ec | 3 | Betty |
| Marauding sheep | Ec | 3 | Betty |
| Sheep wandering on the road | Ec | 3 | Betty |
| SHEEP | Ec | 3 | Betty |
| Sheep eating everything/growth | Ec | 3 | Betty |
| Sheep in village problem | Ec | 3 | Betty |
| Sheep in village | Ec | 3 | Betty |
| Sheep fouling within cattlegrid areas of village | Ec | 3 | Betty |
| Sheep dirt in the village | Ec | 3 | Betty |
| Sheep left to wander all over the village making an awful mess especially in the school grounds | Ec | 3 | Betty |
| Messy sheep | Ec | 3 | Dur |
| State of crofting | Ec | 3 | Dur |
| Lack of control of livestock – ring fence for inner hill grazing | Ec | 3 | Meln |
| Cattle / sheep in village | Ec | 3 | Meln |
| Cattle / sheep in village | Ec | 3 | Meln |
| Sheep out on the pavements | Ec | 3 | Melv |
| Sheep in the village wandering – dirt – open township | Ec | 3 | Melv |
| Open township and sheep | Ec | 3 | Melv |
| Broken-down fences | Ec | 3 | Sker |
| Unused croft land | Ec | 3 | Sker |
| Multi ownership/use of crofts | Ec | 3 | Sker |
| sheep | ec | 3 | Strathn |
| Restrictions on what and how we work the land | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Absentee landlords and absentee crofters | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Crofts going to waste – no crop rotation | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Sheep on hill | Ec | 3 | Tongue |
| Unfenced sheep | Ec | 3 | Tongue |
| Cattle on the beach at Talmine | Ec | 3 | Tongue |
| Disagreeable landowners | Ec | 3 | Tongue |

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|---|---|---|---|
| The price of sheep and cattle | Ec | 3 | Tongue |
| Concentrated land holdings | ec | 3 | Sker |
| The disregard the hill walkers & hikers give to shutting gates | EC | 5 | Altna |
| Better advertising of accommodation within the village | Ec | 5 | Betty |
| Lack of tourists | Ec | 5 | Dur |
| Holiday housing | Ec | 5 | Meln |
| Day trippers on a Sunday to the beach where there are no amenities | Ec | 5 | Strathy |
| Lack of local visitors and facilities | Ec | 5 | Tongue |
| TongueB&B not widely advertised | ec | 5 | Tongue |
| Lack of tourist information | Ec | 5 | Tongue |
| Buildings at harbour | Ec | 6 | Sker |
| Fishers | Ec | 6 | Strathn |
| No fishing | Ec | 6 | Tongue |
| RAF low flyers | EC | 7 | Altna |
| UKAEA | ec | 7 | Arma |
| White elephant (industrial units) | Ec | 7 | Melv |
| Money wasted on building industrial units in Melvich | Ec | 7 | Melv |
| Low flying planes | Ec | 7 | Strathy |
| UKAEA | Ec | 7 | Strathy |
| Lack of communications | Ec | 8 | Arma |
| Frequent power failure | Ec | 8 | Betty |
| Frequent power failure | Ec | 8 | Betty |
| Poor radio and television reception | Ec | 8 | Halla |
| Poor radio reception | Ec | 8 | Halla |
| Poor communications | Ec | 8 | Meln |
| Proposed wind farm | Ec | 8 | Meln |
| The number of power cuts | Ec | 8 | Strathn |
| TV and radio reception | Ec | 8 | Strathy |
| TV and radio reception | Ec | 8 | Strathy |
| TV reception poor | Ec | 8 | Strathy |
| Lack of regular job prospects | EC | 9 | Altna |
| Lack of employment | EC | 9 | Altna |
| No jobs | Ec | 9 | Arma |
| Lack of jobs for young people | Ec | 9 | Arma |
| Lack of jobs for young people | Ec | 9 | Arma |
| Lack of opportunities for young people | ec | 9 | Arma |
| Lack of jobs | Ec | 9 | Betty |
| Lack of opportunities for young people | Ec | 9 | Betty |
| Poor employment opportunities for the young | Ec | 9 | Betty |
| People that will not work – unemployed unemployable!! | Ec | 9 | Dur |
| People! Some have no work opportunities in the area | Ec | 9 | Dur |
| Employment prices | Ec | 9 | Dur |
| Lack of opportunities for the young | Ec | 9 | Dur |
| Lack of employment | Ec | 9 | Melv |
| Lack of work opportunities | Ec | 9 | Melv |
| Lack of jobs | Ec | 9 | Sker |
| Lack of jobs | Ec | 9 | Sker |
| Lack of local work | Ec | 9 | Sker |
| Lack of job opportunities | Ec | 9 | Sker |
| Lack of work | Ec | 9 | Sker |
| Lack of employment | Ec | 9 | Sker |
| Lack of paid work | Ec | 9 | Sker |
| Not enough employment | Ec | 9 | Sker |
| Lack of jobs | Ec | 9 | Sker |
| Lack of opportunities for young | Ec | 9 | Strathy |
| Lack of employment and services | Ec | 9 | Strathy |
| Lack of employment | Ec | 9 | Strathy |
| Lack of work | Ec | 9 | Tongue |
| Lack of work | Ec | 9 | Tongue |
| Lack of work for young people in the area | Ec | 9 | Tongue |
| Lack of work opportunities for school leavers | Ec | 9 | Tongue |
| Shortage of employment | Ec | 9 | Tongue |
| Not many jobs for young people | Ec | 9 | Tongue |

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|---|---|---|---|
| No local work | Ec | 9 | Tongue |
| Lack of opportunities for people ie work | Ec | 9 | Tongue |
| No local employment beyond crofting and tourism | Ec | 9 | Tongue |
| Financial limits on marketing due to distance | Ec | 12 | Halla |
| Economic disadvantage | Ec | 13 | Betty |
| Too dependent on grants etc. | Ec | 13 | Melv |
| Not enough control of local resources | Ec | 13 | Sker |
| Intolerance of some existing businesses to other individuals attempts to provide services that could provide competition to their existing businesses | Ec | 13 | Sker |
| Take-overs by foreign people | Ec | 13 | Strathy |
| Negative attitude towards development, new projects etc. | Ec | 13 | Tongue |
| Unfair post code- Inverness instead of Kirkwall for insurance purposes | Ec | ? | Tongue |
| Unfair post code- Inverness instead of Kirkwall for insurance purposes | Ec | ? | Tongue |
| Postcode | Ec | ? | Tongue |
| Lack of privacy | S | 1 | Betty |
| Certain lack of sense of community | S | 1 | Betty |
| Inter township squabbles etc. | S | 1 | Betty |
| Lack of social focus | S | 1 | Betty |
| Held back by cautious involvement | S | 1 | Halla |
| Love of secrecy | S | 1 | Meln |
| Parochialism | S | 1 | Meln |
| Lack of "push" in the community | S | 1 | Meln |
| Criticism ( often unfounded) | S | 1 | Meln |
| Slowness of outside authorities in making decisions | S | 2 | Meln |
| The remoteness of Highland Council and Tourist Boards | S | 2 | Melv |
| Am Bratach | S | 2 | Melv |
| Council tax is too high | S | 2 | Melv |
| Lack of meaningful communication | s | 2 | Sker |
| Meetings like this | S | 2 | Sker |
| Local residents are taken for granted – sometimes incomers get the credit for things | S | 2 | Sker |
| Central authority | S | 2 | Sker |
| Lack of consideration by public bodies | S | 2 | Strathy |
| Outsiders who come in and try to make the place like a replica of where they come from | S | 3 | Arma |
| People who think they are superior to the indigenous people | S | 3 | Arma |
| People with negative attitudes | S | 3 | Betty |
| Malice, bitchiness that can result from long held grudges, low self esteem, petty resentments, fragile economy and stereotyped concepts and distrust. | S | 3 | Betty |
| Crofters appear to be a secret society | S | 3 | Meln |
| Lack of patience from others | S | 3 | Meln |
| Lack of young people | S | 3 | Melv |
| Loss of young families | S | 3 | Sker |
| Need more people –keep young ones | S | 3 | Sker |
| Need to keep young families in the area | S | 3 | Sker |
| Loss of folk (deaths/moving away) | S | 3 | Sker |
| Misunderstandings caused by "gossiping" | S | 3 | Sker |
| People that don't fit in | S | 3 | Strathn |
| Quarrelling | S | 3 | Strathy |
| Declining population | S | 3 | Tongue |
| English | S | 3 | Tongue |
| Incomers | S | 3 | Tongue |
| Hard life – not so bad now | S | 4 | Strathy |
| Breaks with tradition (village hall) | S | 5 | Sker |
| Lack of further education facilities close by e.g. night classes | S | 6 | Altna |
| Lack of courses on crafts etc. | S | 6 | Tongue |
| Lack of opportunities to learn (dance classes, piano lessons) | S | 6 | Tongue |
| Distance from towns, cities | s | 7 | Arma |
| Too close to England | S | 7 | Dur |
| Distance from main centres | S | 7 | Halla |
| Distance | s | 7 | Halla |
| Sometimes isolating due to distance | S | 7 | Melv |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Distance from town (Thurso) | S | 7 | Tongue |
| Drink drivers | S | 8 | Betty |
| Not enough control of underage drinking etc. | S | 8 | Betty |
| No Sunday School | S | 9 | Tongue |
| Lack of entertainment | S | 10 | Altna |
| Lack of amusements for children | S | 10 | Arma |
| No recreational facilities for young people | S | 10 | Arma |
| No places to pay football in the evenings, in Melvich | S | 10 | Arma |
| Lack of places to go | S | 10 | Arma |
| No entertainment for kids | S | 10 | Betty |
| Not enough activities for young people | S | 10 | Betty |
| Swimming pool charges too high and hours unsuitable | S | 10 | Betty |
| Lack of things for younger generation | S | 10 | Betty |
| Golfing | S | 10 | Dur |
| Lack of sporting facilities | S | 10 | Dur |
| Lack of social events | S | 10 | Halla |
| Lack of facilities for recreation locally | S | 10 | Halla |
| Lack of entertainment during the winter | S | 10 | Meln |
| Lack of facilities for kids | S | 10 | Meln |
| No facilities for children | S | 10 | Meln |
| Lack of play areas for the children | S | 10 | Melv |
| Difficult access to swimming pool due to lack of transport | S | 10 | Melv |
| More to do for the older children in the village as they wouldn't have to be out in the street. | S | 10 | Melv |
| There are not many activities for children | S | 10 | Melv |
| No parties | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Children's play area inadequate uninspiring and lacking in imagination | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Lack of recreation activities | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Not enough entertainment | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Lack of activities for children | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Lack of social activities | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Lack of activities for children | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Lack of out of school activities for children | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Very little to do in leisure time | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Lack of organised thing for children to do – nothing in school holiday | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Nothing for children | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Lack of affordable rented housing | S | 11 | Meln |
| New types of housing would prefer housing with more character or preservation of older buildings | S | 11 | Melv |
| Housing - old and young | S | 11 | Sker |
| Lack of available houses | S | 11 | Sker |
| Empty houses going to ruin | S | 11 | Sker |
| Old houses being left to fall down | S | 11 | Sker |
| Insensitive design of houses | S | 11 | Sker |
| Derelict housing | S | 11 | Sker |
| Syre square eyesore | s | 11 | Strathn |
| The state of Syre Shed | s | 11 | Strathn |
| Rundown buildings | S | 11 | Strathn |
| Rundown buildings eg. Barn at Syre | s | 11 | Strathn |
| Run down house in village | S | 11 | Tongue |
| The amount of homes that are holiday homes which makes it difficult for people from the area to buy property | S | 11 | Tongue |
| Having to travel so far to facilities – medical etc. | S | 12 | Altna |
| Lack of adequate services eg. Street lighting, bus services | S | 12 | Arma |
| Lack of public services | S | 12 | Arma |
| Inaccessibility with regard to services | S | 12 | Betty |
| Public service levels poor | S | 12 | Betty |
| Not always enough information about what is going on, funding | S | 12 | Betty |
| Dislike dog fouling in areas where young children play. Small sign already up but nobody pays any attention to them – need some proper large SIGNS in more prominent places | S | 12 | Betty |
| Having to pay the Council for services they don't provide | S | 12 | Dur |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Huge expense in travelling from this area to hospitals, vets, old folks homes and other services | S | 12 | Dur |
| Difficulty in providing community needs for all ages | S | 12 | Dur |
| No proper hall | S | 12 | Dur |
| Not enough community issues tackled with a positive outcome | S | 12 | Halla |
| Almost derelict community centre | S | 12 | Meln |
| Lack of information re use of community centre | S | 12 | Meln |
| Lack of use of existing facilities | S | 12 | Meln |
| Poor communications in community | S | 12 | Meln |
| Poor communications in community | S | 12 | Meln |
| Poor communications in community | S | 12 | Meln |
| Lack of communication – what is going on? | S | 12 | Meln |
| Council building unit in Melvich eyesore | S | 12 | Melv |
| Lack of nursery facilities | S | 12 | Melv |
| Neglected by some of the services eg. Toilets, sewerage… | S | 12 | Sker |
| No bin at the harbour or beach | S | 12 | Sker |
| Lack of facilities | S | 12 | Tongue |
| Facilities for kids or young parents | S | 12 | Tongue |
| Lack of wet weather facilities | S | 12 | Tongue |
| Lack of youth activities/ facilties | s | 12 | Tongue |
| Public conveniences | S | 12 | Tongue |
| The under-use of the village hall | S | 12 | Tongue |
| Seasonal Adjustment Disorder | S | 13 | Sker |
| Problems associated with excessive drinking | S | 13 | Sker |
| Who is paying for the bottled water for Skerray/Melness water disasters? Not Council Tax payers I hope | S | 14 | Betty |
| Lack of sewerage | S | 14 | Sker |
| Sewerage | S | 14 | Sker |
| Lack of sewerage treatment plant | S | 14 | Sker |
| Poor sewerage system | S | 14 | Sker |
| Tap water | S | 14 | Tongue |

