Stories of Ardersier

Our Commuinity

Our Voices

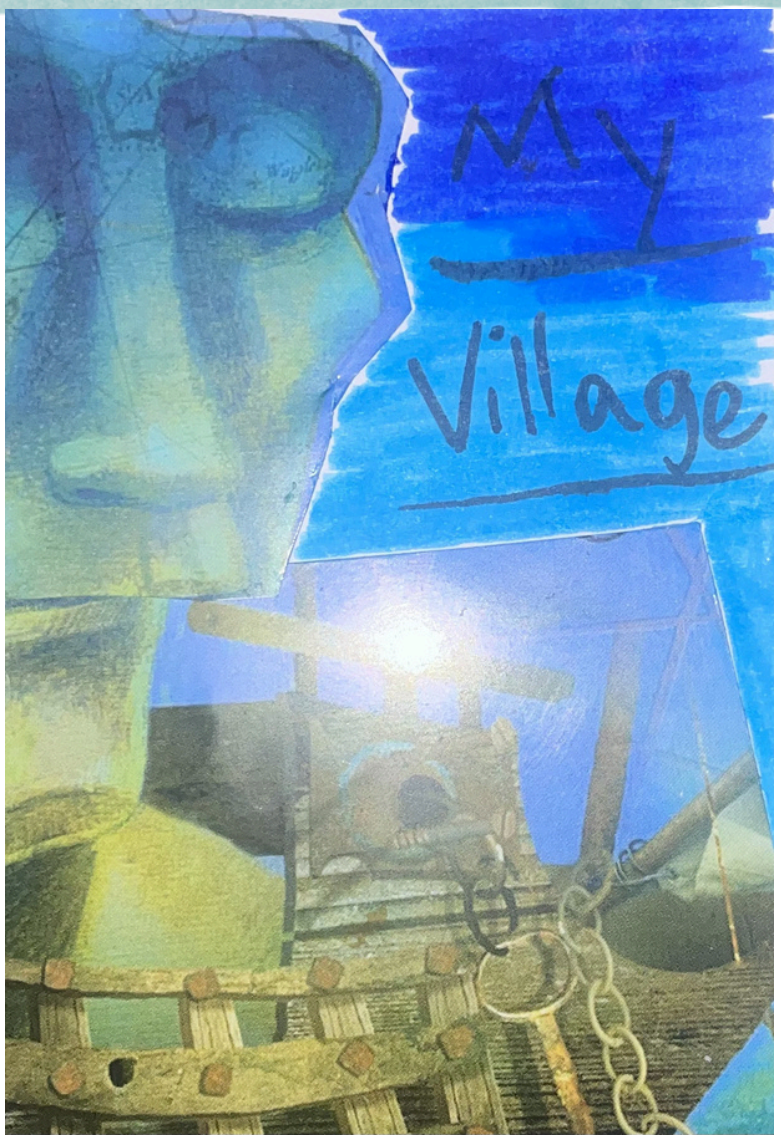




“I would like a community garden”

Our Goal

The Stories of Ardersier project set out to bring together residents of Ardesier from different ages, abilities and backgrounds to share experiences of village life. The goal was to strengthen participation, inclusion and accessibility across existing community structures. It was designed as a multi-generational project, facilitated by Inspiring Young Voices, to build a connection between community groups, nurture pride in place, and support a more positive narrative about Ardersier’s present and future.



“My village”

Outcomes

The project was based on four outcome areas:

1. I**ncreased community engagement** with already established groups through promoting and supporting participation, inclusion and accessibility

2. **Create a local employment and development opportunity** for a young person with lived experience of inclusion and accessibility challenges

3. **Grow community pride and a sense of belonging** by co-producing and capturing everyday stories and voices.

4. **Shift the wider narrative about Ardersier** – residents had expressed feeling overshadowed by negative perceptions and the project wanted to reflect the strengths and creativity of the area.

What We Did

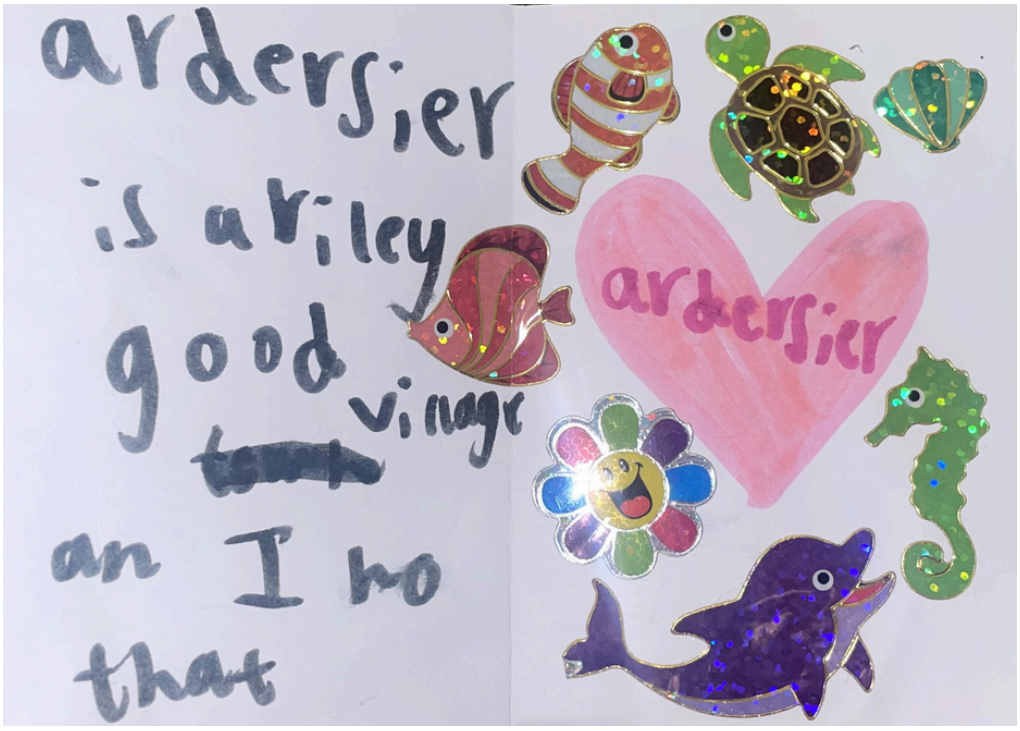
Between 1 July and 31 December 2025, we delivered a multi-generational community project in Ardersier, connecting with around 120 individuals over the project period. Activities were facilitated by IYV staff including a locally employed Youth Leader, ensuring sessions were welcoming and accessible to residents across ages and abilities.

Delivery focused on creative, low-barrier engagement, and four art drop-in sessions were attended by 47 participants raging in age from 3 to 70 years old. These sessions gathered views and stories from the community. The drop-in sessions were complemented by other activities, including a photo-walk, engagement with the community council and discussions with a variety of other groups and members of the community. Together this provided residents with an opportunity to engage and have their views heard.



