

Cumnock Action Plan 2016-2021

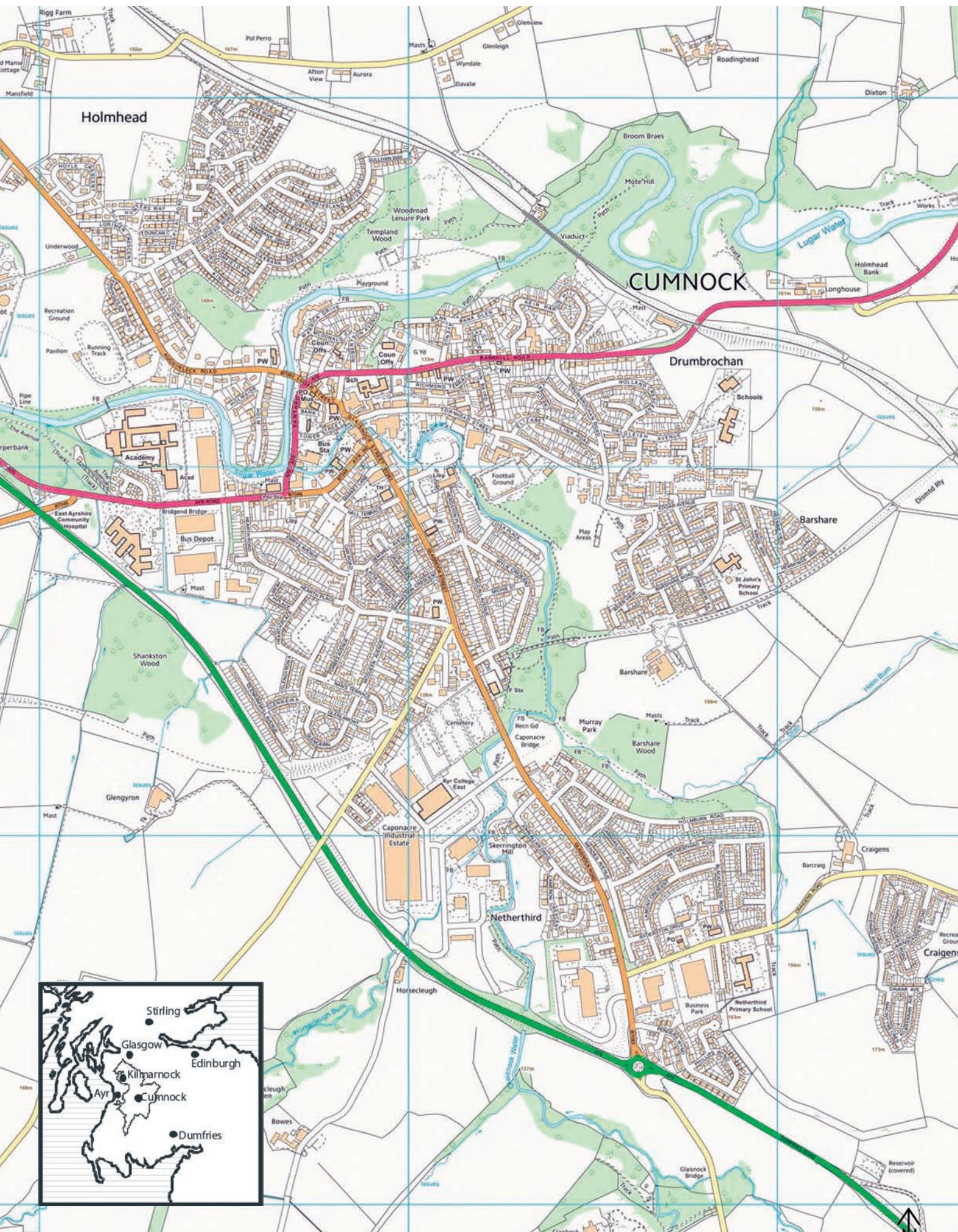
Our Priorities | Our Community | One Vision



CUMNOCK
ACTION PLAN
2016-2021

**Our Priorities
Our Community
One Vision**

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Front Cover: View of Cumnock from Skares Road. All photos by Cumnock Action Plan, Cumnock2016 or otherwise stated

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Introduction



Steering Group with community workers

This Cumnock Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of Cumnock over the next 5 years as determined by the community through an extensive process of community engagement carried out between August 2015 and February 2016.

