Local Place Plan for Harris

Harris Forum
24/07/2025
DRAFT

Legend

- Settlement boundaries, indicative only
- General improvements
- Placemaking
- Pier development
- Community foodbank
- Repair common grazing fence
- Information Point

Network of footpaths
- Proposed circular walks, with Upland Path.
- Improve footpaths, create Upland Path.

Traffic
- Speed reduced to 20 mph
- Speed reduced to 30 mph
- Speed reduced to 40 mph
- School area
- Traffic calming measures
- Safe route to school
- Placemaking
- Cycle-friendly Street
- Road improvements, resurfacing
- Road markings required
- Controlled active travel crossing
- Proposed EV charging point
- Watertaxi
- Shuttlebus for walkers
- Parking facilities

Camping
- Motorhome/Caravan only sites
- Designated Overnight Parking Spots
- Campsites (Tents and Motorhomes)
- Chemical Toilet Disposal Points

Public toilets
- Existing public toilets
- Proposed Public toilets

Defibrilator locations
- Defibrilators exisiting
- Defibrilators proposed

Sport and freetime ammenities
- Playpark
- Outdoor Gym equipment

New HHP housing provisions
- New HHP housing area

School cachement areas
- Cachement Area for School
- Cachement Area for School

Recycling
- Recycling centres, existing

NatureScot sites with their status
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- Geological Conservation Review Sites
- RAMSAR sites
- National Scenic Areas

Estate boundaries
- North Harris Trust
- West Harris Trust
- Hitchcock family
- Rodel crofting land
- Rodel hotel
- Existing Harris Plan Project #number of ongoing projects

Harris Plan Projects
- #1 Adventure Playpark
- #4 Repair existing walls on the West Harris Estate
- #6 Archaelogy trail
- #8 Additional Electrical hook-ups
- #25 Construction of four affordable homes
- #35 Native Woodland,Natural Peatland protection, restoration and enhancement
- #49 Hebrides People Visitor Centre
- #51 Develop a Bluefin Tuna fishery
- #53 Key Worker Accommodation *Location to be discussed
- #54 Enhancement of the roadside area surrounding the "Mill Pool"
- #57 Redevelop and refurbish the pier area
- #58 Community purchase of Estate
- #60 All weather facility
- #61 Further development within the Leverhulme Hub
- #69 Redevelopment of the community hall
- #72 More parking provision throughout North Harris
- #74 New carparking spaces
- #76 Horticulture facilities for the local community
- #78 Bike repair facilities
- #79 -82 Ten affordable houses within West Harris
- #85 Storage for beach wheelchair
- #86 Wardens
- #88 Improve public environment within the village
- #90 Refurbishment of Flodabay Jetty
- #91 Purchase of Scalpay School to create affordable housing and a retail unit
- #93 Redesign of Hebrides People website
- #94 Creation of learning packs and educational material
- #96 Improve access to Niseaboist beach
- #97 Bringing Leverburgh Playpark into community ownership and carrying out refurbishment
- #98 Purchase and improvement of the Softplay building
- #100 Upgrade heating system within community centre
- #101 New clubhouse
- #102 Improvements to Taila na Mara
- #105 Leverburgh Village Hall Repairs
- #106 Youth Club
- #107 Uist Beo for Harris
- #108 12 new affordable homes for rent

Basemap provided by OpenStreetMap

All suggestions of improvements are based on comments provided by the wider community.
Refer to the Harris Forum website to see the overall process.
https://www.harris-forum.co.uk/harrisplanmap

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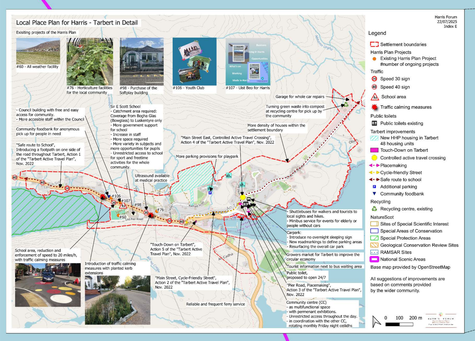

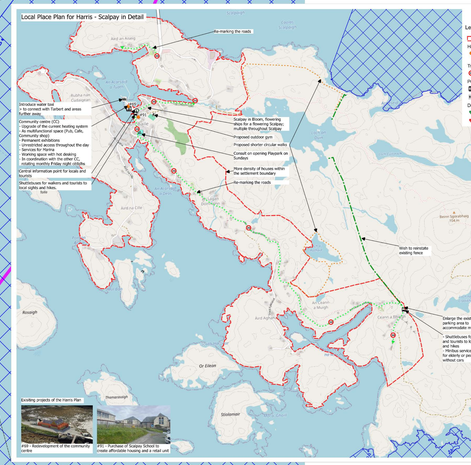

Overall necessary improvements within the Isle of Harris

PUTTING THE COMMUNITY FIRST

Empower Island Communities and create strong Local Partnerships

Funding availability through Scottish Government to let the community decide what to use it for.
The community itself knows best where their priorities are.

General improvements

- Improve communication and information sharing.
- Create central information points within different areas for general and community information.
- Exchange and sharing of information between community groups.
- Better information exchange between the Council and the communities.
- More approachability from the Council for the public.
- Improve public engagement from local councils.
- Work against volunteering fatigue.
- Reverse depopulation.
- Keep young people on the island.