“I like the sunset from the beach”

What We Did



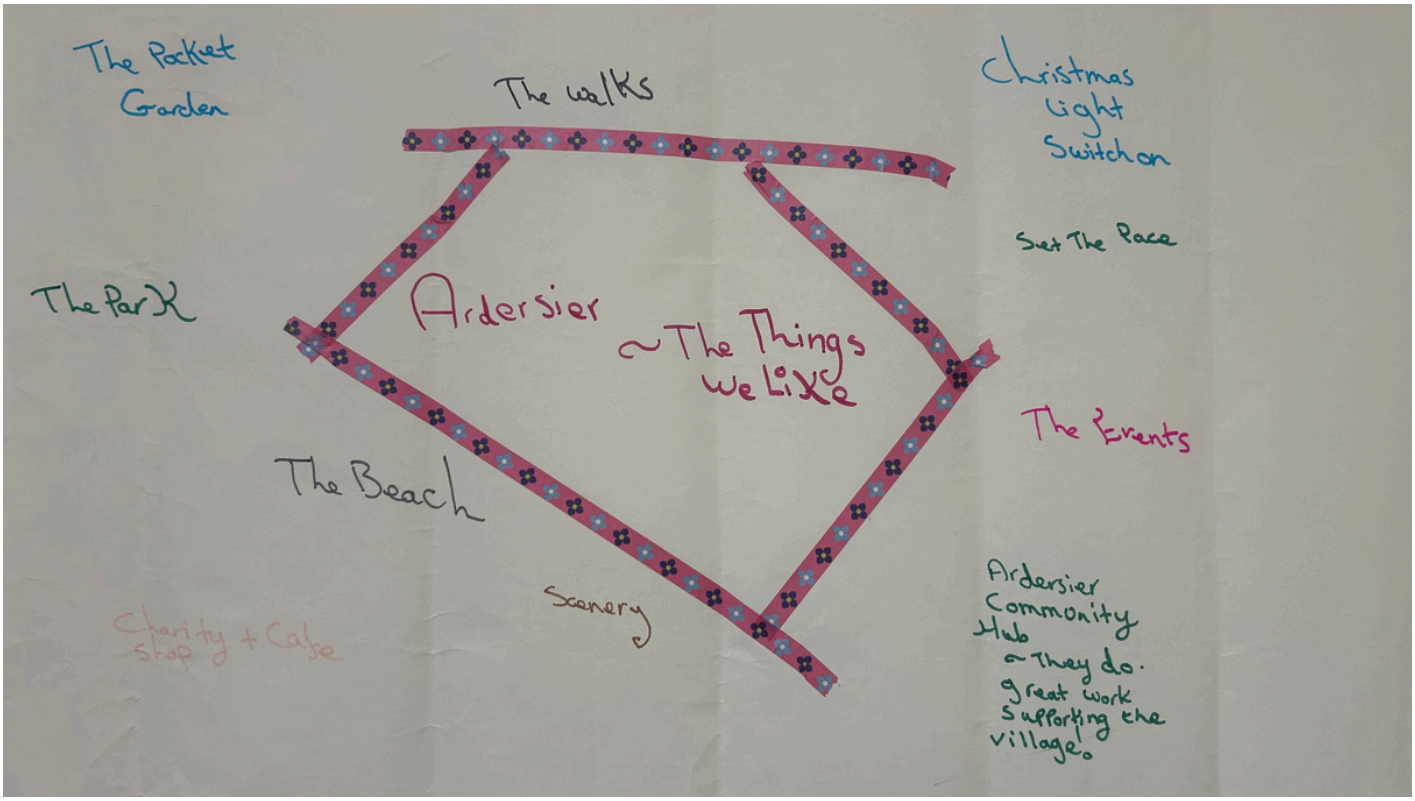
“Ardersier is a really good village”

Strengthening local infrastructure was also a focus of the project. IYV attended Community Council meetings to share progress and supported members as and when requested, including recommending them to undertake child-protection training as good practice. The team supported youth-hub volunteers to clarify responsibilities around PVG, child protection and first-aid procedures (including incident reporting.) They also attended Whole Family Wellbeing (WFWB) meetings to feed community insight into future funding plans and met with church representatives to scope clubs in the church hall. IYV participated in the Ardersier Parent and Youth Hub AGM and the Primary School Parent Council AGM to ensure alignment with family and school priorities.

To embed benefits beyond the grant period, IYV produced a simple, signposting leaflet for residents and groups and supported 5 community groups over the life of the project. The project also created a paid role for a local young person with lived experience of inclusion and accessibility challenges – a practical contribution to delivery and a statement of the value of youth leadership in the village.

How People Feel About Ardersier

Drop in Art Sessions



Arderseir - The Things We Like

The Pocket Garden

The walks

Christmas light switch on

Set the Pace

The Park

The Beach

Scenery

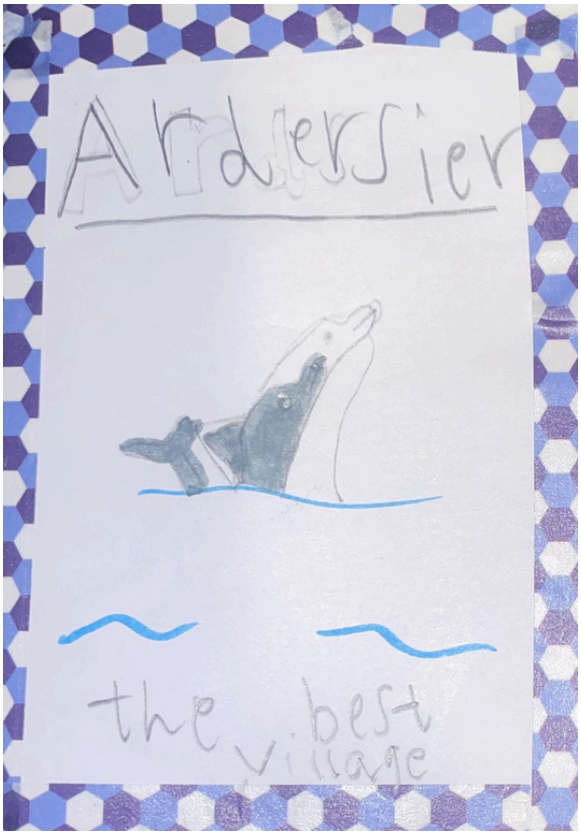
The Events

Charity & Cafe Shop

Arderseir Community Hub - The do great work supporting the village

How People Feel About Ardersier

Drop in Art Sessions



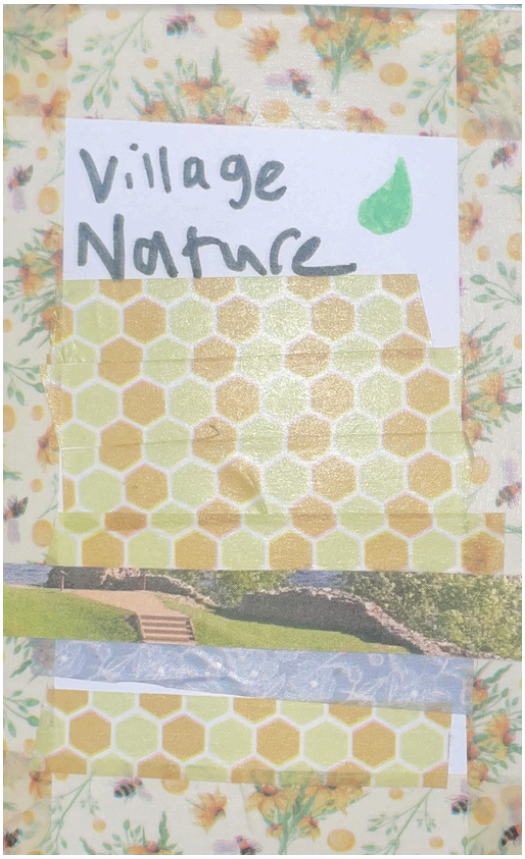
“Ardersier the best village”



“I like the school”



