



Dun Carloway - Iain MacArthur

Gearraidh na h-Aibhne gu Dail Mòr Community Plan

**VISION - OUR AREA, FROM
DALMORE TO GARYNAHINE, IS A
GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND
VISIT.**

Adhbhar a' phlana

What's the plan for?

The purpose of this plan is to help inform development of the area from Dalmore to Garynahine. It is based on consultation with the community and local stakeholders. It outlines some of the things that are appreciated by the residents and help make this a good place to live, but also some aspects that the community would like improved or developed.

The plan identifies development priorities for the area, some of which are already being taken forward by organisations within the area. We hope that the plan will encourage other organisations to consider how they might be able to tackle the remaining priorities, with an emphasis on partnership working.

Ar n-amasan

Our objectives

- to create opportunities for business growth and job creation
- to make our area an affordable and enjoyable place to live
- to maintain and enhance the place of Gaelic
- to develop a vibrant destination for visitors
- to promote and preserve our natural, physical and cultural heritage



An t-àite

About the area

The Dalmore to Garynahine area lies on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis. The 800-strong - predominantly Gaelic speaking - community can be found in the 10 crofting townships which make up the area. Crofting has shaped this landscape and many of the residents are still active crofters.

The area contains some of the most important historical sites in Lewis. The Callanish Standing Stones and associated sites are of international archaeological significance. Dun Carloway is an exceptionally well-preserved example of an Iron Age Broch, while the Gearrannan Blackhouse Village provides a glimpse into the history of island life. These sites attract over 120,000 visitors to the area each year.

The beautiful scenery also plays a role in attracting visitors to the area. Dalmore beach is very popular with surfers, while the rugged coastline and the heather moorland provide the perfect backdrop for leisurely walks. The wildlife is also an attraction, and sightings of eagles, otters and red deer are not uncommon.

Approximately two thirds of the area is under community ownership. Carloway Estate was purchased by the community in 2015. Carloway Estate extends from the Carloway River in the north to the village of Callanish in the south. A community group, Urras Tac Chalanais, own 75 hectares, while the rest of the area is privately owned by two large estates, with Dalmore Estate to the north and Garynahine Estate to the south. Both of these extend outwith the area.

The area has an active voluntary sector, with several well-established community groups including Breascleite Community Association and Carloway Community Association.

..Gearraidh na h-Aibhne gu Dail Mòr in Numbers..

793

RESIDENTS

690 Adults

36 12-18 Year Olds

47 5-11 Year Olds

20 Under 5 Year Olds

120,000

VISITORS EACH
YEAR

JOBS IN THE AREA

102

Full time jobs

54

Seasonal jobs

3 world class
visitor attractions

359

CROFTS

28

Harris Tweed Weavers

An tional-fiosrachaidh

The consultation

The views of the community were gathered through a variety of different methods. These included a survey which was delivered to every house in the area and made available online. The results of the household survey were collated and form the basis of this plan.

In addition, statistics about the area were gathered through desktop research and consultation with members of the community. These have provided accurate figures on employment, population and housing.

Further consultation was carried out with key stakeholders and the results were also fed into the plan.

Following publication of the plan, the Dalmore to Garynahine Planning Group will continue to consult with the local community. It is hoped that this plan will be the starting point for a wider conversation about development in the area.

Ar fiosrachadh

What we know

The consultation revealed what we think about our area. It identified what is good about our area and where we see the opportunities in the future, but also what our current concerns are and where the threats might lie in the future.

Desktop research has revealed some concerning statistics about our area. Our ward, Sgir'Uige agus Ceann a Tuath nan Loch, has the second-highest rate of child poverty in Na h-Eileanan an Iar at 20.46%. Fuel poverty is also a significant issue in our community with 56% of households in Na h-Eileanan an Iar experiencing fuel poverty. In our dispersed rural community, poverty is often hidden but these statistics show it exists.

