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# STARTING A' CONVERSATION TOISEACH TÒISEACHAIDH

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Report on Camuscross & Duisdale Initiative's members' views  
from the August 2023 open session at An Crùbh

PREPARED FOR THE CDI BOARD  
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## INTRODUCTION

The **Camuscross & Duisdale Initiative** [CDI] organised an open evening in August 2023, at an Crùbh, to give members of the community an opportunity to start a conversation around both their community initiative and An Crùbh, which opened in 2018, and is wholly owned by the community initiative.

The format was informal, beginning with a social half hour, then a brief introduction by the Chairs of both Camuscross & Duisdale Initiative and An Crùbh Ltd, before providing opportunities for all members to put their responses to a series of broad questions, on post-it notes on the wall. A free BBQ followed, as a thank you for their ideas.

The questions and post-its remained up for 10 days, allowing those unable to attend on the evening to make their contribution, during the week and to give others a chance to be inspired by some of the ideas already on the wall.

This short report is a presentation of the responses made by members and provides the data required by the CDI Board to allow further analysis and to decide on next steps.





**Events:** Ceilidhs and family events were the order of the day, although additional evening events and groups were also suggested.

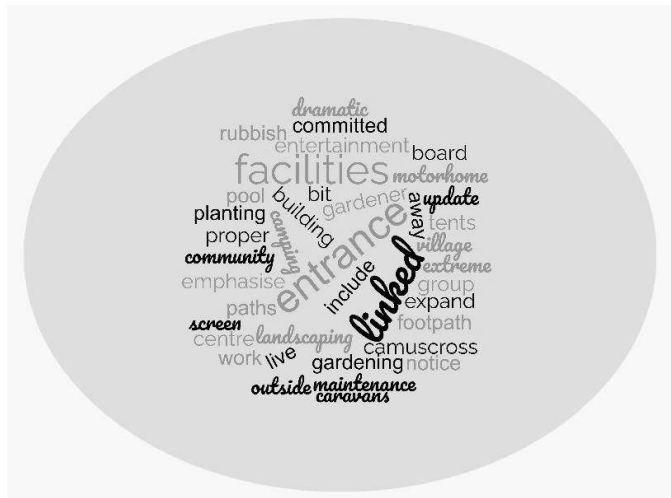
**Space:** Some felt that better use could be made of the small meeting room, and it seemed unclear how the community could use the hall, and on what terms. A digital information screen (currently in Armadale Stores foyer) was also suggested, for local information, as were permanent display boards with local information relating to the Gaelic culture, language and heritage of the area.





**Family-friendly:** There were requests for more family-friendly toilets and a return of the children’s climbing frame and mats in the cafe/hall space, in addition to kids clubs/youth clubs being available for young people in the area. Another suggestion was to crowdfund for a storage container to store kids toys etc.

**Outdoors:** Expansion of the campervan facilities was suggested, as was further landscaping, to tie in with the paths project, and a general tidying up of the entrance, by enhancing it with some dramatic planting and screening off the rubbish bins at the entrance itself.







### 3. What would you most like to change in Camuscross & Duisdale Initiative?

Responses in this section were varied, with some of them belonging to the An Crùbh section.

Some of the responses were also areas that would fall within the remit of the local Sleat Community Council, supported by CDI, such as an alternative drop-off bus stop (currently at the road-end and quite dangerous) and improved bus availability to meet the needs of the young people who have free bus passes.

Other ideas included initiatives for younger people like a Sleat Youth Club and community ping pong.

There were quite a number of post-its around reducing the number of holiday homes and one suggestion was to co-ordinate an event to bring the those living and those with second homes together, to help understand both sides.

Each category also included suggestions around increasing visibility and awareness of our Gaelic language culture, heritage and language through simple measures such as displaying lesser-known placenames, permanent display boards and interpretive pathways.

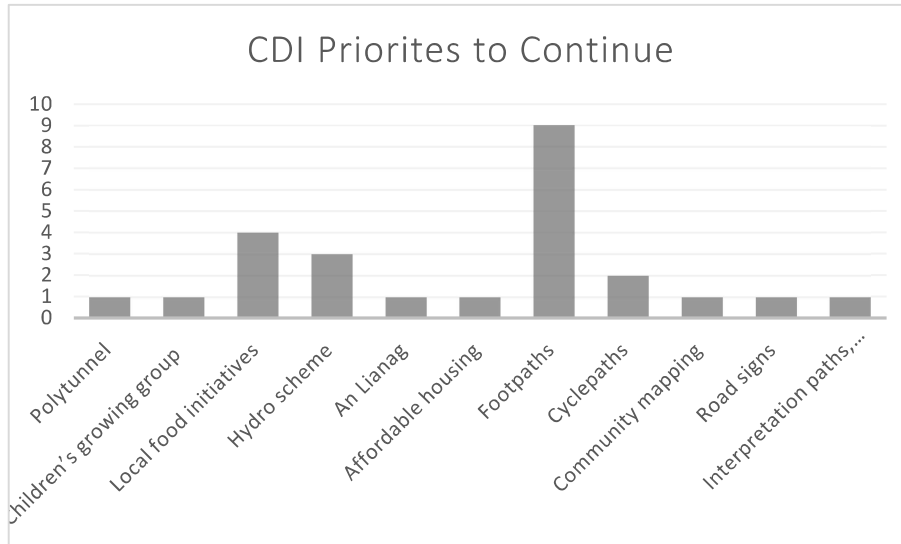
### 4. Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative: Old Priorities