“I like the beach”



“I love the local wildlife”

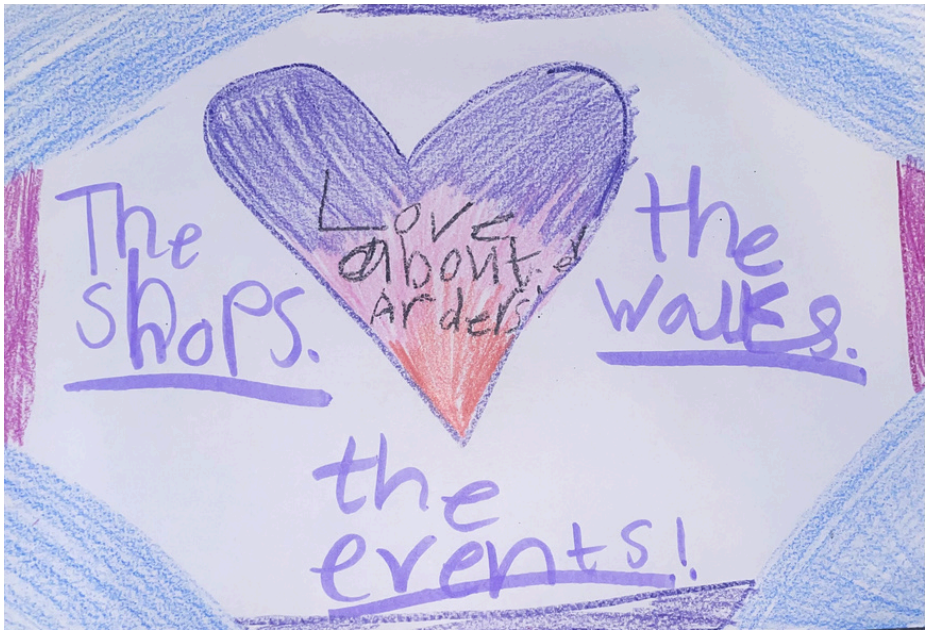
How People Feel About Ardersier

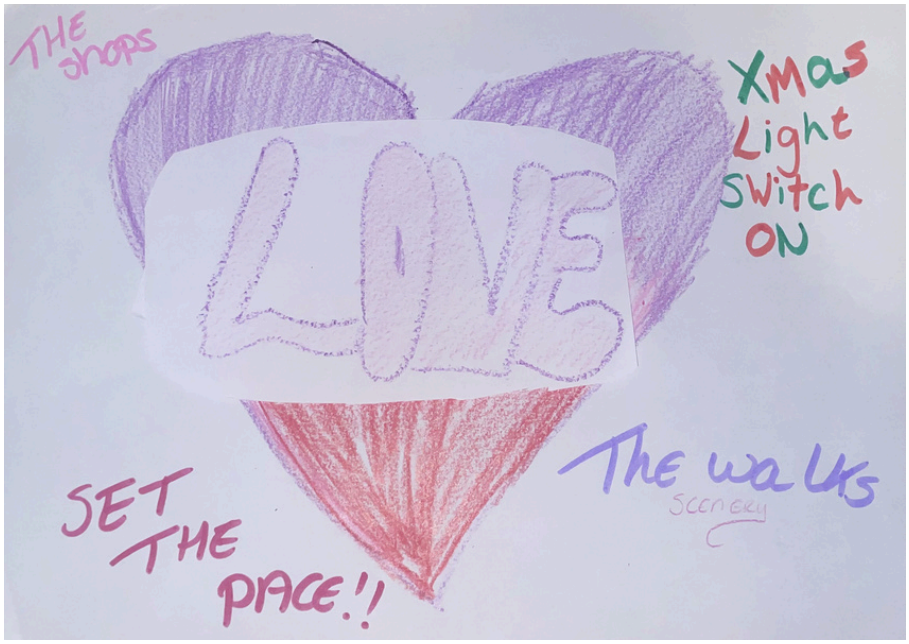
Drop in Art Sessions



"I like the beach"

"Loves about Arderseir - The shops, the walks, the events"



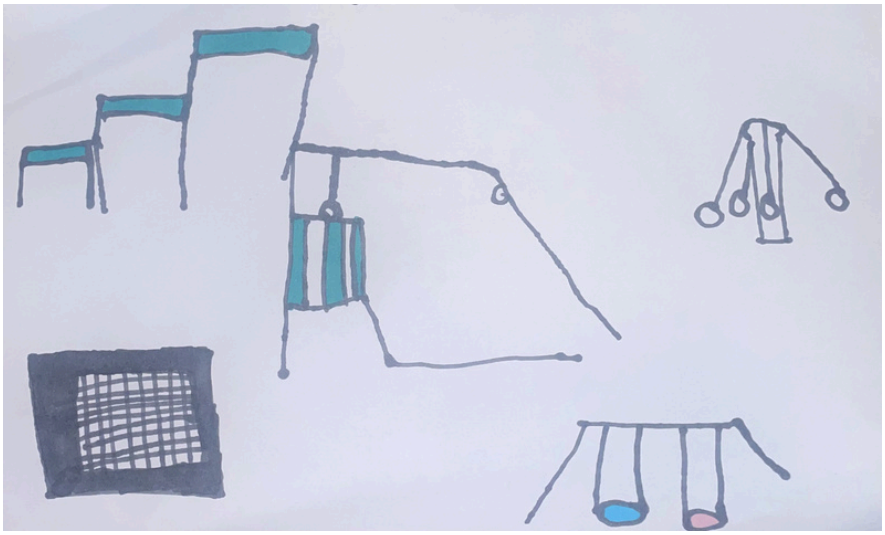


"Loves - The shops, the walks, the xmas light switch on, set the pace!!"

How People Feel About Ardersier

Drop in Art Sessions

“I like the park”





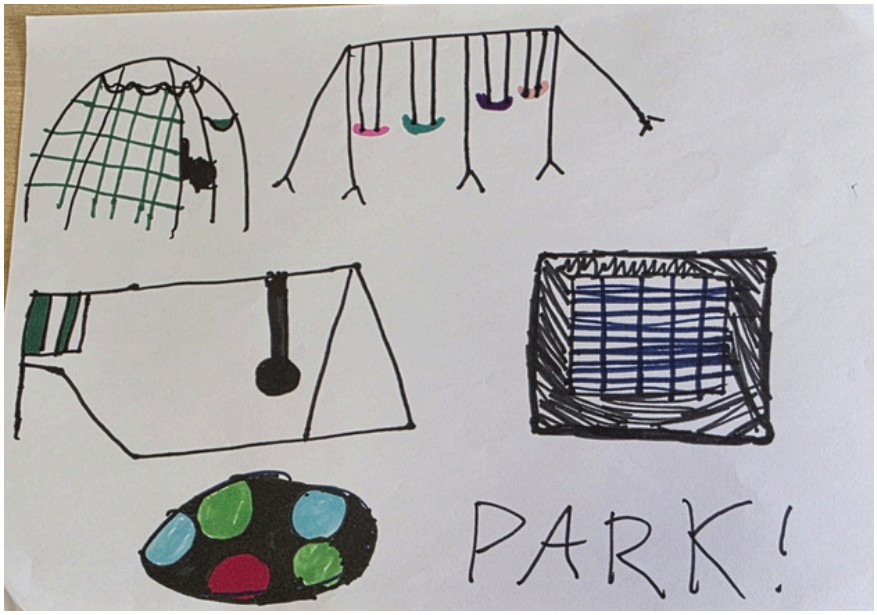
“Park - I love it”