We present a summary of our community profile, the main likes and dislikes of Cumnock as identified in the consultation process, the vision for the future of Cumnock linked into the 6 main themes, the needs and priorities for action, how and when we will achieve this and information on how you can stay informed and become involved.

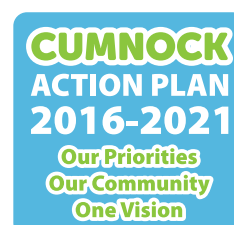
The development of the Action Plan began with Cumnock Community Council recognising the potential of the community working together to benefit the area. Two information sessions were arranged to gauge the interest of the wider community and a separate voluntary steering group was formed in July 2015 to take this forward.

Cumnock Action Plan has been led by the steering group, bringing together representatives from Create, Cumnock Area Musical Production Society, Cumnock Community Council, Cumnock History Group, Cumnock Juniors Community Enterprise, Things Tae Dae Social Hub, yipworld, local residents and local businesses. These representatives and other volunteers have been actively involved in gathering the full community views through the consultation process.

Cumnock Action Plan Steering Group is working in partnership with EAC Vibrant Communities Team and Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland to implement the priorities identified within this plan.

Cumnock Action Plan can be contacted by email, the website, Facebook page or Twitter and features a regular column in the Cumnock Chronicle newspaper.

Email: info@cumnockactionplan.org
Web: www.cumnockactionplan.org
Facebook: [Cumnock Action Plan 2016-2021](#)
Twitter: [cumnock_plan](#)



Consultation Process

Aims of the Steering Group:

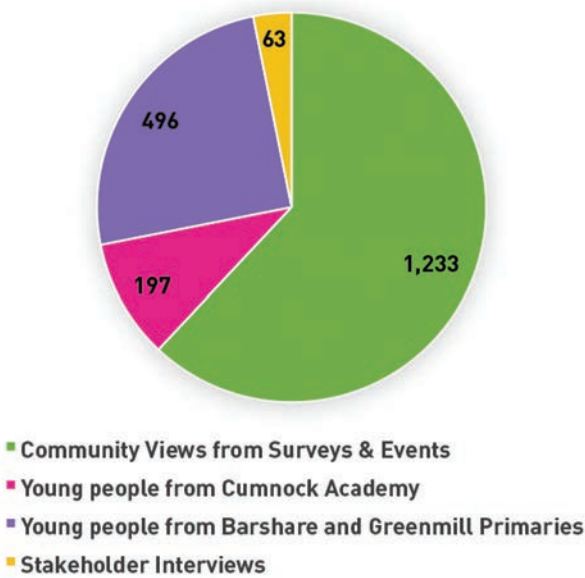
- Provide an opportunity for the whole community to come together to plan for change and to make Cumnock a better place to work in, live in or visit
- Enable the whole community to share their views on what is good about Cumnock and also what needs to change to make it better
- Generate more involvement in the community from local residents, organisations, businesses, voluntary and community groups and sports clubs
- Produce a five-year plan that will address the priority projects identified directly by local people
- Work with a wide range of partners to deliver on the actions
- Continue to instill a sense of community spirit and pride in Cumnock.

How this was achieved

During the seven month period between August 2015 and February 2016 the steering group undertook an intensive community consultation.

- Community Views surveys were distributed to 3,288 households within the area and additional surveys were carried out through the local secondary and primary schools
- One to one stakeholder interviews were undertaken, as were focus groups with businesses, community groups, organisations and individuals representing all aspects and ages
- Several community outreach events were held
- Preparation of a Community Profile detailing the facts and figures of the community
- Two community Open Day events that enabled local people to refine the priorities to be taken forward for the benefit of the community
- Production of a five-year action plan.

Consultation Returns



Total returns 1,989 - making a **60.5%** return rate.

A further 415 people attended the two Open Day events in February 2016.

This is a tremendous response and gives weight to the priorities identified within this plan.