| Comment | Code | No | Suggested by |
|---|---|---|---|
| View points | E | 1 | Tongue |
| Taped guides, hillwalks, coast walks etc | E | 2 | Betty |
| footpath provision for disabled | E | 2 | Betty |
| Easier access to beach | E | 2 | Betty |
| Footbridge erected from pier to Torrisdale Bay | E | 2 | Betty |
| walkways for visitors | E | 2 | Durn |
| Heritage Trails | E | 2 | Melv |
| Walks | E | 2 | Melv |
| Create circular walks around village environs | E | 2 | Tongue |
| Natural history tours | E | 2 | Tongue |
| More public footpaths | E | 2 | Tongue |
| Blandy trail | E | 2 | Tongue |
| Local walks incorporating the Architecture of Tongue | E | 2 | Tongue |
| Archaeology trail | E | 2 | Tongue |
| Paths | E | 2 | Tongue |
| Bring back more wildlife | E | 3 | Betty |
| Let the heather grow | E | 3 | Betty |
| Protection and promotion and education for wildlife and nature (ranger activities) | E | 3 | Betty |
| Tree planting to enhance the village | E | 3 | Durn |
| Tidying up up-rooted trees | E | 3 | Halla |
| Promote natural history / environment | E | 3 | Meln |
| Ranger led activities | E | 3 | Melv |
| Tourist ranger/guide | E | 3 | Strathy |
| A local ranger? | E | 3 | Tongue |
| Beach cleaning | E | 4 | Betty |
| Beach cleaning carried out on a regular basis | E | 4 | Betty |
| Production of bottled water - limestone lochs are a source of very clean, safe water | E | 4 | Durn |
| Turning Talmine beach into a picnic area ( fencing off) | E | 4 | Meln |
| Tidy up at beach ( ends of bridge ) | E | 4 | Melv |
| Not enough rubbish bins | E | 9 | Melv |
| Clean up blots on the landscape – dead vehicles | E | 9 | Strathy |
| Appoint " village officer " to keep an eye on tidiness etc | E | 9 | Strathy |
| Re-open P.O or supply Mobile P.O. and maybe a mobile bank | Ec | 1 | Altna |
| Post office to be opened up again / with a shop | Ec | 1 | Altna |
| A mobile bank | Ec | 1 | Altna |
| Coffee shop | Ec | 1 | Arma |
| Tea shop | Ec | 1 | Betty |
| Cash point x2 | Ec | 1 | Durn |
| More shops so that people don't have to travel so far for one or two things | Ec | 1 | Melv |
| Redevelopment of site at harbour – possibly restaurant/café/toilets | Ec | 1 | Skerr |
| To get the post office back in the heart of the community | Ec | 1 | Skerr |
| A supermarket | Ec | 1 | Skerr |
| Local shops – possibly co-op system –similar for animal feedstuffs | Ec | 1 | Strathy |
| Subsidies for shops and petrol pumps and more employment | Ec | 1 | Strathy |
| More shops | Ec | 1 | Tongue |
| Restaurant / cafe | Ec | 1 | Tongue |
| More restaurants | Ec | 1 | Tongue |
| Coffee shop with facilities for 12 + to adult | Ec | 1 | Tongue |
| Better shops e.g mini shopping mall within easy walking distance for oldies and youngsters | Ec | 1 | Tongue |
| Refreshment cafe | Ec | 1 | Tongue |
| Shopping Centres | Ec | 1 | Tongue |
| Diesel pumps | Ec | 2 | Altna |
| Cheaper fuel & diesel pumps x 2 | Ec | 2 | Altna |

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|---|---|---|---|
| More street lights to allow for a speed limit in the village | Ec | 2 | Altna |
| Speed limit in village x 3 | Ec | 2 | Altna |
| Extension of speed limit through village | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Extension of streetlights through village | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Repair to bus shelter at Sunnyside | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Road from Armadale to Bettyhill to be improved | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Street lighting in the village extended | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Extension to street lights from hall to Bus Shelter at Sunnyside | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Speed limit extended / footpaths in village | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Public transport | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Roads fenced.  Paid for by HC not crofters | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Double track road from Thurso to Durness | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Street lighting to end of road for children walking in winter and pavement | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Extension of 30mph limit in village | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Petrol pumps | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Improved transport | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Transport to jobs in Caithness | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| Price of fuel brought in line with the rest of country | Ec | 2 | Arma |
| More public transport in the Bettyhill area | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Speed ramps near village centres | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Cheaper fuel | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Cheaper fares – eg. On ferries to Orkney | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Public transport to meet needs of workers | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Subsidised travel costs -  road tax | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Subsidised travel for work – 16-18 year olds  - non-drivers | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| 18-65 cost of car and availability of family car influences work opportunity | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Transport updated | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Price standard on fuel and shopping essentials then there would be no need to travel to buy goods | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| More local jobs or improving transport to get to them | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Need a cattle grid at Clachan to stop sheep getting to the village | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Gritting of side-roads = if a roadworker/lorrydriver comes out of a village first thing in the morning they should GRIT the road on their way out and not leave it until there's time later in the day | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Side roads with bad/blind corners should be widened to make them safer eg the bad corner in Kirtomy | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Locally co-ordinated transport so young ones see more, go to more, experience more | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Double track road all along the North Coast | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Better roads | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Community transport – using school buses for other activities x 3 | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Community transport paid rather than volunteers | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Major road widening | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Roads double track down to Inverness | Ec | 2 | Betty |
| Air strip | Ec | 2 | Durn |
| Difficulties over petrol supplies to retailers ironed out | Ec | 2 | Durn |
| Better roads | Ec | 2 | Durn |
| Government assistance (aid) for transport costs | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Some sort of public transport | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Subsidised taxis services | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Improve transport infrastructure for non-car users | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Audit of natural cultural and economic interest of area – strategic development of area | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Ditches cleared on roads – lack of ditches | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Roadside verges attended to | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Tarring lay-byes | Ec | 2 | Halla |
| Subsidised petrol | Ec | 2 | Meln |
| Proper fuel prices | Ec | 2 | Meln |
| Public transport | Ec | 2 | Meln |
| Road verges cut and planted out | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Transport improvements | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Transport to sport or whatever in other areas | Ec | 2 | Melv |

