

From:
Subject:

West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan
FW: West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan [#55]

Section 1: Carole Horton

**Your personal
and contact
details**
1.1 Name *

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

4.1 How do you want the West Highland and Islands area to change over the next 10–20 years?

I am using this opportunity to make a general comment about the Isle of Skye, where I live. I have felt for a long time that the whole island needs a revamp. The Isle of Skye is the jewel in Scotland's crown, and is the second most popular place to visit, next to Edinburgh. Yet far less money is spent here than in Edinburgh. Tourism is vital to the Isle of Skye, yet I feel there has been no money put in to making Skye's appearance acceptable. After visiting other parts of Scotland, and then come back to Skye, I notice how run down it all looks. Road signs are ancient and rusty. No attempt has been made to erect signs advertising key sites etc. There is nothing to make Skye welcoming to tourists. In Portree, the most visited part of Skye, I noticed recently how bus shelters are falling apart and one I saw was completely covered in green algae. So much so you could hardly see out of them. Isn't it time the Highland Council invested some money into the Isle of Skye which is known and revered world wide? I can only imagine the disappointment some must feel when they see how run down it is. We on Skye pay council tax too, but what do we get back for it? Pot holed roads and few facilities.

4.2 What do you think are the best, existing assets and characteristics of the area? In Skye it is the scenery and the Cuillin Hills, and Dunvegan Castle. There is one decent tourist venue in Portree and that is the Aros Heritage Centre. That's about it. When people ask me where they can go for something interesting, that is the only place i can think of.

Think of your favourite landscapes, settlements, journeys,

events and
meeting
places.

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

As I have already said there needs to be a general tidying up, with new road signs, and maybe flower beds at the Kyleakin roundabout, which is the first thing people see when they come over the bridge. I big effort was made in Broadford by local people to landcape a garden on the waterfront. Good for them. It's improved the look of the place, but the first place people see is Kyleakin, and it really needs improvement. I also think the old toll office at the bridge should have been converted to a tourist information office. That in itself would make Skye seem more welcoming.