For a full breakdown of these figures and to download all Survey Returns, Community Profile and Steering Group Minutes please visit our website downloads page:

www.cumnockactionplan.org/downloads.html

Our Community



Cumnock Town Hall - Glaisnock Street

Location & Environment

Cumnock is the second largest town in East Ayrshire and sits at the junction of the A70, Ayr to Edinburgh route and the A76, Kilmarnock to Dumfries route. The town is 16 miles east of the main town of Ayr, 17 miles to the south of Kilmarnock and 2 miles from Dumfries House. The main hub is centred around the Square, Glaisnock Street, Townhead Street and Ayr Road.

Within Cumnock town centre there are no Statutory Protected Natural Heritage sites but there are several non-statutory wildlife sites which are of interest. There are also several areas of semi natural and mature woodlands of ancient origin within the area, which include Templand Wood, Woodroad Park and Shankston Wood. The Glaisnock Water is the main river which flows through the town centre into the Lugar Water at the Dub. The Glaisnock riverside walk takes you

from the outskirts of the town into the centre. The Ayrshire Rivers Trust has reported high levels of salmon, trout, charrs, freshwater whitefish and graylings.

History

Cumnock has a history spanning over 450 years and hints of its Victorian market town history can be seen everywhere. Town expansion in the late 1780s saw new roads allowing easier access to and from Cumnock. The majority of the buildings in the town centre date from the early 19th century. The Square is the site of the Mercat Cross, which dates from 1703. Cumnock was the home of James Keir Hardie, the founder of the Independent Labour Party.

Textile manufacturing, handloom weaving and the production of lace flourished, providing employment for many residents. Other industries included snuffbox manufacture, shoemaking and the production of Scottish Motto Ware by the Cumnock Pottery Company.

When coal mining began in the area around 1768 other mines swiftly opened and mining became the main route to employment.

Population

In the 1800s the town had a population of around 2,600 and in 1866 was granted Police Burgh status, which saw a rapid expansion in public services and council housing. By the mid 1950s the population had risen to around 4,400 and the extensive council house-building programme continued to house incoming workers. The population peaked at 9,103, in 2004, but the collapse of industries saw the population decline to 8,727 by 2013.

Housing

The main housing stock is made up of social housing, mainly managed by East Ayrshire Council and Shire Housing Association. Shire Housing Association built new properties in 2009 and East Ayrshire Council is currently completing accessible and single storey homes in Ayr Road. There are a few houses for rent through private landlords. Twenty private properties at Terringzean View were built in 2006 and other areas have undergone private development at Harperbank Grove on Ayr Road and at Cairn Road. Development in the Holmhead area of Cumnock has continued and the development of 700 houses at Knockroon is planned to continue until 2025.

Cumnock has one private nursing home at Barrhill Road and three local sheltered housing complexes, which are managed by Bield Housing Association. These are Glebe Court, Warwick Court and Menzies Court.

Employment & Economy

Cumnock has experienced significant decline over the past 30 years, principally due to structural changes in the local economy. Unemployment has increased as a result of the closure of the deep mining industry, the reduction in manufacturing and the declining fortunes of the agricultural industry. There remain few major employers in the area. The percentage of people in Cumnock South and Craigens claiming Job Seekers Allowance is far greater than the rate for East Ayrshire and national figures.

Figures available from Cumnock Jobcentre Plus in September 2015 show 300 individuals claiming Job Seekers allowance, 387 claiming employment support allowance and 358 claiming income support.

Shops

The town has a range of businesses and services that help meet the needs of the wider community in the surrounding villages.

The main retail areas are in the town centre where several new shops are being built to replace the 1970s shopping centre, which is soon to be demolished. The main supermarket is Asda at Townhead Street.