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| Good public transport suitable for working in other areas | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Reasonably priced public transport | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Improved air links with London, Contininent | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| More money from the Government for roads | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Why do we pay top prices for fuel? | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Road around village requires urgent repair | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Petrol should be made a lot cheaper | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Better parking at the church – also at school | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Pavements around village | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Another light between Shore and Donnie Genn's | Ec | 2 | Melv |
| Fuel pricing – same cost for say ESSO throughout Britain | Ec | 2 | Skerr |
| Public transport | Ec | 2 | Skerr |
| Better roads locally – even to take out the bends | Ec | 2 | Skerr |
| Reduced petrol prices | Ec | 2 | Skerr |
| Wider road with suitable lay-bys | Ec | 2 | Skerr |
| Road – especially offlets – need a boat sometimes when it rains | Ec | 2 | Skerr |
| Wider road in Lotts | Ec | 2 | Skerr |
| Proper parking places for fisher | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Verges grass cut at side of road | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Parking places for fishermen | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Road improvements | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Public transport | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Cattle grids at school entrance/exit | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Improve roads x2 | Ec | 2 | Strathn |
| Transport | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Continuous road maintenance | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Improved transport | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Improvement to transport system | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Better road surface | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Upgrade roads along the north coast as a matter of urgency | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Improve bus services | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Better road system | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Better roads | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Bus service to Thurso | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| better roads | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Better public Transport | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Better roads | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Better roads | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Double track roads | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Reduced fuel prices | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Roads with cycle track | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Better roads | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Cheaper fuel | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Better roads | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Regular funded transport for locals and tourists | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Employ street cleaner | Ec | 2 | Tongue |
| Cattle grids at each end of village x 4 | Ec | 3 | Altna |
| Better market value for sheep etc. | Ec | 3 | Arma |
| Bowside Estate | Ec | 3 | Arma |
| Cattle grid on main road / improvement to the road | Ec | 3 | Arma |
| Cattle grid on road at Armadale Farm | Ec | 3 | Arma |
| Armadale Estate back to crofters | Ec | 3 | Arma |
| Local produce angle – organic payment for "land management" as opposed to "land usage" | Ec | 3 | Arma |
| More land capable of improvement to be made available to crofters, creating more crofts and existing crofts more viable | Ec | 3 | Arma |
| Automatic transfer of land to community any time estate comes up for sale. Price set by a govt. body. | Ec | 3 | Arma |
| Less interference from landlords | Ec | 3 | Betty |
| Croft houses should not be de-crofted and separated from croft | Ec | 3 | Betty |
| Upgrade of the sheep fanks/sale ring at Skelpick | Ec | 3 | Betty |
| Club to buy feedstuffs in bulk for whole area not just the odd village | Ec | 3 | Betty |
| Young entrants to crofting should be given the money before rather than after work is complete to help them make improvements etc. | Ec | 3 | Betty |

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| Crofters group initiatives | Ec | 3 | Halla |
| Bracken control | Ec | 3 | Halla |
| Bracken control | Ec | 3 | Halla |
| Crofters co-ops | Ec | 3 | Halla |
| New shooting rights so you can shoot on your own land without permission | Ec | 3 | Halla |
| Control livestock / prevent them from entering gardens etc. / Have inner ring fence | Ec | 3 | Meln |
| Land opportunities | Ec | 3 | Meln |
| Crofters Trust getting on with things – pushing ahead x 2 | Ec | 3 | Meln |
| No sheep roaming the village | Ec | 3 | Melv |
| Should be a limit to number of crofts held by one crofter so that new young people can get crofts | Ec | 3 | Melv |
| People who are interested in crofts should make it known to Community council and grazings committee so that they can be considered for vacant crofts | Ec | 3 | Melv |
| Should be easier for locals to get back into crofting – young local people should be given priority over the incomers ie. Money to outbid them for crofts/houses | Ec | 3 | Melv |
| Community herds | Ec | 3 | Skerr |
| Improvement in crofting | Ec | 3 | Skerr |
| Grant aid for experimental crop growing etc. | Ec | 3 | Skerr |
| Land redistribution | Ec | 3 | Skerr |
| Change sheep subsidies to small, general agricultural subsidies | Ec | 3 | Skerr |
| Promotion of organic agriculture  and other moves to diversify agricultural production especially to meet local needs | Ec | 3 | Skerr |
| Community land ownership | Ec | 3 | Strathn |
| Barn at Syre repaired | Ec | 3 | Strathn |
| Sheep shed at Syre repaired and made useful | Ec | 3 | Strathn |
| Renovation of Syre Barn | Ec | 3 | Strathn |
| Land ownership to locals | Ec | 3 | Strathn |
| Get rid of stray deer and sheep | Ec | 3 | Strathn |
| Shelter belts of trees put in would improve the area | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Crofting – I would like to see crofts back in rotational cropping and divided out to bring young families back to the area | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Plenty sheep and cattle | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Cattle grids | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Improvement to crofting lands | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Bracken control | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Whin control | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Cattle grids at each end of village | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Roads fenced and cattle grids in place | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Community ownership of assets – land / forests / river etc | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| More community land ownership | Ec | 3 | Strathy |
| Loch fishing – an angling association along the N Coast to create employment (lochs are overstocked and needing fished) | Ec | 4 | Arma |
| Would like to see the return of salmon fishing at Bettyhill Pier | Ec | 4 | Betty |
| Salmon fishing started again | Ec | 4 | Betty |
| Locals owning the sport | Ec | 4 | Strathn |
| Development of wild salmon – related to wild salmon | Ec | 4 | Strathy |
| A local brochure to tell tourists what is of interest in the area before they pass through | Ec | 5 | Altna |
| A local restaurant providing snacks or simple meals for B&B guests & caravan site visitors | Ec | 5 | Altna |
| Somewhere apart from the hotel for visitors to stop and eat | Ec | 5 | Altna |
| More eating facilities for tourists at reasonable prices | Ec | 5 | Altna |
| Some other body to promote tourism in the area, or HOST accept we exist | Ec | 5 | Altna |
| A caravan site which is not Caravan Club members only | Ec | 5 | Altna |
| Caravan and camping site | Ec | 5 | Altna |
| Something in the village to encourage tourists to stop here | Ec | 5 | Altna |
| Better all year tourist facilities | Ec | 5 | Altna |
| Promotion of the area to encourage winter visitors | Ec | 5 | Altna |
| More holidaymakers encouraged to stay in Altnaharra | Ec | 5 | Altna |
| Develop Poulouriscaig as tourist attraction | Ec | 5 | Arma |

| Caravan site facility improvements might increase tourism | Ec | 5 | Betty |
|---|---|---|---|
| "Adventure" holidays – mountain biking, absailing, paragliding, sailing etc | Ec | 5 | Betty |
| Visitor centre at Clachan | Ec | 5 | Betty |
| More attractions in summer for tourists | Ec | 5 | Betty |
| Interpretation centre for the area | Ec | 5 | Betty |
| More reasons for tourists to stay in one place for more than one day | Ec | 5 | Betty |
| Interpretation centre at Clachan | Ec | 5 | Betty |
| Inverness TIC realised there was something North of Inverness! | Ec | 5 | Betty |
| Interpretation centre | Ec | 5 | Betty |
| Leaflet of what there is to do in the area – interesting facts, where to stay | Ec | 5 | Betty |
| Tourist facilities | Ec | 5 | Durn |
| More information on area to the outside world | Ec | 5 | Durn |
| Tourism got to be looked into to lenghthen the stay of visitors | Ec | 5 | Durn |
| All people involved in tourism should be trained to make them feel welcome | Ec | 5 | Durn |
| Durness Brochure ( in hand ) | Ec | 5 | Durn |
| More tourist related interests | Ec | 5 | Durn |
| Chalet complex | Ec | 5 | Durn |
| Further development of RSPB & tourism | Ec | 5 | Halla |
| Develop interpretation of peatlands to visitors | Ec | 5 | Halla |
| Locally – support a wildlife tour company | Ec | 5 | Halla |
| Tourism | Ec | 5 | Halla |
| Tourist exploitation of Gaelic culture | Ec | 5 | Meln |
| Wet weather tourist facilities | Ec | 5 | Meln |
| Tourism literature / designated walks ( local brochure ) | Ec | 5 | Melv |
| Tourism – advertising ourselves as we are, emphasis on unspoilt environment – green tourism | Ec | 5 | Melv |
| Bunk house accommodation | Ec | 5 | Skerr |
| More tourist advertising | Ec | 5 | Skerr |
| More varies accommodation for visitors | Ec | 5 | Skerr |
| Better facilities for tourists | Ec | 5 | Skerr |
| Tourist brochure for relevant area | Ec | 5 | Strathy |
| Paths for tourists to archaeological sites? | Ec | 2 | Strathy |
| Tourist information/ guides | Ec | 5 | Tongue |
| Establish a clear tourist information point-near car park/give information on local walks *colour coded local routes/interests/ weather/flora & fauna | Ec | 5 | Tongue |
| Water Sports & refreshments facilities would create employment & encourage tourists to spend more time locally | Ec | 5 | Tongue |
| More tourist facilities | Ec | 5 | Tongue |
| More things to keep tourists in the area | Ec | 5 | Tongue |
| Better information points about things to see and do in the area - not just tourist board information | ec | 5 | Tongue |
| Bettyhill pier restored | Ec | 6 | Betty |
| Harbour developments for pleasure use | Ec | 6 | Betty |
| Pier x3 | Ec | 6 | Durn |
| I would like to have a pier built in Loch Eriboll, including management strategy to protect and enhance the local economy | Ec | 6 | Durn |
| I would like to see a Community Pier built in Loch Eriboll | Ec | 6 | Durn |
| Completion of the Eriboll Pier | Ec | 6 | Durn |
| Sea Fishing at the pier | Ec | 6 | Meln |
| Pier upgraded / facilities / fuel storage etc | Ec | 6 | Meln |
| Marina / fuel storage / boat park / Melness Trust Crofters Enterprise ? | Ec | 6 | Meln |
| Develop harbour facilities to give safe haven to boats in winter | Ec | 6 | Meln |
| Marina development at harbour & water & electricity available & storage facilities | Ec | 6 | Meln |
| The pier developed | Ec | 6 | Meln |
| Talmine pier upgraded | Ec | 6 | Meln |
| Development of lobster – crab – salmon – fisheries | Ec | 6 | Melv |
| Pier is in a poor state – needs urgent repair | Ec | 6 | Melv |
| Maritime resource development | Ec | 6 | Skerr |
| Fish farm | Ec | 6 | Tongue |
| Balnakeil Wines relocate to Durness | Ec | 7 | Durn |