Present

Future



Pristine environment
Community spirit
Community ownership

Developing assets
Economic growth
Tourism



Lack of services
Ageing population
Lack of housing

Further depopulation
Decline in jobs
Loss of services

Ar Prìomh-chùisean

Our Priorities

Cothrom air Seirbheisean agus Goireasan

Access to Services and Facilities

Good access to services and facilities is crucial to maintaining a sustainable community. We want people living in our area to have access to services such as a local shop, post office, leisure facilities, childcare and community space. Provision of these facilities will create employment and make our area a more attractive place to live.

Dualchas agus Turasachd

Heritage and Tourism

Local heritage is viewed as an asset to our area, including our cultural heritage and physical assets. Residents want this heritage to be preserved and better understood. Developing tourism infrastructure has been identified as the best way for our area to capitalise on our heritage assets and to create employment.

Taigheadas agus Cothrom air Fearann

Housing and Access to Land

A lack of housing in our area and the difficulties of accessing land have been identified as key barriers to growing our population. We want to see a mix of housing developments in the area, including housing for social rent and affordable purchase. We would also like to see opportunities for new entrants to crofting.

An Àrainneachd

Natural Environment

The natural environment is very important to us. It represents a significant asset to the community. We want to see our natural environment protected and promoted. We recognise the serious threat of climate change and we support measures to reduce our carbon emissions through supporting behavioural change, managing our peatlands, promoting renewables and other methods.



Prìomh Raointean Leasachaidh

Key Areas for Development

Cùram-cloinne

Childcare

There is a lack of adequate childcare options in the area. Available options don't always match modern working patterns and there is no wrap-around care available for school age children. Adequate childcare would make the area a more attractive place to bring up a family.

Goireasan Cur-seachad

Recreational Facilities

There is a need for more recreational facilities for local people and for visitors. This includes sport and leisure facilities as well as infrastructure for outdoor activities. Better access to nature and the development of paths and walkways is also important. Solving these issues will improve quality of life for people living in the area and encourage visitors to spend more time here.

Taigheadas

Housing

Our community is concerned about the lack of access to affordable housing to buy and rent. The quality of housing is also vital and has a particular role to play in reducing fuel poverty levels in the area. The Croft House Grant Scheme has been instrumental in delivering high quality housing in our area. It needs to be protected and strengthened. A significant number of vacant properties have been identified in our area; bringing these buildings back into use could substantially increase the local housing stock. Improved housing options will allow our population to grow.

Cùram Seann Daoine

Elderly Care

The population is ageing and the current provision of elderly care in the area is not meeting the needs of the community. We need to protect services like the Carloway Day Centre and come up with new, innovative solutions for the future. Taking the worry out of growing old is really important for the community.

Gàidhlig agus Cultar

Gaelic and Culture

Gaelic is part of everyday life in the area. However, the language needs to be supported if it is to flourish. We want to see the place of Gaelic in the community maintained and strengthened. Supporting people to learn and use the language will be crucial to this. We want to see our language and culture celebrated.



Breastlete & Callanish - Iain MacArthur

Gnìomhachasan Mara

Marine Industries

Fishing was at one time a significant industry in the area. There is a small fleet of creel boats working out of Carloway Pier during the summer months. Salmon farming is an important local employer and seaweed harvesting has seen rapid growth in recent years. We want to see the fishing industry supported to grow and its history interpreted to preserve it for future generations. We also want to see the salmon farming industry continue to employ local people and to work towards becoming more environmentally sustainable. Supporting emerging marine industries, including leisure and renewables, is also crucial.

Croitreachd

Crofting

Crofting is a vital part of the local economy. It has also shaped the landscape of the area. Crofting faces many challenges from changes to support, access to markets and the proliferation of geese to name a few. We need to engage with these issues and tackle the problem of access to land for new entrants. A vibrant crofting sector will lead to a vibrant community.

Turasachd

Tourism

Tourism represents a significant opportunity for our community. We welcome over 120,000 visitors to our area every year. Local infrastructure is not keeping pace with growth in the visitor numbers. We want to provide a high quality experience for visitors by improving infrastructure, developing existing attractions and creating new ones. If we achieve this we will generate income for our community, create jobs and generate opportunities for local businesses.

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