Transport

Public transport services are offered by Stagecoach, with some services also being covered by other companies. Various routes exist from the main bus stance in the Tanyard. To the south is Dumfries, east is Muirkirk, north is Glasgow and west is Ayr. Coalfields Community Transport provides accessible and affordable transport to community groups within East Ayrshire and offer a Day Hopper service. Cumnock railway station closed to the public in the mid-1960s and the nearest railway station is now in the neighbouring village of Auchinleck, two miles from Cumnock

Education & Childcare

There are two primary schools in Cumnock; Barshare Primary School, Supported Learning and Early Learning Childhood Centre and Greenmill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre. The nearest Roman Catholic school is St. Patrick's Primary School situated in Auchinleck, 2 miles outside Cumnock. There is one secondary school, Cumnock Academy that provides secondary education for many of the neighbouring towns in the area. Pupils with additional support needs attend Hillside School next to the primary in Barshare. Plans are currently underway to merge Cumnock and Auchinleck Academies, Barshare and Greenmill Primaries and Early Education Centres to a new campus proposed at Broomfield on the outskirts of Cumnock. A new site for Hillside School will also be incorporated within this campus.

There are no further or higher education facilities within Cumnock. These can be accessed over 15 miles away through Ayrshire College campuses at Ayr, Kilmarnock and Kilwinning and the University of the West of Scotland in Ayr.

Health

Cumnock residents and those of the surrounding communities are serviced the Tanyard Medical Practice. The current capitation figures from 2015 show a total of 12,152 patients registered at the practice. NHS Ayrshire & Arran is responsible for primary care health services. GP acute services and a few clinics are provided at East Ayrshire Community Hospital on Ayr Road. The closest Accident & Emergency hospital is the University Hospital Ayr and University Hospital Crosshouse in Kilmarnock. There are currently three dental practices and two local opticians within Cumnock town centre.

Leisure & Activities

Surrounding Cumnock are two large open park spaces; the Woodroad, which is mostly green space with woodland and river walks, and Broomfield with playing fields, sports and track facilities, woodland and river walks. Also sited in Broomfield is Visions Leisure Centre which offers a modern indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, sauna, steam room, spa bath and hydro-massage bed.

Other sports facilities are found at Cumnock Academy, Cumnock Bowling Club, Cumnock Juniors Football Club, Cumnock Rugby Football Club and the Flush playing fields. The town has an excellent range of groups and clubs covering a wide variety of leisure pursuits and activities for locals to join. Volunteers mainly manage these groups, although a few are supported by local agencies. These cover activities and offer support for all ages and abilities such as the arts, community support, heritage and sports. The main indoor facilities are at Cumnock Town Hall, which is managed by East Ayrshire Leisure Trust. Other facilities are managed by voluntary organisations and include Barrhill Community Centre and yipworld.

Cumnock community library is located on Greenholm Road, beside the East Ayrshire Council offices and the nearest cinemas are at Ayr or Kilmarnock.

Cumnock has seven active religious organisations including Cumnock Baptist Church, Cumnock Christian Fellowship, Cumnock Congregational Church, Old Cumnock Old Church of Scotland, St. Andrew's United Free Church of Scotland, St. John the Evangelist and Trinity Church. Several have separate halls all of which are used on a regular basis by an extensive range of groups and organisations.

Tourism & Heritage

The main tourist attraction for Cumnock is the Dumfries House Estate, two miles outside of Cumnock. It is not clear how this has affected tourist footfall in Cumnock, as there is no central tourist information centre collecting tourist data. The Baird Museum and Art Gallery in Lugar Street holds collections of Cumnock Pottery and Mauchline Ware alongside a range of local historic items with one room dedicated to James Keir Hardie. The gallery hosts a changing catalogue of contemporary art exhibitions and a range of events and workshops throughout the year and is open Thursdays to Saturdays. There are several annual festivals held within the area including Cumnock Carnival and Music Festival, Cumnock Highland Games, Cumnock Juniors Gala Day and Cumnock Tryst Music Festival.

There are some sites of historic interest in Cumnock including Terringzean Castle, Templand and Glaisnock viaducts and Cumnock old cemetery dating from 1756. There are a number of interesting monuments including one erected to Alexander Peden, the Covenanting minister. Robert Burns's Winsome Wullie and Annie Ranken are buried here. Cumnock has many surviving public and private buildings and several churches dating from the 18th and 19th centuries mainly clustered around the Town Centre. An Old Cumnock Heritage Trail has been developed by Cumnock History Group and is supported by an information leaflet and map.

