



**NatureScot**  
**NàdarAlba**

Scotland's Nature Agency  
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

# **An overview report by Outside the Box of the six consultation hubs**

Report number 3(b)  
Girvan Hub

outsidethebox



# Girvan Hub

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## Introduction

NatureScot commissioned Outside the Box (OTB) to work with them to design a consultation process and materials to gain community views on the proposed National Park for Southwest Scotland.

Between November 2024 and February 2025 Outside the Box facilitated and hosted community drop-in events across Southwest Scotland. Individual reports collating all the comments from the activities have been produced separately.

This is a report of the Girvan Hub. It uses the H diagram activity as a way to illustrate the key themes and views from the Hub.

The community drop-in events were scheduled for two hours with a range of different days and times and locations to allow people to choose the event that suited them. The events also had to fit in around existing local bookings in venues.

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## Dates and week

The events in the Girvan area were carried out over three days:

Date	Location	Time
Wednesday 8 January	Lendalfoot Hall	1.00–3.00pm
Wednesday 8 January	Girvan Wave Hub	6.00–8.00pm
Thursday 9 January	Girvan Community Garden	12.00–2.00pm
Thursday 9 January	Pinwherry Auld School House	4.00–6.00pm
Friday 10 January	Cairnryan Hall	11.00am–1.00pm

## Attendance

In total 108 people signed into the events in this area. People were invited to sign into the events, give their connection to the area and postcode. Not everyone signed into the event, either because it was busy at the sign in desk or because they didn't wish to.

- Local resident - **49**
- Local resident & farmer - **1**
- Local resident & local business - **1**
- Farmer - **19**
- Local resident & works locally - **2**
- Local interest - **4**
- Business & landowner - **4**
- Works locally - **1**
- Councillor - **3**
- Farmer and business owner - **1**
- No category given - **23**

The postcodes given in this hub area were:

- DG9 - **1**
- DG8 - **1**
- DG7 - **1**
- DG2 - **1**
- KA7 - **1**
- KA6 - **1**
- KA19 - **1**
- KA1 - **1**
- KA26 - **90**
- ML12 - **1**
- No postcode given - **9**

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## Consultation activities

At the community drop-in events there were a series of activities for people to participate in. People chose which activities they wanted to participate in. Some people completed all the activities and some just chose a few. OTB staff members facilitated some of the activities. NatureScot staff were also in attendance to answer questions from the community.

The aim of the activities was to share information about the proposal and to gain people’s views and ideas about the proposal and the area.

### H diagram

One of the key activities was the H diagram where people were given the opportunity to indicate how they felt about the proposal. They did this via placing a red sticky dot. There tended to be two approaches to this activity. Some people arrived at the event knowing how they felt and wanted to immediately put their dot down. And others spent time looking at the other activities before deciding where to place their dot.

Table 1 - collates the H diagrams from each event in this hub.

Scale	0 (Negative)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 (Positive)
Indication of feeling about proposed National Park	35	3	4	2	1	3	2	7	3	2	18

42 people indicated they were ‘very negative’ towards the proposal and 23 people indicated they were ‘very positive’.

The H diagram activity also gave people the opportunity to say what they liked about the proposal, things they didn’t like and any changes they would like to see.

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## What do you like?

### General

Comments focused on increased investment in infrastructure, business, tourism management, environmental and sustainability issues.

People also said it was an opportunity to recognise Galloway as a beautiful but often forgotten part of Scotland that people would like to know more about and visit.

Comments also said it was an opportunity to revive the local towns that are rundown, not well looked after and full of empty shops, such as Girvan and Stranraer.

### Investment and planning

Comments focused on an increase in investment and future potential for the area, with an increase in business for local businesses.

### Employment

Comments focused on bringing investment to the local area, supporting local businesses and encouraging new businesses to open.

### Nature

Comments focused on protecting nature and a wide variety of landscapes.

## What do you not like?

### General

Comments focused on concerns that the first two National Parks in Scotland have not performed well, the increased cost of supporting an additional layer of bureaucracy. People also said they liked the area as it is now, and no change was needed.

### Tourism

Comments focused on the negative impact tourists have on the countryside, livestock and farming land.

### Roads and infrastructure

Concerns were expressed about increases in traffic and parking in the areas. People said the area is already struggling with bureaucracy, lack of investment and poor infrastructure. Incremental growth in visitors adds more pressure on services and infrastructure.

## What changes would you like to see?

Comments focused on the restriction of second home ownership within the proposed Park area, allowing long-term residents and essential workers but restricting people retiring to the area and second homes.

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## Overall

There was a strong emphasis on environmental conservation, the need for new affordable housing, employment opportunities for young people and an improved infrastructure to meet current and future demands.

Comments in favour of the National Park proposals noted that it could support year-round rather than just seasonal employment and increase the number of new businesses. Increased countryside access was seen as a positive benefit and a Park could offer greater environmental protection with funding for targeted initiatives. A National Park could bring economic regeneration leading to investment in infrastructure, but without it, the area will continue to decline.

Comments not in favour of a National Park echoed those raised at other hubs: that it will not only fail to deliver the positive changes people want to see but will negatively impact the local community and environment for the foreseeable future.

Concerns about the impact of a National Park on the infrastructure raised the issue that an ageing population is already stretching local health services, and more visitors to the area will push it to breaking point. In addition to improving roads, the need for better rail services was raised at this hub. People expressed concern that National Park tourism would bring low-paying seasonal jobs, second homes and holiday lets, pushing up house prices and driving out young people. They stressed the need for investment in innovation, training and skills for young people. Concerns were raised not only about the negative impacts of tourism on the environment, but also of the inconvenience this will bring to residents.

People want more information on what a National Park would mean for the area, they want to retain control of the future of where they live and be involved in decision making.

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