

Dunblane

COMMUNITY FUTURES

A Local Community Plan for Dunblane

Dunblane Community Futures Steering Group

in association with

Dunblane Community Council

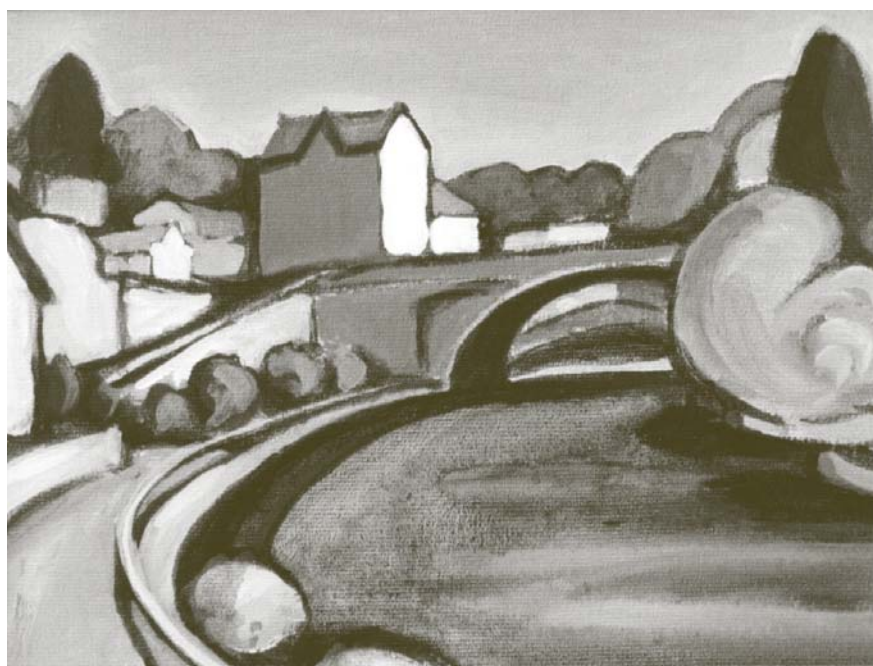
Dunblane Development Trust

Stirling Council

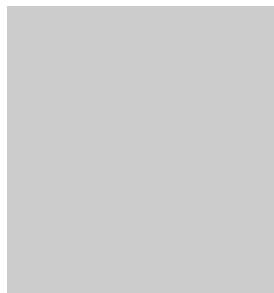
Review of Progress

&

New Community Action Plan 2009 – 2014



2009 - 2014



CONTENTS

| | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1 | Introduction | page 1 |
| 2 | The Community Views Survey & High School Student Survey | page 2 |
| | What we like | page 2 |
| | What we do NOT like | page 4 |
| | What would make Dunblane a better place | page 6 |
| | Our priorities | page 8 |
| 3 | Stakeholder Interviews | page 10 |
| 4 | Key points and strategic issues from the Community Profile | page 12 |
| | People | page 12 |
| | Housing and houses | page 12 |
| | Community facilities, activities and organisations | page 13 |
| | Local economy and employment | page 14 |
| | Education and childcare | page 14 |
| | Health Services | page 15 |
| | History and heritage | page 15 |
| | Transport and communication | page 15 |
| | Environment | page 16 |
| 5 | Review of the outcomes from the 2003 Local Community Plan | page 17 |
| 6 | Dunblane - Our Vision for the Future | page 23 |
| 7 | Dunblane - Dialogue for Development | page 24 |
| 8 | Main Strategies and Priorities 2009 - 2014 | page 25 |
| | Built Environment and Public Infrastructure | page 25 |
| | Community Facilities and Meeting Places | page 26 |
| | Local Economy and Tourism | page 26 |
| | Environment and Greenspace | page 27 |
| | Community and Citizenship | page 27 |
| 9 | Action to be taken over the five year period of the Plan | page 28 |
| | Built Environment and Public Infrastructure | page 28 |
| | Community Facilities and Meeting Places | page 31 |
| | Local Economy and Tourism | page 33 |
| | Environment and Greenspace | page 35 |
| | Community and Citizenship | page 37 |
| 10 | Planning and the Strategic Context | page 38 |
| | Stirling Council Local Plan | page 38 |
| | Stirling Council Local Development Plan | page 38 |
| 11 | Other major Policy Guidelines and the Strategic Context | page 41 |
| | Single Outcome Agreement | page 41 |
| | Stirling Community Planning Partnership Vision for Stirling | page 41 |
| 12 | Making it Happen | page 43 |
| 13 | End-piece | page 44 |
| | Summary of Community Futures process | page 44 |
| | Contacts and acknowledgements | page 44 |

1 INTRODUCTION

A NEW COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN FOR DUNBLANE

This new Community Action Plan for 2009 - 2014 sets out:

- What local people think should be the guidelines for the way Dunblane develops in the future
- What needs to be done in Dunblane over the next 5 years and beyond
- Our priorities for projects and action.

The plan will be our guide for what we as a community working closely with the statutory agencies and other interests try to make happen

WORKING FOR DUNBLANE

The plan will be carried out by the community with help from a wide range of organisations and with a lead role being taken by the **Dunblane Community Council (DCC)** and our own community company **Dunblane Development Trust (DDT)**.

Dunblane Development Trust was established in 2003 after we prepared the first Local Community Plan. It has had an important role over the last 6 years - taking a lead in improving our local environment, taking control of the Braeport to make sure it continues to meet the needs of local groups and clubs, supporting local community projects and developing ideas for building community assets.

DEVELOPING THIS NEW ACTION PLAN

This new Community Action Plan has been developed following:

- A review of our original Local Community Plan 2003
- A special Dunblane Conference for all the main groups and organisations operating in Dunblane held in January 2009 in the Braeport
- A Community Views Survey that went out to nearly 1000 households in the town;
- A Community Views Survey of the High School students;
- A series of stakeholder interviews with key groups, businesses, services and agencies
- Community input from around 250 people attending the Community Futures tent at the Fling at the end of May 2009 and at the Dunblane Centre and the Braeport in the middle of June

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART

An amazing amount has been achieved since the first Action Plan but there are projects that still need to be completed and new things that need to be done and these are included in this new action plan

2 THE COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY & HIGH SCHOOL SURVEY

The **Community Views Survey** was distributed to a random sample of around 950 households in Dunblane. 388 households returned forms representing a very encouraging 41% return rate. In addition 116 of these household returns contained two completed forms. The report has therefore been able to draw on information gathered from 504 forms.

A similar survey was carried out with Dunblane-based High School students in May; 288 responses were received from **High School Survey** from students in classes S2 through S5.

Throughout this section of the action plan, quotations from individual survey returns are shown *“between inverted commas and in italic type”*.

WHAT WE LIKE - Households

There were a great number of very positive responses. As one respondent neatly put it: *“The Three Cs - Central, Civilised, Caring”*

| ATTRIBUTES | Number of times people mentioned this | % |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION | 320 | 63% |
| COMMUNITY & CITIZENSHIP | 239 | 47% |
| RURAL / QUIET | 210 | 42% |
| ENVIRONMENT & GREENSPACE | 137 | 27% |
| LOCAL FACILITIES & SERVICES | 137 | 27% |
| HERITAGE AND HISTORY | 43 | 9% |
| HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT | 10 | 2% |
| ECONOMY AND TOURISM | 2 | >1% |

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

“Great central location with good public transport and roads to major cities. Fantastic countryside and scenery on our doorstep.”

COMMUNITY & CITIZENSHIP

“The community spirit e.g. maintenance of the flower beds and numerous activities and clubs for various ages; the environment - the space and greenery add to the peacefulness; the social responsibility displayed - relatively little graffiti, building a skateboard park for example; the mixed age profile - a space for both old and young alike; this survey.”

“Location and a scale of development that just about preserves a sense of continuity. It is still possible to bump into friends in the High Street and to build relationships with shopkeepers.”

RURAL / QUIET

“Unique place to live, a city with a village feel.”

