

# Community Network

## What have we found out?

### Groups

There are lots of community groups but it can be difficult for them to get the message out

Groups often have challenges with capacity and a few members do most of the work

There are many strong connections between individuals, community members and local groups



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### Residents

Recent retirees could help the community network, they have spare time and good skills

50% of people said they would be interested in being more involved in community activities

Families told us there is a lack of outdoor activities suitable for younger children



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### Young people

Mental health is a growing concern for young people (from P5 upwards)

There are low levels of resilience, self-esteem and confidence in some young people

Young people have a huge desire to be seen and accepted as part of the community



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## What are our ideas?

### Community network events

We want to improve communication through showcasing projects and bringing people together to share ideas and talk to each other. Most of all we want people to have fun and feel connected to our community.

- Networking events
- Guided walks and talks
- Themed outdoor events like Outlander tours and Halloween
- Showcasing best practice
- Fun annual celebration event
- Series of inspirational talks

### Volunteering training

To build capacity in local groups and the wider network we are planning a programme of training events. These opportunities will bring out the skills and strengths of the volunteer network and share this knowledge.

- Paid traineeships
- Training events such as wildlife ID courses and bushskills and courses
- Social media training for groups
- Funding training
- Practical conservation skills
- Capacity building



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### Opportunities for young people

Our work so far has shown us the benefit of taking young people outdoors. Using the natural environment, we will create opportunities for young people to build confidence, awareness and resilience in and out of school.

- Nurse schools – helping leaders identify key sites for forest schools
- Primary schools – Pine Marten and Bean Goose workshops
- Secondary/college – 12-week development programme

### Other ideas

- Cross-generational projects to share knowledge and skills
- Working with artists to engage people with nature
- Ambassadors for nature
- Professional Learning for teaching staff
- Beautiful Scotland campaign
- Online community hub



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Have your say:  
Do you like our ideas?  
What have we have missed?

