

**From:**  
**Subject:**

West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan  
FW: West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan [#350]

**Section 1:** Neil Macleod

**Your personal  
and contact  
details**

**1.1 Name \***

**1.2 Are you? \*** a member of the public

**1.4 Name of  
Organisation  
(if applicable)** Glenfinnan Community council and Visit Glenfinnan Marketing group

**Select a topic  
to comment  
on** Tell us your vision for the area

**4.1 How do  
you want the  
West Highland  
and Islands  
area to  
change over  
the next 10–  
20 years?** Improve economically and socially through improved Broadband connections and develop transport links to make the experience of visiting the area family friendly.

**4.2 What do  
you think are  
the best,  
existing  
assets and  
characteristics  
of the area?  
Think of your  
favourite  
landscapes,  
settlements,  
journeys,** The people and the landscape. Plus the potential to discover remote areas through existing routes Morvern and Ardnamurchan

events and  
meeting  
places.

4.3 Attach  
any  
photographs  
to help show  
us what you  
mean.



[bicycle\\_route\\_fort\\_william\\_to\\_glenfinnan.jpg](#) 223.37 KB · JPG

#### 4.4 How can these assets and characteristics best be safeguarded, improved or used to provide economic or community growth?

Bicycling is a past time which is becoming more popular in the Highlands. However, so is driving. To make it safer, for all parties, the Scottish Government has developed the National Walks and Cycling Network (NWCN) supported by Sustrans, SNH and the British Waterways board.

The Visit Glenfinnan Marketing Group and the Glenfinnan community council approached Across Ecosse to assess the idea of developing a bicycle / walking path from Fort William (Corpach) to Glenfinnan. From there the route would be linked with the existing bicycle path along Loch Shiel, which ends at Polloch, at the southern end of the loch. This in turn would open up a bicycle route to include 4 other lochs Sunart, Aline, Linnhe and Eil, of which Loch Linnhe is already covered by NCN route 78 Oban to Fort William.

The initial response has been well received and Philip Kearney the NWCN development officer for Sustrans is fully supportive of the idea for a route from Fort William to Glenfinnan. He advised a long term plan for developing a NWCN route from Fort William to Mallaig has been tabled by the organisation.

The aspiration of this route would be to open up the island of Skye and the Western Isles for bicyclists who, would arrive at Fort William by sleeper from London, bicycle around the Hebrides and then return by Ullapool to Inverness and the train back south. It should also be noted with the upgrade of the A830 to Mallaig, the final section from Morar to Mallaig has included a bicycle / walking path, so the end of the route is complete.

The development of a bicycle path from Corpach to Glenfinnan could initiate economic development, not only to the communities along the 'Road to the Isles', but also the communities in Morvern, Ardnamurchan and latterly the Outer Hebrides.