What People Said

CUMNOCK COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY

We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to answer the questionnaire. We want to find out what local people in Cumnock think about the community and how you think it could be improved. This information will be used to develop a five year action plan to improve the area and make it better for everyone who lives in, work in or visit.

Your views really matter.

This survey is being carried out by Cumnock Community Action Plan Steering Group, which is made up of a combination of local groups, businesses and residents.

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What do you like about Cumnock?

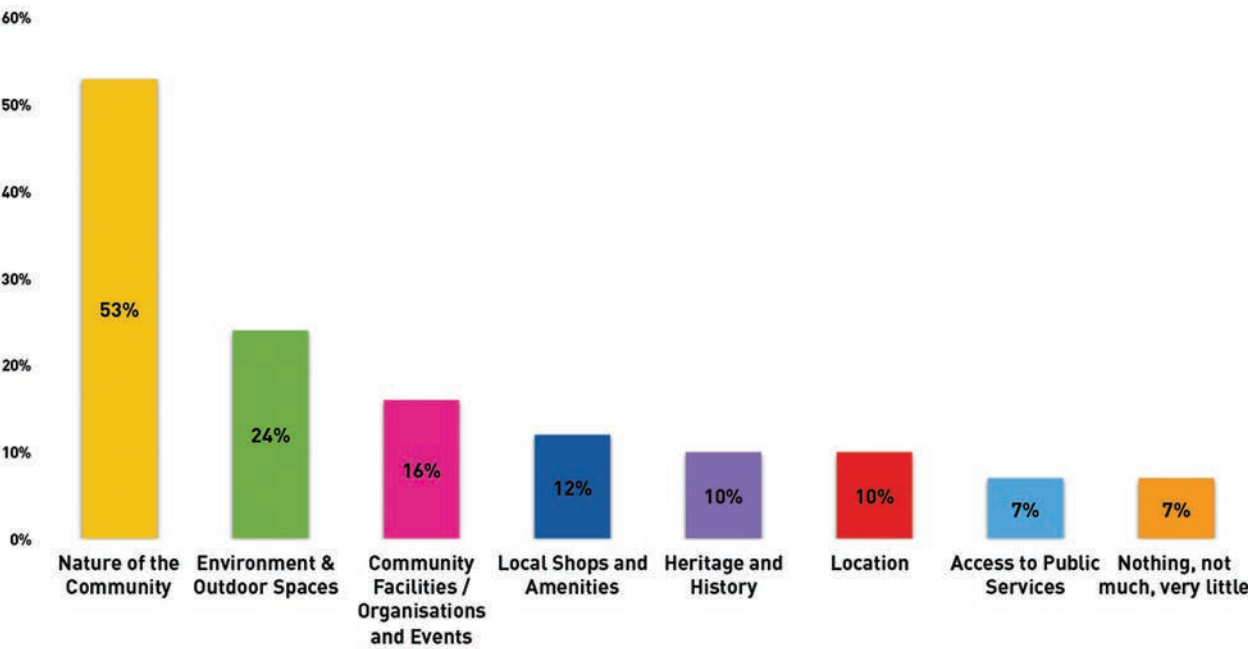
What don't you like about Cumnock?