”The village is pretty”



How People Feel About Ardersier

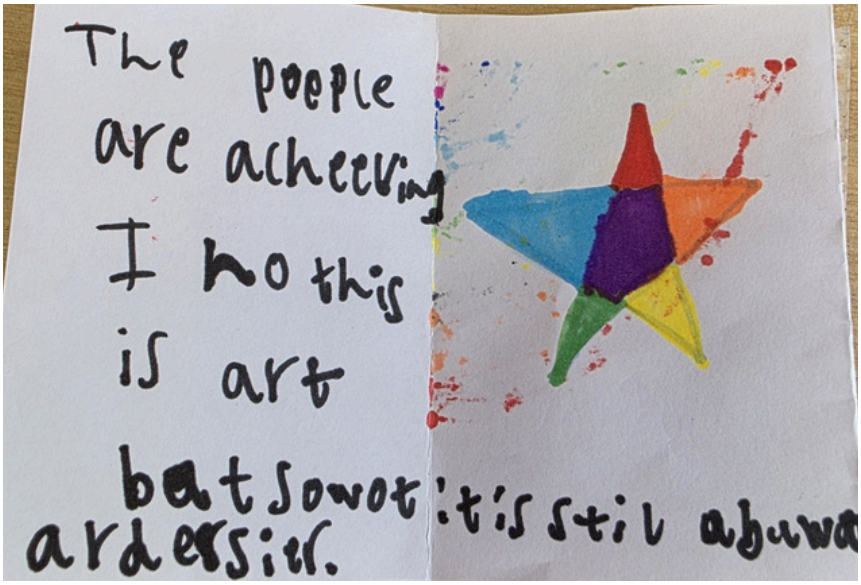
Drop in Art Sessions



"PARK!"



"The Pier"



"The people are achieving"

How People Feel About Ardersier

Photo Walk







“ The absolutely best thing about Ardersier is the flora and fauna and the richness of the varying habitats we have.”



How People Feel About Ardersier

Photo Walk







“I love how people come together to promote this and work together to make the habitats better to encourage our rarer species. We would love to make The Common an LNR to protect it for all our future generations. To protect it for all the current community and make it accessible for all to enjoy. Thank you for doing this protect for us to highlight all the wonderful things in Ardersier”

How People Feel About Ardersier

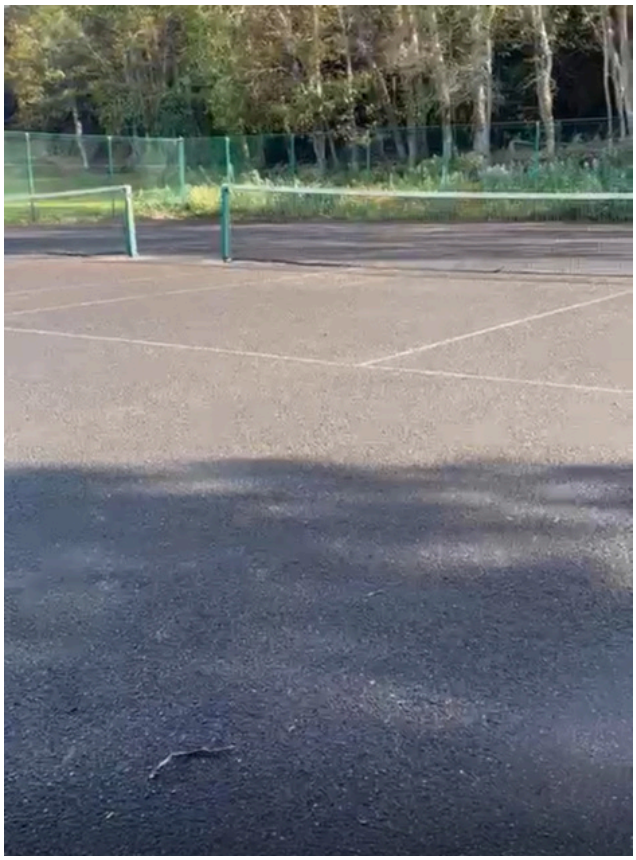
Photo Walk



“I like the beach it looks like qui ma from kpop demon hunters”



“I like the pocket garden”



“I like the tennis court the football pitch not so much”

How People Feel About Ardersier

Photo Walk

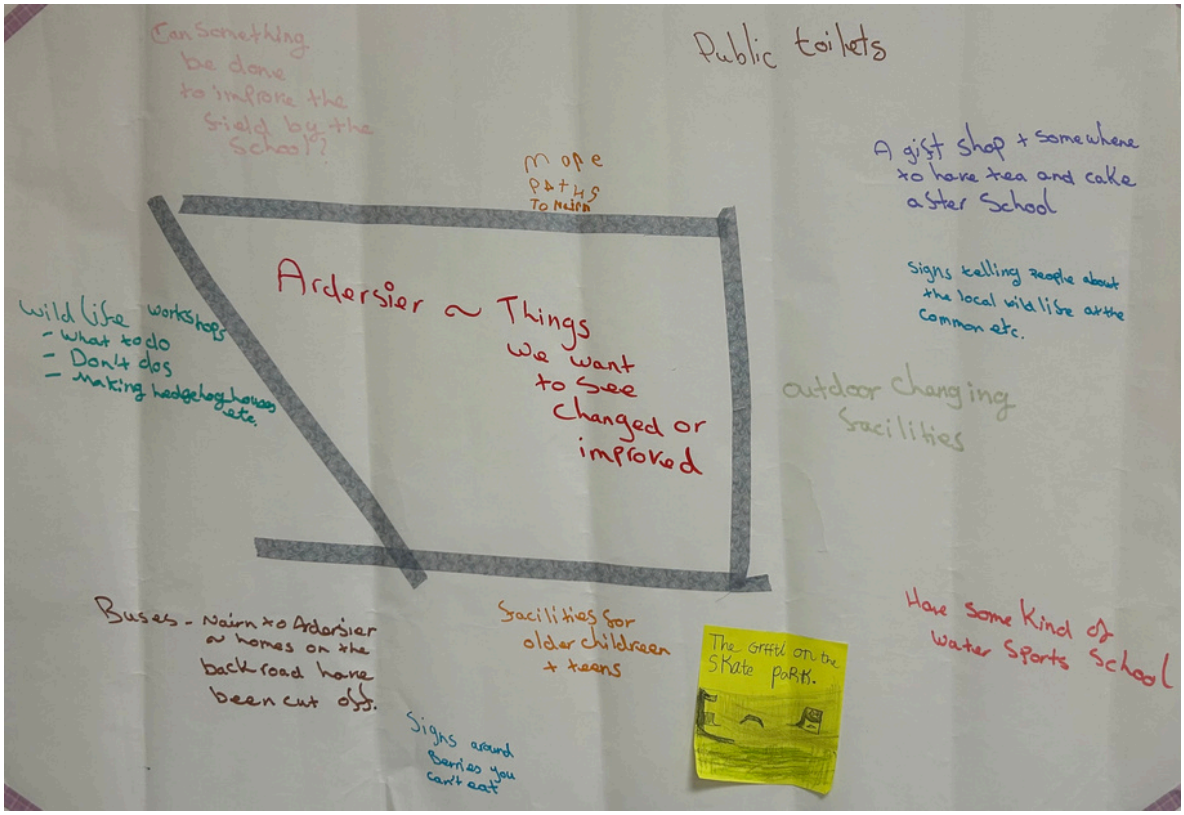


“The memorial drinking fountain in Ardersier is very rare as it is a well-preserved example of a late Victorian public fountain that is increasingly uncommon in public spaces.