ENVIRONMENT AND GREENSPACE

“Work of the DDT to brighten up the town is much appreciated”

“Excellent walking and cycling paths - especially along the riverside and out to neighbouring areas”

LOCAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES

“Good Health Centre”

“Good schools”

HERITAGE AND HISTORY

“The very attractive and rather unusual site of the town - a winding street of traditional buildings nestling in a steep sided valley, with the cathedral in the background. Old, interesting and even slightly continental”

WHAT WE LIKE - High School students

| ATTRIBUTES | Number of times people mentioned this | % |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| FRIENDS AND FAMILY | 55 | 19% |
| SMALL COMMUNITY, EASY ACCESS | 48 | 17% |
| SOCIABLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY | 46 | 16% |
| QUIET AND PEACEFUL | 34 | 12% |
| PUBLIC TRANSPORT AVAILABILITY | 29 | 10% |

“Bright and colourful in summer”

“Quite quiet and sheltered from the chaos”

“The community and freedom and it’s nice when it’s sunny”

“Beautiful scenery and good transport”

“The fresh air and the sweet summer breeze”

“Bennets pies”

“It has nice places to take pretty pictures of to get inspiration for drawing”

WHAT WE DO NOT LIKE - Households

Despite to praise that the town gets, there are a great many issues that people are concerned about.

| DISLIKES | Number of times people mentioned this | % |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| LACK OF LOCAL FACILITIES & SERVICES | 162 | 32% |
| COMMUNITY & CITIZENSHIP | 162 | 32% |
| TRAFFIC, ROADS & TRANSPORT | 152 | 30% |
| HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT | 94 | 19% |
| ECONOMY & TOURISM | 74 | 15% |
| ENVIRONMENTAL | 67 | 13% |

LACK OF LOCAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

“The lack of a decent café or restaurant that would want to take your visitors to”

“Shops - old fashioned hours, presentation, service, lack of energy to keep up with retailers they feel are taking away from them. Charity shops are our signature dish - how sad is that?”

“The fact that there is not much for people my age (16 - 19) to do or places to go. Many people of my age don’t want to go to the Dunblane Centre or ‘Hot Chocolate’. The reputation youths are given, is also bad and is VERY generalised - not everyone’s like that!”

COMMUNITY AND CITIZENSHIP

“Buckfast bravado in the gloaming on the Laigh Hills”

“The amount of litter is a disgrace and the fact that the refuse men require to daily patrol Old Doune Road after the High School lunch break.”

TRAFFIC, ROADS AND TRANSPORT

“Condition of roads and pathways - mainly pot-holes - and the general lack of council maintenance of public areas”

“The way in which it has changed from an attractive small town into an enormous car park. It’s not just the inconvenience I deplore but the unsightly mess of it all. Every street choked with cars!”

HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

“Anonymous new housing estates”

“There’s no way our young people will be able to afford to live here”

“Increasing provision of high cost new build houses”

ECONOMY AND TOURISM

“Main Street is very basic in its offering and feels ‘dead’”

WHAT WE DO NOT LIKE - High School students

| DISLIKES | Number of times people mentioned this | % |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| NOTHING TO DO, BORING FOR TEENS | 119 | 41% |
| LACK OF GOOD SHOPS FOR OUR AGE | 33 | 11% |
| TOO FEW LEISURE FACILITIES | 32 | 11% |
| LITTER AND GRAFFITI | 23 | 8% |
| NEDS, ALL THE NEDS | 13 | 5% |

“There isn’t a lot of things to do and the things there are to do are really exclusive (golf club, tennis courts - no fully public courts - and Astro turf always locked)”

“The situation with the NEDS”

“Small, easily bored”

“Nothing to do and what there is to do is too expensive”

“Too many old folks here”

“People are sometimes disrespectful”

“There’s not a lot of things to do or you have to pay to do things and children don’t like to ask parents for money all the time”

“Long way to Donnington”

“The police force is incompetent when tackling alcohol issues in Dunblane. The Laighills are no longer safe for families and young children due to gangs of youths”

“How do you get to school? - walk past NEDS who blow smoke in your face”

I THINK DUNBLANE WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE IF Households

| I THINK DUNBLANE WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE IF (ISSUES RELATING TO THESE TOPICS WERE ADDRESSED) | Number of times people mentioned this | % |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----|
| LOCAL FACILITIES & SERVICES | 208 | 41% |
| ECONOMY AND TOURISM | 117 | 23% |
| TRAFFIC, ROADS & TRANSPORT | 99 | 20% |
| COMMUNITY & CITIZENSHIP | 89 | 18% |
| HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT | 73 | 15% |
| ENVIRONMENT & GREENSPACE | 64 | 13% |
| TOWNSCAPE & TOWN CENTRE | 41 | 8% |

LOCAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES

“If we provided a proper centre for young people to “hang out” in instead of walking the streets”

“There were more public sports and leisure facilities and a more diverse cross section of quality shops in the High Street”

“Better eating places - bars, restaurants, cafes for all the family”

“A swimming pool at the High School - it must be the only PFI school without one”

“A swimming pool - like we were promised in 1974”

ECONOMY AND TOURISM

“If we could re-create a new High Street with some new exciting shops as well as maintaining our local amenities attracting more tourism and giving the community a chance to chose not to go elsewhere”

“If we could create an attractive / attracting image of Dunblane. Somewhere where the residents could feel proud of living, somewhere attractive to visitors and not just a dormitory town for people to live who work elsewhere

“If there was a bit more life to the place. The High Street is very picturesque but lacks substance somehow”

TRAFFIC, ROADS AND TRANSPORT

“More sensible parking for High Street and Post Office area”

“New railway halts were built at Barbush, Kinbuck and Blackford thus reducing car use and car parking at Dunblane”

COMMUNITY AND CITIZENSHIP

“If there was zero tolerance of kids drinking in public places”

“Locals took more pride in the cleanliness of our streets and parks and supported the DDT in its efforts”

“Newer residents played a bigger part in local activities as contributors, not just occasional bystanders”

HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

“If there was a better mix of houses to rent or buy so that young couples would be able to stay in the community of they wished”

ENVIRONMENT AND GREENSPACE

“the Laighills Park was made into a country park with parking, better access and paths particularly from Tannahill Terrace and Ramoyle and with park benches and signage”

“the river banks were repaired - it’s a disgrace how long nothing has happened”

TOWNSCAPE AND TOWN CENTRE

“the High Street was pedestrianised so that it was a better environment”

“the boarded up building at the top of the High Street was re-opened as a thriving restaurant”

“the former co-op building was put to good use and improved”

I THINK DUNBLANE WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE IF ... High School students

| I THINK DUNBLANE WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE IF . . . (ISSUES RELATING TO THESE TOPICS WERE ADDRESSED) | No of times people mentioned this | % |
|---|--|----------|
| MORE THINGS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DO | 93 | 32% |
| PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL - AT THE HIGH SCHOOL ? | 64 | 22% |
| MORE SHOPS GEARED TOWARDS YOUNGER PEOPLE | 42 | 15% |
| CLEANER / NO LITTER OR GRAFFITI AND MORE BINS | 33 | 11% |
| MORE ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES | 28 | 10% |

“they had more easily accessible sports facilities for youth”

“they had anything AT ALL for the youth to do to stop underage drinking and violence”

“moved it closer to the sea”

“it had a more disciplined approach to law”

“it had industry to bring importance and growth to Dunblane”

“more shops and more to do without leaving Dunblane”

“there was a café without extortionate prices where young people could sit in and eat - like the AllanWater Café in Bridge of Allan. It would also provide jobs”

MY PRIORITIES for DUNBLANE - Households

| PRIORITIES | Number of times people mentioned this | % |
|-----------------------------|--|----------|
| LOCAL FACILITIES & SERVICES | 208 | 41% |
| TRAFFIC, ROADS & TRANSPORT | 161 | 32% |
| LOCAL ECONOMY & TOURISM | 160 | 32% |
| ENVIRONMENT & GREENSPACE | 111 | 22% |
| COMMUNITY & CITIZENSHIP | 81 | 16% |
| TOWNSCAPE & TOWN CENTRE | 76 | 15% |
| HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT | 67 | 13% |

LOCAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

“A swimming pool. I think people would be more likely to fund raise for this than the High Street project.”

