

Agenda Item	4
Report No	LA/2/21

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Lochaber Area Committee

Date: 18 January 2021

Report Title: Town Centre Fund

Report By: Executive Chief Officer: Infrastructure and Environment

1. PURPOSE/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Scottish Government has allocated The Highland Council an additional £1,066,000 ring-fenced Town Centre Fund (TCF). On 5 November 2020, Members of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee agreed an area distribution of the grant. Lochaber Area Committee was allocated £84,156. The three eligible settlements for TCF investment are Fort William, Caol, Banavie and Corpach.
- 1.2 While a Town Centre focus remains with the fund, the key driver behind the extra funding is to stimulate local construction activity and support employment across Highland at this time of economic crisis. Accordingly, the Scottish Government has conditioned the grant offer that grant expenditure must be complete by March 2021 (i.e. works completed or contracts signed/commenced within 2020/21).
- 1.3 On 9 November 2020, Lochaber Area Committee Members agreed that The Highland Council invite bids for the available TCF grant. The process opened on 19 November 2020 and closed 14 December 2020. A total of six proposals were received. The total grant amount requested was £127,778. The full proposals received for each project can be viewed in Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Consider the proposals submitted and agree which projects are to be offered a Town Centre Fund grant and the value of funds to be offered; and
 - ii. Agree and rank reserve projects to be pursued in the event of an underspend.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 **Resource** – The additional TCF grant is capital (for investment in fixed physical assets) and ring-fenced with specific conditions attached. The grant can be spent by The Highland Council or third parties.

- 3.2 **Legal** – When managing external funding it is imperative that the risks to The Highland Council are accessed/mitigated and any back to back grant award letters with third parties, and financial claims management protect The Highland Council financial and reputational interests.
- 3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural)** – The purpose of the additional grant is to support the construction sector with contracts in town centres across Highland.
- 3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** – No direct implications arising albeit specific projects may bring positive implications.
- 3.5 **Risk** – As per item 3.2 above.
- 3.6 **Gaelic** – As per item 3.4 above.

4. TOWN CENTRE FUND GRANT AWARD: 2020/21

- 4.1 On 10th September 2020 the Scottish Government announced an additional £18m through the Town Centre Fund as part of its national economic recovery stimulus package, particularly aimed at supporting construction activity across Scotland. On 18th September the Scottish Government issued its formal grant offer to The Highland Council. The value of the grant offered is £1,066,000.
- 4.2 The grant offer and accompanying guidance includes the following key conditions of grant:
- 1. All grant expenditure must be complete by 31 March 2021 (whether the project is led by Council or third party);*
 - 2. The grant is for capital expenditure which is additional to that which is already or would otherwise be allocated to the 2020-21 budget, and should not substitute for existing spend;*
 - 3. The Grant may also be used to fund third party capital expenditure in the current year; and*
 - 4. No part of the grant may be transferred to the Capital Fund, nor may any part of the grant be used to meet the costs of debt redemption.*

5. DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The Scottish Government in their TCF grant award guidance explicitly states that: *it is expected that local authorities will prioritise projects which are established and can progress in time to meet this deadline (31 March 2021). Expenditure is defined as “It is expected that work will be completed; or, at least work or contracts signed or commenced within 2020/21”.*
- In other words, this together with the town centre purpose of the fund can be read as, the Scottish Government is expecting The Highland Council to support existing Town Centre located projects that could benefit from some additional spend, or new Town Centre projects that are ‘shovel ready’ to be progressed.

6. LOCHABER TCF PROPOSALS

- 6.1 The following paragraphs summarise the six proposals received by The Highland Council for Lochaber and provides commentary on the key issues to be considered by Members when determining which projects they wish to offer TCF grant.
- 6.2 Puffer Pier and Slipway

Fort William Marina & Shoreline CIC are seeking the sum of £33,100 to assist with the reclamation of 555m² from the seabed and in doing so, facilitate the re-use of the Puffer Pier and Slipway. The total cost of the project is estimated at £83,500, with the remainder of the costs associated with dredging and the movement of dredged material.

- 6.2.1 Concern exists about deliverability. Marine Scotland licenses are not in place. However, the project lead has indicated that the contract will be awarded in January 2021 and works commence March 2021.
- 6.3 Caol Car Park
Caol Regeneration Company are seeking £40,000 to resurface The Highland Council owned car park at Erracht Drive.
- 6.3.1 It is not clear from the proposal whether Caol Regeneration Company have either engaged The Highland Council or obtained The Highland Council permission that would permit a third party carrying out work to a Council asset.
- 6.4 The Black Parks
SUSTRANS are seeking £15,000 to be used as match funding to attract a further £85,000 so as to deliver a suite of improvements (lighting, benches, signage, additional ditching and surfacing repairs) to approximately 1km of walking and cycling infrastructure between the town centre and other key locations. The intention is to create a safer, more attractive route to facilitate walking, cycling and wheeling for everyone, including children and young people accessing the High School.
- 6.4.1 There are no concerns with this project. The HITRANS contribution is secure. It is anticipated that the outcome of Scottish Government funding (£70,000) will be known by 15 January 2021. A verbal update will be provided.
- 6.5 Kilmallie Community Centre Car Park
Kilmallie Community Centre are seeking £23,556 to resurface the car park. The asset transfer from The Highland Council to the project lead was agreed on 25 November 2020.
- 6.5.1 There are no concerns with this project.
- 6.6 Kilmallie Christmas Lights
The Kilmallie Christmas Lights Fund are seeking £722 to match £722 of their own funds to purchase permanent Christmas lights and associated electrical work for the living trees located at Banavie and Corpach.
- 6.6.1 Whilst capital in nature, the impact of the project will be limited due to the temporary duration of use and the fact that no construction activity will be funded.
- 6.7 The Parade, Fort William
The Fort William Town Team are seeking £15,400 to purchase and install new waste bins along the Parade and High Street, as well as trough flower planters to be placed adjacent to the War Memorial at the Parade. This is a collaborative project involving the British Legion and The Highland Council. This project builds upon the 2019/20 TCF to deliver a 'greener' High Street by installing trees and renewing street furniture.
- 6.7.1 There are no issues with this proposal.