As Ardersier is moving forward with time I feel the fountain is getting left behind , it is attended by Molly in the square who provides flowers on a yearly basis but moss is starting to over come the concrete base and I feel it is up to the folk of Ardersier to make sure this exists for another 100 years, it has quietly survived many years of neglect , we owe it to the past to keep our treasure in the future.”

What changes do people want?

Drop in Art Sessions



Arderseir - The things we want to see changed or improved

Can something be done to improve the field by the school?

A gift shop and somewhere to have tea and cakes after school

More paths to Nairn

Signs telling people about the local wildlife at the common etc.

Outdoor changing facilities

Wildlife workshops - what to do, what not to do, making hedgehog houses etc

Buses - Nairn to Arderseir - homes on the backroad have been cut off

Signs around berries you can't eat

Facilities for older children and teens

The graffiti on the skate park

The graffiti on the skate park

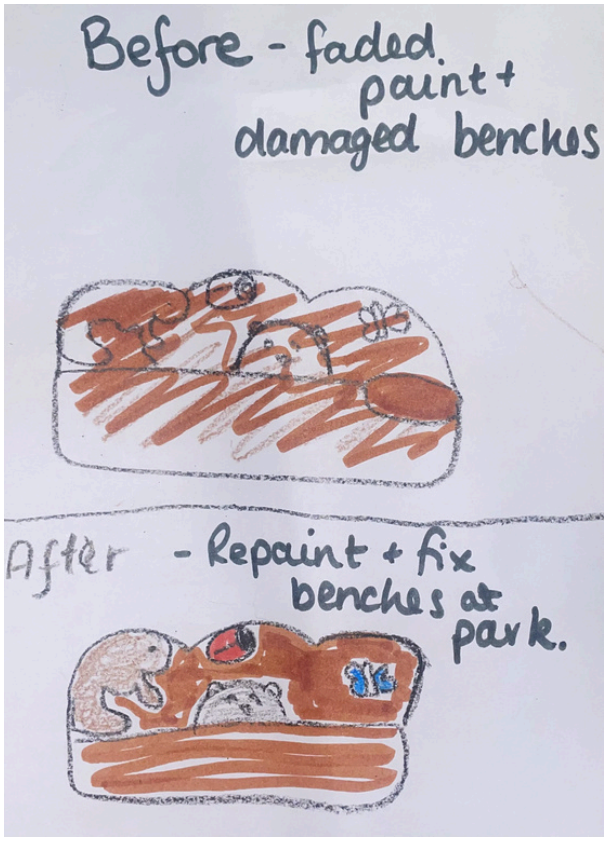
Have some kind of water sports school

What changes do people want?

Drop in Art Sessions



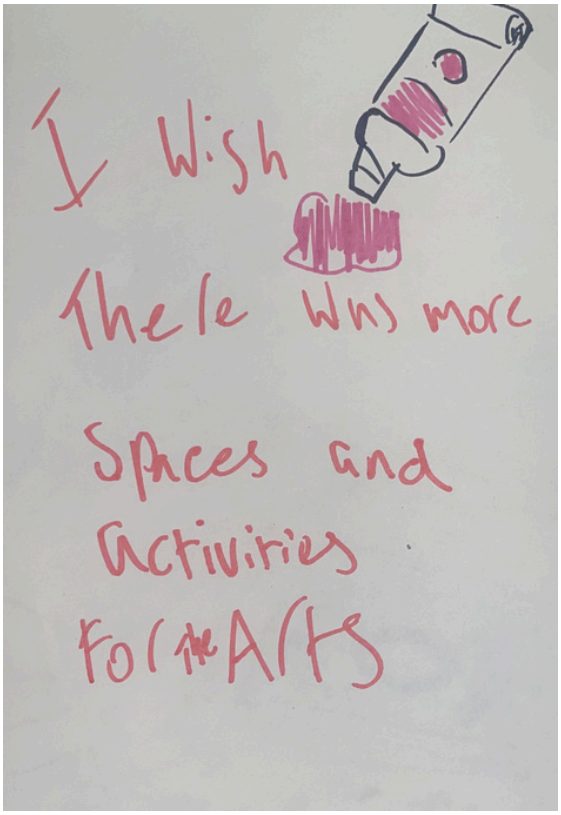
“Community space open after school”



“Re-Paint and fix benches at park”



“A community garden”



“I wish there was more spaces and activities for the Arts”

What changes do people want?

Drop in Art Sessions

“A watersports school”





“A swimming pool”

“A splash pad”



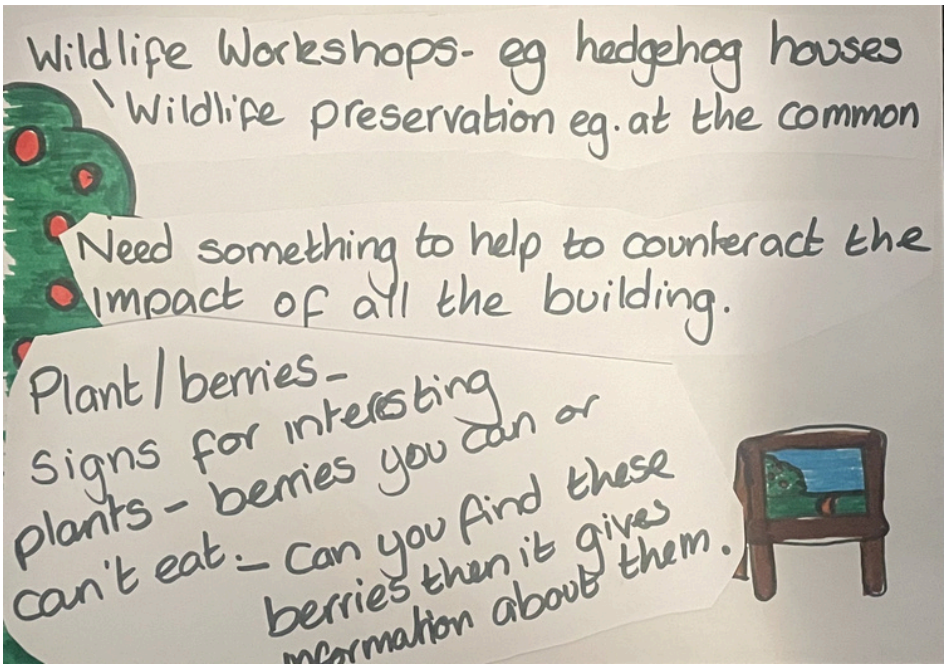
What changes do people want?

