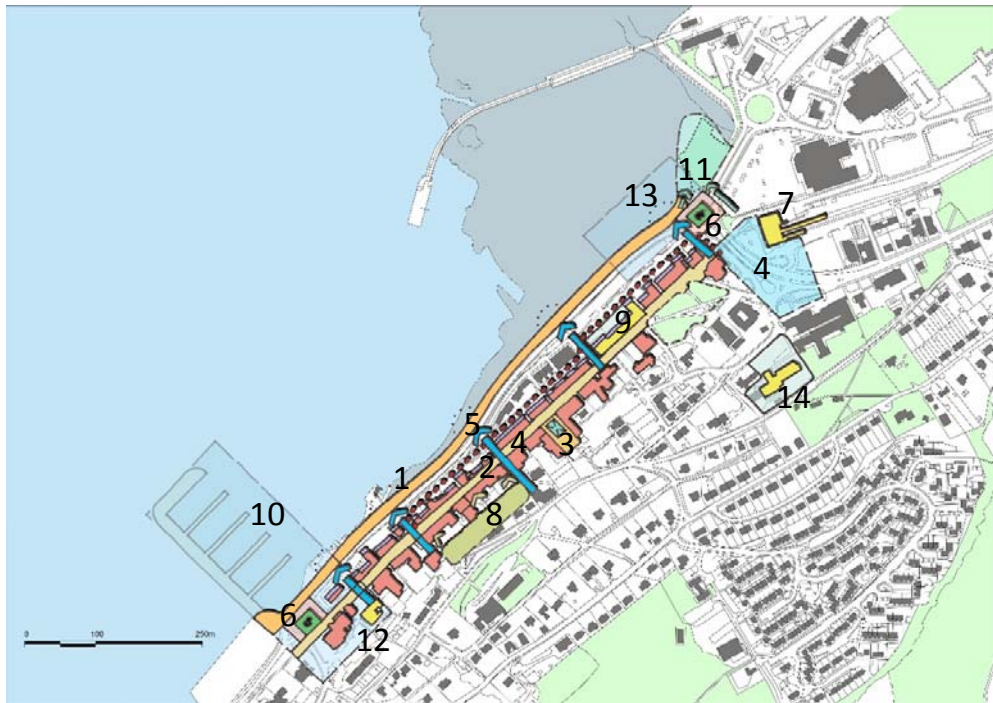


Fort William Town Centre Action Plan workshop

15th & 16th May 2014



Short term

1. Create promenade by reducing the width of the A82 dualled section
2. Tidy up the High St:
 - High St improvements
 - Shop fronts
 - Greening
 - Lighting
 - Renovate/improve High St backs
3. Canopy at Cameron Sq & other covered walkways
4. Undertake traffic management review of High St

Other short term proposals include; improving signage for pedestrians and establishing a joint town team.

Medium term

5. Improve High St links to waterfront
6. Create gateways with public art
7. Improve station entrance and approach
8. MacRae's Lane – improve linkage to High St and create *meanwhile* spaces for Arts/Craft activity
9. Convert Tweeddale House to flats/student accommodation

Other medium term proposals include; undertaking study to review development potential, creating a Cycle lane from Nevis Centre to High St via Middle St and planning more events.

Long term

10. Create western pier & marina
11. Improve pedestrian link to Fort
12. Develop police station site with western pier to create gateway
13. Create cultural scheme at east end of promenade
14. Redevelop St Mary's school site



Further details will be set out in a full report to be published soon – see www.highland.gov.uk/actionplans

CH2MHILL.



What happened during the Town Centre workshop



Day 1 - Identify Design & Planning Principles

- o Walked around Town Centre to highlight local issues
- o Presentation on best practice schemes to inspire ideas
- o Attendees were split into groups to produce sketch plans that represent their key interests

Local Business Owners

Vision *'Outdoor capital ambition: Harnessing talent'*

Key principles:

- Benefits for business, increase foot fall
- Shops that serve local people
- Clear vision 'Fort William Hub'
- Improve town centre environment
- Quick wins = temporary closure for part of A82
- Build relationships between private & public sector
- Change default = Yes we can!

Council Officials

Vision *'Fort William - at the heart of the Loch, the Glen & the Ben'*

Key principles:

- Ease the barrier effect of the A82, by reducing the dual carriageway to single carriageway
- Create a wide & attractive promenade along the water extending to the Fort
- Introduce tree planting along the High Street to add colour & soften appearance
- Encourage new mixed use developments along Middle St, orienting towards the water
- Improve accessibility between the High Street & the water, by creating clear and attractive linkage through side streets
- Find suitable uses for vacant (or soon to be vacant) buildings

Local Interest Group

Vision *'Let's work with what we have & make it better'*

Key principles:

- Make Fort William attractive:
Attract people, shop tidying up, remove dilapidation, maintenance/ management
- Working with what's there :
Heritage, Culture, Infrastructure
- Supportive governance & leadership:
Reduce rates



Residents

Vision *'An accountable action plan led by the Council but developed, monitored, & evaluated by residents. Proposals should be targeted at the short, medium & long term with clear reporting for delivery'*

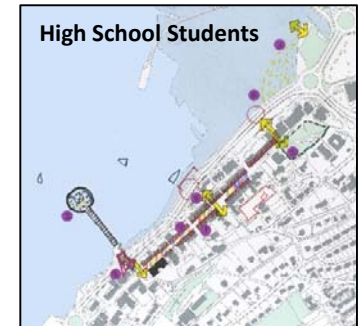
Key principles:

- Equitable accessibility & walkability
- Improve appearance of buildings (green High street)
- Improve links between the town centre & the water/ yacht club
- Shops for local people as well as visitors
- Review of traffic management
- Cover Cameron Square
- Quick wins as well as longer term actions
- Can do!

High School Students

Key principles:

- Improve shops on the High Street: Better shops, Shops for locals
- Connect water front with the High Street with a feature pedestrian bridge
- Create an additional pier with attractions such as restaurants & DJ
- Utilise & regenerate the Parade Square
Landscape interventions such as water features
- Create a cinema
- Better linkages to supermarkets
- A youth centre where young people can gather



Summary

Many recurring themes and ideas were raised by groups and attendees to the drop-in evening session. Common interventions included reducing the barrier effect of the A82, orientation of businesses towards the water & clear linkage from the High Street to the water front.

Day 2 - Refine Principles & Focus on Delivery

- o Summary of plans produced from the previous day.
- o Attendees were again split into groups ensuring a spread of interests were represented.
- o Groups were asked to choose key interests they believed were most important, which were collated to be developed further.
- o Based on the discussions during the workshop, an illustration was produced, which represented the emerging preferred concepts & proposals.