“A commercial development which would offer an alternative to “pub culture” - a nice café / meeting place”

“Better retail / restaurant facilities - it would create a whole new atmosphere if people could walk in the evening from their homes to a nice restaurant or café by the River

TRAFFIC, ROADS & TRANSPORT

“Better maintenance of the roads and pathways”

“Something must be done to sort out the commuter parking. The town is just a glorified car park for people from outwith Dunblane”

LOCAL ECONOMY & TOURISM

“Appearance of High Street improved - e.g. grants for shop front improvement, merchandising training, to improve window displays in some shops”

“Find out why residents do not support local businesses and help this to happen”

“Promote the centre of town as a package of history and heritage, shops and walks”

ENVIRONMENT & GREENSPACE

“Make river walk safe, improve the railings”

“Continue the Development Trust’s good work around the town. The Development Trust’s efforts are making a difference to the look of the town”

“Improving quality of paths around town including bridge - without steps - at Laighills railway cutting and replacing railway crossing at north end of Laighills”

COMMUNITY & CITIZENSHIP

“Imaginative and creative street-work with young people - as happened with

the skate park”

TOWNSCAPE & TOWN CENTRE

“The former Chinese restaurant premises at the top of the High street and the Stirling Arms need to be refurbished and operated by credible restaurateurs. Presently both sets of premises are eyesores and deters visitors and locals instead of attracting them into the High Street”

HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

“Do not over develop the town so that it becomes too big and changes the dynamics of the town i.e. do not build any more houses on green land.”

“Restrict development - ok to build but not “cash-crop” housing”

“Stop cramming new houses into every nook and cranny”

MY PRIORITIES for DUNBLANE - High School students

| PRIORITIES | No of times people mentioned this | % |
|---|--|----------|
| Affordable public swimming pool | 125 | 43% |
| Better shops / shops more suited to young people | 116 | 40% |
| Clean up the town - less litter and graffiti, more bins | 54 | 19% |
| Cinema / Entertainment Centre | 53 | 18% |
| More fun things to do for young people | 39 | 14% |

“A mega cool wicked ripped out pool”

“To speak to the young people to find out what they like to do in their spare time and what they want to happen in Dunblane”

“A crackdown on anti-social behaviour because otherwise lots of areas are inaccessible or ruined for others”

“Something to be done with old unused places”

“Modernise it, make the buildings etc more up to date to attract more tourists”

“Build a McDonalds, Burger King, Pizza Hut, KFC”

“Vintage clothing shops”

“Wave machine, a download festival”

“Make the area round the river safer”

“Educate older people that not everyone is NED-like”

3 STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Time was taken during the work to hold a series of conversations with Key Stakeholders in the community. These included: Businesses in the High Street; Consultants and professionals working in or on behalf of Dunblane interests; Housing managers; Health care workers and administrators; Community groups; Retailers; Workspace management companies; Property developers; Environmental groups; Community facilities management groups; Various young people’s forums; Providers of childcare; Planning officials.

Ideas, proposals and priorities emerging from these discussions included . . .

| TOPIC | IDEAS AND PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS |
|--|---|
| Young people | <p>Dunblane Centre to provide more that meets the needs of teens and young adults</p> <p>Young citizens’ project with the High School to combat litter</p> <p>Enable schools and childcare projects to make better use of the green-spaces across town</p> |
| Community Hubs in Dunblane | <p>Braeport Centre to be refurbished and modernised as a Community Centre - a major project</p> <p>Braeport Centre to have a number of smaller scale improvements to serve the needs of users better - car park surface, toilets, kitchen</p> <p>Braeport Centre to focus on providing space and facilities for young children and older people</p> <p>Dunblane Centre to open seven days a week and promote itself as the focus for all ages in the community</p> <p>Dunblane Centre to have a more open door policy so that people can drop in for less structured activities</p> <p>Victoria Halls to secure sufficient revenue funding for a paid full-time caretaker</p> <p>Victoria Halls to get repairs to rear (riverside) wall carried out by Stirling Council</p> <p>Scottish Churches House to explore ways in which its premises can be used to better serve the needs of residents</p> |
| Planning, Housing and Development | <p>New golf course at the north end of town</p> <p>Anchors Cross development of affordable accommodation by Forth Housing Association</p> <p>Eastern margin development proposals for 500 - 600 houses [also submitted for inclusion in the Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative - but not successful in</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>this]</p> <p>Stirling Council to build new council houses in the town</p> <p>Ensure that all new development considers and addresses the need for sustainability - e.g. good non-driving access to other parts of town, enshrining the principle of being carbon neutral, including workspace as well as living space when appropriate etc</p> |
| Green Space and Environment | <p>Major repairs to riverside banks, paths and walls</p> <p>Local purchase of Holmehill to secure it as green space at the heart of the community</p> <p>Ensure that the Laighills long term improvement project is successfully set in motion and maintained</p> <p>Draw up a “Green Map” of Dunblane to promote better use of open spaces in the town</p> |
| Volunteering | <p>Voluntary committees to attract new members and new volunteers for the projects they run</p> |
| Roads, Traffic and Parking | <p>Dedicated parking for the Victoria Halls</p> <p>Work towards improving the arrival points in Dunblane - at the station and by road from both north and south</p> |
| Public Services | <p>Health Centre to attract funding for internal adaptations and new extension to enable them to provide the services they and their clients/patients require</p> |
| Local Economy and Tourism | <p>Dunblane to embrace a marketing project for the town and draw together the wide range of local resources under a common “Dunblane Banner”</p> <p>Attract funding for the development of the High Street Gap Site - either as a community project or commercially</p> <p>Scottish Churches House to extend the range of users from outwith Dunblane to attract more people to Dunblane</p> <p>Set up a tourism and local business economy group</p> |
| Community Activities and Events | <p>The Dunblane Handbook - a first class directory of groups, premises for community use, services and events, the town diary etc</p> <p>Explore options for new and additional events and festivals in Dunblane</p> |
| Sustainable Transport and Access | <p>Improvements to the bus service - both within Dunblane and to connect Dunblane to the University and to Stirling</p> <p>Promote walking in the town - to the schools, to the shops, for visiting</p> <p>Promotion of cycling through a network of decent safe cycle routes around the town</p> |

4 KEY POINTS & STRATEGIC ISSUES FROM COMMUNITY PROFILE

Dunblane lies on the eastern edge of the Stirling Council area some five miles or so north of Stirling. After Stirling, it is the largest community in the council area. Statutorily, Dunblane lies in Ward 3 of Stirling Council - "Dunblane and Bridge of Allan" - which has four councilors representing it. The Dunblane Community Council has twelve members representing seven out of eight wards - the eighth covers the landward areas outside the town and is not covered by this action plan.

Dunblane is built around an ancient crossing over the Allan Water at a point where routes were able to divide - west to Callander and the western highlands, south to central Scotland and north east towards Perth. The town is physically divided by the line of the river and perhaps more significantly by the later railway. In the east the High Street, Cathedral, the older weavers' cottages are separated by two close-by hills - Blane's Hill and Holmehill - from the extensive Victorian suburb. The population is more or less equally split east and west of the river / railway.

PEOPLE - a young town - partly

Dunblane is a vital growing community of around 10,000 residents. Above the age of 35 - 40, the age spread of people is very much in line with both the Stirling Council area and Scotland as a whole. Below that age, there are marked differences - on the 2007 figures, nearly 24% of its people are aged 15 and under compared to 17% for Stirling Council and 16% for Scotland; correspondingly only 18% are aged 16 - 34 compared to 25% for Stirling and for Scotland.

In terms of growth, the population of Dunblane has been rising sharply and steadily for 40 years from around 2,000 in 1971 to nearly 10,000 in 2007. Over the last ten years, Dunblane's population has grown by over 22% whereas Stirling Council's has increased by 6% and Scotland's by just 1%;

HOUSES - numbers and tenure

Dunblane has seen a continuing and sustained growth of house numbers over the past forty years. In 1971 there were fewer than 1,500 houses and in 2009 there are over 3,500 - a 130% increase.

Dunblane has a high proportion of owner occupied housing and a correspondingly low proportion of social rented housing when compared with both Stirling Council and Scotland. This difference has widened since 2001 through the continuing numbers of local authority homes that have been bought through the Right-to-Buy scheme. Since 1980, 402 council houses in Dunblane have been purchased through the Right to Buy legislation. There are currently 213 council houses in Dunblane - a drop of 88 (nearly 30%) since the 2001 census - making up 6.2% of the housing stock as compared to over 20% for Scotland or 27% when other social rented accommodation such as Housing Association homes is included.

There are 100 households on the council's waiting list for council housing in Dunblane. During the year 2007/8 there were just 11 council houses let in Dunblane where the ratio of applications to lets was 100:1 for the Rylands/Whitecross area and 7:1 for what is known as the Dunblane Town area.

Forth Housing Association is the main Registered Social Landlord for the area. They currently have no properties in Dunblane although they have plans - currently stalled - for 26 homes in the 50+ Anchors Cross development. They are very keen to progress this project which is dependent on release of the land by the owners to enable the development. There are no people on the Forth HA waiting list for Dunblane as they have no properties in the town.