7 ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 As is typical with this type of funding, the proposals received by The Highland Council vary significantly in terms of project outputs and outcomes. The timelines associated with the funding also makes it difficult for project sponsors to come forward with projects that can be assured of delivery, i.e. work to be completed; or, at least work or contracts signed or commenced by end March 2021. At the current time there is no indication that the Scottish Government will relax, as was the case with the original TCF allocation, this timeline for delivery.
- 7.2 Each project proposed has its own particular local benefits and impacts. In assessing which project to support, Members will need to determine which projects best meet the primary purpose of this fund i.e. early spend to support the construction sector.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure and Environment

Date: 16 December 2020

Author: Alan Webster, Regeneration and Employment Team Leader

Appendices: Appendix 1 – TCF Proposals

APPENDIX 1: TCF PROPOSALS

FORT WILLIAM MARINA & SHORELINE CIC

Description of project. Including where the proposed TCF grant will be invested. (e.g. acquisition, demolition, remediation, % contribution towards capital build costs):

Our main project is to extend the Fort William Pontoons to enable us to provide 14 serviced berths and a mini-marina to attract visitors from yachts, boats and mini cruise-ships to come and stay in Fort William for a few days and enjoy the town and area and help towards its economic recovery after the challenges of COVID-19.

The area needs to be dredged to make sure that all boats can use the facility at all tide levels. The material recovered will be deposited between the Puffer Pier and Slipway to reclaim that area from the water. This area will have a walkway added to join it to the pontoons and be used to put toilets and showers and other facilities on it for the visitors to use. Initially these will be in the form of portaloos with showers but permanent facilities will be arranged at a later date.

We need to keep the dredge material in position with rock armour to close the gap between the Puffer Pier and Slipway and this is what we are requesting the TCF grant to be invested in.

Estimated outputs (e.g. jobs created, Xm² of floor space brought back into productive use, ha land remediated, X residential units created):

This work will reclaim 555 metres squared from the seabed and enable the Puffer Pier and slipway to become useful once more after having lain completely dis-used since the old puffer boats stopped coming to Fort William around 80 years ago. The total area thus becoming available for the project will be 858 metres squared.

The marina will employ 1 full time equivalent employee increasing to two by at least 2024.

The rock armour will be purchased from Glensanda quarry and transported to site with their boat The Red Princess. This will be supporting local jobs at the quarry as well as the skipper and workers on the boat. We will be using local contractors to move the dredge material into the disposal area. The dredging is anticipated to be carried out by Coastworks (based in Ayr-shire) as there aren't any local suppliers that can do this work.

Indicative costs (Please provide a breakdown of key cost elements):

Cost item	Amount funded from TCF	Amount funded from other sources (please specify funder)	Total Cost
Rock Armour and delivery to site	£33,100	£-	£33,100
Dredging works	£-	£42,000	£42,000
Move of dredge material into the area	£-	£8,400	£8,400
Total	£33,100	£50,400	£83,500

We have applied to be registered for VAT so these costs are excluding VAT.

If planning permission has been obtained, details on the type of planning permission (full, outline, conditional, unconditional), should be provided showing the date of approval. If there are any outstanding planning procedures/appeals or if there are likely to be any further planning appeals, these should be clearly explained below, stating the likely timescale for the resolution indicated:

We have full planning permission which was approved on 20/08/2020.

Seabed owner permission from Crown Estate and Transport Scotland has been received and leases are currently being countersigned by Scottish Ministers.

The dredging and construction licences have been submitted to Marine Scotland and there is a lead time of around 14 weeks before the licences are expected to be received.

Timescale for completion. Please specify when contracts will be awarded. When work will start on site and be complete, including when Town Centre Fund elements will be complete:

Contracts will be awarded by the end of January 2021 and we anticipate works to be started in March 2021 as they must be completed before the first cruise ship is scheduled to arrive in Fort William on 20/04/21.

Briefly describe what community consultation has been carried out in relation to your project:

In accordance with Marine Scotland requirements we carried out a Pre-Application Consultation on 04/11/16 regarding the whole extension to the pontoons. We estimate around 60 people came along to the Consultation and we received 25 signatures in support and 23 comments as follows:

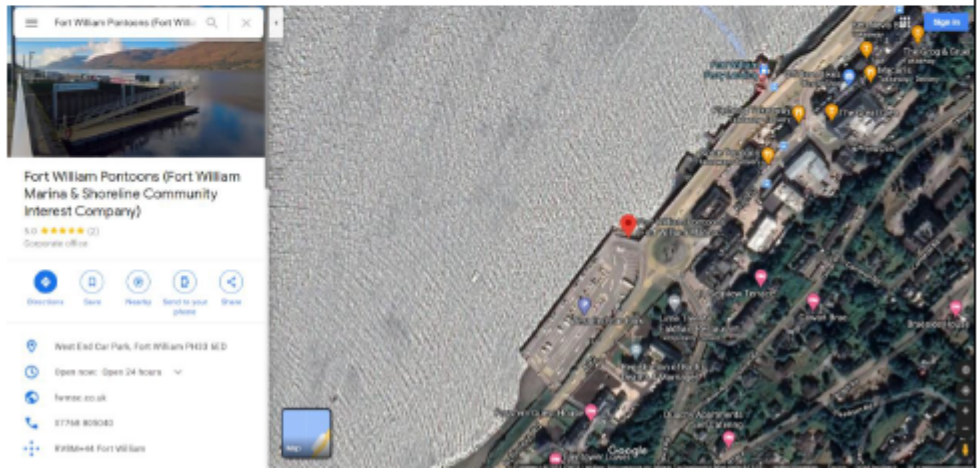
- Fantastic and hopefully realistic proposed development – 100% support from me.
- Fully support the proposals hopefully get funding and bring it to life!
- Future waterfront starts here!! Deserves all support!!
- Excellent. Keen to see development.
- Great idea, worth considering floating “fusion” breakwater – might cost less and proven to survive west coast conditions.
- Great Vision.
- Great plan: let’s do it!
- A great idea & should help make FW more accessible to L. Linnhe & vice versa.
- Great idea. Good luck with plans.
- Tremendous vision. Look forward to progress.
- Needed done long ago!!
- A fantastic proposition which would lead to a huge boost to local businesses & the community. We have been visiting Fort William for years and have always thought the excellent waterfront has not been utilised enough.
- Very impressive, great vision for FW!
- Good location and right size of development to meet need and complement existing facilities.
- Need lots of little steps to improve over the years.
- Great start, already made the town more appealing. Making High Street more accessible in bad weather is another major step.
- Vital for the regeneration of the Town Centre & surrounding area.
- Always thought you could make so much more of the waterfront & the pontoons are a great start to that. Cameron Square cover would be a real asset to Town Centre.
- Also contact for Friends of the West Highland Line and local contact for West Coast Railway Company as well as Glenfinnan Station Museum. Interested most in getting people onto the railway.
- Please liaise with Corpach project to make sure funding agencies are able to fund both ideas.
- Can’t wait for this to happen, brilliant for Fort William.
- Great plan that can be expanded as time goes on and funding becomes available.