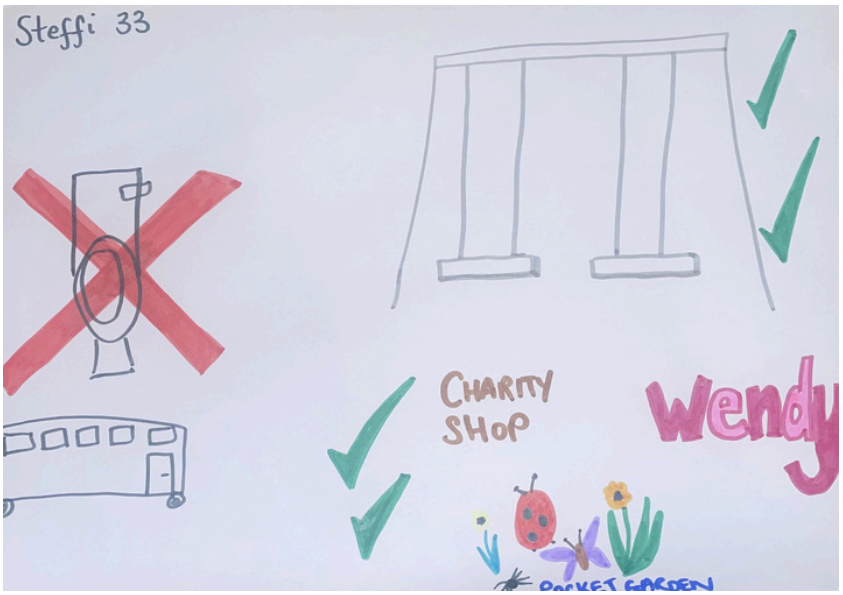
Drop in Art Sessions

Wildlife workshops - eg. hedgehog houses, wildlife presevation eg. at the common

Need something to help to counteract the impact of all the building

Plant/berries signs for interesting plants - berriers you can and can't eat - can you find these berries then it gives information about them"

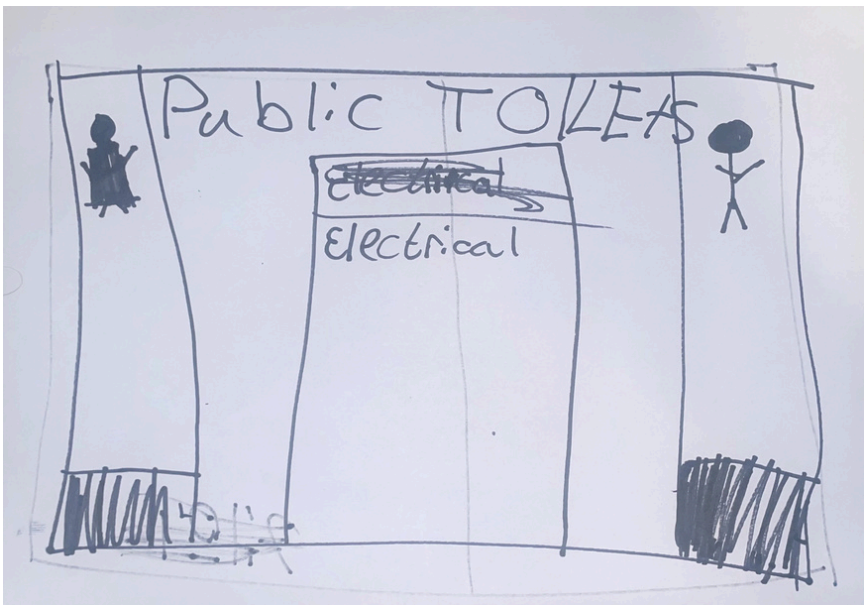




Like: the charity shop, the park, the pocket garden

Need: more buses and public toilets

"Public toilets"



What changes do people want?

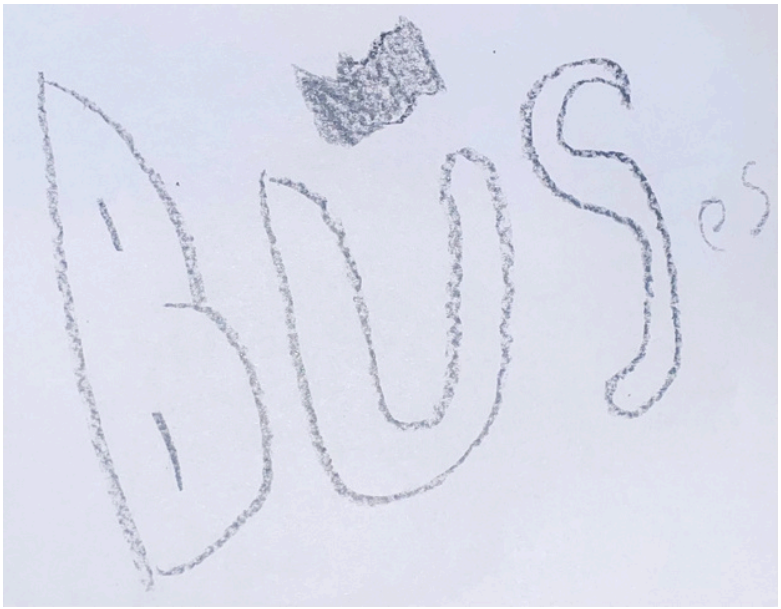
Drop in Art Sessions

“Picnic benches by the beach

Kite Day, All ages. Supply of kites could be arranged.

Activity box for the bay”





“Buses”

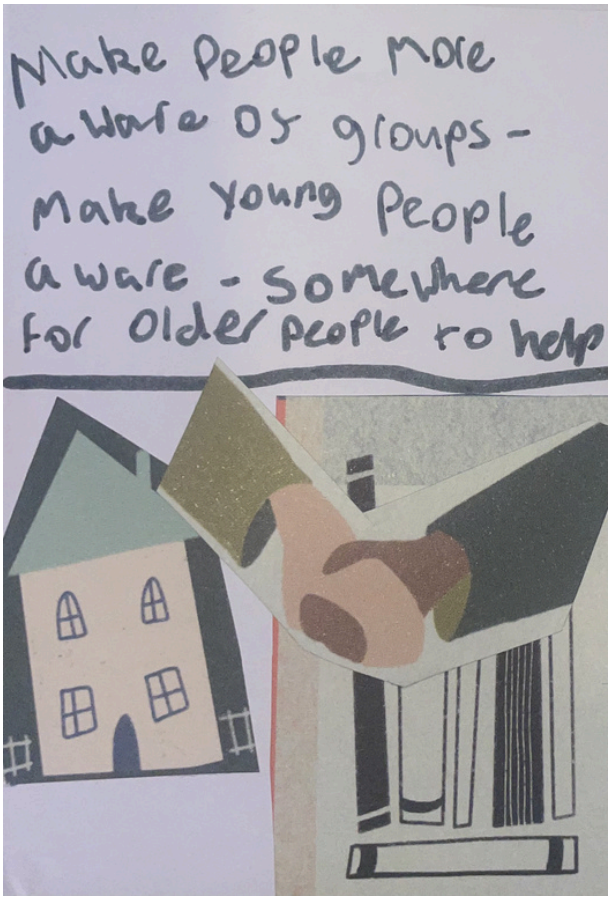
“More buses - Nairn to Inverness

Tea rooms after school”

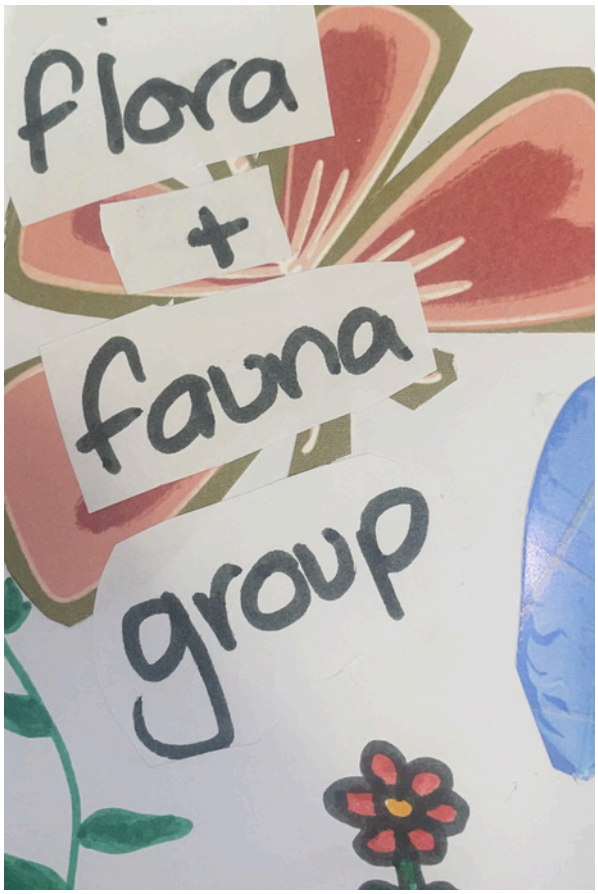


What changes do people want?