Health, Social Care and Childcare

- Travelling health specialist and check-up services.
- Ultrasound equipment in every GP.
- Wider known and more available pick up and drop off services for doctor appointments.
- Sufficient health care for aging population needs.
- More and better paid carers.
- Extended time for home-based care.
- More support for local care homes to keep them open.
- Good social care system.
- In desperate need of childcare services.
- Full-time nursery provision.
- Care share availability (caring for elderly and kids in one building).
- Travelling vet.

Housing

- More affordable homes.
- Energy efficient houses.
- More density within existing settlements.
- More diversified available houses to rent.
- Mix of shared equity, rent to buy and rental accommodation schemes.
- Regulation to control second homes.
- Key worker accommodation facilities.
- Overall housing strategy to ensure that new developments serve the needs of residents rather than external investors.
- More council houses available to local people.
- Need of second social housing body.
- Housing demography needs to be balanced.
- More quality control of social housing stock.
- Enforce Outer Hebrides Design Guide on new builds.

Climate change and sustainable development

- Expanding renewable energy sector with focus on wind and tidal power.
- Sustainable energy solutions including community owned renewable energy projects.
- Community owned wind turbines in smaller scale.
- Priority within the grid for locals and community owned wind turbines.
- Year-round employment opportunities to strengthen population.
- Higher paid job opportunities.
- More diversified economy beyond tourism that leverages Harris's natural resources and marine potential.
- Supporting local trades.

Tourism and Infrastructure

- More sustainable tourism.
- Overall tourism strategy.
- Only designated and to pay for areas for campervans and motorhomes to stay; all other areas in particular lay bays and passing places with restrictions and fines.
- Make people more aware of P.L.A.C.E principles and place signs within all areas.
- Invite tourists to help with rebuilding and creating paths, cleaning coastlines etc.
- Improved infrastructure to handle increased numbers of tourists.
- More public toilets.
- Financial support for public toilets of private providers.
- Equitable distribution of tourist resources to take pressure off some areas.
- Need for tourist information centres, signage and facilities.
- Signage for walking paths including distances and level of fitness required.
- Community centres with multifunctional purposes, serving as information hubs and venues for local events.
- Improve water and electricity supply and reduce power cuts to all areas of the island.
- More bins located within Harris to minimise litter.
- Reuse of some of the SSEN compound sites for the general requirements.
- Wider and more footpaths within the settlement areas.
- Overall cruise ship strategy required.
- More parking spaces required.
- Local bank service required.
- Developing key infrastructures like improved road surfaces.

Transport and Connectivity

- Improved digital connectivity for better internet and mobile phone signal.
- Better internet coverage (most areas have insufficient internet coverage).
- Fibre connectivity for every home.
- Better mobile phone coverage over the whole of the island.
- Installation of smart meters in every household: more engineers and better signal required.
- Internet support for older people, e.g. help to install internet at home and how to use it.
- General local tech support for the wider community.
- Cycle paths along all main roads, in particular single track.
- Better public transport connections, particularly linking ferries with bus services.
- More frequent, disabled accessible and better coordinated transport options.
- Follow the Equality Act and make busses accessible for everyone.
- Shuttle busses to key locations.
- More bus times throughout the day and at night to link areas better.
- More bus stops with shelters to protect from rain and wind.
- Local discount for bus services.
- Lower prices for flights.
- Better connected flights without burden to pay additional overnight stays.
- Direct flights to central points like London.
- Enforce speed limits and parking restrictions throughout Harris.

Natural surroundings and our landscape

- Build designated Upland Paths to main mountain tops like Clisham.
- Build designated Upland Path for Hebridean Way.
- Build designated cycle path for the Hebridean Way.
- Shuttle busses to main attractions to take pressure off the road system.
- More circular paths with different lengths within the whole area.
- More designated running tracks.
- Create recreation areas with benches and picnic areas.
- Information boards about overnight availabilities at hard to reach and space restricted sites.
- More regular cleaning of plastic waste blown in during storms.
- Local growing scheme to support circular economy.
- Focus on wildlife conservation.
- Preservation of dark skies and quiet areas.
- Island warden to guide and inform people.
- Identify areas of Machair and place them under protection.
- Increase monitoring and protection of Nature Scot sites.

Education

- Catchment area for schools and nurseries required.
- More government support for schools.
- Increase of staff in schools.
- More space required within the schools.
- More variety in subjects and more opportunities for pupils.
- Create good environment for studying within the school.
- Continuation of library service with additional pick up and drop of points.
- Education about recycling and climate change.
- Unrestricted access to school for sport and free time activities for the whole community.

Arts, Culture and Gaelic Language

- Preservation and promotion of our cultural heritage.
- More opportunities for non-fluent Gaelic speakers to learn and use Gaelic in everyday life.
- More availability for further education opportunities to learn Gaelic for all ages.
- Ladies and gents' choirs.
- Gaelic cafes.
- Historical Society / Comunn Eachdraidh in every area.
- Collect and record stories, newsarticles and life stories in Gaelic.
- Archive for recordings and stories in Gaelic language.

Free Time Activities and Community Engagement

- Sport activities available throughout the year within Sport Centres and Community Centres.
- More recreational and educational activities for young people and adults, for example evening classes, sport classes, sport club, outdoor gym, communal spaces for music and cultural events etc.
- More youth activities like youth club or dedicated sports classes.
- All-weather sports facilities.
- Sport facilities with flood lights to use throughout winter.
- Climbing and mountain biking for locals and tourists.
- Local hire place for e-bikes.

HARRIS FORUM
Properties of Richmond & Rodel
Registered Charity SC047394
Working Shareholder Model Community Ownership