

Balloch Village Plans

Street Design - Signage



Come and look at the proposals for **signage improvements** along Balloch Road and into Balloch Castle Country Park.

March 2018





Background

What's this about?

This document looks at taking forward signage proposals from the Balloch Village Plans (Street Design) consultation that was completed in June 2017.

The partnership of Sustrans Scotland, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) and West Dunbartonshire Council continues to work on the outcomes from last year's consultation with the signage being the first outcome to be realised.

Project Objectives

These were established in late 2016 by you, the community, and the project is working towards achieving them:

- **Make Balloch an easier place to walk and cycle in;**
- **Create a stronger sense of place in Balloch; and**
- **Strengthen the village as a tourist destination.**

What's Happened So Far?

1) 'LIVE in Balloch' Charrette: Spring 2016

In Spring 2016, a Charrette consultation process was commissioned by LLTNP and the Council. Its purpose was to undertake an appraisal of Balloch in its current state through a series of design-led workshops to identify opportunities for the village. The Balloch Charrette Report can be found on [LLTNP's](#) website and we encourage you to read through this, if you have not done so already.



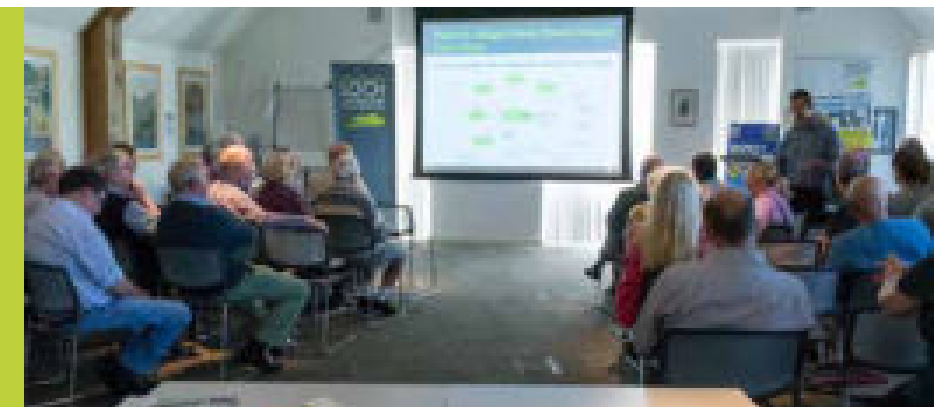
2) Consultation on the village aspirations along Balloch Road: Sept 2016 - June 2017

Over 9 months Sustrans worked with LLTNP and the Council to consult the local community including residents, businesses and other stakeholders to create an outline design for the Village and Station Square areas and for opportunities to alter Balloch Road west of the station.



3) Handover to West Dunbartonshire Council: June 2017

At the end of this process, Sustrans showcased the results of the consultation to the community for final feedback. The outline design was then handed over to West Dunbartonshire Council to be taken forward for detailed design.



4) This consultation on Signage: March 2018

As the council continues to move the detail design forward, further consultation at this time has been requested on the signage element of the project. From Monday 5th to Tuesday 20th March we are asking for your opinion and feedback on the following proposals displayed in this document.

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Signage Story

Recap - What did you say about Balloch?

Poor signage and no sense of arrival resulting in frequent questions as to where the village centre is, what's on offer and how to access the wider National Park.

A lack of places to sit which discourages people from enjoying the pedestrian space outside the train station, Tourist Information Centre, Moss O' Balloch, shops and restaurants.

Cluttered street furniture which undermines the overall appearance and reputation of the village.

Wide road and speeding traffic which acts as a barrier between the station square and also within the village square.

Cluttered space on the edge of the station and Moss O' Balloch which discourages people from enjoying the pedestrian space.

Inconsiderate parking resulting in reduced pavement space making it dangerous to move around.

What is the signage looking to do?

Taking forward the feedback on the signage, it became apparent that we needed to look at the full length of Balloch Road and introduce a number of different types of signs to direct people to what Balloch has to offer:

A) Gateway Signage:

The approach to the village from the east and west requires to be heralded with a sense of place and provide landmark entrances to either side of the village.

B) Themed Signage:

As a result of the outline design, it was agreed that the information signage through Balloch Road should carry the same colours and theme to provide cohesion within the village.

C) NCN Signage:

National Cycle Network Route 7 runs through the heart of the village, so the aim is to promote and make this route more obvious for those who currently use the route but also for those who may not be aware of it.

D) Community Artwork:

There is an opportunity to consider two pieces of Community Artwork to welcome visitors at the Station and within Balloch Castle Country Park.

In addition, kerbside signage will be erected to indicate where and how many car parking spaces will be available through the village.

A) Gateways: Option 1

Option 1A



Option 1A

The existing welcoming gateway at the east end of Drymen is the first proposal of what could perhaps be done with an existing piece of work. This would then be replicated and installed at the roundabout to the west side of Balloch Road.

Option 1B

This shows a variation of the same idea with the slab sitting taller and thinner.



Option 1B



A) Gateways: Option 2

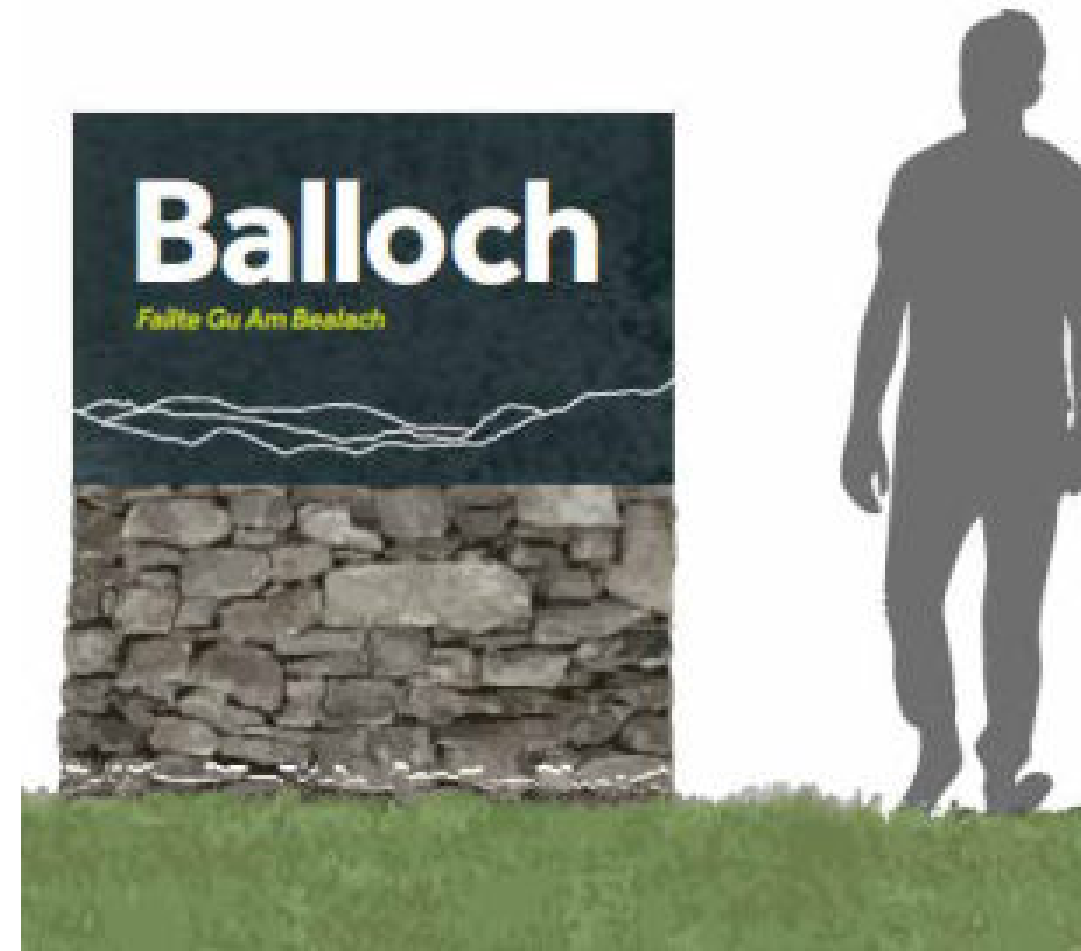
Option 2A



This gateway design is taken from the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Signage Guidelines.

It is similar to the tall stone pillar that marks the boundary on all main routes into the National Park.

Option 2B



This gateway design is a variation on 2A.

The design adds the skyline that can be seen from the south end of Loch Lomond.