Members were asked to consider which of the **previous** Camuscross & Duisdale Initiative priorities (from the first CDI township development plan, which was created to apply for An Crùbh funding) were still relevant?

The most prevalent priority considered worthy of progressing was the footpaths project, which aimed to link the village of Camuscross and An Crùbh, making use of the Camuscross Grazings. This would avoid walking along the main A87 stretch, which is a fast road, and would be a much shorter route for those living in Camuscross. Members requested that these paths would be accessible for all noting the varying needs within the area, in terms of ability and ages (i.e., suitable for prams, buggies, bikes, scooters).

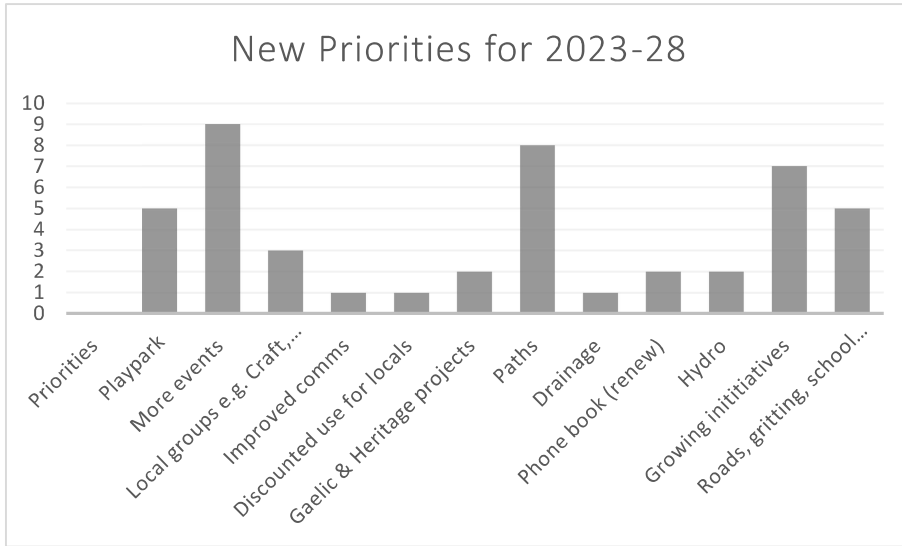
There was support too for local food growing initiatives, ranging from selling local food, to running a community polytunnel and providing educational opportunities for children as part of it.





## 5. Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative: New Priorities

Members were then asked about what the **new** priorities should be, which attracted an even wider range of ideas, although many overlapped, especially around the footpaths, the growing initiatives, and more community events. A full list is available in the appendix, but they have all been grouped into the following broad themes. Whilst there was appreciation for the Playpark at An Crùbh, there was a substantial level of interest in a playpark within the village, that would then be accessible by the children themselves. Lots of clubs were suggested although they would not necessarily have to be held at an Crùbh.





## APPENDIX 1: Individual responses

All responses are listed here under the relevant headings, and then grouped into categories.

### An Crùbh: The Best Things

#### **Services**

The Barbers  
Yoga Classes  
Skye barber and access to services  
The shop

#### **Team**

The staff  
Wonderful staff  
Friendly welcome  
Lovely staff  
Fantastic people

#### **Cafe**

Cafe ambience  
Tasty food  
The coffee  
Fabulous cafe  
Quality food  
Especially the cafe  
The cafe  
The cafe

#### **Building and Location**

Lovely building  
Fantastic space  
Amazing view  
The building  
Beautiful space  
Good for mental wellbeing  
The view  
The space  
Playpark  
Excellent facilities  
Being able to walk to a shop and post office  
Beautiful building  
Flexibility for different activities  
Fantastic asset  
The space

#### **Local**

Community  
The number of people it employs  
Having shop and cafe nearby  
Meeting people in the shop and cafe  
So much potential as a venue for locals  
Always meet people from the community there  
Able to bring visitors and guests to a beautiful venue ]



What would you change about An Crùbh?