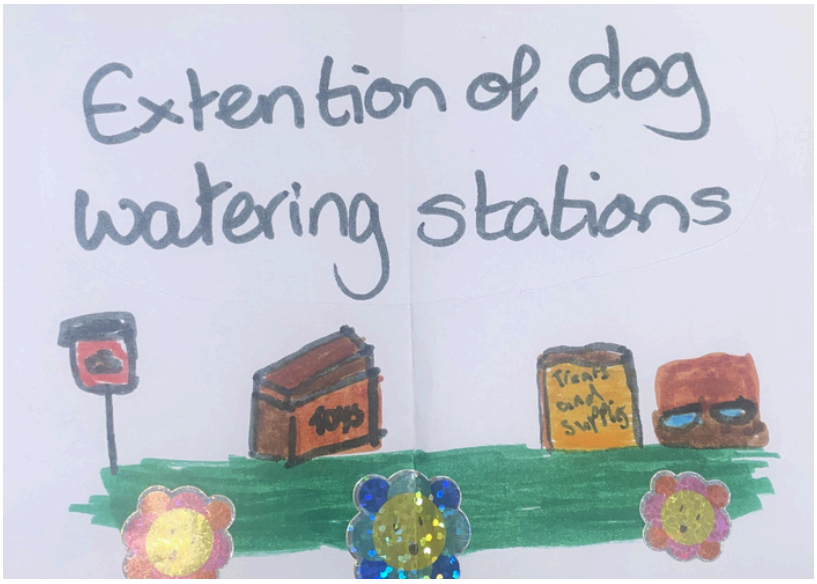
Drop in Art Sessions



"More people more aware of groups - make young people aware - somewhere for older people to help"



"Flora and fauna group"

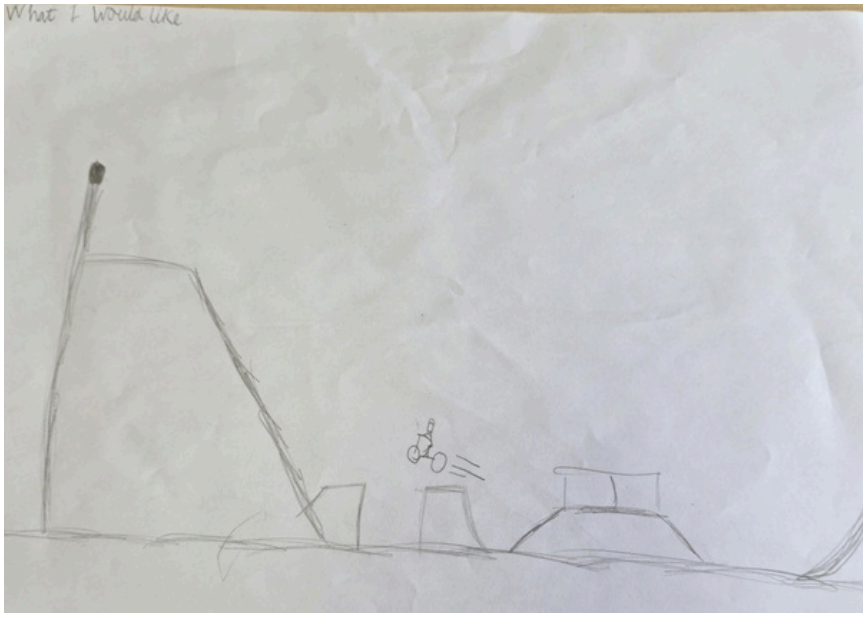


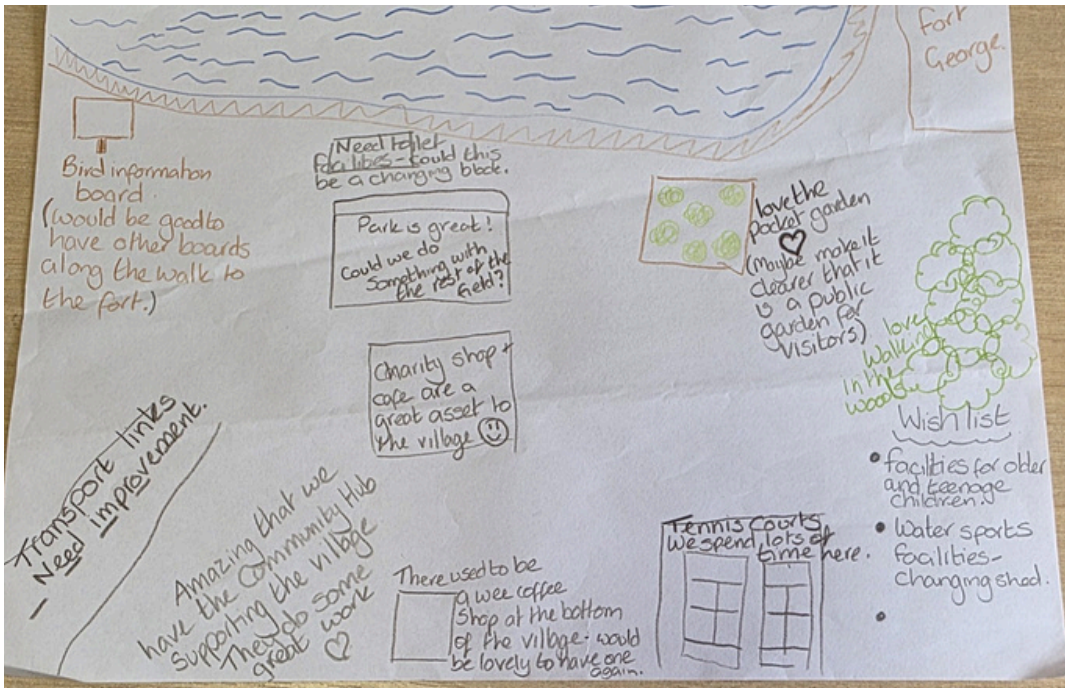
"Extension of dog watering stations"

What changes do people want?

Drop in Art Sessions

What I would like





Bird Information Board (would be good to have other boards along the walk to the fort)

Transport links need improvements

Amazing that we have the Community Hub supporting the village. They do some great work.

There used to be a wee coffee shop at the bottom o f the village - would be lovely to have one again

Tennis courts - we spend lots of time here

Need Toilet Facilities - could this be a changing block?

Parks are great! Could we do something with the rest of the field?

Charity shop and cafe are a great asset to the village.

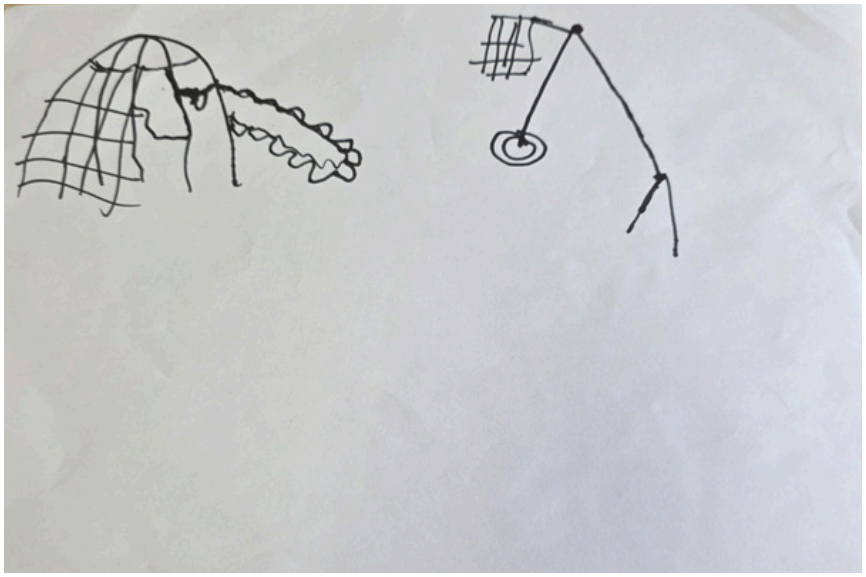
Love the pocket garden (maybe make it clearer that it is a public garden for visitors?

Wish list

- Facilities for older teenage children
- Water sports facilities - changing shed

General Comments & Art

“I love the nature and views around the common but they are spoiled by ‘youths’ making fires (irresponsible), stripping tree bark, and graffiti.”

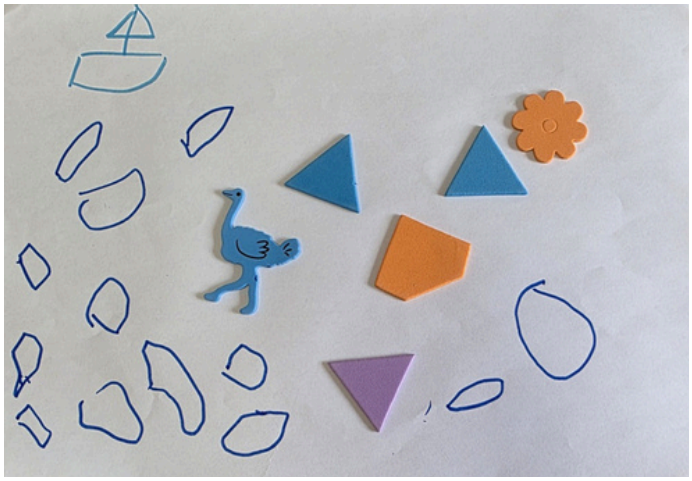




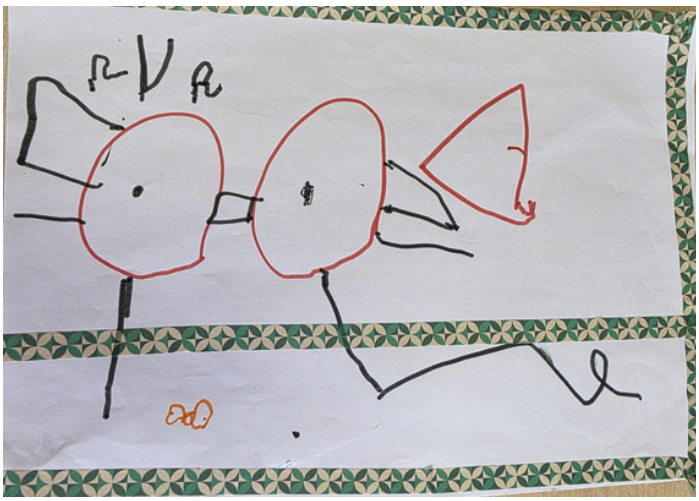


General Comments & Art





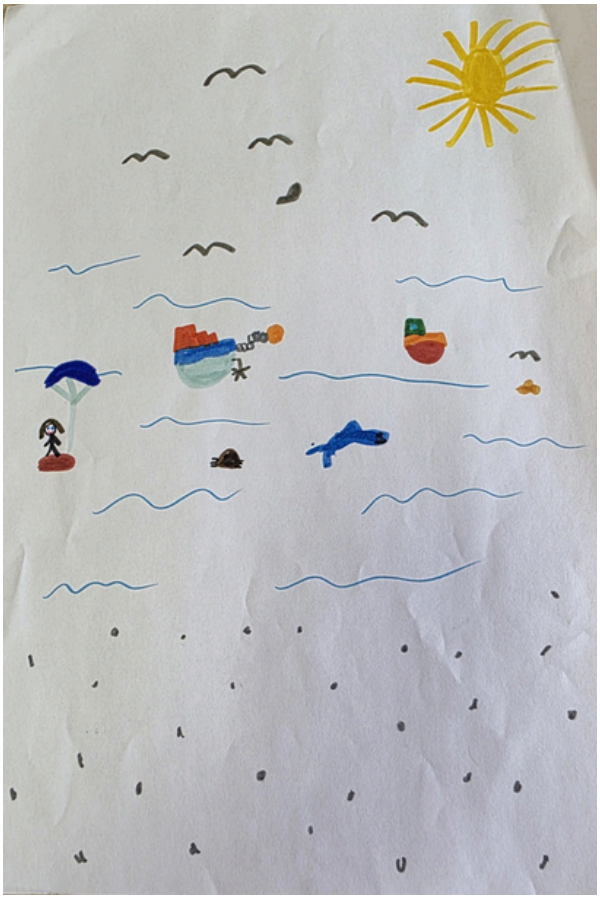




General Comments & Art









What We Heard

The drop-in art sessions provided a valuable opportunity for residents to share their views on life in Ardersier, offering a rich picture of what the community values and what they hope to see developed in the future. Participants consistently expressed strong affection for the village, highlighting its natural beauty, welcoming atmosphere, and the sense of pride people feel in living there. The beach, park, pocket garden, local wildlife, village shops, scenic walks, and community events were frequently mentioned as key strengths that contribute to Ardersier's character and quality of life.

Alongside this appreciation, residents also identified several areas where improvements would enhance daily life. The most common concerns included the lack of public toilets, limited bus services, and a desire for better-maintained or more engaging recreational spaces.

The community expressed enthusiasm for a range of new or expanded amenities. These included an after-school community space, improved dog-walking and wildlife areas, clearer signage about local nature, and greater visibility of existing community groups. There was also strong interest in new facilities and activities such as a community garden, wildlife workshops, arts spaces, beach-side amenities, and general improvements like repainting benches.



"I want a watersport school"

With Thanks

We would like to express our gratitude to the community of Ardersier for sharing their views and passion for their home.

We would also like to thank the community groups who engaged with us during the project, including:
Ardersier Community Council
Ardersier Parent and Youth Hub
Ardersier Local Mission Church
Ardersier Primary School Parent Council
Tornagrain Community Church

We hope this report helps guide future projects in the areas where the community wants to see positive change. It is also intended to provide clear evidence of community support to strengthen future funding applications.

Finally, we would like to thank our funders and the Community-Led Local Development 2025 fund for their support of the project.

HIGHLAND THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS CLIMATE HUB

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Inspiring Young Voices
Children and young people creating a better quality of life for all


Thank you
for visiting!