Verbal Comments:

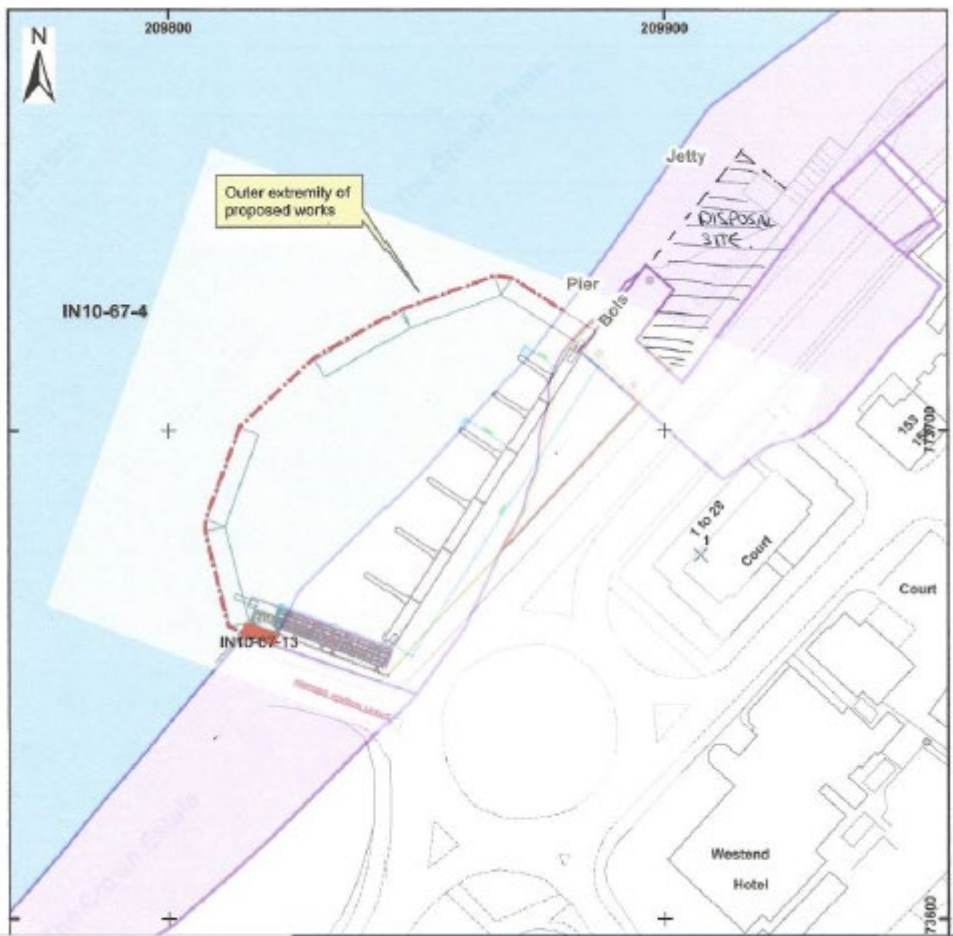
- Campbeltown and Oban still have their connection with the sea and Fort William has lost it.
- The more activity on the water the better.
- This project will finally make something of the waterfront!

We also have letters of support from Fort William Community Council, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, Fort William Accommodation Marketing Group, Fort William Town Team, local councillors, our MSP (Kate Forbes) and our MP (Ian Blackford).

Location plan and photographs of site/property:



Location of Fort William Pontoons in Fort William



Plan of extension to the pontoons and disposal area for dredged material to be deposited



Photograph of area to be filled in and gap where rock armour is to be deposited to keep the dredge material from being washed away

CAOL REGENERATION COMPANY LTD

Description of project. Including where the proposed TCF grant will be invested. (e.g. acquisition, demolition, remediation, % contribution towards capital build costs):

Resurfacing and relining the shopping centre car park.

Estimated outputs (e.g. jobs created, Xm² of floor space brought back into productive use, ha land remediated, X residential units created):

Indicative costs (Please provide a breakdown of key cost elements):

Cost item	Amount funded from TCF	Amount funded from other sources (please specify funder)	Total Cost
Resurfacing and relining	£40,000	£	£40,000
	£	£	£
	£	£	£
Total	£40,000	£	£40,000

If planning permission has been obtained, details on the type of planning permission (full, outline, conditional, unconditional), should be provided showing the date of approval. If there are any outstanding planning procedures/appeals or if there are likely to be any further planning appeals, these should be clearly explained below, stating the likely timescale for the resolution indicated:

None

Timescale for completion. Please specify when contracts will be awarded. When work will start on site and be complete, including when Town Centre Fund elements will be complete:

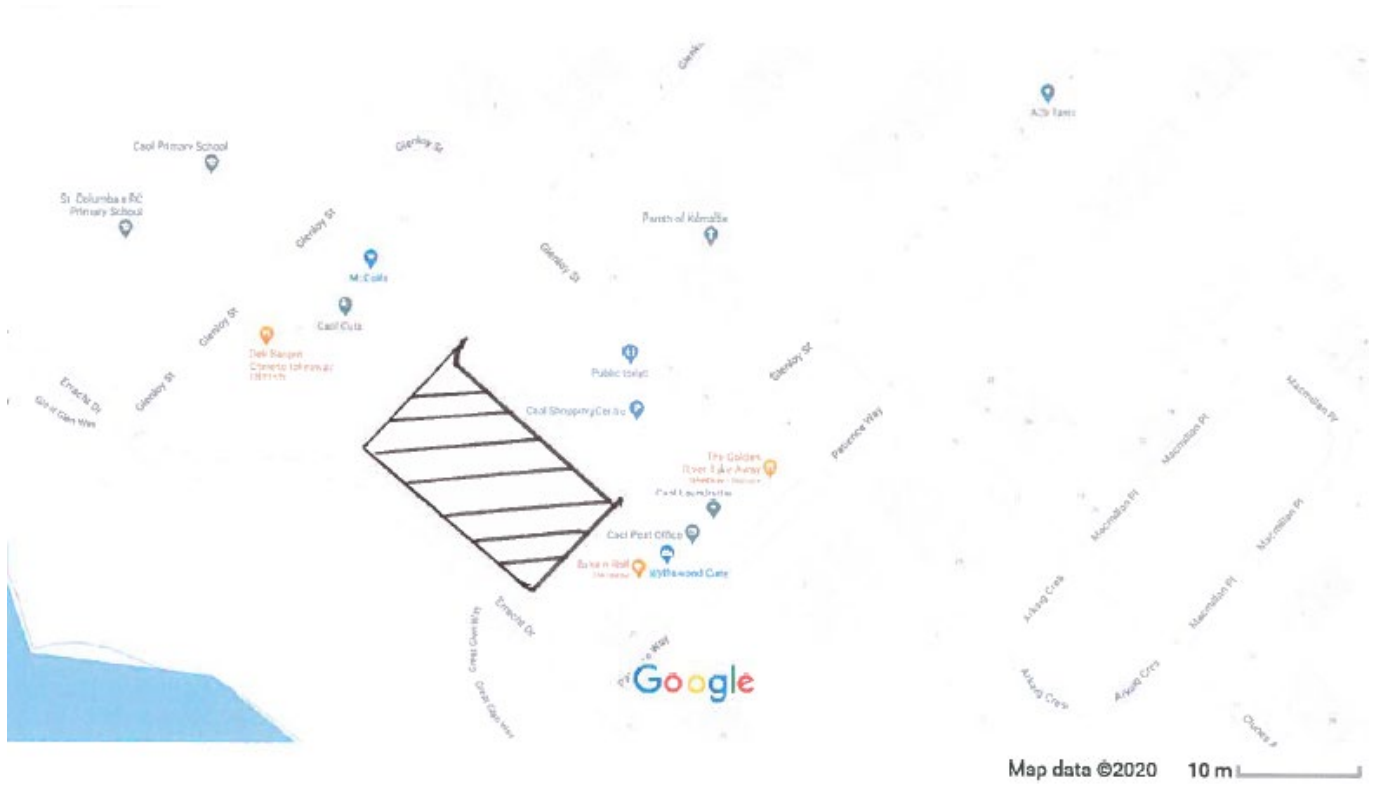
Contract awarded by March 2021

Briefly describe what community consultation has been carried out in relation to your project:

Various groups have been contacted. Members of the public have been complaining about the car park surface.

Location plan and photographs of site/property:

Enclosed.



CAR PARK AREA





Google



Google

HITRANS

Description of project. Including where the proposed TCF grant will be invested. (e.g. acquisition, demolition, remediation, % contribution towards capital build costs):

The Black Parks route provides an important link between Fort William town centre and the High School, residential areas, visitor attractions and business and industrial areas. The project will deliver improvements to the route making it safer and more attractive for walking, wheeling and cycling all year round. Lighting and benches will be installed along the route, and additional ditching and surfacing repairs will be carried out. The temporary TRO excluding vehicles from the route will be made permanent.

As part of the Covid-19 interventions delivered by Highland Council through the Spaces for People fund, a Temporary TRO is in place until the end of 2021 preventing vehicular access along the route, and bollards and signage have been erected to enforce this. Remedial drainage and surfacing works have been carried out on the worst affected parts of the route. This project will enhance and extend this work, so that the route becomes a permanent year-round route for pedestrians and cycles, with access at each end for the electricity substation and grazings, and access for emergency vehicles.

The TCF grant will contribute match funding to the project, enabling it to proceed. As a straightforward project, it will be completed by December 2021, and the TCF elements will be complete by October 2021.

The Fort William Active Travel Masterplan commissioned by HITRANS in 2019 identified 7 key routes which would make the town safer, more attractive and healthier by facilitating an increase in the number of everyday journeys within the town made by active modes.

Over 60% of journeys made within Fort William for work and education are less than 5km, so could easily be made on foot or by bicycle, and one of the key routes – the Spine Route – is an important route away from the busy A82 trunk road and well used by walkers and cycles. It runs through Black Parks at Inverlochry, linking the town centre with the High School, residential areas, visitor attractions and business and industrial areas. It connects with three areas experiencing poor outcomes with which the Community Planning Partnership is working to develop a Locality Plan: Plantation & Upper Achintore and the Town Centre. NCN78 – The Caledonia Way – follows this route out of Fort William, across the Soldier's Bridge, and onward to the Caledonian Canal. Black Parks and the road itself are owned by Jahama Estates, who are an active participant in the project and are keen to see the area developed as a recreational or green space for the local community. Active travel on this route is also referenced in the Fort William STAG pre-appraisal; "Gaps or shortcomings in the cycle network were highlighted by local people, including a need for better links between Caol and Fort William town centre and the alignment of the National Cycle Network route 78".

The route has historically been used as a cut-through for vehicles wishing to avoid the A82 during congested periods, making it less safe and attractive as a walking and cycling route, since pedestrians and cyclists are forced to step off the single-track road onto the verge to enable vehicles to pass. After heavy rain the route becomes impassable due to flooding, and in winter it is icy and unlit. This project will make the route safer and more attractive for active travel, with the potential to be well used by pupils at the High School, as well as people commuting into town from Corpach, Banavie and Caol, or travelling north from the town centre and Upper Achintore / Plantation areas of town to access employment destinations and

the health centre at Blar Mor.

The seating and improved signage will enable people to linger in the area and enjoy the open space, while the improved drainage and surfacing and addition of lighting will make it more accessible for all users, safe for year-round use. The project has been developed in a way that is sympathetic to the open, rural nature of the site, and led by evidence of need provided by local people.

The project will reallocate road space, restricting motor traffic on the route to prioritise people walking, cycling and wheeling over private motor vehicles. Access to the SSE substation at the Inverlochry end of the route will be retained, as will access to grazing land and fishing beats at the Soldier's Bridge end.

The Black Parks project is deliberately straightforward and easy to deliver, since every winter that passes without the route being lit is a 6-month period when the route does not feel safe for a range of users.

Count data from the route shows an average of around 600 pedestrian users of the Black Parks route per day during peak use in August, and 300 cycles. Usage is fairly steady through the day, with an average of around 60 pedestrians per hour and around 30 cycles per hour at the busiest times (8am – 6pm), so the route is well used.