### **CAFE**

More staff to have a team that can support each other  
Make the cafe cheaper for families  
Cheaper cafe menu  
Curry club  
Out of season menus  
Opening hours  
Cafe open until 5  
Summer cafe opening 7 days  
Staff training  
More food  
Helpings not quite right – cake portions too big  
A less expensive and simpler menu with choice for children  
Cafe 7 days and a bit longer at the end of the day  
Menu too large need some cheaper options  
More seasonality in the menu  
Get rid of piano and create more soft seating areas  
Make cafe look less like a school canteen  
Would like it to be open 7 days

### **EVENTS**

More family ceilidhs in the hall  
More gatherings and ceilidhs  
More evening events  
Music/ceilidhs  
Theatre  
More people coming  
Food nights  
Live entertainment  
More community BBQs please  
Venue in hall is not used enough  
More evening classes more variety

More yoga  
Monthly pub quiz with pies  
Community ping pong table  
Youth club  
Regular art exhibitions  
Online an Crubh calendar of events and businesses offering services

### **SPACE**

More donation boxes in local businesses  
Better advertise the small meeting room  
Small meeting room – advertise  
Digital information screen for people to use (screen in vestibule)  
Permanent display boards - history, heritage, language, culture  
Make a storm cellar at An Crùbh

### **FAMILY FRIENDLY**

Child friendly urinal in gents  
Bring back the kids climbing frame and mats  
Make toilets more kid friendly – kids urinal, stool for sinks etc  
Better indoor space for children to play  
Kids club

### **OUTDOORS**

Expand the camping facilities to include tents and caravans  
Footpath linked to Camuscross  
More landscaping  
A committed gardener for outside (linked to the paths)  
Proper motorhome facilities away from the centre  
Maintenance work on the building  
Extreme gardening group  
Screen off the rubbish at entrance  
Bit of dramatic planting to emphasise the entrance



Update notice board in the village  
Live entertainment  
Community pool

### **SHOP**

More essentials  
Cheaper please!  
More essentials  
Cheese and deli counter  
More gifts  
Turn shop into a book shop with cafe access  
Community swap shop  
Stock more essentials  
More on shop shelves please  
More essentials – bread, milk always out of stock  
More locally produced goods in the shop which are affordable  
Total refresh with options to community  
A bigger shop to sell Lego, tools and other stuff for Mums  
More essentials  
More fruit and veg  
Local products  
More gluten free choices  
More essential items would attract more custom and business  
A free sweetie on Fridays  
More of a local alternative to Co-op and less “exclusive tourist focus”  
High quality or kitchen made ready meals  
Stock you can make a meal with  
Better range of basics in the shop  
Better stocked shops, shelves often bare  
Better shop with wider range like Armadale shop

What would you change in Camuscross and Duisdale?

More events like the family ceilidh  
Footpaths/cycleways  
More active crofters  
Kids school drop off needs review  
Start a Sleat Youth club  
Ping pong  
More “community”  
Improved transport out of season  
Free bus passes for young people but no buses!  
More awareness of the Gaelic heritage of Camuscross and Duisdale e.g., simple place names signs displaying the many Gaelic names in the townships  
Improve social opportunities for young adults  
Cooperation/liaison with holiday homeowners to bring the 2 demographics together to understand both sides of the story  
Broader range of board members please  
More security  
More woodland  
Farmers market  
Welcome pack for newcomers about CDI and local history area etc  
Make the land greener (flowers and trees)  
Work on making the roads better  
Slowing traffic through Camuscross and along main road  
No more holiday homes  
Less holiday homes  
No more 2nd homes!  
CDI community minibus



New Priorities for Camuscross &  
Duisdale

Playpark in Camuscross  
Sponsorship for hall events  
Provision of accommodation for staff  
Monthly socials (out of season)  
Intergenerational events  
Communication on Boards  
Cinema club  
Book club  
Craft club  
Discounted use of hall for local use  
Gaelic history panels  
Community space  
Paths  
Info panels on places  
Reinstate the interactive screen  
Drainage!  
Develop shop  
Renew the phone book!  
Santa drive to be more established  
More kids games for the hall  
A paid post for hall marketing (like Kilmuir)  
Community verge maintenance  
New Year shinty/dance  
Gaelic classes  
Creative writing  
Community growing and composting  
Bring back lockdown fish and chips  
Don't forget the Hydro  
Young people!  
Board game nights  
Music sessions  
Craft and chat evenings  
Gaelic history and placenames projects  
Be happy  
Accessible Paths (pram, bike, scooter friendly)  
Food market  
Repair workshop

Highland games  
New year ceilidh  
Camuscross games  
Wellbeing garden project  
Crofters Olympics  
40mph to include An Crùbh entrance  
Wild fruits around An Crùbh to eat  
Slides and more swings in the playpark  
Live music supported by young local musicians  
Little house for the playpark  
Big long trees  
2 helipads  
Wind turbine to generate revenue  
Lowering our carbon footprint  
Relocate school pick-up point  
More variation in community representation  
on the board  
Improved social media (already improving)  
Dog poo bins in Camuscross  
Create a WhatsApp for those interested  
Winter road watch (agree to grit sections)