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| Tenants for industrial units ( call centre? ) | Ec | 7 | Melv |
| Use the Units - what a waste ! | Ec | 7 | Melv |
| To do something with the 2 industrial units in Melvich | Ec | 7 | Melv |
| Gathering seaweed | Ec | 7 | Strathy |
| Call centre based on empty building in Melvich | Ec | 7 | Strathy |
| Solar panels for crofters | Ec | 8 | Arma |
| Installation of windmills to every croft house – subsidised or a payback scheme with excess electricity | Ec | 8 | Arma |
| Windfarming in the hill where we wouldn't see it | Ec | 8 | Arma |
| Wind power scheme | Ec | 8 | Meln |
| Wind farm | Ec | 8 | Melv |
| Improve TV, radio reception and mobile phones | Ec | 8 | Strathy |
| Estate lanlords to create more employment. E.g. - 32,000 acres estate which employs one man | Ec | 9 | Arma |
| More jobs in the area for young people | Ec | 9 | Betty |
| Training in skills that would be useful locally – i.e. catering, cooking, bookkeeping | Ec | 9 | Betty |
| Jobs given to local council employees and not contracted out | Ec | 9 | Betty |
| I would like to see the telecottage being used for BT Manpower work so that the jobs of locals and Tongue would not need to go to Thurso | Ec | 9 | Betty |
| Less emphasis on crofting and more on creating sustainable and motivating employment opportunities especially for the young | Ec | 9 | Betty |
| The re-creation of a "village officer" type post to keep all the villages on the North Coast as tidy as those on the East Coast of Sutherland | Ec | 9 | Betty |
| More jobs | Ec | 9 | Betty |
| Project handling officer | Ec | 9 | Betty |
| Jobs for youngsters | Ec | 9 | Betty |
| Paid project officer to help organisations fund projects – form filling etc | Ec | 9 | Betty |
| Attract other employment | Ec | 9 | Halla |
| Computer training - internet-on line | Ec | 9 | Halla |
| More jobs | Ec | 9 | Halla |
| A summer ranger / guide | Ec | 9 | Meln |
| Crofters Trust developments going ahead to create jobs | Ec | 9 | Meln |
| Countryside ranger | Ec | 9 | Meln |
| Create employment not just short term , or seasonal | Ec | 9 | Melv |
| Employment without distance travel | Ec | 9 | Melv |
| Employment for young | Ec | 9 | Skerr |
| Jobs -  that will last more than a year or two | Ec | 9 | Skerr |
| We need jobs or income generating opportunities | Ec | 9 | Skerr |
| Community generated employment | Ec | 9 | Skerr |
| Jobs | Ec | 9 | Skerr |
| Quality employment for young people | Ec | 9 | Strathy |
| Employment | Ec | 9 | Strathy |
| Employment | Ec | 9 | Strathy |
| More jobs for the people within the area | Ec | 9 | Tongue |
| Computer training ( E. Mail) incorporated in library also available for craft/other courses | Ec | 9 | Tongue |
| Local jobs | Ec | 9 | Tongue |
| Commission land planted with mixed species | Ec | 10 | Altna |
| Tree planting on the hill – Poulouriscaig | Ec | 10 | Arma |
| Tree planting | Ec | 10 | Arma |
| Reinvent the Forestry Commission | Ec | 10 | Arma |
| Increase in forestry projects | Ec | 10 | Arma |
| Forestry with local jobs | Ec | 10 | Meln |
| Why is Northcost timber being taken out by contractors from south. Local contractors with sea transportation from Scrabster would do more for the area.  Why can't the timber be processed here? | Ec | 10 | Melv |
| Availability to the community of resources eg. Forestry | Ec | 10 | Skerr |
| Forestry partnership scheme | Ec | 10 | Skerr |
| Crofting forestry maximum possible | Ec | 10 | Skerr |
| Control of forestry | Ec | 10 | Skerr |
| Community forest management partnership | Ec | 10 | Skerr |
| More work from forests | Ec | 10 | Skerr |
| Work for youngsters if our own woodyard | Ec | 10 | Skerr |

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| Better use made of forests to benefit local sawmills etc | Ec | 10 | Strathy |
| Big Forest | Ec | 10 | Tongue |
| Contact the forest authority to get blocks of trees handed over to a local contractor to get posts etc made locally | Ec | 10 | Tongue |
| Mobile slaughter house | Ec | 11 | Arma |
| Cottage craft industries with guaranteed outlets | Ec | 11 | Arma |
| Some kind of cottage industry | Ec | 11 | Arma |
| Organic crofting produce – kept in area – marketed from here | Ec | 11 | Arma |
| Gothenberg – community run licensed premises where profits are put into the community | Ec | 11 | Betty |
| Organic horticulture | Ec | 11 | Betty |
| Organic sheepsmilk products | Ec | 11 | Betty |
| Processing of fish/shellfish etc at Eriboll Pier | Ec | 11 | Durn |
| Local mobile slaughter and packaging of produce | Ec | 11 | Skerr |
| More money for wool | Ec | 11 | Skerr |
| Local wool use group x2 | Ec | 11 | Skerr |
| Local stock slaughtered locally and possible sold locally | Ec | 11 | Skerr |
| Local produce (organic if possible) growing co-op | Ec | 11 | Skerr |
| Community owned resource development | Ec | 11 | Skerr |
| Wool | Ec | 11 | Skerr |
| Community control of local resources | Ec | 11 | Skerr |
| More local processing of local products | Ec | 11 | Strathn |
| Processing of wool in the area | Ec | 11 | Strathy |
| Seaweed fertilisers | Ec | 11 | Strathy |
| Arts and Crafts Exhibition and sales outlets | Ec | 11 | Strathy |
| craft village | Ec | 11 | Tongue |
| Marketing local products | Ec | 12 | Arma |
| Improved services by Highland Council | S | 12 | Arma |
| Crofters marketing scheme | Ec | 12 | Halla |
| Co-ordination of marketing of natural value of Caithness & Sutherland area for visitors | Ec | 12 | Halla |
| Television campaign (marketing) | Ec | 12 | Melv |
| North wide marketing initiative | Ec | 12 | Skerr |
| Better marketing practices | Ec | 12 | Skerr |
| Projects involving local produce being marketed locally | Ec | 12 | Skerr |
| Quality mark for local products/produce | Ec | 12 | Skerr |
| Solution to availability of local produce for sale – lamb/veg etc. | Ec | 12 | Skerr |
| Ability to market own produce from the hill to table | Ec | 12 | Skerr |
| Quality marketing of local produce | Ec | 12 | Skerr |
| Local produce available – organic food co-operative | Ec | 12 | Strathy |
| Hotels guarantee to use North Sutherland lamb, beef, veg., fish, etc. | Ec | 12 | Strathy |
| Promoting local produce | Ec | 12 | Strathy |
| CASE should help businesses help the locals – not just tourists | Ec | 13 | Betty |
| Development at Naver Telecentre | Ec | 13 | Betty |
| Business start up help | Ec | 13 | Halla |
| Better business start up | Ec | 13 | Halla |
| More help with small business interests | Ec | 13 | Halla |
| Help to start up small businesses | Ec | 13 | Halla |
| In-put of funds to research and development of economy | Ec | 13 | Skerr |
| Employment in general | Ec | 13 | Skerr |
| Any development ot be at Bettyhill, Syre or Altnaharra – leave Strathnaver as it is | Ec | 13 | Strathn |
| Community ownership of several small enterprises to give additional employment and to encourage tourist activity | Ec | 13 | Strathy |
| Disincentive to local business start-ups / costs of water,waste & rates etc. | Ec | 13 | Tongue |
| Help for small business | Ec | 13 | Tongue |
| Good stone quarrying | Ec | 15 | Arma |
| Firm united community lines on unacceptable practices/behaviour regardless of police/legal action that can be taken | S | 1 | Betty |
| More talking/linking to celebrate commonalities regardless of where born, family problems | S | 1 | Betty |
| Motivation of young folk to stimulate life in this community | S | 1 | Meln |

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| If the "young family" age group could be enthused to be involved in the regeneration of social activities & attitudes | S | 1 | Meln |
| Working together to achieve goals | S | 1 | Meln |
| Getting young people involved in community i.e. school age, to develop their interest / commitment | S | 1 | Strathy |
| Community Council could have a Suggestion Box | S | 2 | Betty |
| A demonstration by the Highland Council that they really understand the problems of the area | S | 2 | Betty |
| Greater accountability to locals from such as RSPB, SNH, HRC | S | 2 | Halla |
| Proper community development plan | S | 2 | Meln |
| Help to voluntary organisations to develop projects | S | 2 | Melv |
| Co-ordination of effort | S | 2 | Skerr |
| Township Development Programme Skerray | S | 2 | Skerr |
| More funding for community schemes and projects | s | 2 | Skerr |
| More opportunities for community to get involved | S | 2 | Strathn |
| More encouragement for young people to stay in the area | S | 3 | Betty |
| More opportunities for people within area – not just the usual chosen ones – to visit other peoples to learn/broaden and share perspectives and notion of possibilities | S | 3 | Betty |
| Dynamic publicity to point out there is life above Inverness | S | 4 | Betty |
| More incentives for young people to remain in the community (perhaps related to the above) | S | 4 | Halla |
| Keep more people of working age around the place | S | 4 | Meln |
| We need a growth in population (younger people) | S | 4 | Skerr |
| Small community based industry to keep young people in the area | S | 4 | Strathn |
| More opportunities toencourage young people to live in the area | S | 4 | Strathy |
| More opportunities for young people to keep them in the area | S | 4 | Strathy |
| More amenities for young people to keep them in the area | S | 4 | Tongue |
| Signage for the museum | S | 5 | Betty |
| Genealogy system set up | S | 5 | Betty |
| Promote archaeology | S | 5 | Meln |
| Development of Gaelic Centre | S | 5 | Meln |
| Restoration of old mill | S | 5 | Meln |
| More culture and arts | S | 5 | Melv |
| preservation of old ways and buildings ( maybe if people don't want to live in them maybe make workshops etc of them but importantly preservation and use ) | S | 5 | Melv |
| We need to celebrate our cultural traditions | S | 5 | Skerr |
| Old Church Hall converted into a war museum and the memorial area landscaped | S | 5 | Skerr |
| Information/displays on local subjects | S | 5 | Strathy |
| Ewan Robertson & Tongue History ?  Museum using building alleged to be his home | S | 5 | Tongue |
| Record local information= for visitors/locals - Geography/ Geology / Natural | S | 5 | Tongue |
| Re – open the pre-school nursery | S | 6 | Altna |
| Scientific centre, environmental scientific orientated | S | 6 | Arma |
| Better accommodation for nursery, primary and secondary | S | 6 | Betty |
| Child care to meet needs of workers | S | 6 | Betty |
| More classrooms for the school | S | 6 | Betty |
| School to be made bigger to accommodate all the children who now attend it possibly separate from the Primary | S | 6 | Betty |
| Compulsory Gaelic in schools | S | 6 | Halla |
| Better child care for pre-school children | S | 6 | Halla |
| More education facilities locally | S | 6 | Halla |
| Nursery places, the children at the moment have to travel either 16 or 18 miles to nearest place - not practical 3/5 times a week | S | 6 | Melv |
| Gaelic taught in ALL the schools and up to Higher Grade | S | 6 | Strathy |
| childcare | S | 6 | Tongue |
| courses i.e. further education | S | 6 | Tongue |
| Sports facilities of various types – entertainment | S | 10 | Altna |
| Youth club for older kids – 12-17 | S | 10 | Arma |
| Floodlit astroturf, and start up a 5-a-side league through the weeks in Melvich, and transport | S | 10 | Arma |
| More activities for young people | S | 10 | Betty |