Estimated outputs (e.g. jobs created, Xm² of floor space brought back into productive use, ha land remediated, X residential units created):

Approx. 1km of walking and cycling infrastructure improved, providing a safe, traffic free route to the High School and other business and visitor destinations.

Create a safer, more attractive route to facilitate walking, cycling and wheeling for everyone, including children and young people accessing the High School.
Improve accessibility and comfort for all on a key active travel route.

Indicative costs (Please provide a breakdown of key cost elements):

Cost item	Amount funded from TCF	Amount funded from other sources (please specify funder)	Total Cost
Lighting, drainage, surfacing and placemaking	£15,000	HITRANS - £15,000 Scot.Gov. - £70,000	£100,000
	£	£	£
	£	£	£
Total	£15,000	£85,000	£100,000

If planning permission has been obtained, details on the type of planning permission (full, outline, conditional, unconditional), should be provided showing the date of approval. If there are any outstanding planning procedures/appeals or if there are likely to be any further planning appeals,

these should be clearly explained below, stating the likely timescale for the resolution indicated:

Planning permission not required.

Timescale for completion. Please specify when contracts will be awarded. When work will start on site and be complete, including when Town Centre Fund elements will be complete:

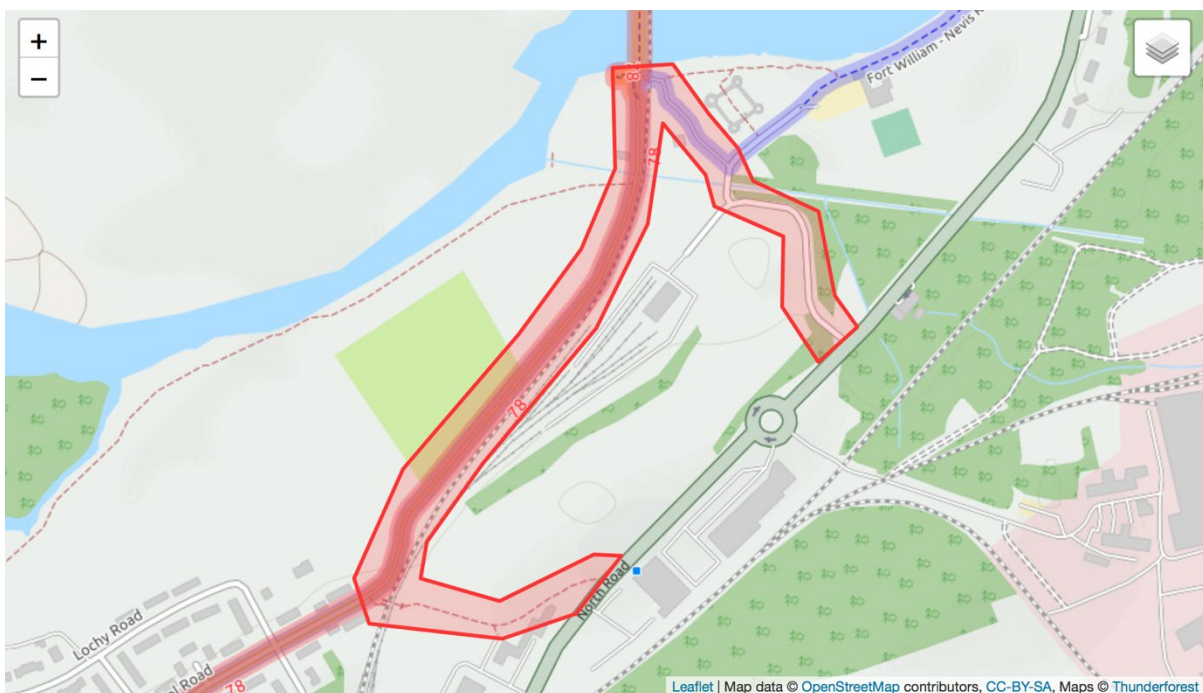
Confirmation of Transport Scotland (Scottish Govt) funding is expected in January; contracts to be awarded in March 2021 with work carried out between April and October 2021. The TRO to permanently exclude vehicles from the route will be complete by December 2021. Town Centre Fund Elements will be complete by October 2021.

Briefly describe what community consultation has been carried out in relation to your project:

The opportunity for the project was identified in the West Highland Development Plan and subsequent 2040 Masterplan for Fort William.

Local councillors initiated the request to improve the route through exclusion of vehicles, drainage and surfacing work, and installing lighting so that the route can be used year-round. A project steering group has been set up to guide development of the project, with representation from HITRANS; Highland Council; the landowner; Fort William, Inverlochy and Torlundy Community Council; Caol Community Council; Kilmallie Community Council; Highlands and Islands Enterprise; Historic Environment Scotland; and the two businesses directly adjacent to the route, Stramash childcare centre and the new Highland Soap Company factory/visitor centre. The community councils are very supportive of the project.

Location plan and photographs of site/property:





KILMALLIE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Description of project. Including where the proposed TCF grant will be invested. (e.g. acquisition, demolition, remediation, % contribution towards capital build costs):

The project is the resurfacing of the car park adjacent to Kilmallie Community Centre. The size of the area is approximately 2702 square metres (0.66 acres).

It is in quite a dilapidated state of repair with a number of bad pot holes in it and a very uneven surface. We have received two complaints from users of the car park over the past couple of years and are very concerned that it is becoming a serious Health and Safety risk.

The disabled parking area is uneven and not clearly marked at all. We do not want the risk of a disabled person having an accident whilst attempting to traverse the uneven area by the disabled parking area to get to the front of the Centre. We wish to ensure that all the facilities that the Kilmallie Community Centre users have access to are brought up to the same standard as the rest of the Centre.

The car park is currently owned by The Highland Council and it was approved for Asset Ownership Transfer to Kilmallie Community Centre on 25/11/20.

Indicative costs (Please provide a breakdown of key cost elements):

Cost item	Amount funded from TCF	Amount funded from other sources (please specify funder)	Total Cost
Resurfacing of the car park	£23,556	£	£23,556
	£	£	£
	£	£	£
Total	£23,556	£	£23,556

If planning permission has been obtained, details on the type of planning permission (full, outline, conditional, unconditional), should be provided showing the date of approval. If there are any outstanding planning procedures/appeals or if there are likely to be any further planning appeals, these should be clearly explained below, stating the likely timescale for the resolution indicated:

There is no planning permission required to resurface the car park.

