

One step further with our Local Place Plan for Harris

Harris Forum

Based on the recent community consultations held by the Harris Forum across Harris, the first focus areas of the Local Place Plan are ready for your comments.

The conversations during the last months point to a shared vision for a more connected, sustainable, and equitable future for the island. The overlapping themes - housing, tourism, transport, and community engagement - show a clear need for collaboration and forward-thinking solutions.

Local Place Plans are a new tool for communities to produce their own plans as part of the new Scottish planning system. They offer communities the opportunity to develop proposals for their local area, expressing their aspirations and ambitions for future change. By developing and submitting a Local

Place Plan, people can set out a vision and priorities for the future of their area, particularly around the use of land and buildings. **The extracts shared here are part of our Local Place Plan for Harris, which we will submit to the Council by the end of August 2025.**

The feedback received during Parts 1 and 2 shaped the information shown on the following four pages. The first extracts are focusing on the areas of Tarbert and Leverburgh. This will be followed up by a closer look at the area of Scalpay and an overview of the whole of Harris.

The overall plan for Harris will cover island-wide issues, such as affordable houses for the community, better internet provision, parking provisions, shuttle bus services in certain

locations, proposed playgrounds, etc. The extracts zoom in on certain areas and show more details regarding their potential improvements. All the proposed items which are visible on the map are based on the feedback received from the wider community. **More background information, as well as the responses from the different consultations, can be found on the Harris Forum website (<https://www.harris-forum.co.uk>).**

We hope you will be able to find those plans useful and representative for your area as well as for the whole of Harris.

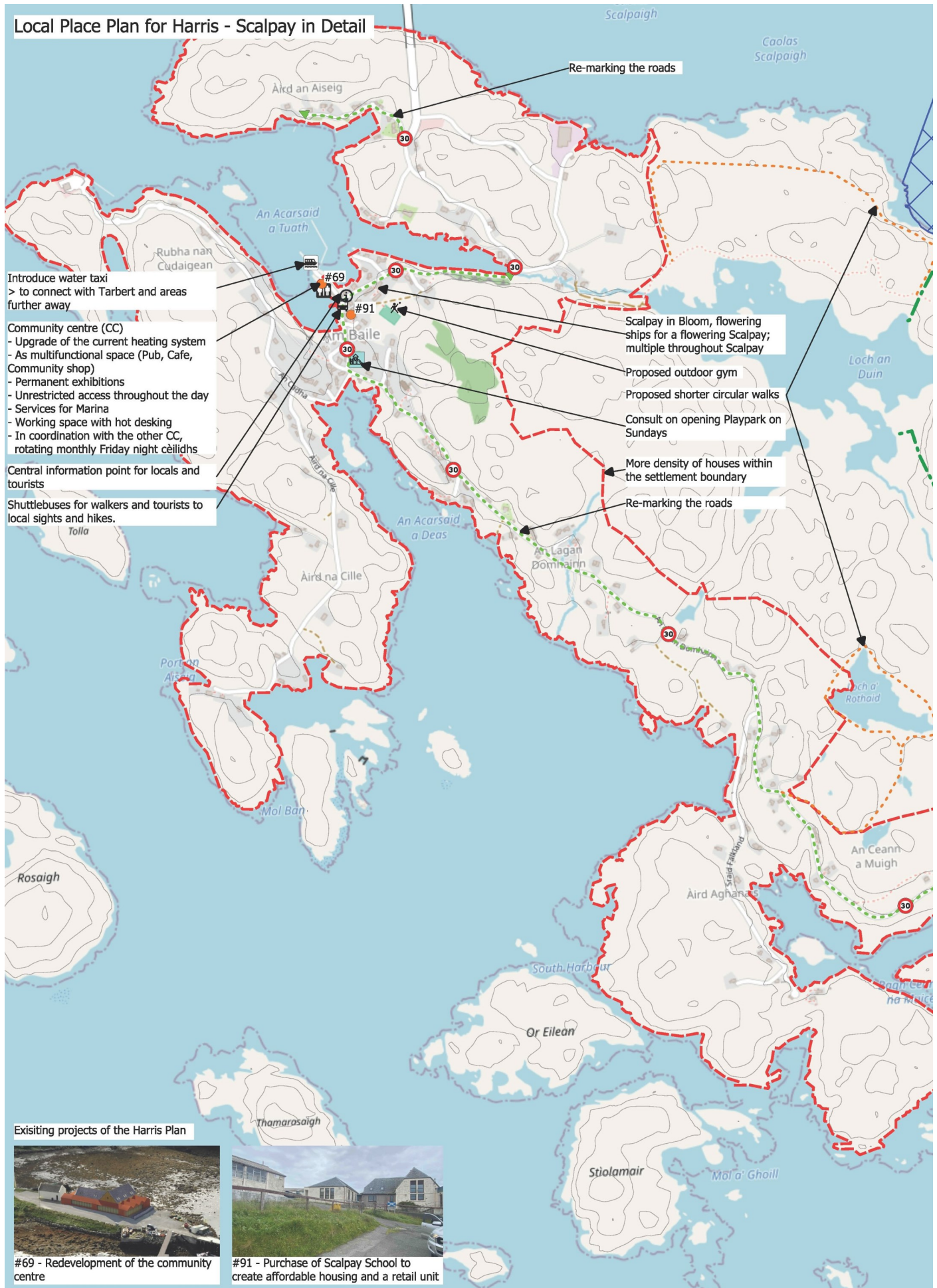
If you would like to give feedback, please contact the Harris Forum via email: eva@harris-forum.co.uk or via phone: 07988 398 665

Public exhibitions of the Local Place Plan
are planned towards the end of July, beginning of August
in following locations:

Tarbert | Leverburgh | Talla na Mara
(Watch out for announcements on the website
as well as social media.)