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| A good riding school required | S | 10 | Betty |
| A surfers club | S | 10 | Betty |
| Club for the community (licensed) | S | 10 | Betty |
| Play areas for kids and young people | S | 10 | Betty |
| Sailing school | S | 10 | Betty |
| "Coasteering" | S | 10 | Betty |
| Youth clubs or organised club for youngsters | S | 10 | Betty |
| Youth Club for children – somewhere they can go | S | 10 | Betty |
| Outdoor all weather centre | S | 10 | Betty |
| Swimming pool x2 | S | 10 | Durn |
| Youth club | S | 10 | Durn |
| Water sports at Loch Eriboll | S | 10 | Durn |
| Angling Club | S | 10 | Durn |
| Children's play area | S | 10 | Halla |
| Childs play ground in the Strath | S | 10 | Halla |
| More activities for children | S | 10 | Halla |
| More parties | S | 10 | Halla |
| A playpark/sports area for youngsters x 3 | S | 10 | Meln |
| More community gatherings/activities | S | 10 | Meln |
| Playpark for children | S | 10 | Meln |
| Entertainment | S | 10 | Melv |
| A better swing park | S | 10 | Melv |
| Swimming between Melvich and Strathy | S | 10 | Melv |
| Something for teenagers | S | 10 | Melv |
| A place or activities for the high school children after school | S | 10 | Melv |
| Outdoor centre | S | 10 | Melv |
| Water sports | S | 10 | Melv |
| A group designed to organise children's activities | s | 10 | Skerr |
| A youth club – young people should be collecting historical information/lore | S | 10 | Strathy |
| More things for the community to do together that doesn't cost us money or the Council money such as beach cleaning | S | 10 | Strathy |
| Capitalise on the super hall at Strathy – festivals, plays etc. | S | 10 | Strathy |
| Bettyhill poool maintained – continuous funding | S | 10 | Strathy |
| Some way of knowing whats on in the area – advertising for social events | S | 10 | Strathy |
| Grants to Village Halls to enable them to book professional artistes and musicians | S | 10 | Strathy |
| More sporting facilities | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Better playpark | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Karate | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Complete cycle around Borgie Forest to create a circular route | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Provide more "entertainment" in the village hall | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Improve/upgrade, imaginatively, the children' present play area | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Water sports | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Dry ski slopes | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Golf course | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Out door sports facilities for locals & tourists alike, such as watersports, sailing, windsurfing | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Better provision for young kids and the older generation | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Horse riding centre | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Curling Centre with refreshment facilities | S | 10 | Tongue |
| gym - aerobics - youth club self defence - yoga classes - highland dancing | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Proper playing fields - leisure facilities, indoor sports i.e. squash, bowling, badminton etc | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Leisure centre incorporating, Squash courts badminton & others with refreshments ( family entertainment) | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Water sports centre training | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Proper playing fields & leisure centres, & other sports | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Youth nights at hall | S | 10 | Tongue |
| More effective use of Village Hall, Tongue village football park could be used effectively for school and community activities. | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Village Golf Course | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Sports area adjacent to school - combined with tourist picnic/play area | S | 10 | Tongue |

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| New football field | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Sports Centre | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Sort football pitch | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Sort football pitch | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Alternative to the pub | S | 10 | Tongue |
| More dances | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Astro-turf football pitch ( 5- a - side) | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Youth club | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Better use of Community Hall - dances etc | S | 10 | Tongue |
| All weather football pitch for boys | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Youth Club | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Football pitch | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Pitch & putt | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Sports facility for young | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Football pitch | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Improve children's play areas | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Better social events for youngsters | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Own football team | S | 10 | Tongue |
| More events organised for people to do / funding to help with costs so that groups and clubs don't have to be self funding | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Improved children's play facilities | S | 10 | Tongue |
| Sheltered housing (with warden) | S | 11 | Betty |
| Local people being allowed to buy their choice of home at a reasonable price | S | 11 | Betty |
| Improved housing standards | S | 11 | Betty |
| Sheltered housing complex in Bettyhill | S | 11 | Betty |
| Sheltered housing x 2 | S | 11 | Betty |
| Sheltered housing and community care network based in Bettyhill | S | 11 | Betty |
| Improvement to older unused housing | S | 11 | Melv |
| In Skerray and Borgie we need affordable housing | S | 11 | Skerr |
| Land reform grants system re houses looked at | S | 11 | Skerr |
| Promotion of sympathetic restoration of existing unoccupied or ruined buildings, (instead of building new homes of inappropriate design), to be used as homes and for local activities eg. craft workshop | S | 11 | Skerr |
| Affordable housing for young people | S | 11 | Strathy |
| Affordable housing for local people | S | 11 | Strathy |
| Fund whereby local people could acquire croftland / houses | S | 11 | Strathy |
| Less holiday homes | S | 11 | Tongue |
| A library in the area – not having to wait for 2 weeks / 1 month to change library books | S | 12 | Altna |
| Public observatory | S | 12 | Altna |
| Strathy toilets | S | 12 | Arma |
| Meeting place for teenagers | S | 12 | Arma |
| Easy access to library facilities | S | 12 | Betty |
| Better access to public services, library, healthcare etc | S | 12 | Betty |
| New hall x4 | S | 12 | Durn |
| Proper village hall | S | 12 | Durn |
| Village Hall - plans for new hall in pipeline | S | 12 | Durn |
| Hall improvements | S | 12 | Halla |
| Further hall improvements | S | 12 | Halla |
| Local hall improvements | S | 12 | Halla |
| A new hall or a new interior design for the hall | S | 12 | Halla |
| Improvement of local hall | S | 12 | Halla |
| The Community Centre refurbished and used more – shows etc | S | 12 | Meln |
| A focal point for the community | S | 12 | Meln |
| Renovation of Community Centre (somehow) x 2 | S | 12 | Meln |
| Modern public hall/community centre | S | 12 | Melv |
| Meeting place for 12 - 18 year olds | S | 12 | Melv |
| Heritage centre | S | 12 | Melv |
| Some kind of club or place for teenagers to go during the winter ( even if it were to be transport arrangements to take them to where there are already clubs established or to bowling, swimming etc. | S | 12 | Melv |
| Facilities for teenagers | S | 12 | Melv |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A games room for children along with a café using the two empty buildings in Melvich | S | 12 | Melv |
| If the village hall goes ahead and a youth club would start for the teenagers to keep them off the roads | S | 12 | Melv |
| Conservatory for Sinclair Court for senior citizens to go into. | S | 12 | Melv |
| Toilets | S | 12 | Skerr |
| Centre for senior citizens | S | 12 | Skerr |
| More use of the village hall | S | 12 | Strathn |
| Public toilets at the Hall | S | 12 | Strathn |
| Disabled toilets in hall | S | 12 | Strathn |
| Toilets for the beach x2 | S | 12 | Strathy |
| Meeting places for people to get together for pleasure along the coast | S | 12 | Strathy |
| Toilet facilities | S | 12 | Strathy |
| Toilets in Strathy | S | 12 | Strathy |
| Making a focal point in the village | S | 12 | Strathy |
| Toilets at beach | S | 12 | Strathy |
| Public toilets at Strathy beach and Churchyard | S | 12 | Strathy |
| larger community centre | s | 12 | Tongue |
| Local nursing home | S | 13 | Altna |
| Day care centre for the elderly | S | 13 | Betty |
| Elderly care – home | S | 13 | Betty |
| Local residential home for OAP's, so that they need not go away | S | 13 | Betty |
| Better hospital facilities | S | 13 | Betty |
| Strong prioritising and setting out within communities of arms for health of individuals & community | S | 13 | Betty |
| Day care centre | S | 13 | Durn |
| Residential Care Centre | S | 13 | Durn |
| Further development of Caladh Sona Unit | S | 13 | Meln |
| More care of older people to be local based | S | 13 | Melv |
| Day Care Centre | S | 13 | Strathy |
| Day care centre | S | 13 | Strathy |
| Proper care within the community for those requiring it | S | 13 | Strathy |
| Sewerage system x4 | S | 14 | Skerr |

## *APPENDIX 4 – VOTING RESULTS*

**NORTH SUTHERLAND AS A WHOLE**

| IDEA | bus | forms | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Roads improved | 126 | 124 | **250** |
| Better public transport | 67 | 115 | **182** |
| Standard or subsidised fuel and grocery prices | 97 | 81 | **176** |
| Fuel prices standardised with the rest of UK | | 158 | **158** |
| Inter-community transport for swimming, sport etc. | 89 | 56 | **145** |
| Assistance for local young people to compete in the local housing and croft market | 60 | 72 | **132** |
| Quality mark and marketing for North Sutherland products/produce and marketing of local products | 70 | 61 | **131** |
| Proper care in the community for those requiring it | 55 | 69 | **124** |
| Grants to village halls to enable them to book professional artistes/musicians | 68 | 43 | **111** |
| Heritage trails, walks | 40 | 69 | **109** |
| Tidying up of roadside environment | 56 | 48 | **104** |
| Better all year round and wet weather tourist facilities | 64 | 39 | **103** |
| Preservation and re-use of older buildings | 39 | 63 | **102** |
| Local timber processed locally and increase in forestry projects | 28 | 73 | **101** |
| Roads fenced | 49 | 52 | **101** |
| Jobs given to local Council employees -  not contracted out | 28 | 67 | **95** |
| Employment without distance travel | 33 | 59 | **92** |
| Promotion of organic agriculture and marketing of organic crofting produce | 48 | 42 | **90** |
| Getting young people involved in community activities | 43 | 46 | **89** |
| Fewer holiday homes | 55 | 33 | **88** |
| Local mobile slaughter and packaging of produce | 38 | 45 | **83** |
| Quality employment opportunities | 26 | 57 | **83** |
| Marketing of the area for tourism | 39 | 42 | **81** |
| Community control of local resources, eg forestry, land | 37 | 44 | **81** |
| Subsidised installation of windmills to private houses with payback scheme using excess electricity | 47 | 33 | **80** |
| Training and higher education available in skills that would be locally useful | 43 | 35 | **78** |
| More help for small business – start-up etc. | 40 | 36 | **76** |
| Croft houses not to be de-crofted and separated from the croft | 56 | 19 | **75** |
| Development based on marine resources eg, lobster, crab, salmon, seaweed | 28 | 37 | **65** |
| Local wool use group | 18 | 43 | **61** |
| Less emphasis on crofting and more on sustainable and motivating employment | 14 | 45 | **59** |
| More entertainment, culture, arts | 28 | 30 | **58** |
| Compulsory Gaelic taught in all the schools | 38 | 17 | **55** |
| Better healthcare facilities | 24 | 29 | **53** |
| Automatic transfer of land to community any time an estate comes up for sale and price set by a government body | 24 | 28 | **52** |
| Promotion of the area for "green tourism" | 38 | 13 | **51** |
| Greater accountability from agencies involved in the area (ie. Highland Council, SNH, etc.) | 25 | 26 | **51** |

| Whole of Sutherland ideas continued… | bus | forms | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project officer to help develop local projects | 29 | 19 | **48** |
| Loch fishing – an angling association for North Sutherland | 26 | 22 | **48** |
| Cottage craft industries with guaranteed outlets | 20 | 23 | **43** |
| Improved air links with London and the Continent | 18 | 24 | **42** |
| Scheme to promote and provide homes with solar panels | 18 | 24 | **42** |
| Improved housing standards | 17 | 25 | **42** |
| Scheme to encourage crofts back into rotational cropping | 22 | 17 | **39** |
| Forestry Commission land planted with mixed species | 15 | 22 | **37** |
| Grant aid for experimental crop growing | 12 | 22 | **34** |
| Land capable of improvement to be made available to crofters, creating more crofts and existing crofts more viable | 17 | 17 | **34** |
| Change sheep subsidies to small, general agricultural subsidies | 13 | 19 | **32** |
| Input of funds to research and development of economy | 12 | 19 | **31** |
| Forcing large sporting estate landlords to create more employment | 18 | 13 | **31** |
| Redistribution of crofts | 21 | 9 | **30** |
| Reform housing grants system | 15 | 14 | **29** |
| Exploitation of Gaelic culture for tourism | 18 | 8 | **26** |
| Design a board game promoting things to do and places to see in North Sutherland for tourists to play in B&B's, hotels, etc. | 9 | 8 | **17** |
| Forestry management partnership scheme | 3 | 10 | **13** |
| Audit of natural, cultural and economic interest of the area | 4 | 9 | **13** |