Timescale for completion. Please specify when contracts will be awarded. When work will start on site and be complete, including when Town Centre Fund elements will be complete:

Contracts will be awarded as soon as we have had confirmation that the funding is being awarded. The initial resurfacing works will take 2 weeks to complete and we have 3 suppliers who have given us quotes for the work. The project is anticipated to be completed by end March 2021.

Briefly describe what community consultation has been carried out in relation to your project:

We have had informal conversations with Centre users and various locals who were all surprised that the car park does not belong to the Centre. Now that we have received confirmation of the Asset Ownership Transfer from The Highland Council we wish to bring it up to the same standard as the rest of the building and area owned by Kilmallie Community Centre. The resurfacing will benefit all the users of the car park and won't affect the ongoing running of the Centre and the car park.

We have carried out a Petition for support to "REQUEST THAT THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL TRANSFER THE OWNERSHIP OF THE CAR PARK TO KILMALLIE COMMUNITY CENTRE".

This petition has been signed by 272 individuals who are a range of users of the centre from locals, regular users or visitors using the facilities we offer.

Some of the comments made by folk signing the petition that are pertinent to this funding application to resurface the car park are as follows:

"Community first"

"Community Asset"

"Essential to safeguard parking facility for hall use"

"Essential facility for the hall"

"Very difficult to manoeuvre for those with mobility problems"

"Please tar car park!"

"Maintain car park"

"What a mess"

"Caused by lorry drivers"

"A good surface on the car park will prevent trips and falls"

"Much needed"

"Need a decent car park"

"This car park is needed for the community centre and needs to be kept repaired"

"Please give so that funding can be got"

"This car park is important – would benefit from repairs"

"This parking is much needed for functions on the hall"

"Badly needing done"

"This car park is very necessary"

"This urgently needs attention"

"This is a well used car park by locals and visitors: needs to be improved"

"Essential to have A1 park"

"Essential to have parking"

"Much needed facility"

"Essential to better use of community centre"

"The community wants it"

"Necessary"

"Excellent facilities need excellent access"

"Focus where it needs to be"

"Would be better maintained if in community ownership"

"Lifeline to community"

"This car park is essential for hall/ corpach basin users"

"Needs serious treatment"

"Car park – support not only hall users but access to wider community places"

"Such a useful and well-used facility and needs repaired badly"

"Please come and see how much this is badly needing fixed"

"Good idea fits with Scottish Govt policies"

"Kilmallie Hall is a lovely venue, shame about car park"

"Badly in need of repair"

"Some very big potholes"

"Should have been done long ago"

"Please please help them with the car park"

"It needs fixed"

"Please help a worthy cause for local people!"

"Really in need of repair"

"Badly needs repaired"

"Rough areas needing repaired"

We also have a letter of support from Kilmallie Community Council.

We have the full support of all the local Lochaber councillors in this ward – Denis Rixon, Allan Henderson and Ben Thompson.

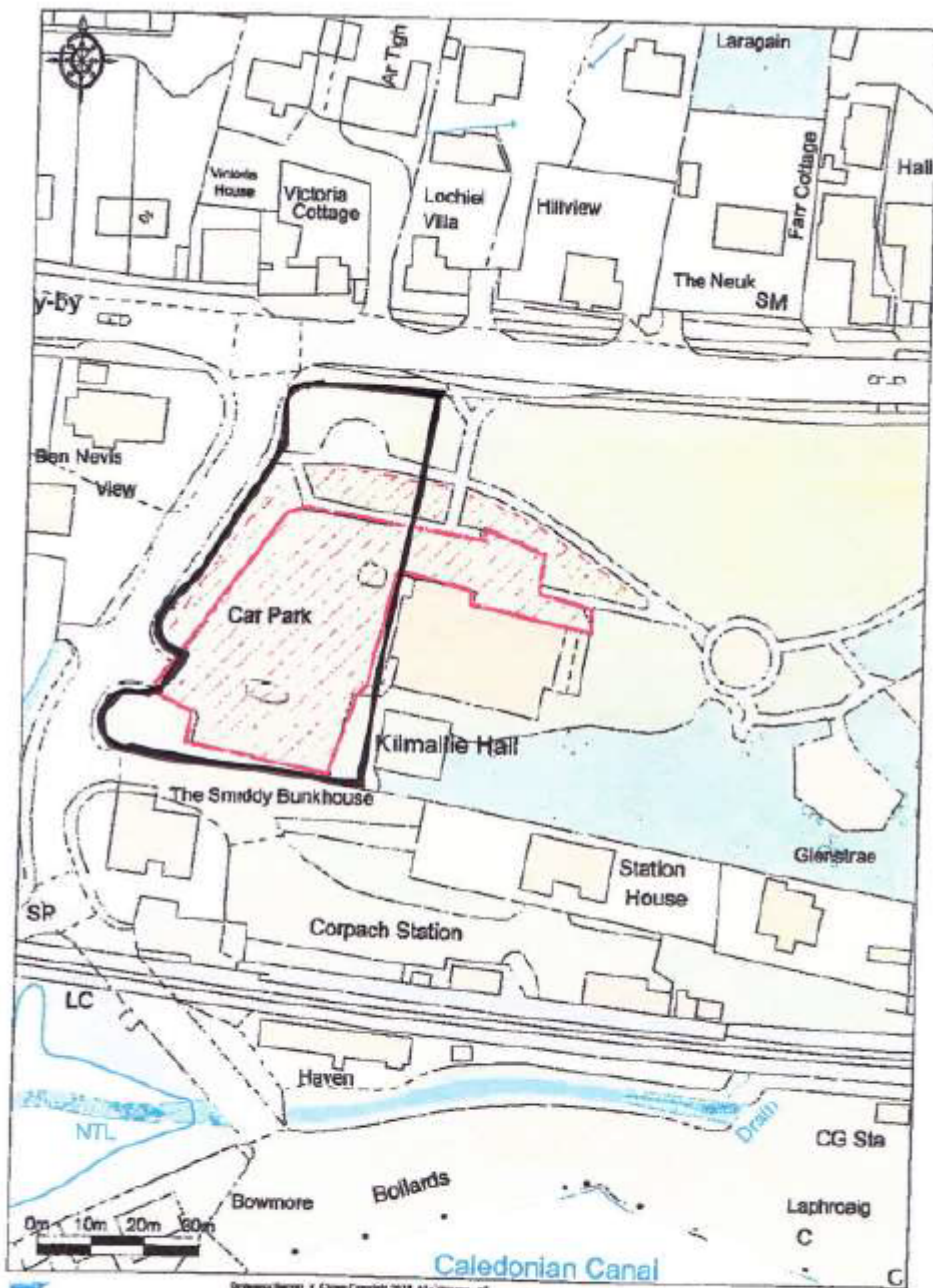
Location plan and photographs of site/property:

Location of Corpach in Scotland



Location of Kilmallie Community Centre in the heart of Corpach





Location of car park adjacent to Kilmallie Community Centre (the old name was Kilmallie Hall)

KILMALLIE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FUND

Description of project. Including where the proposed TCF grant will be invested. (e.g. acquisition, demolition, remediation, % contribution towards capital build costs):

The purpose of this project is to enhance the two living trees with permanent festive lights similar to the existing one (see photo). This will involve:

1. The purchase of lights
2. Underground cabling laid from electrical source to trees
3. Reinstatement of ground
4. Installation of lights on branches

On completion of this project the visual environment will be greatly enhanced at this busy location in the centre of the village of Corpach.

NB All work would be undertaken by local tradesmen and contractors.

Estimated outputs (e.g. jobs created, Xm² of floor space brought back into productive use, ha land remediated, X residential units created):

1. **Work for local electrical contractor: 10 hours**
2. **Excavation for underground cable: 6 hours**
3. **Access to tree branches using specialised equipment: 6 hours**

Indicative costs (Please provide a breakdown of key cost elements):

Cost item	Amount funded from TCF	Amount funded from other sources (please specify funder) KILMALLIE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FUND	Total Cost
Purchase of lights	£400	£400	£800
Electrical work	£200	£200	£400
Excavation	£50	£50	£100
Access of height	72	72	144
Total	£722	£722	£1444

NB. Please note all figures are estimates

If planning permission has been obtained, details on the type of planning permission (full, outline, conditional, unconditional), should be provided showing the date of approval. If there are any outstanding planning procedures/appeals or if there are likely to be any further planning appeals, these should be clearly explained below, stating the likely timescale for the resolution indicated:

Planning permission is not necessary for this project. Negotiations with Highland Council Lighting Department have always been positive and supportive in the past. No problems are anticipated.

Timescale for completion. Please specify when contracts will be awarded. When work will start on site and be complete, including when Town Centre Fund elements will be complete:

Work will commence in May 2021

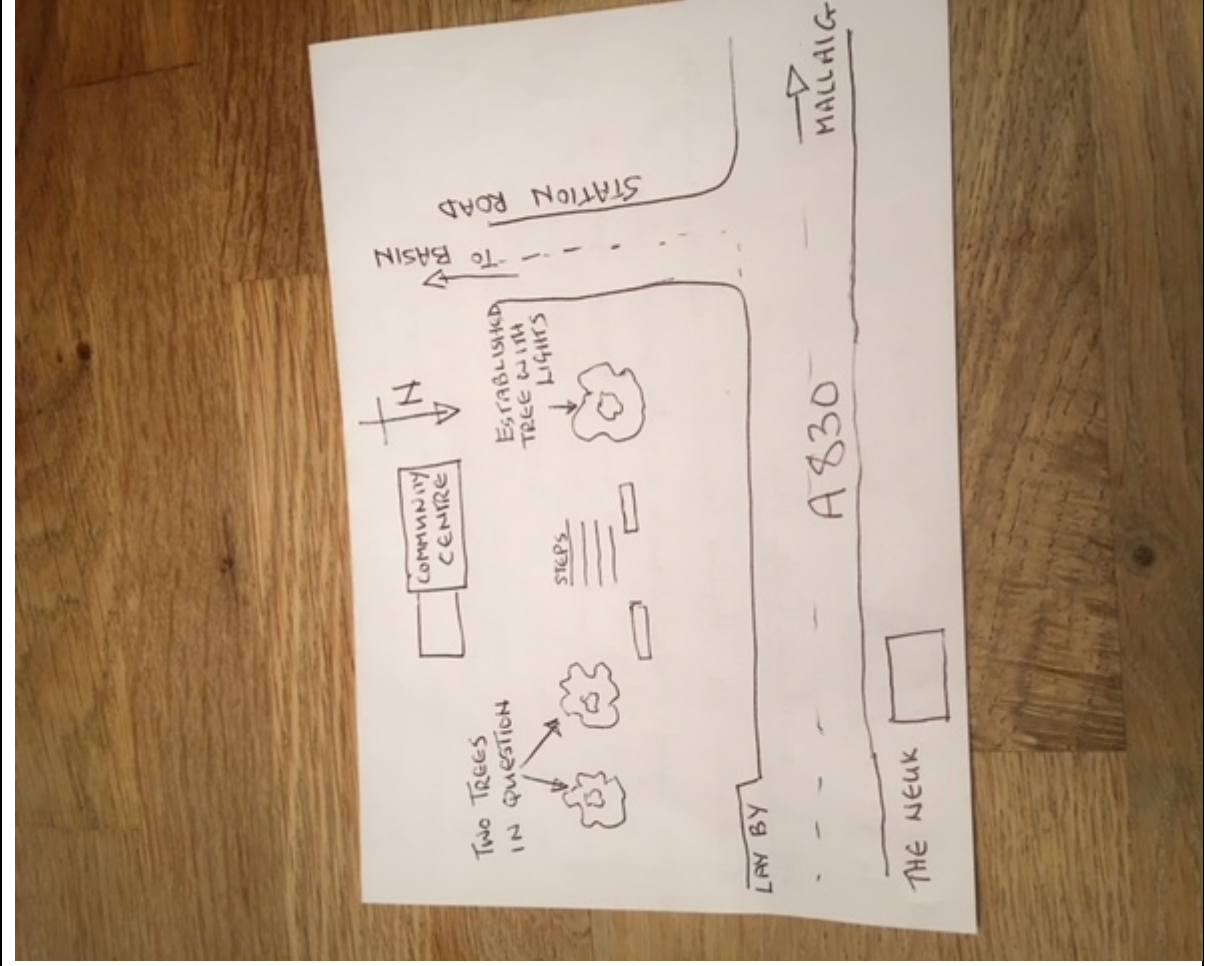
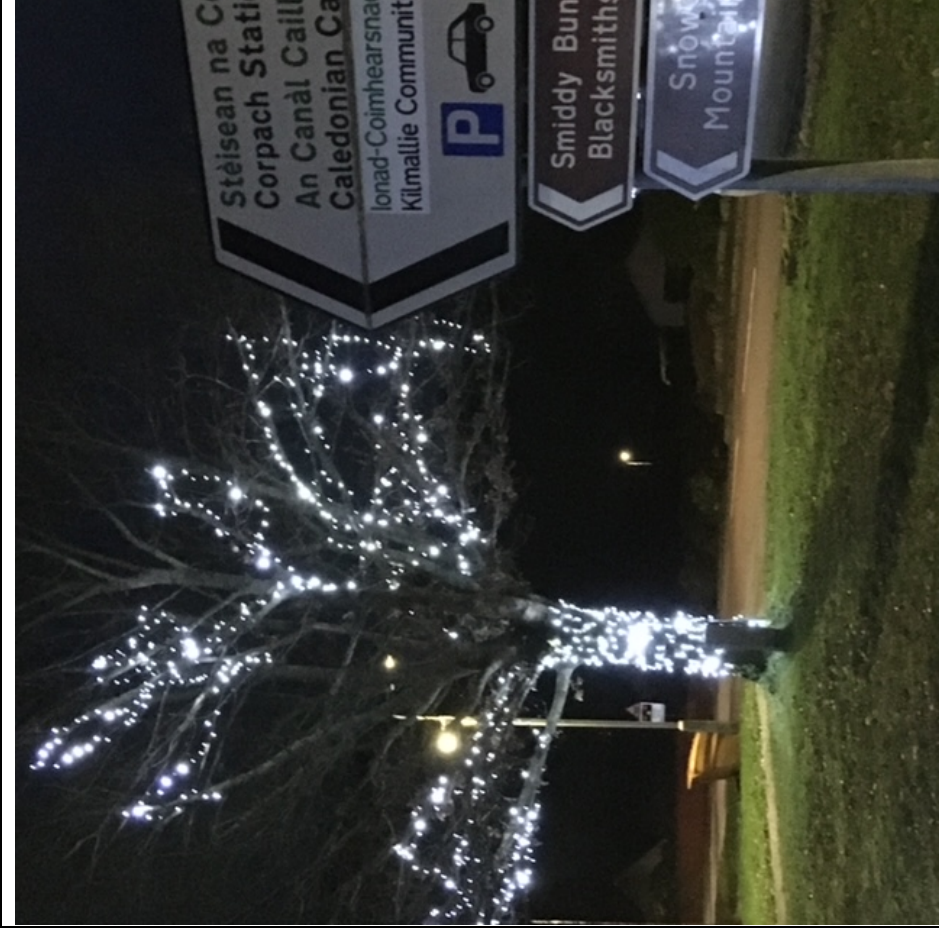
Work to be completed by end of July 2021