Monday 4 August: Walk-in day at the Council offices in Tarbert
Come along if you want to ask any questions or leave comments.

Local Place Plan for Harris - Scalpay in Detail





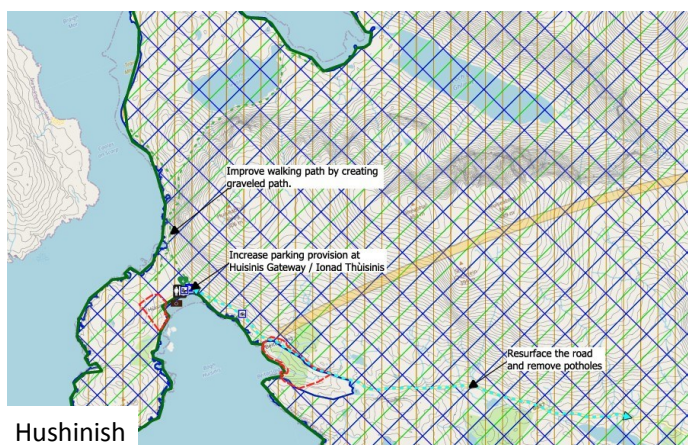


The Local Place Plan is showing the desired improvements in Harris. Within the next five to ten years, these developments aim to increase the wellbeing of our community.

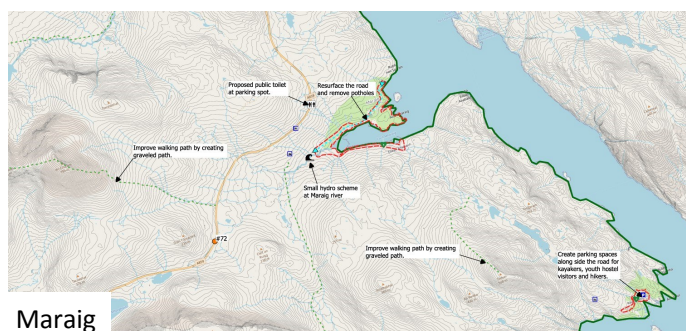
The submission of the Local Place Plan for Harris will be one overall plan showing all the extracts

presented to you in this and the previous issue of the *Dè tha dol?*.

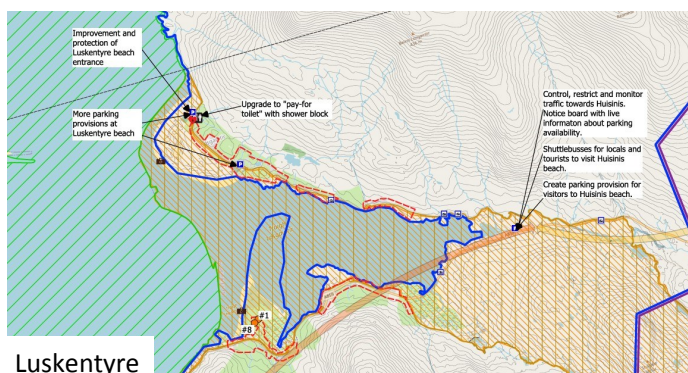
In addition to the extracts, the plan will include settlement boundaries to all settlements within Harris, single improvements within certain areas, and bullet points with actions. This plan will provide a guideline for the Council and the Scottish government on what is needed within our area.



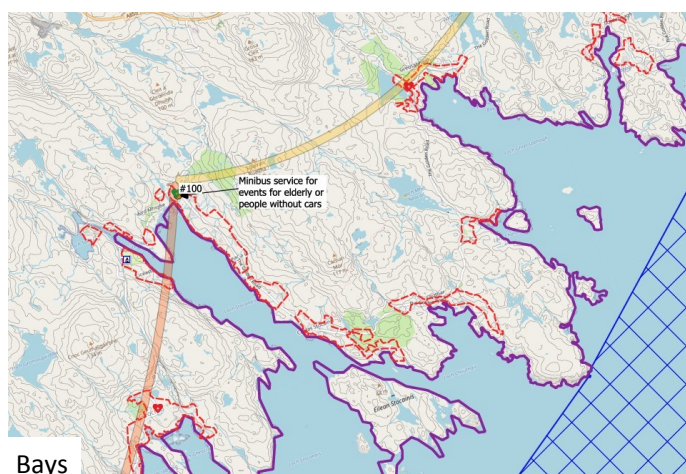
Hushinish



Maraig



Luskentyre



Bays



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.



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 SSSEN 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.



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.



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.



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.



Natural surroundings and our landscape

- Build designated path with gravelled surface to main mountain tops like Clisham.
- Build designated path with gravelled surface 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.



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.



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.



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.



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.