## ALTNAHARRA VOTING RESULTS

| IDEAS | bus | forms | total |
|---|---|---|---|
| A local restaurant/eating facility | 9 | 2 | **11** |
| Cattle grids at each end of the village | 6 | 5 | **11** |
| A mobile bank | 7 | 2 | **9** |
| Diesel pumps | 5 | 3 | **8** |
| Re-open the pre-school nursery | 5 | 2 | **7** |
| A library in the area | 5 | | **5** |
| More street lights to allow for a speed limit in the village | 3 | 2 | **5** |
| More holidaymakers encouraged to stay in Altnaharra | 5 | | **5** |
| Re-open post office or supply mobile post office | 2 | 2 | **4** |
| Something in the village to encourage tourists to stop here | 3 | 1 | **4** |
| Local nursing home | 2 | | **2** |
| A caravan/camping site independent of the Caravan Club | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Local brochure | | | |
| Public observatory | | | |

## ARMADALE VOTING RESULTS

| IDEA | bus | forms | total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Extension of speed limit and streetlights through village | 23 | 30 | 53 |
| Small area astroturfed for football, basketball etc. | 33 | 9 | 42 |
| Armadale Estate back to the crofters | 13 | 12 | 25 |
| Footpaths in village | 5 | 9 | 14 |
| Repair to bus shelter at Sunnyside | 2 | 11 | 13 |
| Tree planting – crofter forestry | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| Cattle grid on road at Armadale Farm | 4 | 8 | 12 |
| Develop Poulouriscaig as tourist attraction | 4 | 8 | 12 |
| Floodlit astroturf, in Melvich, and transport | | 11 | 11 |
| Windfarming in the hill | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Transport to jobs in Caithness | | 7 | 7 |
| Good stone quarrying | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Meeting place for teenagers, youth club | | 6 | 6 |
| Strathy toilets | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Coffee shop | | 2 | 2 |

## BETTYHILL VOTING RESULTS

| IDEA | bus | forms | total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Development of Naver Teleservice Centre | 16 | 11 | 27 |
| Sheltered housing/residential care for elderly | 2 | 18 | 20 |
| Youth club, more activities for young people | 6 | 14 | 20 |
| Geneaology system set up | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| Cattle grid at Clachan | 7 | 13 | 20 |
| Better accommodation at Farr School | 5 | 14 | 19 |
| Footbridge from Bettyhill to Torrisdale Bay | 6 | 11 | 17 |
| Bettyhill pier restored | 10 | 7 | 17 |
| Outdoor all weather centre – surfing, sailing, coasteering,mountaineering, abseiling, orienteering etc. for locals and tourists | 6 | 9 | 15 |
| Return of salmon fishing | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| Indoor sports centre | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| Interpretation/visitor centre | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| Better access to the beach and beach cleaning | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| Places to eat – café/restaurant | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Local brochure | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| Meeting place for youngsters | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Play area for children | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Signage for the museum | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Community Council to have a "suggestion box" | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Riding school with sand arena | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Countryside ranger service | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Community/co-operatively run licensed premises | | 2 | 2 |
| Golf course | | 2 | 2 |
| Astro turf pitch | | | |

## DURNESS VOTING RESULTS

| IDEA | bus | forms | total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Difficulties over petrol supplies to retailers ironed out | 28 | 51 | 79 |
| New village hall | 31 | 26 | 57 |
| Eriboll Pier | 27 | 26 | 53 |
| Durness brochure | 25 | 14 | 39 |
| Day care centre | 12 | 19 | 31 |
| Cash point | 18 | 11 | 29 |
| Processing of fish/shellfish etc. at Eriboll Pier | 10 | 8 | 18 |
| Angling club | 11 | 7 | 18 |
| Residential care unit for the elderly | | 15 | 15 |
| Tree planting to enhance the village, walkways for visitors | 4 | 8 | 12 |
| Swimming pool | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Production of bottled water from limestone lochs | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| A bowling alley | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Water sports at Eriboll | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Balnakeil Wines relocate to Durness | 3 | | 3 |
| Air strip | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Chalet complex | | | |

## HALLADALE VOTING RESULTS

| IDEA | bus | forms | total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hall improvements | 56 | 1 | **57** |
| Further development of RSPB and tourism | 18 | 3 | **21** |
| More activities for children | 21 | | **21** |
| Develop interpretation of peatlands for tourists | 16 | 2 | **18** |
| More social activities | 17 | | **17** |
| Children's play area | 12 | | **12** |
| More education facilities locally | 8 | | **8** |
| Better child-care for pre-school children | 3 | 4 | **7** |
| Bracken control | 7 | | **7** |
| Support for wildlife tour company | 2 | | **2** |

## MELNESS VOTING RESULTS

| IDEA | bus | forms | total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Employment to keep young people in Melness | 21 | 6 | 27 |
| The Community Centre refurbished and used more | 14 | 7 | 21 |
| Melness Pier upgraded | 18 | 2 | 20 |
| A playpark/sports area for youngsters | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| Further development of the Caladh Sona unit | 5 | 9 | 14 |
| Control livestock to prevent them from entering gardens | 12 | 1 | 13 |
| Development of Gaelic Centre | 9 | 4 | 13 |
| Wind power scheme | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Outdoor activity centre | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Proper community development plan | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Motivation of young folk to stimulate life in this community | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| More community gatherings and activities | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Signposts to identify Hope | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| A summer ranger/guide | 4 | | 4 |
| A focal point for the community | | | |
| Scrambler track | | | |

## MELVICH/PORTSKERRA VOTING RESULTS

| IDEA | bus | forms | total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Modernise the village hall | 52 | 3 | 55 |
| A better swing park | 32 | 2 | 34 |
| Road around village required urgent repair | 32 | 2 | 34 |
| Meeting place for 12 –18 year olds | 28 | 4 | 32 |
| Repairs carried out to Portskerra Pier | 22 | 3 | 25 |
| Call centre at the industrial units | 20 | 1 | 21 |
| Improved parking at the church in Strathy | 9 | 11 | 20 |
| Games room, cyber café for youngsters at the industrialunits | 15 | 3 | 18 |
| Tidy up at beach and provision of litter bins | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| Wind farm | 12 | | 12 |
| Heritage centre | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Nursery provision | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Street lights extended to the Shore | 8 | | 9 |
| Sports centre | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| Provision of a countryside ranger | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Bowling alley | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Outdoor swimming pool | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Local brochure | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Conservatory for Sinclair Court | | 1 | 1 |
| A place to eat – eg. restaurant, chippy | 6 | 2 | 8 |

## SKERRAY VOTING RESULTS

| IDEAS | bus | forms | total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Community cattle herd | 1 | 10 | 11 |
| Bunk house accommodation | 1 | 14 | 15 |
| Maximise crofter forestry potential | | 24 | 24 |
| Availability of local produce for sale – lamb, veg etc. | 4 | 21 | 25 |
| A group formed to organise childrens activities | | 6 | 6 |
| Old church hall converted into a war museum and the memorial area lanscaped | 4 | 21 | 25 |
| Redevelopment of site at the harbour – possibly resaurant/café/toilets | 3 | 23 | 26 |
| Sewerage system | | 41 | 41 |
| Get the post office back into the heart of the community | | 4 | 4 |
| Toilets | | 21 | 21 |
| Centre for senior citizens | | 6 | 6 |
| Local woodyard | | 11 | 11 |
| A supermarket | | 2 | 2 |
| A youth club with darts, pool tables, ping pong, riding, etc. | | 8 | 8 |
| Concerts | | 2 | 2 |
| An equestrian centre | | 3 | 3 |

## STRATHNAVER VOTING RESULTS

| IDEA | bus | forms | total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Renovation of Syre Barn | 4 | 18 | 22 |
| More use of the village hall | 3 | 13 | 16 |
| Proper parking places for fishers | 2 | 13 | 15 |
| Get rid of stray sheep and deer | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| Cattle grids at school entrance/exit | | 7 | 7 |
| Disabled toilets in Strathnaver Hall | | 5 | 5 |
| Public toilets at the village hall | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| More opportunities for the community to get involved | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Local control of sporting rights | | 1 | 1 |
| Any development to be at Syre, Altnaharra and Bettyhill and Strathnaver to stay as it is | | 1 | 1 |

## STRATHY VOTING RESULTS

| IDEA | bus | form | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Toilets at the beach/cemetry | 28 | 15 | **43** |
| A youth club | 22 | 4 | **26** |
| Improve TV, radio reception and mobile phones | 20 | 3 | **23** |
| Cattle grids at each end of the village | 14 | 5 | **19** |
| Local shops – possibly co-operative system – and similar for feedstuffs | 5 | 8 | **13** |
| Tourist ranger/guide | 8 | 4 | **12** |
| Shelter belts of trees | 4 | 6 | **10** |
| Making a focal point in the village | 7 | 3 | **10** |
| Day care centre | 6 | 4 | **10** |
| Bracken and whin control | 6 | 4 | **10** |
| More sheep and cattle | 7 | 2 | **9** |
| Community ownership of some small businesses for addititonal employment and tourist facilities | 2 | 6 | **8** |
| Create village "officer" | 2 | 6 | **8** |
| Arts and crafts exhibition and sales outlet | 3 | 5 | **8** |
| Tourist brochure | 3 | 4 | **7** |
| Paths to archaeolgical sites | 3 | 4 | **7** |
| Seaweed harvesting | 1 | 4 | **5** |
| Young people should be collecting historical information | 3 | 1 | **4** |
| Use of seaweed fertilisers | 2 | 2 | **4** |
| Call centre based at industrial units at Melvich | | | |