Finance will need to be agreed in principle by TCF before commencement of any work. Funds to be released on completion of work.

Briefly describe what community consultation has been carried out in relation to your project:

Our group, Killmallie Christmas Lights Fund (KCLF), was formed in 2013 at the suggestion of Killmallie Community Council. At this time, Highland Council announced that it could no longer continue to fund Christmas Lights due to budget cuts. Our group consists of 8 volunteers and we are registered as a not-for-profit organisation. Every year since 2013, KCLF has provided two Christmas trees, one each for the villages of Banavie and Corpach, and pole Christmas lights for both villages. We are fortunate in that we have been greatly encouraged and supported by the community and local businesses and our switch-on ceremony has become something of an event. (see photo). Children from the local schools are selected by their headteachers for the honour of switching on the Corpach Christmas Lights. The community are very appreciative of our efforts in continuing the tradition of Christmas lights in Killmallie and we believe will be fully supportive of our project to illuminate two further living trees.

Location plan and photographs of site/property:





FORT WILLIAM TOWN TEAM

Description of project. Including where the proposed TCF grant will be invested. (e.g. acquisition, demolition, remediation, % contribution towards capital build costs):

The Parade in Fort William is the entrance to the town and shops within the High Street. It's also a green space used by many, especially throughout the recent lockdowns periods. The Fort William Town Team along with the Royal British Legion annually plant up and look after the War Memorial monument. Over the years we have been successful in winning the annual competition for the best kept War Memorial. The current planters are very old, untidy and beginning to rot away. The planters we want to purchase would be hard wearing, self-watering and in keeping with other planters in the High Street the Town Team have provided. It would have an extremely positive impact on many local people if we could complement the War Memorial with new planters especially after the dreadful year 2020 has been.

Many of the refuse bins in the same area and the High Street are also very old, damaged and generally looking tired from years of wear and tear. We have been asked many times by volunteers and local people to try to source replacement bins that would complement the area. Local people and thousands of tourists use the whole area every year, so if we want to continue to encourage people to dispose of their rubbish respectfully, we need to ensure we have the equipment for them to do so. The current waste bins reflect badly on the town as it makes the area look very uncared for.

Estimated outputs (e.g. jobs created, Xm² of floor space brought back into productive use, ha land remediated, X residential units created):

Indicative costs (Please provide a breakdown of key cost elements):

Cost item	Amount funded from TCF	Amount funded from other sources (please specify funder)	Total Cost
6 trough flower planters to surround the War Memorial monument on the Parade	1000€	0€	1000€
6 Glasdon waste bins for the High Street	4200€	0€	4200€
5 Stainless Steel waste bins for the Parade	10,200€	0€	10,200€
Total	15,400€	€	15,400€

If planning permission has been obtained, details on the type of planning permission (full, outline, conditional, unconditional), should be provided showing the date of approval. If there are any outstanding planning procedures/appeals or if there are likely to be any further planning appeals, these should be clearly explained below, stating the likely timescale for the resolution indicated:

No planning permission is required, and we have approval for the funding and have been working with Highland Council and Scottish Royal British Legion to collaborate on what is required.

Timescale for completion. Please specify when contracts will be awarded. When work will start on site and be complete, including when Town Centre Fund elements will be complete:

Products purchased using the funding will all be in place Spring/Summer 2021 as soon as they can be delivered.

Briefly describe what community consultation has been carried out in relation to your project:

Fort William Town Team work closely with volunteers, local business and also the local Council to upgrade and regenerate the areas around the High Street on an annual basis. Following our work with Highland Council securing the town planters and Rowan Trees we are now working together to try to replace waste bins throughout the area so we can raise the standard of the facilities available to local people and visitors alike.

Location plan and photographs of site/property:

