

New Luce Community Trust



Community Action Plan Report (CAP) 2024

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Background to New Luce Community Trust (NLCT)

New Luce Community Trust is made up of unpaid volunteers living in and around New Luce {Community Council Boundary Area} who are responsible for distributing community benefit funds from local windfarms.

New Luce Community Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee – registered in Scotland No SC497287

New Luce is a small village in Wigtownshire, Dumfries and Galloway.

The village lies in the valley of the Water of Luce, five miles north of Glenluce. The area is rural and remote, the closest towns being Stranraer to the Southwest and Newton Stewart to the East.

In 2016, New Luce Community Trust undertook a period of consultation with local people to create a Community Action Plan.

The aim of this plan was to inform how funds from local windfarms should be best spent. New Luce is unique in the level of investment anticipated to be received annually from local windfarms – in the region of £250,000 pa for 25 years.

This money represents a unique opportunity for local people to make a real change in the area, and the community are keen to see the funds invested wisely.

The Community Action Plan identified six priority projects for the community.

1. Community Broadband
2. Greenspaces
3. Winter Fuel
4. Mobile Phone Mast
5. Underused Buildings
6. Community Transport

First CAP Achievements

1. Community Broadband

An extensive investigation was undertaken in 2017/18 to determine the broadband capacity and speeds for every household in the community.

At that time super-fast broadband was being offered in the village, and most outlying homes could access a reasonably good service.

2. Greenspaces

A significant amount of work was undertaken to tidy up and improve various areas in and around the village, this included cutting back bushes, trees, tidying up the roadsides and community garden.

The largest project under this theme was the Curling Pond Restoration Project. The Trust were successful in a funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, to restore the pond, add a walkway, viewing hide, and interpretation boards. This project had to be suspended due to Covid 19, but was completed in 2024, with regular maintenance being undertaken.

NLCT also worked in partnership with the Southern Upland Way Rangers to look at projects/initiatives that would bring people into New Luce whilst on the SUW routes.

3. Winter Fuel

An annual winter fuel allowance was set up in year 1, with every eligible household receiving £150. This allowance was increased in 2023 to £200.

There was practical universal take up of this project.

4. Mobile Phone Mast

NLCT worked in partnership with the Community Council to lobby the Scottish Government for a mobile phone mast for the village, whilst also researching other projects who installed this themselves.

We were lucky to be included in the 4G infill programme through the Scottish Government and a mobile phone mast was installed in 2020.

5. Underused Buildings

This was by far the largest project undertaken by the Trust. An in-depth community consultation took place after 4 buildings were identified under this heading, this culminated in a Community Vote to purchase the Kenmuir Arms hotel in the village.

The hotel was purchased in 2019, with extensive renovations required to bring the building up to an acceptable standard. A Design team was employed and after successful building warrants/planning/tendering the work to renovate and refurbish the hotel started in 2021.

The works were completed in December 2022, and the hotel opened in February 2023 with a tenant running the hotel as their business.

6. Community Transport

This project was identified due to the lack of public transport that could be accessed in the village.

A successful taxi card scheme was set up in partnership with a local taxi firm. Each eligible household receives a pre-paid card with £150 on an annual basis, which can be used for journeys to and from New Luce.

This project has also had universal take up and proves to be very popular.

New CAP 2024

In the Autumn of 2023 NLCT started the first of several community consultations within the community to identify new projects going forward, as we had reached the stage of completing the first plan and needed to start on a second.

Everyone was able to give their thoughts and ideas for projects, this resulted with a voting process, to allow us to prioritise these into a short-, medium- and long-term plan over the next 10 years.

Unlike the first CAP where everyone was only able to vote for their top three projects, every idea proposed was able to be voted on.

These will form the new CAP; however, it is essential to stress that every idea/project may not happen – each one will be researched thoroughly for viability in the first instance.

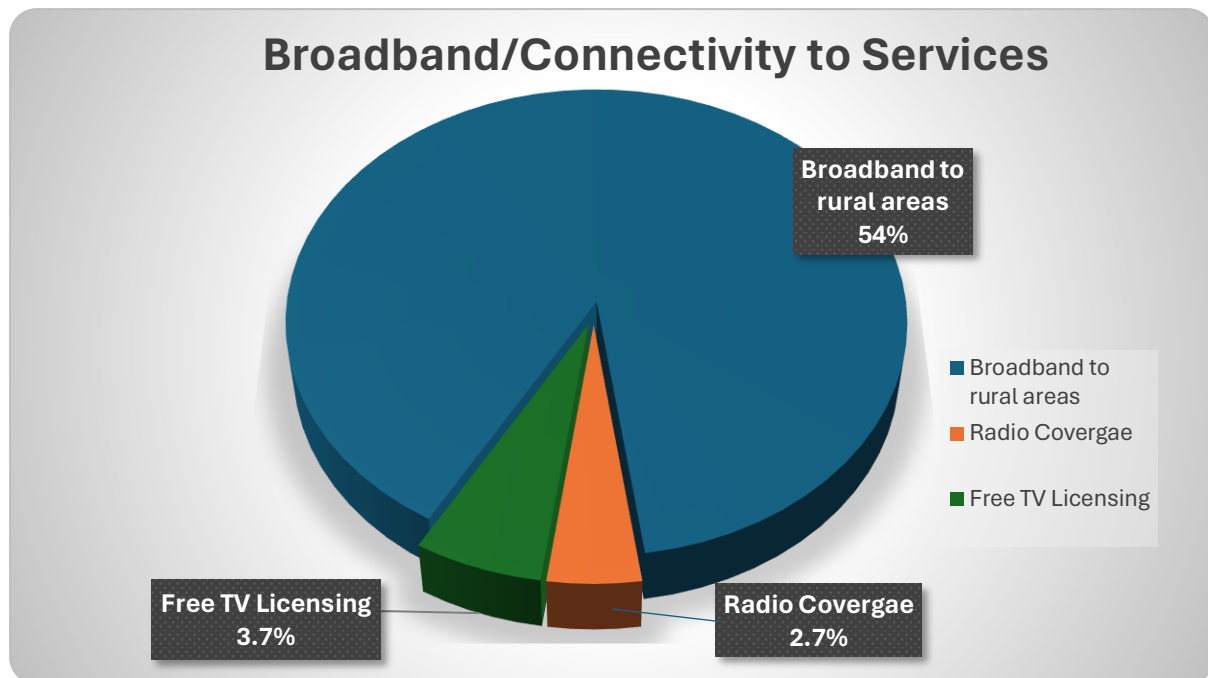
This CAP will be a 'Live' document that can be added to as we go along and will form the basis of a work plan for the Trust going forward.

There were six natural themes that came from the consultations:

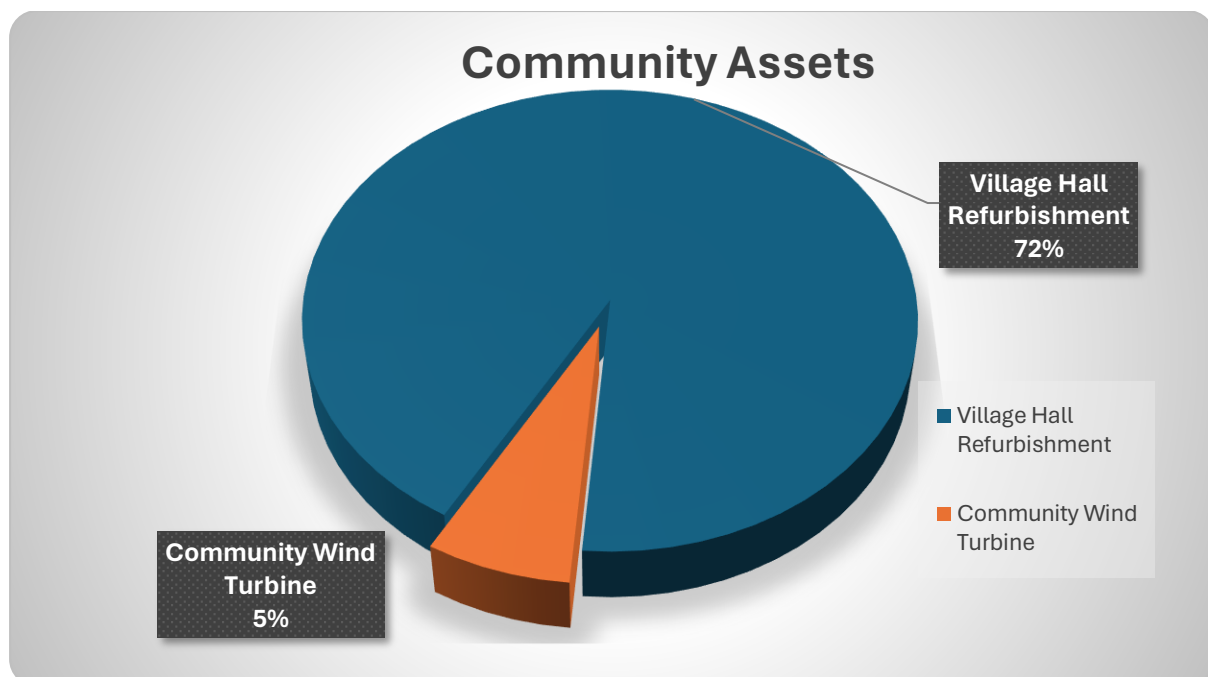
1. Community Broadband
2. Community Assets
3. Existing Projects
4. Green Spaces
5. Recreation
6. Transport

Each graph shows the ideas put forward under each heading. Based on the percentages this has allowed us to categorise each one into short, medium, and long term aims.

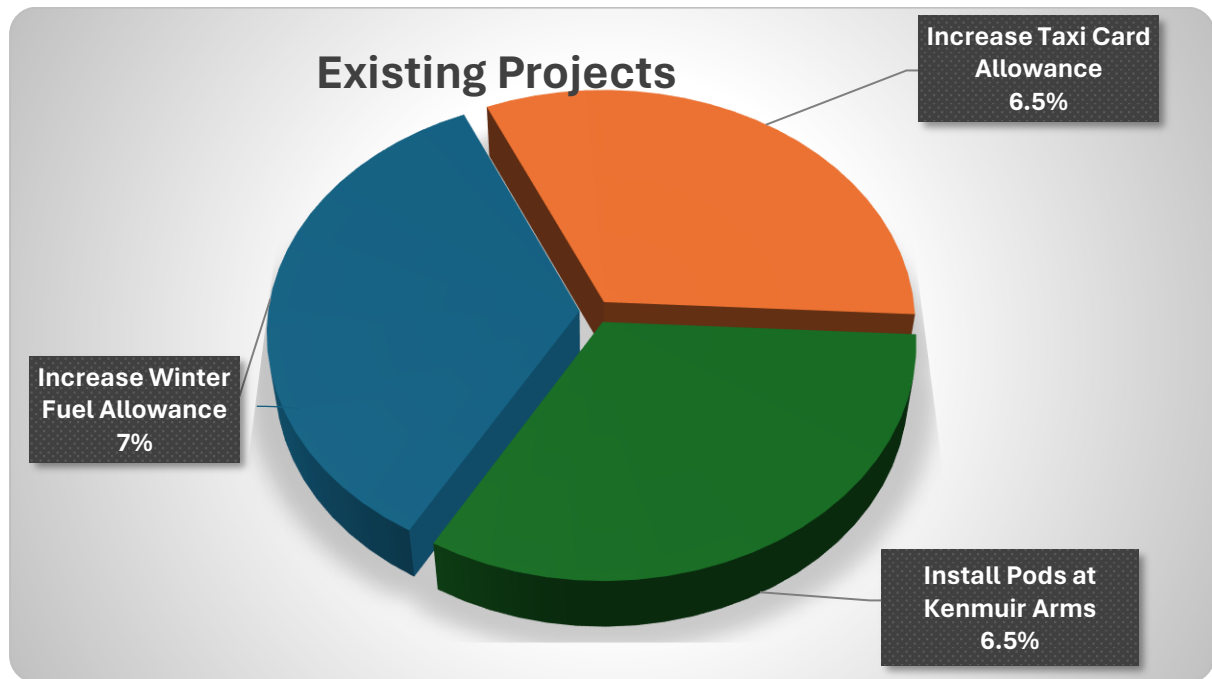
Broadband/Connectivity



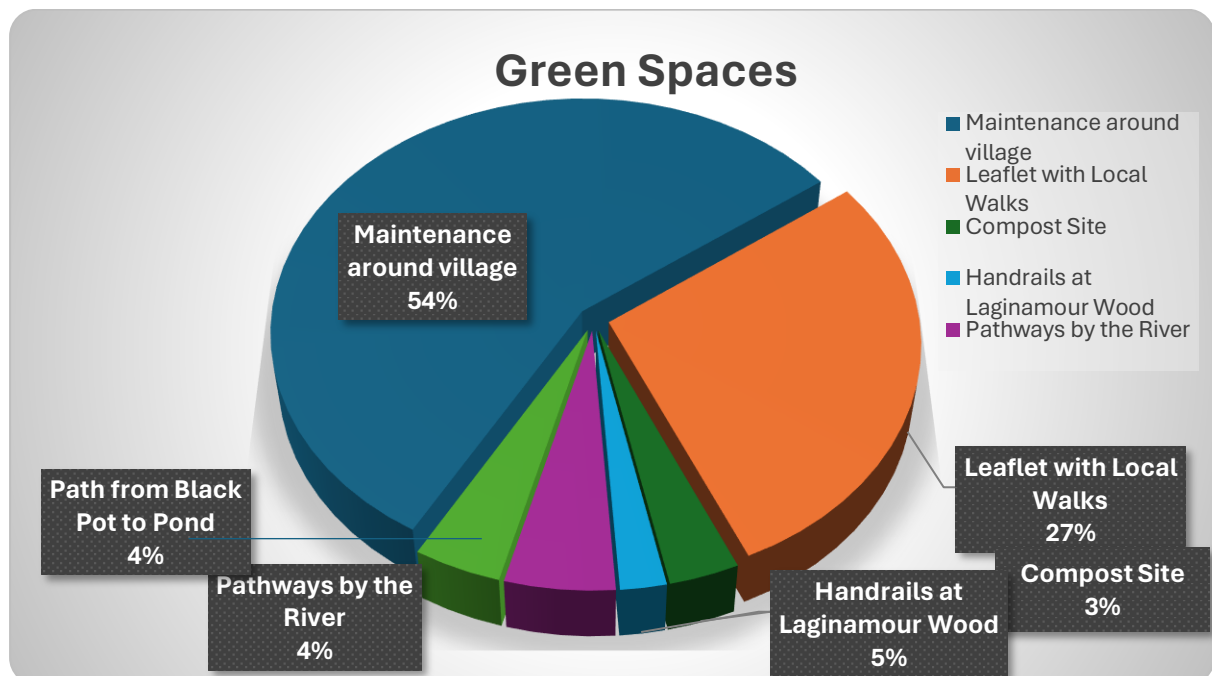
Community Assets



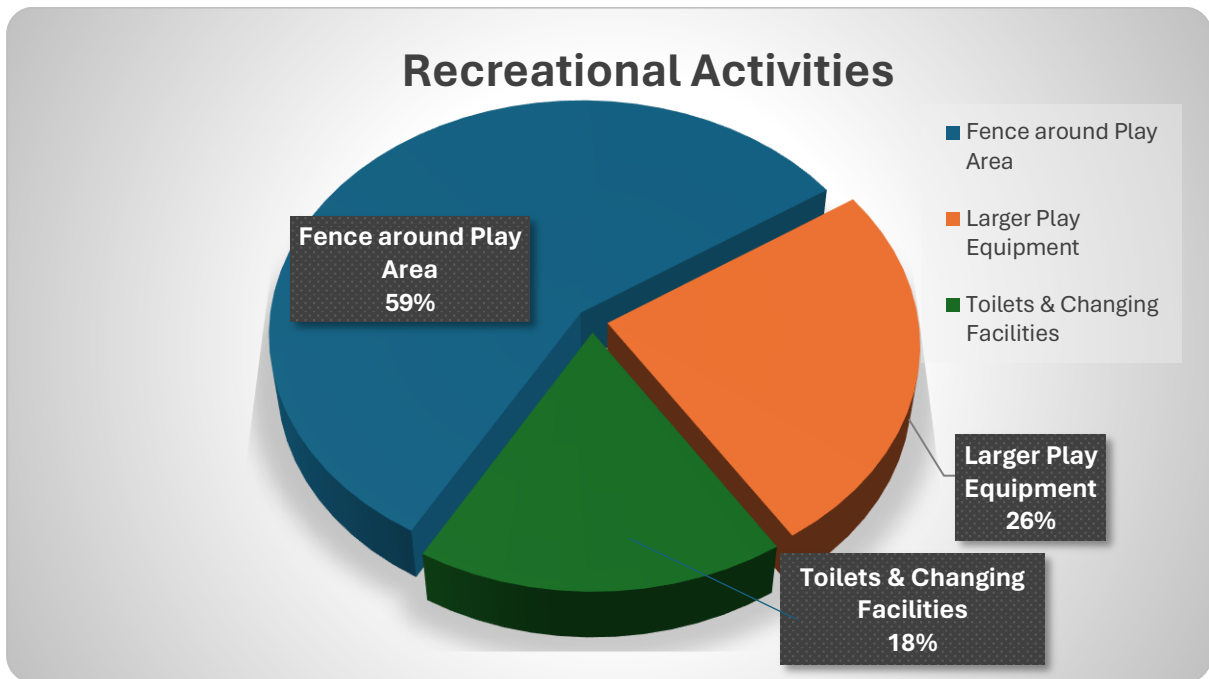
Existing Projects



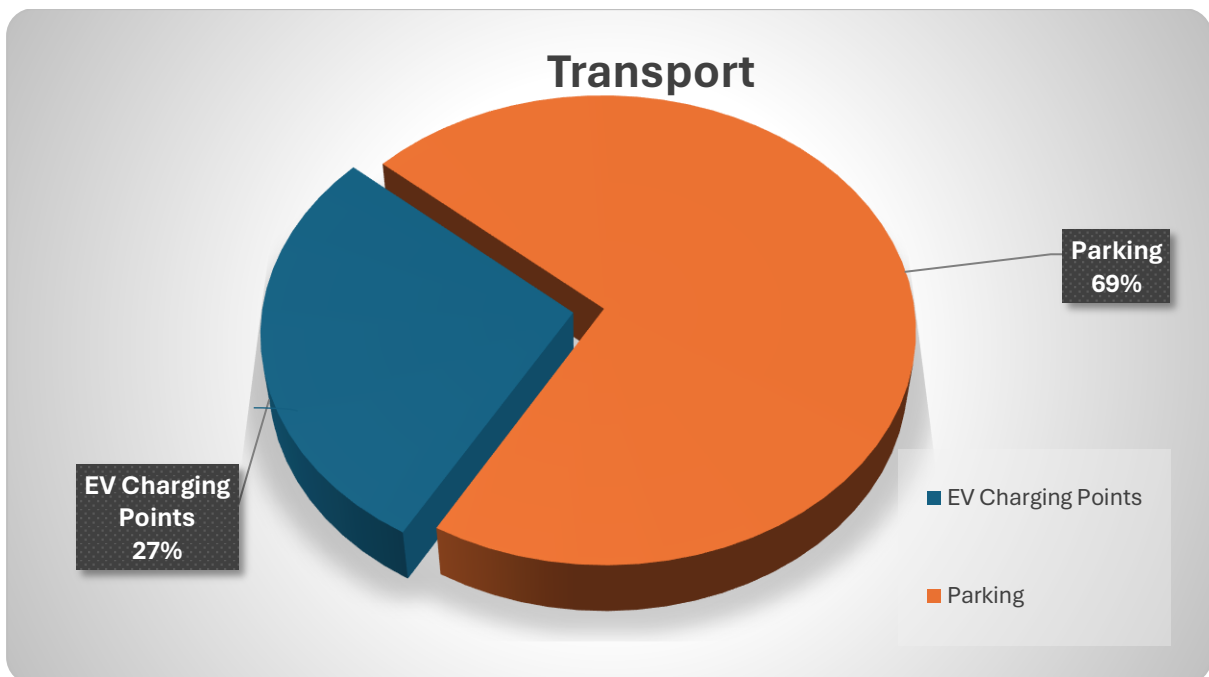
Green Spaces



Recreation



Transport



From this information we have been able to compile a

- ❖ Short Term Plan – 1-2 years

- ❖ Medium Term Plan – 2-5 years

- ❖ Long Term Plan – 5-10 years

Each individual idea will be looked at, it will be researched for viability and taken forward if considered to be in the community's best interest. We also must consult with our funders to get authorisation for projects, this includes increasing any payments for the winter fuel and taxi card projects.

We make no promises that all projects will happen, there will be a number of factors taken into consideration.

- ❖ Community Benefit

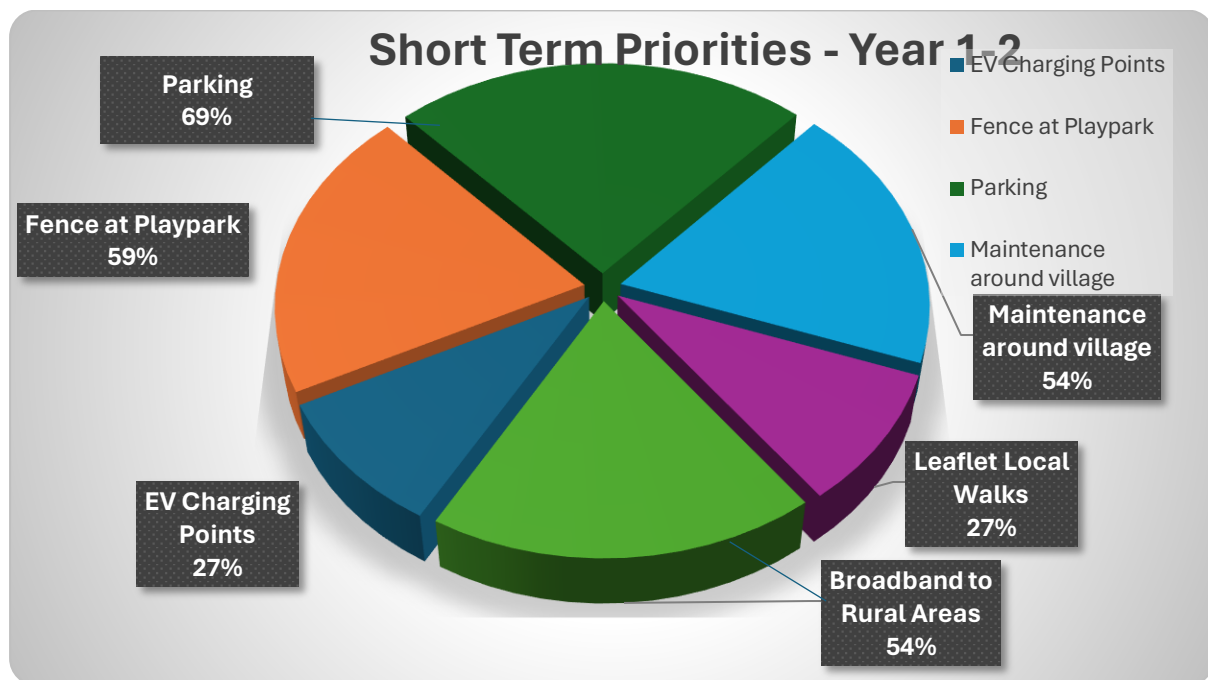
- ❖ Viability

- ❖ Cost

However, we can promise that each one will be looked at thoroughly and not dismissed without the appropriate research carried out.

The plan has been broken down into three strands as above, NLCT have started working on the short-term plans already.

SHORT TERM PLAN



Parking rated the highest priority for the short term:

What will we do

1. Commission an independent survey to look at parking in the village and give options for areas that may be considered for additional parking.
2. Agree a way forward following the survey report. Consult with appropriate partners such as Roads Dept, Stair Estates, Community Council and any other relevant people/organisations.
3. Present the information to the Community.
4. Start work on plan (Based on approval from relevant bodies and funding available).

NLCT have ringfenced £50,000 in year 1 for this project

Fence at Playpark

What will we do

In Partnership with New Luce Community Council this has been taken forward, with a fence being ordered and installation due in March/April 2024.

EV Charging Points

What will we do

1. Discussions are at an advanced stage with NLCT, the Hall Committee and Scottish Power Renewables to install 2 EV charging points next to the village hall.
2. NLCT have agreed to pay the installation costs for these via a grant application from the Hall Committee.
3. The Hall Committee will be responsible for these and receive any income that is generated.

NLCT have ringfenced the installation costs of £4,000 in year 1 for this project

Broadband to Rural Areas

What will we do

1. Revisit Broadband coverage and speeds to homes in rural areas.
2. Look at options to increase accessibility and receive a good broadband service.
3. Work with households to achieve a good broadband service.

NLCT do not have a budget for this, but will look at ways to help households access and pay for broadband services, including sourcing additional grant funding if required

Leaflet with local walks.

What will we do

1. Create a booklet with information on local walks, and visitor attractions around New Luce.
2. This will be in a leaflet format but also digital to allow updates.
3. Leaflets will be available in various locations around the village.