## TONGUE VOTING RESULTS

| Idea | bus | forms | total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Restaurant/café | 23 | 2 | **25** |
| Ewan Robertson and Tongue history museum using building believed to be his home | 9 | 14 | **23** |
| Create circular walks around the village | 8 | 11 | **19** |
| Sports area adjacent to the school combined with picnic/play area for visitors and locals | 17 | 2 | **19** |
| Tourist information point near car park to provide information on local walks etc. | 11 | 7 | **18** |
| Sort the football field | 9 | 9 | **18** |
| More public footpaths | 7 | 10 | **17** |
| Better use of the community hall – dances, social events | 9 | 8 | **17** |
| Village golf course | 13 | 3 | **16** |
| Provide more entertainment in the village hall | 9 | 5 | **14** |
| Leisure centre with squash courts, badminton etc | 8 | 6 | **14** |
| Tourist information/guides | 12 | 1 | **13** |
| Employ village officer | 4 | 7 | **11** |
| Improve/upgrade childrens playpark | 7 | 4 | **11** |
| Water sports centre | 6 | 3 | **9** |
| Blandy Trail | 5 | 3 | **8** |
| Local walk centred on the architecture of Tongue | 7 | 1 | **8** |
| Fish farm | 8 | | **8** |
| Astro-turf football pitch | 7 | | **7** |
| Horse riding centre | 6 | | **6** |
| More shops eg mini shopping mall | 1 | 5 | **6** |
| Youth club | 2 | 4 | **6** |
| Own football team | 5 | | **5** |
| Complete cycle around Borgie forest to create a circular route | 3 | 1 | **4** |
| Dry ski slopes | 4 | | **4** |
| Pitch and putt | 4 | | **4** |
| Coffee shop with facilities for 12+ to adult | 2 | 1 | **3** |
| Larger community centre | 2 | | **2** |
| Curling centre with refreshment facilities | 1 | | **1** |

### Altnaharra

- Re-opening of Crask Inn
- Refurbishment of Strathnaver Hall
- Childrens playpark
- Farr swimming pool
- Maintaining but not widening A638 and pointing bridges
- Roads Dept leaving a supply of grit for roads in Altnaharra

### Armadale

- Hall being modernised at Armadale  water, doors and windows
- Road widening Brawl to Armadale
- Strathy hall  more entertainment
- New doctors surgery
- Peatlands Management Scheme
- Possibility of cattle grid at end of the road
- Upgrade of road in near future
- Tree harvesting at Strathy and Borgie
- Community cattle herds
- Activities in Strathy hall
- New changing rooms at the football pitch in Melvich
- Possibility of handover of estate to locals
- Gym in swimming pool
- Activities in local halls

### Bettyhill

- Swimming pool  excellent facility underused
- Bowls  accessible to all financially, good leisure puruit for linking
- Kids footbll
- Dùthchas
- Community hall activities
- Shoe box appeal
- Road widening
- Personal awareness safety evening
- Adult education classes
- Telecottage
- Swimming pool and future developments sports hall?
- Bingo
- Badminton for children and adults
- A836 road improvements
- Fund raising

**Bettyhill continued…**

- Screen machine
- Nursery
- Generous response to appeals eg. Central America Appeal
- Encouraging tourism
- Library
- Distance learning
- Moving the War Memorial
- Roll of Honour
- Strathnaver Trail
- Bike trail at Gordon Terrace
- Community council
- School board
- Skerray co-op
- Oyster cultivation
- John Kenneth's memorial seat

### Durness

- Hall
- Playgroup trying to get a place
- Eriboll pier
- Walk to ships names
- Stockproof the village
- Cattlegrids
- Bouncy castle
- Video of Durness at the end of 20C
- Durness Brochure
- Printing of a book
- Walkways of historical interest Laid area
- New telephone/TV mast compatible with mobile phone use

### Halladale

- Peatlands Management Scheme
- Countryside Premium Scheme
- Sheep Health Scheme
- Township Development Scheme
- TV scheme
- Improvements to Halladale and Melvich halls
- Re-appraisal of crofting land use  land ownership
- CASE schemes
- RSPB visitor centre
- Highland Interpretive Strategy
- Development of Strathy Hall
- "Initiative at the Edge"

### Melness

- Melness Gaelic Centre
- Proposed developments at the pier
- Daniel Trust
- Crofters Trust
- Public transport survey
- Forestry
- Wind power scheme

### Melvich

- At the moment we are trying to refurbish/extend the village hall for
- the community
- Industrial units not in use
- Pier project
- Play area
- Care unit at Sinclair Court
- Playing fields
- Play area by football pitch
- Self catering unit
- Guest house upgrades
- Recreation park and sports ground
- Sinclair Court community centre

### Skerray

- SNH crofting pilot scheme
- New entrants scheme
- OAP monthly dinner
- CASE start up schemes
- Community co-op
- Township development Scheme
- Gaelic school (Tongue)
- Comann Eachdraidh Sgeireadh
- Public hall activities
- Norccelt community enterprise
- Hall restoration
- Coastguard
- Bowling club
- Dùthchas
- Telecottage expanding communications
- Forestry
- New shed
- The wee shop and everything
- New initiatives in crofting bringing crofts back into good heart
- The pathway and bridge to Torridale
- Local forest enterprise (tree planting)
- Feed supply (Norccelt)
- The new water pipes installed although quite a lot to be done yet

**Skerray continued …**
- The new swimming pool in Bettyhill
- The hall activities
- Beach walk
- Macmillan coffee morning

### Strathnaver

- Notice board
- Hall refurbishment
- TV club to improve reception
- Strathnaver Trail

### Strathy

- Community cattle herds
- Dùthchas
- Bid for Bowside Estate
- Hall facilities
- Village hall activities
- Day care centre at Sinclair Court
- Day care centre in addition to Strathy hall (we think this is current)
- Bid for toilets at Strathy beach
- Proposed new road from Bettyhill to Armadale
- Community council has ongoing projects
- Local studies
- Display by local studies
- Sports club

### Tongue

- Plat school collection
- Bonfire night
- OAP/childrens parties
- Daniel Trust
- Football pitch
- Tongue/Melness tots club sub committee ongoing plans for new playgroup
- and nursery
- Crofters forestry at Dalcharn which will create work locally in
- fencing, trees for furniture, charcoal, mushroom culture
- Awaiting new fire station
- Day centres for the elderly
- Rifle hall project
- Foster care/child care

## NORTH SUTHERLAND – AGENCY STRENGTHS

| Agency | Comment | Code | No |
|---|---|---|---|
| Forest Enterprise | Opportunities to improve Forest Structure/ Landscape | E | 1 |
| Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board | Scenery, coastline, beaches and landscapes | E | 1 |
| Scottish Tourist Board | Scenery – mountain, coast etc. | E | 1 |
| Caithness and Sutherland Enterprise | Natural environment – implications for economic, social and environmental development of area, particularly important in maintaining the strength of communities in an economically fragile area | E | 3 |
| Crofters Commission | Outstanding natural environment | E | 3 |
| Forestry Commission | Good examples of native woodland | E | 3 |
| Forestry Commission | Scope for expanding woodland area. | E | 3 |
| Forest Enterprise | High conservation value bog systems | E | 3 |
| Highland Council | Peatland Management Scheme available for positive land management assistance. | E | 3 |
| Highland Council | RSPB Visitor Centre and Reserve at Forsinard. | E | 3 |
| Highland Council | A natural heritage area of national or international importance. | E | 3 |
| Highland Council | Notable "wilderness" area in western part for remote recreation. | E | 3 |
| RSPB | Important species include: Otter, freshwater pearl mussel, red-throated diver, black-throated diver, golden eagle, merlin, peregrine and golden plover, corncrake. | E | 3 |
| RSPB | Many SSSIs and much of area notified as a SAC and/or proposed as SPA as part of Nature 2000. | E | 3 |
| RSPB | Much of area of international importance (blanket bays, sea cliffs). | E | 3 |
| RSPB | Natural Heritage: (Habitats and species) | E | 3 |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency | High quality of environment | E | 3 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | High natural heritage importance (coastal/ peatlands) | E | 3 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | Native woodland resource (inc. ancient woodlands) | E | 3 |
| Scottish Tourist Board | 'Green' environment | E | 3 |
| Scottish Tourist Board | Wildlife – marine environment | E | 3 |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency | Small number of local significant polluting influences | E | 9 |
| Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board | Peace and quiet, the wilderness | E | 10 |
| Scottish Tourist Board | Peace and quiet – wild land | E | 10 |
| Highland Council | Community-owned Estates (e.g: Melness, Keodale). | EC | 3 |
| Highland Council | Many communities underpinned by crofting legislation, thus assisting socio-economic and environmental stability. | EC | 3 |
| Highland Council | Renowned internationally for angling. | EC | 4 |
| Highland Council | Stalking and rough shooting for an international clientele. | EC | 4 |
| Crofters Commission | magnet for tourism; eg. hillwalking, fishing, sailing, windsurfing, wildlife enthusiasts | EC | 5 |
| Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board | Consistent visitor numbers | EC | 5 |
| Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board | Majority of visitors staying within the area | EC | 5 |
| Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board | Very high spend per visitor | EC | 5 |
| Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board | Very upmarket visitor profile | EC | 5 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | Highly attractive to tourists | EC | 5 |
| Scottish Homes | Unemployment rate declining | EC | 9 |
| Forestry Commission | good examples of commercial woodlands | EC | 10 |
| Forestry Commission | North West Sutherland Native Woodland Project in place. | EC | 10 |
| Forestry Commission | scope for expanding woodland area | EC | 10 |
| Forest Enterprise | Growing conditions for good quality conifers in localised shelter and good soils | EC | 10 |
| Crofters Commission | Potential to market local produce as being high quality, semi-organic, with low negative impact on the environment | EC | 11 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Caithness and Sutherland Enterprise | Community identity – implications for economic, social and environmental development of area, particularly important in maintaining the strength of communities in an economically fragile area | S | 1 |
| Scottish Homes | Number of households increasing, increase in single person households | S | 3 |
| Scottish Homes | Projected 3% decline in population 1994-2011 | S | 3 |
| Scottish Homes | Relatively stable population with in-migration cancelling out natural decrease | S | 3 |
| Crofters Commission | Good quality of life - peace, low crime, sense of community | S | 4 |
| Caithness and Sutherland Enterprise | Cultural heritage – implications for economic, social and environmental development of area, particularly important in maintaining the strength of communities in an economically fragile area | S | 5 |
| Highland Council | High archaeological significance, e.g: Stathnaver. | S | 5 |
| Historic Scotland | Key individual high-potential sites and landscapes. | S | 5 |
| Historic Scotland | Locals and visitors interest in archaeology already present. | S | 5 |
| Historic Scotland | Positive attitude in local community to archaeology and interpretation. | S | 5 |
| Scottish Arts Council | Active arts promoter in Skerray, who presents a progamme of arts performances, and a crafts workshop in the local area. | S | 5 |
| Scottish Arts Council | The Mill Theatre in Thurso is a well equipped small theatre. | S | 5 |
| Scottish Arts Council | The nearest building base arts facility is the Lyth Arts Centre in Wick who themselves are about to undergo a review of their operation. | S | 5 |
| Scottish Arts Council | The Northlands Festival. Its success is perhaps the basis for an opportunity to bring resources eg. lighting equipment that could be used to make small local facilities such as primary schools venues of arts activity. | S | 5 |
| Scottish Arts Council | There are two capital projects supported by SAC in different stages of development – a gallery in Helmsdale and a cinema in Thurso. | S | 5 |
| Scottish Tourist Board | Archeology | S | 5 |
| Scottish Tourist Board | People and culture | S | 5 |
| Forest Enterprise | Opportunities to develop local recreation infrastructure | S | 10 |
| Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board | Outdoor activities | S | 10 |
| Scottish Homes | Average house prices below Scottish average | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | Scottish Homes investment of £2.963 million attracting £1.633 million in private finance and leading to the development of 99 units, over the period 1989-1998. | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | Waiting lists reducing | S | 11 |