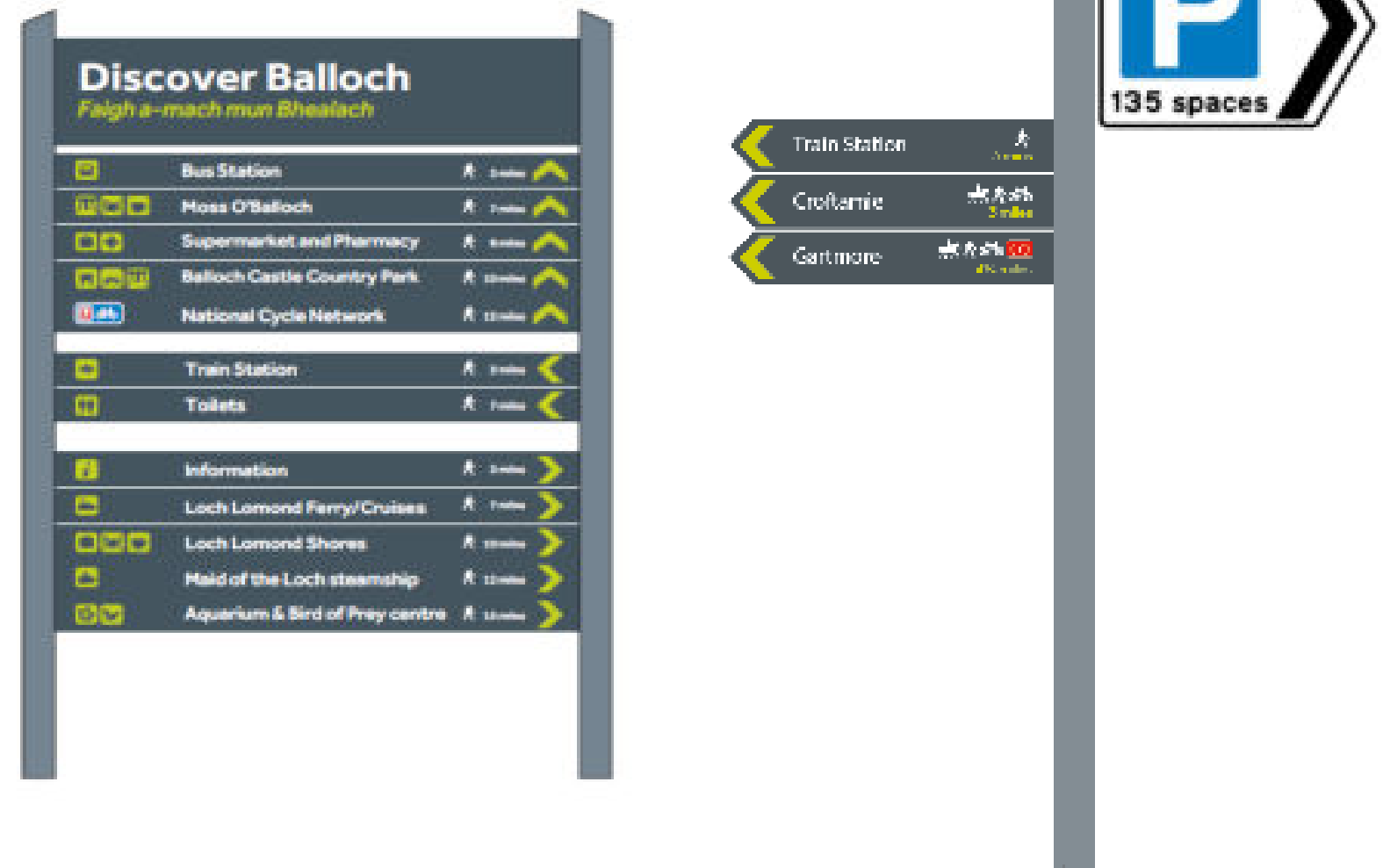
B) Themed Signage: Proposed Design

Original Concept



The original concept reflected the requests to use signage to tie the two sides of the village together by creating a theme using LLTNP colours that already exist in the village.

New Proposals



Discussions with the council and LLTNP has led to the design taking on a lower maintenance focus. As a result, the signage will only use the insignia colours of the National Park of greys and greens. Destinations will be grouped together according to the direction they are in for neatness and clarity.

Highway signage for motorised traffic however will follow the national sign guidance for highways.

B) Themed Signage: Location Options

Option 1

View looking west down Balloch Road showing the potential position of themed signage in the village square itself.



Please note, these are indicative views of Balloch Village Square. Designs may change subject to development by West Dunbartonshire Council.

Which option do you prefer?