NLCT has ringfenced £1,500 for this project in year 1

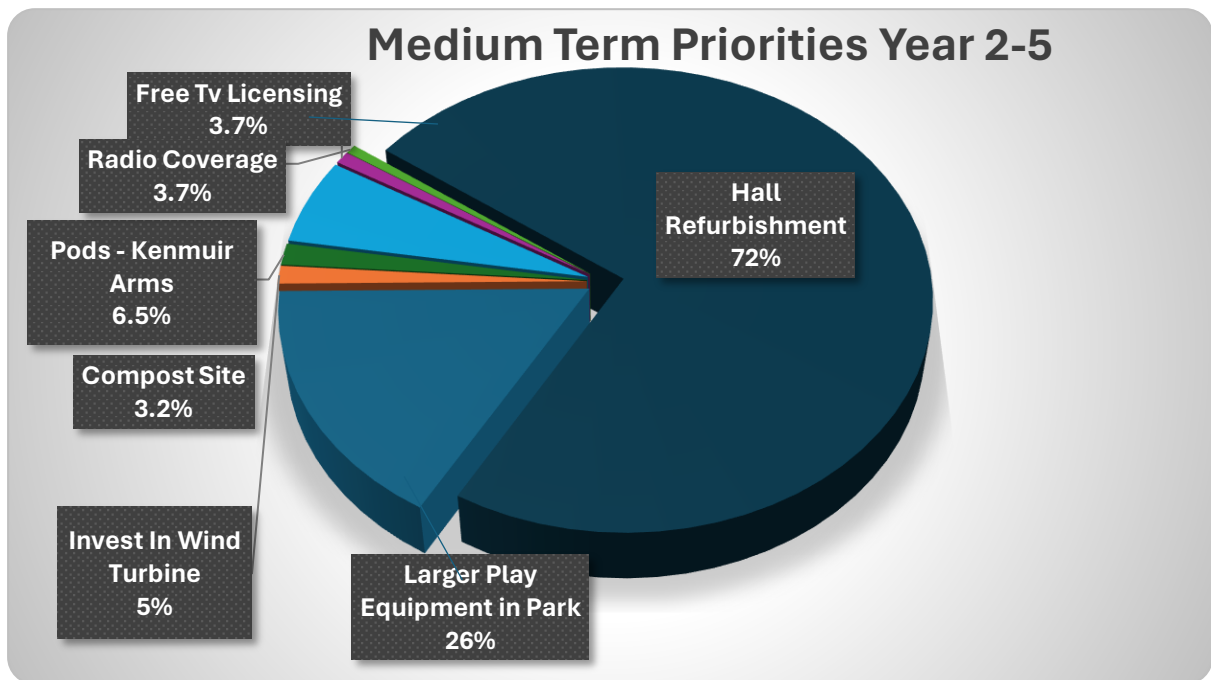
Maintenance around the village

What will we do

1. Consult with Local Authority to establish what they are responsible for.
2. Make up a plan of areas to be maintained (this is green spaces only).
3. Discuss partnership working with Community Council (Split costs).
4. Hire a contractor for 1 day per month to maintain agreed areas.

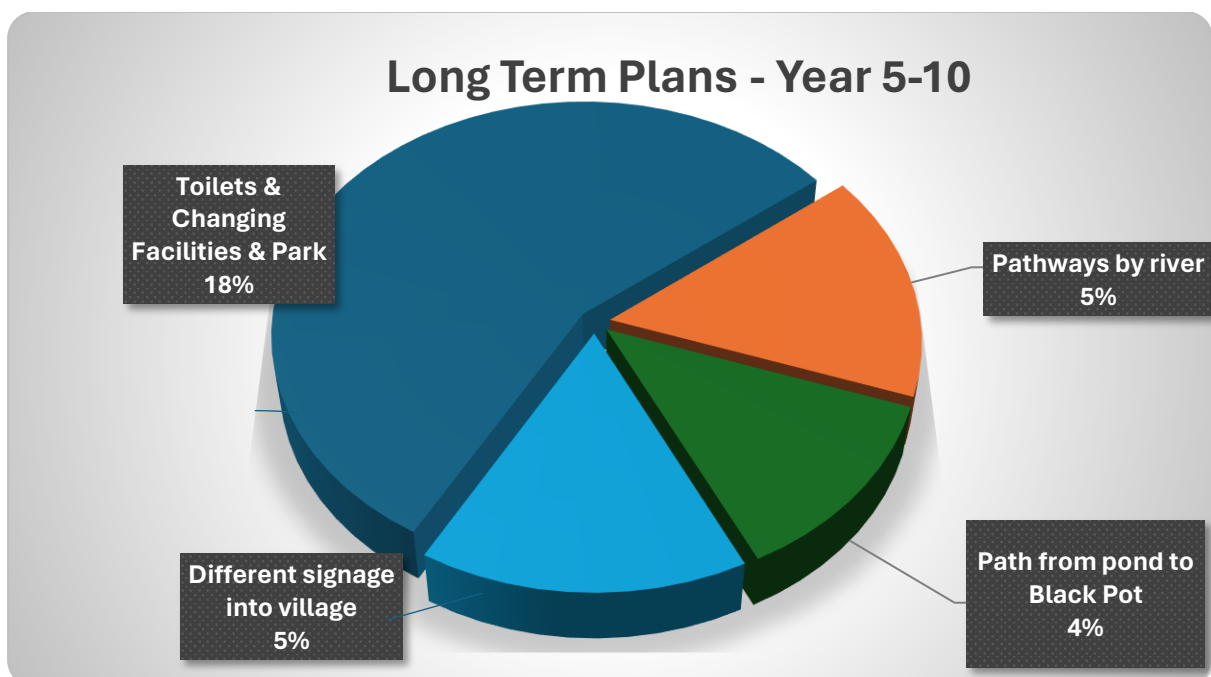
* NLCT has ringfenced £1,000 for this project in year 1, with further £1,000 from Community Council*

MEDIUM TERM PLAN



*Actions and individual plans for the medium-term plan will start later this year.

LONG TERM PLAN





New Luce Community Trust would like to thank everyone that participated in the Consultation process to allow us to develop a new Community Action Plan for the next 10 years.

This will be a 'Live' document where new projects can be added if agreed by the community.