## APPENDIX 7
## NORTH SUTHERLAND - AGENCY CHALLENGES

| Agency | Comment | Code | No |
|---|---|---|---|
| Forestry Commission | Encourage reduction in grazing pressures to allow natural regeneration of trees and ground flora. | E | 3 |
| RSPB | Maintain and enhance natural heritage interest. | E | 3 |
| RSPB | Improve promotion of value of natural heritage interest. | E | 3 |
| RSPB | Promote greater understanding and appreciation of natural heritage features. | E | 3 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | To aim for a positive local perception of designations | E | 3 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | Increase/ improve woodland resource | E | 3 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | Ensure use of resources is sustainable | E | 3 |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency | Waste management / minimisation | E | 9 |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency | To develop complementary mechanisms to the more conventional regulatory procedures including the further development of partnerships and consensus building. | E | 9 |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency | Education on pollution issues | E | 9 |
| RSPB | Promote better understanding between nature conservation bodies and local people | E | |
| Crofters Commission | Remoteness - making import of goods expensive and marketing of products and services difficult | EC | 2 |
| Forest Enterprise | Road Network | EC | 2 |
| Scottish Tourist Board | Cost of transport / lack of public transport | EC | 2 |
| Crofters Commission | Harsh climate and environment - some of most difficult conditions in UK for agricultural production | EC | 3 |
| Forest Enterprise | Low visitor numbers | EC | 5 |
| Forest Enterprise | Distance from main tourist areas | EC | 5 |
| Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board | Lack of indoor facilities | EC | 5 |
| Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board | Lack of awareness / image of the area | EC | 5 |
| Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board | Quality of accommodation | EC | 5 |
| Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board | Quality of retailing and catering | EC | 5 |
| Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board | Information provision/ signage | EC | 5 |
| Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board | Poor attractiveness for families | EC | 5 |
| Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board | Poor international attraction | EC | 5 |
| Scottish Tourist Board | To develop tourism outwith the main tourist areas | EC | 5 |
| Scottish Tourist Board | To extend the season | EC | 5 |
| Scottish Tourist Board | Weather – all weather facilities | EC | 5 |
| Forestry Commission | Encourage the use of woodland within crofting communities. | EC | 10 |
| Forest Enterprise | Exposure and growing conditions | EC | 10 |
| Forest Enterprise | Distances from Timber Markets | EC | 10 |
| Caithness and Sutherland Enterprise | Encouraging Business start-ups/ Business Growth | EC | 13 |
| Scottish Homes | Sparsely populated and fragile economy | EC | 13 |
| Crofters Commission | Gradual erosion in communal working | S | 1 |
| Caithness and Sutherland Enterprise | Outmigration | S | 3 |
| Crofters Commission | Population decline | S | 3 |
| Crofters Commission | Progressively ageing population - migration of young people to central belt due to lack of economic/educational opportunities and high cost of living (petrol/food/housing) relative to income | S | 3 |
| RSPB | Maintain viable communities – vital for positive management | S | 3 |
| Historic Scotland | Increase in forestry | S | 5 |
| Historic Scotland | Limited nature of archaeological records | S | 5 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Historic Scotland | Difficulty of presenting important but complex multi-period archaeology to the public | S | 5 |
| Historic Scotland | Need for synthetic archaeological work to provide an accessible summary | S | 5 |
| Historic Scotland | Remote in terms of information and advice. | S | 5 |
| Historic Scotland | Need for an accessible local database (Sites and Monuments Record). | S | 5 |
| Scottish Arts Council | The dispersed population and apparent lack of a focus for arts activity seems an obvious gap in provision. | S | 5 |
| Scottish Homes | No Speculative build | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | Land supply problems | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | Ageing pop. in large owner occupied properties | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | High levels of BTS housing | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | First time buyers cannot access owner occupation | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | Migration rates and house purchases below average | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | Mismatch between house types and household composition | S | 11 |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency | Development of Sustainability Indicators | | |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency | To understand what is meant by Sustainable Development | | |

## APPENDIX 8
## NORTH SUTHERLAND - AGENCY PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE

| Agency | Comment | Code | No |
|---|---|---|---|
| Highland Council | Natural heritage interpretation, trails and enjoyment | E | 2 |
| Highland Council | HC Wild remote walking, coastal walks, multi-day treks | E | 2 |
| RSPB | Improve knowledge base of all concerned i.e. Natural Heritage interest and value. | E | 3 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | Consultation on review of SSSI's /positive management agreements | E | 3 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | SNH Build on existing resources/skills eg. Ranger service. | E | 3 |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency | Make use of the Precautionary Principle if the balance of costs and benefits justifies it | E | 9 |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency | SEPA Develop catchment management plans | E | 9 |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency | SEPA Assist in the development of waste minimisation schemes | E | 9 |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency | SEPA Advice to dischargers on alternative processes | E | 9 |
| Scottish Environment Protection Agency | SEPA Raising awareness of issues | E | 9 |
| Forest Enterprise | FE Improve/ develop road infrastructure | EC | 2 |
| Crofters Commission | CC Improved training for Clerks and Assessors to make them more effective agents for change within their communities | EC | 3 |
| Crofters Commission | CC Develop proposals with communities for increased community decision making in crofting regulation | EC | 3 |
| Crofters Commission | CC Work with people and agencies to increase opportunities for diversification of crofters into sustainable non-agricultural activity | EC | 3 |
| Crofters Commission | CC Work with others to support return of cattle to crofting areas | EC | 3 |
| Highland Council | HC Reforms to CAP and Agenda 2000 to increase support for extensive livestock rearing and tillage, and for marketing to promote products from high quality environmental areas | EC | 3 |
| Highland Council | HC Crofter forestry and native woodland projects | EC | 3 |
| Highland Council | HC "Flow Country Experience" tourist attractions to enable visitors to see a Peatland vista | EC | 5 |
| Highland of Scotland Tourist Board | Minimise the effects of seasonality | EC | 5 |
| Highland of Scotland Tourist Board | HOST To extend the retention and dispersal of visitors | EC | 5 |
| Highland of Scotland Tourist Board | HOST Development of orientation panels | EC | 5 |
| Highland of Scotland Tourist Board | HOST Development of North Kessock Highland Wildlife Centre | EC | 5 |
| Highland of Scotland Tourist Board | HOST Development of IT services eg. Ossian itinery planing/ HOST website features etc. | EC | 5 |
| Highland of Scotland Tourist Board | HOST Development of recognised tourist routes and trails eg. NW Highland Route | EC | 5 |
| Highland of Scotland Tourist Board | HOST Various objectives and tactics as laid out in HOST Strategy | EC | 5 |
| Highland Council | HC Small scale 'community' renewable energy projects. | Ec | 8 |
| Foresty Commission | Build up skills base locally. | EC | 10 |
| Foresty Commission | FC Source fence materials, seed, planting stock etc. locally. | EC | 10 |
| Foresty Commission | FC Instill culture to value the woodland resource. | EC | 10 |
| Forest Enterprise | Improve Forest Design | EC | 10 |
| Forest Enterprise | FE Greater consultation with local community | EC | 10 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | SNH Increase remit of NW Sutherland Native Woodland Project manager | EC | 10 |
| Forest Enterprise | FE Develop local markets and tourism strategy | EC | 12 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Highland Council | HC  Telecottage working | EC | 14 |
| Highland Council | HC  Large coastal quarry near Durness/Eriboll  - provided any adverse impacts are not significant and that international aggregates market offers confidence | EC | 15 |
| Highland Council | HC  Further community stakeholder interest in future management of land | EC | 16 |
| Scottish Homes | SH  Contribute to the sustainability and development of communities to ensure a high quality of life for all | S | 4 |
| Scottish Homes | SH  With partners establish agreed priorities for action which will impact on health education services, transport, employment and housing | S | 4 |
| Highland Council | HC  Cultural heritage interpretation, trails and enjoyment | S | 5 |
| Historic Scotland | Use of provisions of CPS and WGS schemes  to protect and improve  management of archaeological sites. | S | 5 |
| Historic Scotland | HS  Potential of the development of heritage trails. | S | 5 |
| Historic Scotland | HS  Council idea of building video links through remote centres. | S | 5 |
| Scottish Arts Council | Draw together the main arts protagonists in the area with the community representatives to consider the need for facilities. | S | 5 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | SNH  Targeted advertising (grant aid for leaflets, improvements to land, access provision etc.) | S | 6 |
| Crofters Commission | CC  Investigate with local people and agencies need for more local housing and scope to release croft land for local housing development | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | Fund affordable housing to ease housing pressure | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | SH  Provide grant support targeted to households experiencing constrained opportunities to provide both ownership and renting opportunities | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | SH  Address site availability and infrastructure issues | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | SH  Contribute to the development of planning framework to identify and improve access routes to appropriate housing for those with particular needs | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | SH  Promote barrier free housing | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | SH  Fund adaptations | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | SH  Improve the quality and effectiveness of existing housing | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | SH  Continue support for Care and Repair | S | 11 |
| Scottish Homes | SH  Undertake joint funding of housing in support of economic development | S | 11 |
| Caithness and Sutherland Enterprise | Better interaction between communities and agencies | S | 14 |
| Caithness and Sutherland Enterprise | CASE  More co-ordinated and action-focused planning | S | 14 |
| Crofters Commission | Local strategies for development with full participation of communities | S | 14 |
| RSPB | RSPB  Improve knowledge base of nature conservation bodies re. difficulties/problems facing local communities and local authorities. | S | 14 |
| RSPB | RSPB  Promote better understanding and spirit of partnership. | S | 14 |
| Scottish Natural Heritage | SNH  Increase local liaison | S | 14 |
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