Hanover Housing Association operates three developments for older people: 33 owner occupied flats and bungalows by Holmehill, 28 shared equity flats at Drumcastle Court and 31 rented flats in Springfield Terrace.

Stirling Council has been granted "Pressured Area Status" for Dunblane by the Scottish Government because of this shortage of affordable accommodation in the town. As well as helping to support the argument for more affordable accommodation being built, this has the effect that any new council house tenancies taken up since 2001 (approximately 50) do not carry with them the right to buy for a period of five years

Increasing the stock of affordable homes in Scotland has been closely tied in to the availability of land for house building generally of which a quota (around 25% usually) need to be affordable for planning permission to be granted

There are further options for affordable house development as local authorities have recently been enabled and encouraged to develop their own stock once again. Stirling Council has a site in Dunblane in its Housing Account and is keen to explore with the community options for the development of council houses on it.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES & ORGANISATIONS

The range of largely volunteer-run spaces for community activities for people of all ages includes: the Braeport Centre; the Dunblane Centre (opened 2004); the Victoria Halls; the Cathedral Halls; Scottish Churches House; various churches, church halls and the schools. Stirling Council owns the Victoria Halls and the Braeport Centre and is responsible for maintaining them in a wind and water-tight condition but provides no staff and delivers no activities in them.

Leisure facilities include: the Dunblane Hydro Leisure Club, the Dunblane New Golf Club, the Dunblane Bowling Club, the Dunblane Soccer Club; the Dunblane Sports Club for tennis, squash and table tennis; the Skate Park in Laighills (completed 2007); the sports facilities at the Dunblane Centre. There is no public accessible swimming pool or leisure centre.

Leisure activities are provided by a wide range of small clubs and associations - a notable one being the weekly Tea Dance.

Activities for young people include: Scouts; Brownies; Boys Brigade; Tae Kwon Doe; a wide range of organised activities at the Dunblane Centre.

Other community groups and organisations include: Dunblane Community Council; Dunblane Development Trust; Dunblane Civic Society; Dunblane

Local History Society; Holmehill Community Buyout; Dunblane Fling; Dunblane Folk Club; Dunblane Allotment Group; Sustainable Dunblane; Dunblane Council of Churches

LOCAL ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

At the time of the 2001 Census, Dunblane had a slightly higher proportion of people who were economically active full time than Scotland and even more so than the Stirling Council area. Levels of self-employment were broadly the same as Stirling but higher than Scotland. Dunblane had about half the proportion of unemployed people as Scotland.

The proportion of people who are in managerial or professional occupations was roughly twice that of Scotland as a whole with correspondingly lower figures for skilled trades, retailing and elementary occupations. Dunblane had nearly twice the national average of people working in education.

Local employment opportunities include public services such as education, health and care; transport; tourism, leisure and hospitality; an abattoir and in retailing. There is a relatively small set of twelve industrial units for rent at Duckburn some of which are multiple lets and managed commercial workspace at RFL House near the Health Centre.

In the Community Views Survey, over the half the people who indicated they were in work, worked in either Dunblane, Bridge of Allan or Stirling.

EDUCATION & CHILDCARE FACILITIES

Dunblane parents, teachers and others are proud of the high quality schools and childcare in the town.

Dunblane Preschool Playgroup Association runs playgroups and a range of parent and toddler facilities in the Braeport Centre working in partnership with Stirling Council.

There are four privately run nurseries for children from newly born to five years old with some availability and each of the three primary schools has nursery classes which are currently full.

Of the three primary schools, Doune and St Mary's are practically full while Newton is running at around 85% capacity.

The High School has been recently rebuilt and moved into its new premises in 2007. It is praised for both its academic achievements and the quality of its learning environment. One slight issue for the students and parents is the need for High School students to cross the footbridge over the A9 to access the playing facilities.

The Queen Victoria School provides education for the children of service personnel who are either Scottish or based in Scotland.

Stirling University is located in the neighbouring community of Bridge of Allan.

HEALTH SERVICES

Dunblane Health Centre provides primary care for the majority of local residents from premises built in 1987 and owned by Forth Valley Primary Care NHS Trust. Extension of the premises would help to facilitate an additional range of services which are needed. There is a lack of parking - particularly for patients - in the immediate vicinity.

The practice is unhappy about the history of a lack of dialogue with the Health Centre on the part of the NHS and Stirling Council planners when proposals for increasing the population of the town have been put forward.

There are two dental practices and two opticians in the town.

The nearest general hospital is in Stirling close to the town centre but is soon to be relocated in new premises in Larbert a few miles further away.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Dunblane is a jewel. Its built up area contains an extensive Conservation Area - one of the first to be designated in Scotland. Initially for the cathedral and the general environment of the old town and Allan Water valley and later for the fine and spacious Victorian suburb east of Perth Road, the designed landscape of the Hydro and the older weavers' crofts and street pattern of the Ramoyle area.

Dunblane has a long history dating back to the seventh century although there are signs of Roman occupation before that. Key elements of its story include: St Blane and the Early Christian settlement, the founding of the original cathedral, the growth of Dunblane as an important pre-reformation mediaeval burgh, the Leighton Library, the Battle of Sherrifmuir, its long decline as a centre of importance, its Victorian regeneration based on the coming of the railway and its steady growth as a dormitory town since the 1960's.

Dunblane Museum next to the Cathedral has been extended, redeveloped and reopened in 2008/9. Amongst other treasures it includes a collection of Communion Tokens that is of national significance

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

Train services connect Dunblane directly to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Perth and beyond. Bus services connect the town to a wide range of local and regional destinations although east west routes - particularly to Callander - are inconveniently infrequent.

The M9 /A9 route passes just to the west of the town with three local access points. In the Community Views Survey, 63% of people who were in work stated that they travelled to work by car.

ENVIRONMENT

Green spaces in and around the town

The built area is punctuated with fine green spaces and "corridors" - the River Valley, the Laighills, Holmehill, Ledcameroch, Ochloch Park and the land below the Hydro as well as the wide tree-lined gardens and streets of large parts of the town. Around the built area, the green spaces provide a backdrop to the city and easy access to open countryside. More specifically, the Kippenrait Glen and Wharry Burn is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Laighills

The community has been negotiating with Stirling Council for a package of improvements - enhancing paths and other facilities and managing the site to enhance wildlife, recreation and educational possibilities.

Holmehill

The Holmehill Community Buyout community company are continuing their campaign and encouraging public use through a range of community events and information leaflets including a new walks and paths map in preparation.

The riverside

The walks and paths along the riverside are a huge asset to the town but Stirling Council's delay in carrying out repairs and maintenance following the damage caused by flooding is of great concern to residents

Planting and flowers around the town

The DDT's volunteer contribution to improving the look of the town has been a consistent bonus and has been widely appreciated and praised in the Community Survey. The survey also highlighted concern about the loss of green-space within the town as larger gardens become subdivided through the mechanism of infill housing.

Greenbelt

The Green Belt designation currently protects an arc of land from the QV School in the north around the west side of the town to the Dunblane New Golf Club land in the south. The green belt does not extend to the land to the east of the settlement area.

5 THE OUTCOMES FROM THE 2003 LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN

The process of putting the new plan together began with a review of the first Local Community Plan 2003 at the Dunblane Conference

| COMMUNITY FACILITIES | |
|---|--|
| 2003 PRIORITIES ► | MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS . . . & <i>SETBACKS</i> ► |
| ENSURE ADEQUATE FACILITIES FOR A BROAD RANGE OF ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dunblane Centre opened • Improved policing with young people engaged in this • New classes run by the council • Extension to Dunblane Kids' Club • Improvement to Millrow Play Park • <i>High School sports facilities not accessible or affordable</i> |
| IMPROVING COMMUNITY MEETING SPACES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Churches House more prominent • Victoria Halls renovated • Braeport under new management and some improvements carried out • Dunblane Centre opened |
| ASSISTING THE DUNBLANE SKATE PARK COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP THEIR PROJECT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skateboard Park finished |
| PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE SWIMMING POOL AND THE OTHER SPORTS FACILITIES IN THE QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No progress</i> |

| LOCAL ENVIRONMENT | |
|--|--|
| 2003 PRIORITIES ► | MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS . . . & <i>SETBACKS</i> ► |
| UPGRADING THE RIVERSIDE PATHS IN THE TOWN CENTRE - SURFACES, BANKS AND BORDERS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New seats, • Haining Bank, • New Bridge, • Community Garden, • <i>River wall, paths and lighting need proper repair, maintenance and installation</i>► |
| IMPROVING THE OPEN SPACES ALONG THE RIVERSIDE PATHS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Seats • Community Garden • Memorial Garden (Haugh) improved • Area near the bridge improved • <i>Public toilets closed</i> |
| BETTER MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE LAIGHHILLS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skate park success • Allotments • Great sand pit► • The community has been negotiating with Stirling Council for a package of improvements - enhancing paths and other facilities and managing the site to enhance wildlife, recreation and educational potential. This has been included in several editions of the Local Plan as a proposal to designate the site as a Local Nature Reserve. • <i>Designation for Local Nature Reserve not yet in place</i>► |
| IMPROVING PUBLIC ACCESS TO HOLMEHILL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised awareness amongst local people► • <i>Community Buy-out unsuccessful so far</i>► • <i>Site sold to development company</i>► |
| BETTER MANAGEMENT OF OCHLOCHY POND | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ochlochty Park improved / pond refurbished • Tree planting • Seat improvements • Wild flower planting and trails |
| IMPROVING THE B8033 THROUGH THE TOWN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurfacing and speed controls • Safety improved |

