

Draft Dunblane Community Action Plan 2017-2020

Introduction

This Community Action Plan has been developed from the results of the Town Centre Charrette which was held in 2015.

Our previous Action Plan expired at the end of 2014 after much had been achieved. We hope that this new Action Plan reflects the needs of Dunblane – residents, businesses and visitors – and believe that the actions are aspirational but achievable. The Action Plan shows what we as a community want to achieve – and will help us to get other partners involved, raise funds for new projects – and get the wider community of Dunblane involved.

Background

Over the past 40 years Dunblane's community size and needs have outgrown its centre. It was felt therefore that we should concentrate on the town centre as an area that is used by the whole community, and which the whole community benefits from. Dunblane Community Council, Dunblane Development Trust and Discover Dunblane came together to organise the first community led Charrette in Scotland, with support from the Scottish Government and the BIG Lottery. The Charrette was intended to help define, design and develop our town centre to appropriately support the whole community through business, service and leisure amenities over the next 20 year. Also, the *Stirling Local Development Plan* has a stated intention to create a Spatial Strategy for Dunblane town centre and "environs".

What happened in the Charrette?

A series of preparatory exercises were held including a survey, community workshops and activities involving schoolchildren. This was designed to scope out the major issues which should be addressed during the Charrette.

The main focus of the Charrette was a 4 day event to generate ideas for designing the town centre by addressing several questions including:

- How could it function as a focal point for community interaction?
- What should its boundaries be?
- How could the spaces within those boundaries develop to satisfy future community need?

What was the outcome of the Charrette?

A Vision was developed to help guide our actions in the future:

The Dunblane community wants the Town Centre area to be a vibrant, healthy and inclusive place for people to live, work and visit.

Ideas generated at the Charrette workshops helped formulate FIVE principles for the future development of our town centre:

- 1. vibrancy & sustainability**
- 2. accessibility**
- 3. capitalising on our natural and built heritage.**
- 4. supporting community cohesion.**
- 5. meeting the future needs of the community.**

From this Five Themes were agreed which would guide our future actions

- A Vibrant and sustainable Town Centre for People and Community Activity
- An Accessible Town Centre
- A Town that Capitalises on its Built and Natural Heritage
- An Inclusive Town Centre that supports Community Cohesion
- A Town Centre that meets the Future Needs of the Community

What Happened after the Charrette?

To help with developing the Community Action Plan a report and proposed action plan was produced. In January 2016 all people living or working in Dunblane were invited to provide their views on these action proposals through an online survey.

Since then the Dunblane Community Partnership, comprising representatives from Dunblane Communiy Council, Dunblane Development Trust and Discover Dunblane have been meeting to develop the Community Action Plan.

Themes and Actions

The Dunblane community wants the Town Centre area to be a vibrant, healthy and inclusive place for people to live, work and visit.

Theme 1

A Vibrant and Sustainable Town Centre for People and Community Activity

This theme involves

Establishing Dunblane as a visitor experience through co-ordinated, marketing, promotion and tourism activity

Creating a more attractive High Street area through improvement to Commercial Premises & residential access doors.

Attracting new businesses to provide customers with improved choice and variety.

Expected Outcomes

Dunblane promoted under a single brand; attractive for residents and visitors alike.

No vacant commercial premises with all properties well maintained.

A good mix of business outlets, creating a distinct experience.

Key Partners

Dunblane.info

High Street Property owners

Dunblane High School

Destination Stirling

Visit Scotland

Strathallan Community Rail Partnership

Actions

Establish Dunblane as a visitor experience through co-ordinated, marketing, promotion and tourism activity

Create a more attractive High Street area through improvement to Commercial Premises & residential access doors

Attract new businesses to provide customers with improved choice and variety

Theme 2

An Accessible Town Centre

This theme involves

- Promoting and facilitate active travel (walking and cycling) access to and within the Town Centre
- Developing a parking strategy that appropriately balances the needs of residents, visitors and commuters
- Expanding the “shared space” streetscape approach to the High St and the cathedral square
- Exploring options of provision of electric vehicle charging point

Expected Outcomes

- Increased active travel and reduced motorised traffic in the town centre
- An agreed parking strategy

Key Partners

ScotRail
Sustrans
NHS FV
Active Stirling
Strathallan Community Rail Partnership
University of Stirling
Regional Transport Partnership
Network Rail

Actions

Promote and facilitate active travel (walking and cycling) access to and within the Town Centre

Develop a parking strategy that appropriately balances the needs of residents, visitors and commuters

Theme 3

A Town that Capitalises on its Built and Natural Heritage

This theme involves

Enhancing Town Centre riverside green spaces

Developing a masterplan for Mill Row and the Haining

Enhancing the Civic realm in the High Street, Beech Road and Stirling Road

Expected Outcomes

The river wall and path repaired

An agreed programme to mitigate future riverside erosion.

A costed & realistic masterplan for key areas with identified funding opportunities.

Continuing delivery of current projects which are aligned with the agreed masterplan vision

Key Partners

Dunblane Community

Dunblane Town Centre Businesses

Stirling Council: Planning, Land Services and Infrastructure Delivery

Key property owners and tenants

Actions

Enhance Town Centre riverside green spaces

Develop a masterplan for Mill Row and the Haining

Theme 4

An Inclusive Town Centre that supports Community Cohesion

This theme involves

Develop a community led approach to the future of community and public buildings

Optimise potential for community volunteer activity

Strengthen relations with schools

Strengthen systems for communication & engagement with residents & community groups

Expected Outcomes

Community and public buildings providing space for activities representing community need

A wide range of volunteering opportunities being available for local people

Schools and young people being involved in community activity

Local people having the opportunity to have their voices heard on issues important to them

Key Partners

Schools

Community Facilities Group

Volunteer based community groups

Actions

Develop a community led approach to the future need for community & public buildings

Strengthen systems for continuing engagement with residents & community groups

Strengthen relations with schools

Optimise potential for community volunteer activity

Theme 5

A Town Centre that meets the Future Needs of the Community

All those ideas for action that are unachievable over the next 5 years and therefore beyond the scope of this business planning period: e.g. future use of land that might be available for town centre expansion including the dual carriageway area

The actions for this theme will be developed as we progress and achieve the earlier actions.