- **Option 1:** located in the centre of the village square
- **Option 2:** to the side of the village square, behind the stone wall

Let us know on the feedback form.



Option 2

View looking north east, showing the potential position of the themed information signage at the edge of the village square.

C) NCN Ideas: Re-route

National Cycle Network 7 Signage

The current route runs up from the River Leven through Sweeney's boat yard onto Balloch Road and turns up to Balloch Castle through the Moss O'Balloch.

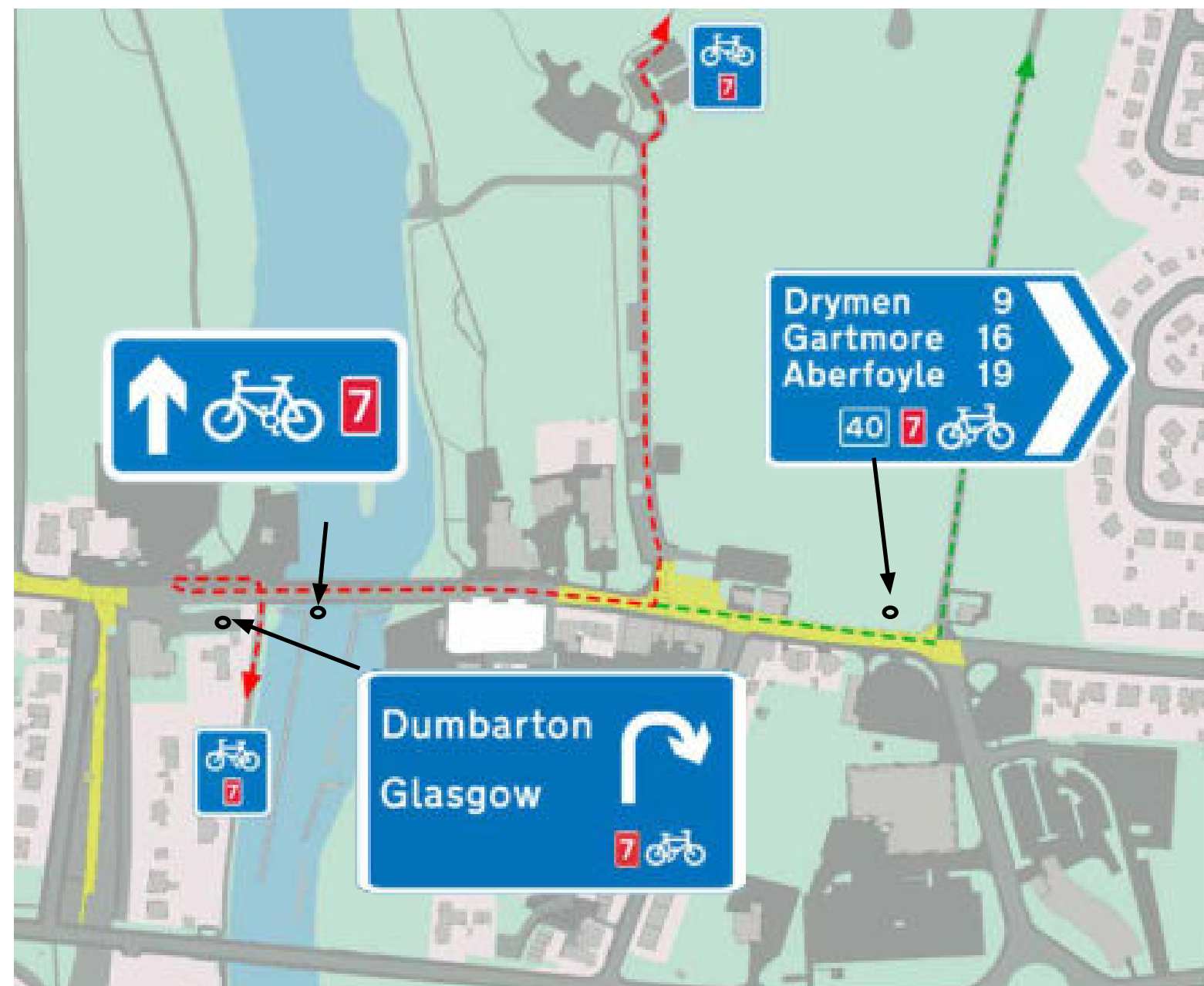
On inspection, it has been agreed to continue the route further east along Balloch Road and then turn left through the gates at Balloch Castle Country Park.

The benefits of changing the route are cyclists will be led through the shops and facilities within the village, the route will be apparent to visitors coming in by bus and this grand entrance is a safe, traffic free access to the castle grounds.

We are currently seeking permission for this from the Council as the proposal requires one of the main gates will to be locked open.

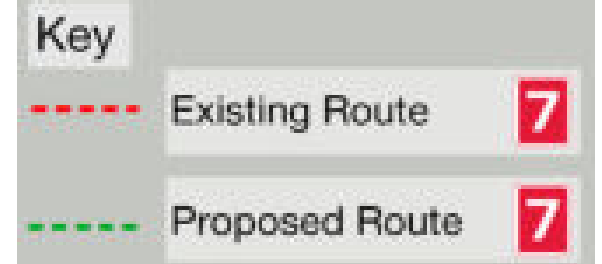
What do you think of the proposed re-route for NCN7?

(Please complete a feedback form)



The former National Cycle Network Route 7 followed the route into Balloch Castle Country Park along the Moss O'Balloch road.

The new proposed route is to follow Balloch Road further east and enter using the original park entrance at the gate house.



C) NCN Ideas: Re-route



The Balloch Castle Country Park Gates

The gates were locked a few years ago to control motorised traffic into the country park area at this point.

Opening up one gate will still provide a barrier to motor vehicles entering the park while also allowing for a separate through route for cycle movements.



Entrance Signage

We will be working with the Council to explore how we can update the signage at the entrance to Balloch Castle Country Park, once the route alignment has been agreed.

The next page displays a suggestion for the either side of the gates.

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C) NCN Ideas: Re-route

The existing signage at the entrance to Balloch Castle Country Park has now faded and this may be a good opportunity to upgrade and update it to make a bold statement.

Do you agree and are there any other country parks that you like the look of their entrance signage?

Let us know on the feedback form.



Example



Loughgall Country Park, Co Antrim,
Northern Ireland

D) Community Artwork: Balloch Castle Country

There is an opportunity to consider a piece of Community Artwork to enhance the path network through the grounds of Balloch Castle Country Park to increase its attraction.

Creating a sculpture trail for example, as shown in the pictures from the Cairngorms National Park, can create an exciting route through the grounds.

There are currently some stump carvings in the park which can be expanded on as an idea.



Pendal Sculpture Park, Lancashire

There are currently some stump carvings in the park.

Small projects like this located around the path network could make walks more interesting and be an inexpensive way to draw people to this part of the village.

Community groups can apply for funding through the Sustrans **ArtRoots Funding** to go towards artistic and visual improvements to the National Cycle Network. Details on the Sustrans [website](#).



Cairngorms



Cairngorms

Cairngorms - Lower Glen
Feshie



D) Community Artwork: Balloch Station

There is also an opportunity at Balloch Train Station to consider a piece of Community Artwork to welcome visitors travelling by train and act as an iconic, unique piece to Balloch.

Working with an artist the piece could be designed in collaboration with the local community and the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.



Water of Leith, Edinburgh



Quebec, Canada



Artists impression
of a potential
gateway for
Balloch Station

Water of Leith,
Balerno



Archway, Queen Street, Dumfries

Would you be interested
in joining a group to
develop these ideas?

Please complete a
feedback form to
register.

Your views are important to us

Feedback

There are a number of ways you can feedback to us on the signage proposals from **Monday 5 March to Tuesday 20 March 2018**:

Public Locations

There will be a public display of the signage proposals outside the Tourist Information Centre, Balloch Station and Moss O'Balloch Park – look out for the lamp post banners!

Further detailed designs and feedback forms will be available inside the following locations to allow you to submit your views into a secure comment box:

- Tourist Information Centre;
- National Park Headquarters; and
- Balloch Library

Online

The proposals can also be viewed on the project website, Commonplace:

<https://ballochproposals.commonplace.is/news>

Please provide your feedback by
Tuesday 20th March 2018

Drop-in event

Come along to our drop in event to view, comment on and talk through the design proposals with members of the project team.

**Where: National Park HQ,
Carrochan Road, Balloch,
G83 8EG**

When: Tuesday 20th March 2018

When: Anytime between 5pm & 8pm

Refreshments will be on offer.

Contact

We are always on hand to provide you with further information or answer any questions you may have. Please contact Rowena Colpitts, Senior Engineer, Sustrans Scotland by emailing rowena.colpitts@sustrans.org.uk