- Parking areas designated
- Cycle lanes marked
- Flower planting
- Investment to improve traffic flows
- *No progress with proper safe cycle path*
- *No progress with traffic calming on Perth Road*

PLANNING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

| 2003 PRIORITIES ► | MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS . . . & <i>SETBACKS</i> ► |
|---|--|
| <p>CREATING A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES THAT SERVE THEM - SCHOOLS, SHOPS, COMMUNITY MEETING SPACES, HEALTH FACILITIES</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braeport under new management and improved • Dunblane Centre opened • Victoria Halls improved► • Marks and Spencers - <i>but need to be wary of its impact on the High Street</i> • Stirling Arms re-opened <i>and now re-closed</i> • New shops opened • Allotments site created • Parking strategy developed and new parking spaces designated • New High School built • New private nurseries opened • DCC has continued to support the main findings of the Structure Plan for a slowing down of housing growth • <i>No progress with the improvements to the Health Centre►</i> • <i>Petrol station lost►</i> • <i>No progress with public access to swimming pool►</i> • <i>Still no diverse range of cafes and restaurants►</i> |
| <p>INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF AFFORDABLE ACCOMMODATION WITHIN THE EXISTING STOCK</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a detailed plan for affordable accommodation at Anchorscross although this is stalled because the commercial partners have been adversely affected by the current economic slow down |
| <p>IMPROVING PATHS, TRAILS AND CYCLE ROUTES - INCLUDING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core path plan prepared • New Memorial Bridge • Zebra crossing at Tesco's • Cycle Path on B8033► • <i>Issues around the "school run" not resolved►</i> |
| <p>IMPROVING THE GENERAL SURROUNDINGS AND APPROACHES AT THE</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting / landscaping improved • Network Rail improvements |

DUNBLANE COMMUNITY FUTURES
COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

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| STATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private business improved site• <i>Still no sense of “arrival” at the station</i>• <i>Road and pavement surfaces not improved</i>▶ |
| IMPROVING PARKING FACILITIES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good parking at Tesco• High Street and town centre parking much improved• <i>No progress with the Mill Row parking area extension</i> |
| IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORKS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rail upgrade• <i>Bus services still poor</i>• <i>No sense of inter-connectivity between transport networks</i>• <i>No progress with shuttle bus service within the town</i> |

| LOCAL ECONOMY | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 2003 PRIORITIES ► | MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS . . . & <i>SETBACKS</i> ► |
| CREATING A THRIVING HIGH STREET | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some progress . . . <i>but limited success</i> • Fewer empty shops • Parking changes • Road surfaces, street-scape, pavements and signage improved • Improved aesthetics through planting and tubs • <i>Traders' Association disbanded due to lack of involvement</i> • <i>No real promotion of the High Street</i> |
| DEVELOPING ENTERPRISE LOCALLY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadband improving • <i>Limited support from / too many barriers with Stirling Enterprise (STEP)</i> • <i>No local business development and support centre</i> |
| GROWING THE BUSINESS PARKS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No progress with the commercial development at Barbush</i> |
| DEVELOPING TOURISM IN THE TOWN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum refurbished • Sign board at top of High Street • Doune and Dunblane Fling • <i>Tourist Information Centre closed</i> • <i>Tourism business group disbanded</i> |

6 DUNBLANE - OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

This statement is based on our original vision for the future which was set out in our first Community Action Plan.

“Dunblane - a sustainable community working in partnership for the benefit of all”

| | |
|---|---|
| A welcoming, safe and inclusive community | with first class childcare and educational opportunities for all ages, superb community facilities for leisure, arts, health and play, with a good range of housing to suit the needs of local people and new residents alike and where the local infrastructure is in balance with the population. |
| An enterprising community | with a thriving attractive town centre, bustling with shopping, restaurants and other facilities for local people and visitors. Where new enterprise is supported and encouraged and where an increasing number of people work within the town itself and where the local businesses work together to maximise their potential. |
| A well connected community | with good public transport links to major centres, where car use is supplemented with a good network of local transport to link the different areas of the town and where parking is useful and practical but does not dominate other needs |
| A town with a first class local environment | with well maintained, safe paths and cycle routes within the town and to give access to the surrounding countryside, with parks and open spaces for recreation and delight, with a town centre that allows people on foot precedence over the needs of vehicles. |
| A community proud of its heritage | where the past enriches the present and helps to create a new and thriving future. |

7 DUNBLANE - DIALOGUE FOR DEVELOPMENT

Our aim in preparing this plan has been to set the community agenda for the development of Dunblane within the context of the 21st century. We consider this plan as the foundation for establishing Dunblane as a community that concerns itself with addressing the issues of today - local, national and global - without compromising the needs of tomorrow.

Our local community plan will be used on the one hand to guide the action we take as a community to drive forward our priority projects and on the other hand to influence the policy agendas of our voluntary, statutory and commercial partners and allies.

Some aspects of the plan will be taken up by us as a community through the Community Council, the Development Trust and other community organisations; others are the responsibility of the statutory authorities, most notably Stirling Council; and yet others will be delivered by commercial and trading interests. What is certain is that we cannot achieve this on our own.

We have a unique opportunity to shape the town's future. Stirling Council has just set out on the process of preparing the Local Development Plan - we outline the key policy issues, landmarks and the timescale later on in this document. At the heart of this new planning framework is the duty on the council to engage in a meaningful and wide consultation.

We are in a strong position in relation to this Local Development Plan process. Our own plan is now mapped out, enabling the Community Council to reference it and develop local policy and the Development Trust and our other community organisations to take action.

The Community Futures work has given us a clear understanding of the issues that local people feel most strongly about and our community's priorities for change and development. We set these out below under five main headings. Inevitably, there is a great interdependence and overlap between these various themes.

What is needed now is to put flesh on the bones of these ideas - if, for example, we say we all want a "thriving High Street" what does that mean in practice? We have been given a boost with the £1million plus award from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Regeneration Fund scheme but that is just a start for just one project - should we have radical changes and how radical should those changes be in order to create that vibrant heart to our community?

We need to establish a meaningful dialogue between all interests - community, statutory and commercial. To this end, the Community Council and the Development Trust should continue to work together with the wider public over the coming years to ensure that our Vision for the Future of Dunblane will be understood as the central thinking for the Stirling Council Local Development Plan in so far as that refers to Dunblane.

8 MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES 2009 - 2014

1 THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

A sustained dialogue between local residents and our community organisations on the one hand and policy makers and other interests on the other is vital for the community to feel properly engaged with the physical aspects of the development of Dunblane. This will need to take into account issues such as how big the town is or becomes, over what time period, how the public realm is developed and maintained, what the necessary infrastructure will be to serve the needs of local people and visitors, how the town should cater for local journeys and ready access for all to its facilities and services.

The main context for this is the continuous growth of housing over the past forty years. The current Structure Plan and the Local Plan recognise this and indeed the Structure Plan allows for only a further 50 houses (infill and small scale development) for the period 2008 - 2017 for the Stirling North (Dunblane, Causewayend and Bridge of Allan) part of the Stirling Core Area so that *“there should be a period for this development to consolidate”*.

The Local Development Plan currently in the course of preparation will take a longer term view and is required to take into account the allocation of housing land for development through to 2022 and indeed sketch out the *“broad scale and location of housing land”* for the following ten years as well.

The findings from Community Views Surveys and the Open Meetings support the current policy for the period through to 2017 and make clear statements about the need to limit house growth whilst seeking an increase in affordable accommodation in small scale developments.

Housing is just one aspect of the built environment and there is a clear call for the town's facilities - thought to be no longer in proportion to the needs of its increased population - to catch up with the development that has already taken place. The built environment touches on all quarters of the town - where we live, where we shop and meet, where we are at school, work or play.

Main priorities

- Defining the extent, type and scale of housing development and the community facilities in scale with that
- Developing and improving the walking and cycling paths in and around the town
- Ensuring better maintenance of the public realm - road and pavement surfaces, the riverside banks, walls and paths
- A thorough investigation and review of vehicle parking in Dunblane
- Take forward the proposals for the extension and environmental improvements to the Mill Row car park
- Explore the need for a frequent round town bus service to improve access between the residential streets and the centre of town

2 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND MEETING PLACES

There is a strongly voiced feeling that Dunblane has been sold short when it comes to the provision of readily accessible, public and affordable community facilities. Voluntary effort has rescued the Victoria Halls, taken control of the Braeport Centre, developed the Dunblane Centre, successfully created the skate park and furnished the town with bright and colourful flowers - amongst other local commitments - but the profile of the local authority is remarkably unrepresented in terms of community facilities. In particular there is little provision for young people - teenagers especially. The clearest example of local feeling about this is the lack of an affordable, public swimming pool - both the Household Views and the High School surveys identify this as one of the top two priorities.

Main priorities

- Public swimming facilities
- Refurbishment and modernisation of the Braeport as a community centre
- Dunblane Centre to take on a greater role with and for teenagers and young adults
- Improving the children's outdoor play spaces
- Health Centre improvements

3 LOCAL ECONOMY AND TOURISM

Our overall agenda is to strengthen our local economy and create a more vibrant heart to the community. Dunblane is by no means an impoverished community. At the same time, our local understanding of the way wealth of all kinds is created and nurtured locally is fractured and enmeshed in a vicious circle - too few residents shopping locally leading to diminishing retail opportunities leading to fewer residents shopping locally is just one high profile witness to this. We have no focus on the cycle of local production and local spending or on the creation of local jobs. Alongside the strong sense of history and heritage, local people and visitors alike find the town centre disappointing, there is little sense of pleasant arrival for visitors or tourists and negotiating your way around the town is curiously difficult.

Main priorities

- Devise a strategy to revitalise the Town Centre
- Improve the sense of "arrival" at Dunblane

4 ENVIRONMENT & GREEN-SPACE

Dunblane is more or less surrounded by green open space. It lies at one of the gateways between the rural agricultural straths of south-west Perthshire and the more urban environment of central Scotland. This green setting is drawn right into the community itself through the Allan Water valley, the Laighills, Holmehill, the Golf course, extensive woodland areas and the green and leafy streets and gardens of both the older and newer residential areas. The work of the DDT over recent years in putting in place the bright and colourful floral displays is particularly praised. The community values this green emphasis and wishes to ensure its survival and improvement through a co-ordinated programme of maintenance and development of the spaces to serve the needs of the future and maintain the well being and natural health of both the environment and the people.

Main priorities

- Developing Holmehill as a well used community green space
- Carrying out improvement for the Laighills by enhancing paths and other facilities and managing the site to enhance wildlife, recreation and educational potential, promulgate the designation of the site as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) or similar.
- Setting in place a town-wide anti-litter strategy
- Cherishing other open spaces in Dunblane

5 COMMUNITY AND CITIZENSHIP

Our aim is to work towards a community infrastructure that recognises the important contribution that all citizen's - whatever their age or status - can make to well-being and livelihoods in Dunblane. Although Dunblane might have once been considered as a sleepy haven, the growth of housing over recent years has led in part to Dunblane having an astonishingly high proportion of young people; indeed for some age groups this is nearly twice the national average.

Main priorities

- Improving local networking between the various community groups and organisations in the town
- Establishing a Dunblane Young People's Forum

9 ACTION TO BE TAKEN OVER FIVE YEAR PERIOD OF THE PLAN

| THEME 1 | |
|---|--|
| THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE | |
| Priority 1 | DEFINING THE EXTENT, TYPE AND SCALE OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN SCALE WITH THAT |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a joint working process to develop a clear understanding of options for the development of a range of housing types and tenures and community facilities over the twenty year time frame of the statutory Local Development Plan • Consider these proposals in the light of solid evidence-based understanding of current infrastructure constraints and future development opportunities • Through wide local consultation, agree a new spatial planning framework for the town |
| Action by | <p>Dunblane Community Council, Dunblane Development Trust in association with:</p> <p>Dunblane community generally, Stirling Council Local Development Plan officers, Stirling Council housing officials, Forth Housing Association, land owners, housing development companies, Scottish Water, Scottish Government</p> |
| Priority 2 | ENSURING BETTER MAINTENANCE OF THE PUBLIC REALM - ROAD AND PAVEMENT SURFACES, THE RIVERSIDE BANKS, WALLS AND PATHS |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby Stirling Council to begin the process of compiling of a detailed list of road and pavement surface issues • Lobby Stirling Council for support for the repairs to the river banks, walls and path surfaces • Lobby the Dunblane area Councillors for support for these improvements |
| Action by | <p>Dunblane Community Council, in association with:</p> <p>Stirling Council Head of Roads, Transport and Streetscape, Stirling Council Stirling Council local councillors for Dunblane</p> |
| Priority 3 | DEVELOPING AND IMPROVING THE WALKING AND CYCLING PATHS IN AND AROUND THE TOWN |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Sustainable Dunblane in the preparation of an up-to-date map of walking and cycling paths to improve and enable |

DUNBLANE COMMUNITY FUTURES
COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

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| ACTIONS | <p>everyday access throughout the town. This will aim to complement the Holmehill Community Buyout Green Walks in central Dunblane map recently published</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a list of improvements, links, extensions and new routes • Work with the statutory agencies and relevant voluntary organisations to schedule and undertake a list of priority projects |
| Action by | <p>Holmehill Community Buy-out, Sustainable Dunblane (Transport Group), in association with: Stirling Council Environment Services, Sustrans, Landowners, the wider Dunblane community, the schools</p> |
| | |
| Priority 4 | A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION AND REVIEW OF VEHICLE PARKING IN DUNBLANE |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up a brief for a consultancy to explore in detail the existing vehicle parking background and current situation and develop proposals - within and outwith Dunblane - for improved facilities, provision and management in the future • Seek funding and support for the study |
| Action by | <p>DDT/DCC Parking Strategy Group in association with: Stirling Council</p> |
| | |
| Priority 5 | TAKE FORWARD THE PROPOSALS FOR THE EXTENSION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MILL ROW CARPARK |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare final agreed drawings for the proposals • Negotiate with all relevant parties to agree a time frame for implementation • Secure funding from public, private and other sources to carry out this work |
| | <p>DCC/DDT Parking Strategy Group in association with: Stirling Council, land owners</p> |
| | |
| Priority 6 | EXPLORE THE NEED FOR A ROUND TOWN BUS SERVICE TO IMPROVE ACCESS BETWEEN THE RESIDENTIAL STREETS AND THE CENTRE OF TOWN |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up proposals for this service • Identify other communities where exemplar local transport systems have been implemented to learn of best practice |

DUNBLANE COMMUNITY FUTURES
COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore ways of establishing a pilot programme |
| Action by | In due course this will be taken forward by Sustainable Dunblane , in association with: Community Transport Association, Stirling Council Environment Services |



| THEME 2 | |
|--|--|
| COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND MEETING PLACES | |
| Priority 1 | PUBLIC SWIMMING FACILITIES |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on the strong call for this in the Community Futures surveys, call an open community meeting to explore whether there is sufficient local energy to support any local champions for this long term endeavour • In the short to medium term, set up low cost transport options to existing facilities (e.g. Stirling, Callander, Perth) - see “Swim Bus” examples from elsewhere in UK and USA |
| Action by | DCC in association with: DDT, Dunblane community generally, Active Stirling |
| Priority 2 | REFURBISHMENT AND MODERNISATION OF THE BRAEPORT AS A COMMUNITY CENTRE |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up a consultancy brief for a community based feasibility study into the future use and adaptation of the Braeport Centre - building on the idea of the Braeport as a unique historical building in Dunblane • Maintain close working relationship with Stirling Council officers to support this • Seek funding for the study and commission it • Explore the need for a Dunblane “Halls Group” to network between facilities management groups and share good practice. |
| Action by | DDT in association with: Stirling Council Community Services |
| Priority 3 | DUNBLANE CENTRE TO TAKE ON A GREATER ROLE WITH AND FOR TEENAGERS AND YOUNG ADULTS |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss this issue with the users, Trustees and staff of the Dunblane Centre • Support the Trustees in their bid for funding for new programmes to fulfill this ambition • Provide more “unstructured drop-in” services and facilities • Expand outreach activity to promote sport in the community e.g. “Street football” - possibly at the Mill Row car park |
| Action by | Dunblane Centre, |

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| | in association with: DCC, DDT, Stirling Council Community Services |
| Priority 4 | IMPROVING THE CHILDREN’S OUTDOOR PLAY SPACES |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up an audit of children’s play spaces in Dunblane bearing in mind different age groups • Identify gaps in provision and a list of potential improvements • Seek support and funding for priority projects and improvements |
| Action by | DDT in association with: DCC, Stirling Council Children’s Services |
| Priority 5 | HEALTH CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Practice Manager of the Health Centre to publish more widely their proposals for improvements to the premises and services • Organise a meeting to determine what support there is for this amongst the wider Dunblane community • Explore options for delivery of some health related services at other community venues • Review and plan next steps |
| Action by | Dunblane Health Centre, in association with: Forth Valley Primary Care NHS Trust, wider Dunblane community |

| THEME 3 | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| LOCAL ECONOMY & TOURISM | |
| Priority 1 | DEVISE A STRATEGY TO REVITALISE THE TOWN CENTRE |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call a meeting of interested parties - local and from other stakeholders and support agencies - to begin the process of creating a shared vision for the promotion of Dunblane • Seek support for the development of the marketing strategy - possibly through a university connection with a post graduate placement • With this emerging marketing strategy and the new spatial planning framework (see Theme 1, Priority 1) as guides, use any promotional material created to attract other traders to set up in Dunblane e.g. cafes and restaurants, niche market shops • Re-visit the study on High Street environmental improvements compiled in 2001 • Arrange a meeting of the traders and shop owners to begin the preparation of proposals for co-ordinated visual improvement of the shops and other premises in the High Street • Seek funding to create incentives for traders to improve premises • Continue the development of detailed proposals for the High Street Gap Site project and construct the building • Contact the owners of the three prominent run-down buildings in the High Street - numbers 86 - 88 (former Chinese restaurant), numbers 79 - 81 (Dunblane Senior Citizens' Furniture shop) and the Stirling Arms - and arrange a meeting to explore what proposals they have and what might be done to support those proposals |
| Action by | <p>DDT</p> <p>in association with:</p> <p>Sustainable Dunblane, High Street traders and owners of premises, landowners, community groups, business interests, historical and heritage groups, tourism operators, venue management groups, green space interests, Hydro, providers of hospitality and tourist ventures, Stirling Council, Scottish Government Town Centre Regeneration division.</p> |
| Priority 2 | IMPROVING THE SENSE OF "ARRIVAL" AT DUNBLANE |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding or other support (e.g. student placement) to commission a study to develop options for this - study to encompass the area round the station and the entry by road from the south on the dual carriageway, from the north at QVS and the west on the Doune Road. |
| Action by | <p>Dunblane Community Council in association with:</p> <p>DDT, Sustainable Dunblane, Hydro, Local traders and owners of premises, providers of hospitality and tourist ventures, Stirling Council Planning</p> |

| THEME 4 | |
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| ENVIRONMENT & GREEN-SPACE | |
| Priority 1 | CARRYING OUT IMPROVEMENT FOR THE LAIGHILLS BY ENHANCING PATHS AND OTHER FACILITIES AND MANAGING THE SITE TO ENHANCE WILDLIFE, RECREATION AND EDUCATIONAL POTENTIAL, PROMULGATE THE DESIGNATION OF THE SITE AS A LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (LNR) OR SIMILAR. |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange a series of regular meetings to bring together interested local organisations and individuals with enabling agencies including Stirling Council and Scottish Natural Heritage • Support Stirling Council’s proposal to commission a Master Plan for the Laighills - looking at land use, visitor use, nature conservation, bio-diversity and recreation value - in full consultation with the community (as examples for Beechwood Park, Kings Park and Pleau Country Park) - timescale - within the next one to two years • In the short term encourage Stirling Council to undertake ongoing maintenance and repair of the Laighills - as resources allow • Revive the Friends of the Laighills association |
| Action by | DCC with DDT and Dunblane Wildlife Group in association with: Sustainable Dunblane, Stirling Council Environment Services, Scottish Natural Heritage, Dunblane community generally |
| | |
| Priority 2 | DEVELOPING HOLMEHILL AS A WELL USED COMMUNITY GREEN SPACE |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Holmehill Community Buyout group with their development of ideas for the area and their campaign to ensure that Holmehill is recognized and maintained as a quality open space in the LDP • Help with this by promoting, publicising and participating in activities at Holmehill • Encourage Stirling Council to honour the Section 75 requirements for Holmehill - i.e. maintain footpaths and erect signage and protect from inappropriate building development • Maintain the long term aim for the community to own Holmehill |
| Action by | Holmehill Community Buyout in association with: Allanwater Developments, DCC, DDT, Dunblane community |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| | generally, DCCP and Newton Primary, St Mary's Primary, Hummingbird House, Wee Acorns Nursery, Braeport Playgroup and users - e.g. Guides, Brownies |
| Priority 3 | SETTING IN PLACE A TOWN-WIDE ANTI-LITTER STRATEGY |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring together a local forum to focus on this issue • Support the Dunblane Children's Community Partnership (DCCP) in their project to engage a wide range of local partners in the development of an anti-litter project • Encourage Stirling Council to use its powers to fine litterers and those who allow their dogs to foul public spaces dog fouling - • contact Stirling Council Land Services and take note of the initiative carried out at Wallace High School • Contact national anti-litter and dogfouling campaigning organizations including Keep Scotland Beautiful to engage their support and learn from best practice • Encourage regular litter picking by community groups / individuals / schools • Support the work by DCCP and Streetscape in the provision and decoration of new litter bins |
| Action by | <p>Stirling Council, DCCP, Dunblane High School Student Environmental Group, in association with: DCC, DDT, Sustainable Dunblane, Dunblane community generally, Keep Scotland Beautiful</p> |
| Priority 4 | CHERISHING OTHER OPEN SPACES IN DUNBLANE |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Dunblane as a whole, identify quality and valued open spaces for future safeguarding and feed this information into the Local Development Plan • Explore options for other Friends groups being established for particular open spaces in Dunblane • Encourage full use of open space • Identify sites and establish more allotment spaces in Dunblane • Establish better links for Dunblane through Stirling Council's involvement in the Central Scotland Green Network |
| Action by | |

| THEME 5 | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| COMMUNITY AND CITIZENSHIP | |
| Priority 1 | IMPROVING LOCAL NETWORKING BETWEEN THE VARIOUS COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS IN THE TOWN |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a forum for local groups and organisations to exchange and share ideas and develop joint project working groups if appropriate • Develop website links • Explore ideas around running a local organisations “Trade Fair” • Promote fairtrade ethics / transition town model • Celebrate and promote unique aspects of our community e.g. high percentage of stay-at-home / work-from-home carers and parents • Seek funding to employ a full time paid key co-ordinator post/s • Explore access to the unspent Dunblane Local Forum “reserved funding” |
| Action by | <p>DCC to take an initial lead on behalf of all local organisations DDT to act as employer for co-ordinator post</p> |
| | |
| Priority 2 | DUNBLANE YOUNG PEOPLE’S FORUM |
| ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit support for this idea • Identify a skilled champion to promote this • Seek funding for an initial gathering to launch the idea • Set up continuing consultation process with Dunblane’s young people as this idea is developed • Feed back events to keep young people informed |
| Action by | <p>Dunblane Centre and local young people, in association with: Dunblane Children’s Community Partnership, Stirling Council Children’s Services, Stirling Council Community Services, DCC, Dunblane community generally</p> |

10 PLANNING AND THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT

STIRLING COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

The existing Local Plan was adopted in 1999 and a first alteration to it was adopted in 2007.

As far as Dunblane is concerned, the alteration recognises that the major house development sites allocated in the 1999 plan at Barbush, Highfields, Ledcameroch, Auchinlay, Tannahill, Springfield Terrace and Leewood House had all been completed and that the previously designated countryside boundary needed to be amended to include an additional site at Anchors Cross for 50 houses - 25 of which must be affordable.

STIRLING COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Like all councils in Scotland, Stirling is currently engaged in the process of preparing a new type of Local Plan - a Local Development Plan (LDP). This will combine in one document the functions of the previous regional-wide Structure Plan and the Local Plan(s) and Alterations. To download the Development Plan Scheme published March 2009 go to

http://www.stirling.gov.uk/local_dev_plan_final.pdf

| HEADLINES FROM THE REVISED LDP TIMETABLE | |
|--|---|
| March 2009 | Publish Development Plan Scheme including participation statement |
| April 2010 | Publish Main Issues Report |
| May to July 2010 | Consultation with local communities, developers, land managers etc |
| April 2011 | Publish Proposed Plan, Proposed Action Programme, and Proposed Supplementary Guidance |
| May to July 2011 | Consultation |
| December 2011 | Submit Proposed Plan and other papers to Ministers |
| January to August 2012 | Examination by Scottish Government |
| September to November 2012 | Consideration of Government's recommendations by council |
| December 2012 | Stirling Council adopts the Local Development Plan |

STATEMENT FROM THE COUNCIL'S LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME

“One area of new national policy is that of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP3) ‘Planning for Homes’. SPP3 shows that a key part of the LDP is the provision of a generous supply of land for housing and the timely release of that land to enable the building of new homes.

In calculating how much land is required, we will be required to consider housing demand, demographic projections and forecast economic performance for the Stirling area. This is likely to result in a requirement for more land than under previous forms of assessment. An important aspect will be to establish and examine Stirling’s housing market areas, private sector demand for housing and affordable housing requirements (both for rural and urban areas), community care housing requirements, and the necessary policy framework to achieve this.”

POLICY AREAS TO BE REVIEWED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The preparation of the Local Development Plan will require examination and review of a wide number of policy areas, most of which are of huge significance to Dunblane.

| POLICY AREA | FIT WITH OUR MAIN THEME |
|--|-------------------------|
| Housing land requirement & housing land allocations / sites | 1 |
| Affordable and particular needs housing | 1 |
| Employment land policies / Business Space Strategy | 3 |
| Housing in the countryside (approved Feb 2009) | 1 |
| Tourism | 3 |
| Town Centres and Retailing | 1 & 3 |
| City centre planning | 1 & 3 |
| Renewable energy - windfarms | 1 & 4 |
| Carbon reduction and energy efficiency | 4 |
| Provision / protection of sport & recreation facilities & open space | 2 & 4 |
| Flooding and Sustainable Urban Drainage | 1 & 4 |
| Waste | |
| Transportation | 1 |
| Built heritage and conservation, Archaeology | 1 |
| Natural heritage / biodiversity | 4 |

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Agriculture and forestry | |
| Protected landscapes | 4 |
| Green Belts | 1 & 4 |
| Minerals | |

Moreover, it could be said that our Theme 3 - **Community and Citizenship** - lies at the heart of the new planning process

TIME FRAME for the LDP

The LDP is required to allocate sufficient housing land for development up to 10 years from predicted date of adoption (i.e. 2012 to 2022) but must have “effective” sites (i.e. sites that are available for development) for at least the first 5 years. It must also identify the broad scale and location of housing land beyond year 10 (likely to be up to 2032).

This Community Action Plan resulting from the Dunblane Community Futures community engagement process is a vital first step in putting forward the aspirations of the Dunblane community to Stirling Council and has been designed to inform that Local Development Plan.

11 OTHER MAJOR POLICY GUIDELINES AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

As well as the Local Development Plan, there are other statutory frameworks that provide a useful context within which our own Community Action Plan fits - the **Single Outcome Agreement 2008 - 2011** between Stirling Council and the Scottish Government and the **Stirling Community Planning Partnership's (SCCP) Vision for Stirling**. These two documents lie very closely one beside the other.

SCCP's **Vision for the Future** sets out that Stirling [Council area] will be:

| Stirling will be : | FIT WITH OUR MAIN THEME |
|--|-------------------------|
| A place with ambition for itself and its people | Over-arching |
| A location of choice with a growing population and vibrant economy that is open for business | 1 & 3 |
| A place with jobs and opportunities for all | 3 |
| A place where lifelong learning is valued and encouraged | |
| A place where improved wellbeing adds life to years, not just years to life | 5 |
| A place with safe, strong and resilient communities | 5 |
| A place with a high quality natural and built environment | 4 |
| A place where services that citizens receive are efficient, effective and customer focused | Over-arching |
| A place where people participate and take responsibility for their lives and their communities | Over-arching |
| A place with a commitment to sustainable development and carbon reduction | Over-arching |
| A place where equality of opportunity is promoted and diversity welcomed. | Over-arching |

The **Single Outcome Agreement** sets out how this vision will be achieved:

“The Stirling Single Outcome Agreement expresses the joint commitment and mutual accountability of the Scottish Government, the statutory Community Planning partners and the other partners within the Stirling Community Planning Partnership to the delivery of the agreed outcomes that will make a difference to the lives of the citizens and communities of Stirling.”

The **Single Outcome Agreement** is contained within six strategic topics and four strategic themes:

| STRATEGIC OUTCOMES | | FIT WITH OUR MAIN THEME |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Strategic Topic 1 | Making Stirling a place with a vibrant economy that is open for business | 3 |
| Strategic Topic 2 | Making Stirling a place with jobs and opportunities for all | 3 |
| Strategic Topic 3 | Making Stirling a place where lifelong learning is valued and encouraged | 2 |
| Strategic Topic 4 | Making Stirling a place where improved wellbeing adds life to years, not just years to life | 5 |
| Strategic Topic 5 | Making Stirling a place with safe, strong and resilient communities | Over-arching |
| Strategic Topic 6 | Making Stirling a place with a high quality environment | 4 |
| Strategic Theme A | Making services better | Over-arching |
| Strategic Theme B | Making Stirling a place where participation and responsibility are encouraged | Over-arching |
| Strategic Theme C | Making Stirling more sustainable | Over-arching |
| Strategic Theme D | Equalities and diversity | Over-arching |

Moreover, with specific reference to the intention of engaging communities very closely in this process, Strategic Theme B includes the following:

“The strategic theme of encouraging participation and responsibility continues the work already well advanced on encouraging local democracy and participation. Citizens and communities will be encouraged to play an active role in the development and sustainability of the area.

Local outcomes that will contribute to this strategic priority are:

- *Our people will be enabled to to work together to engage in and inflence the shape of our communities;*
- *Our people will take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.”*

It is time for our strategic partners to support that necessary dialogue with the community that will enable the implementation of these strategic objectives

12 MAKING IT HAPPEN

To make this plan happen we need to:

- Support and strengthen the role of the local community organisations - the DCC, the DDT, Dunblane Centre and the other venue management groups, Sustainable Dunblane, Holmehill Community Buyout and others
- Establish good local partnership working through information sharing and strategic alliances between the various community organisations in the town
- Establish specific Project Working Groups between the community organisations bringing in the agencies as required

The DDT and other community companies have an important role to play in:

- Developing community projects
- Raising funds for community projects
- Working in partnership with agencies
- Involving local people in volunteering and community organisations

Project Working Groups

The need to set up specific Project Working Groups to progress priority projects will be agreed through shared meetings of the various community organisations. They will bring together community and agency representatives for a time limited period to work on a limited number of priorities that will benefit from joint partnership working.

If you are interested in becoming involved with one or more of the Working Groups, please contact one of the people at the organisations listed on the next page.

REVIEWING THE ACTION PLAN

At regular intervals of no more than two years from the launch of this plan we will convene review meetings to take stock of what has been achieved and agree an update of the action for the next year

DUNBLANE COMMUNITY FUTURES
A REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND A NEW COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN
2009-2014

Dunblane prepared its own Action Plan in 2003 setting out what needed to be done over a 3 - 4 year period

A lot has been achieved, work is still in progress and new things now need to be done.

It was thought that it was time to take stock, review what has happened and set out a new agenda for the next 5 years and beyond.

This new document contains

- A summary review of what has been achieved over the last 5 or 6 years
- A description of Dunblane
- A new Action Plan for 2009 - 2014 - with main themes, priority projects and a list of what needs to be done.
- Recommendations for organisations and Project Working Groups to take the plan forward

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS PLAN AND TAKE PART IN THE WORK OF SHAPING THE FUTURE FOR DUNBLANE PLEASE CONTACT

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Community Futures is a programme of Community Action Planning and Community Engagement designed by the STAR Development Group. STAR have assisted the DDT and the DCC with the development and production of this new Action Plan.

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