Likes & Dislikes

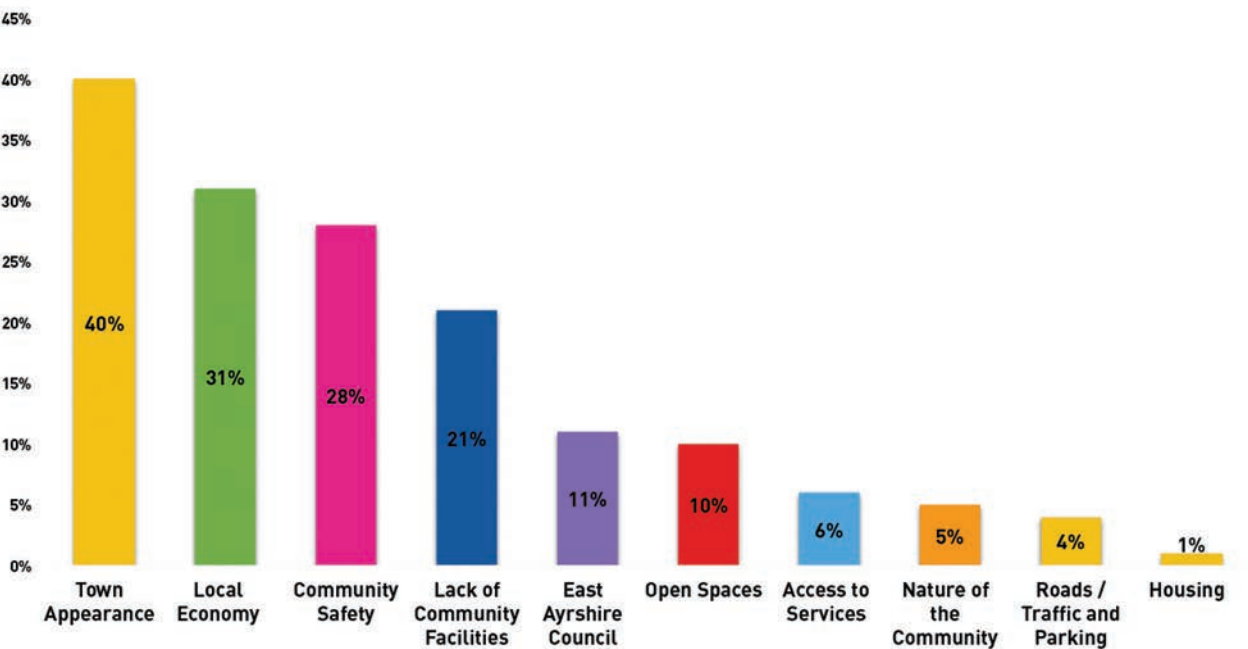
During the consultation process, local people were asked what they liked and disliked within the community. Many of the responses highlighted more than one like or dislike.

Shown here in the charts are the responses that were returned through the surveys. This information, combined with suggestions on what would make Cumnock better, has been used by the Steering Group to develop the Themes and Priorities that are important to the people of Cumnock.

Likes



Dislikes



'The feeling I get when I have been away and then arrive back in Cumnock - home!'

'We don't seem to have a hub except the precinct, which is a cold soulless eyesore.'

'I like the people of Cumnock and the community spirit of its residents.'

'I don't like the rubbish left on the ground, in bushes and in the trees. I especially don't like the graffiti on the walls.'

'The people represent what it is to be a complete community that share important values about heritage and responsibility.'

'I don't like how some of the shops close too early.'

'Beautiful country surroundings, worthy of its tourist attractions.'

'The precinct has to go - a complete eyesore in the centre of the village.'

'It's close to bigger towns like, Ayr, Kilmarnock and Glasgow.'

'I don't like the burnt down shops and houses. I think they should clear them away because it makes Cumnock look a mess.'

'Don't have any dislikes about Cumnock.'

'It feels less safe than it did.'

'I like Broomfield because it's fun to go around the track on my bike with my friend.'

'Decline of industry - politicians have failed to attract new sustainable investment and infrastructure'.

'What I like about Cumnock is the Broomfield running track and Visions because I'm a really sporty girl.'

'We have to go to New Cumnock or Auchinleck to get the train.'

'Loads of places to run around and fly my kite.'

'Councillors in Kilmarnock making decisions about places they never visit.'

'I like all of its facilities and the fact that the community are thinking about everybody and everything.'

'The way recreation facilities are being destroyed. Starting with the Woodroad Park and now Broomfield.'

'I like Visions Leisure Centre because of the fun-swim on Friday nights.'

'The Community Hospital is underused.'

'I like the people, they are friendly and kind.'

'The flush because it's always wet.'

'I like the fact that Prince Charles made the little homes for old people.'

Vision Statements

'A popular tourist location that would offer places of interest with varied and challenging recreational and competitive outdoor activities for all ages and abilities with a vibrant, traditional town centre.'

'A vibrant community with sporting facilities and a choice of shops and job opportunities for young people.'

'A place where people travelling through will stop off at and have a bite to eat and remember it for its friendly vibrant and clean community.'

'A more attractive place for people from surrounding areas to visit and work.'

‘Prosperous and full of green spaces for people to enjoy.’

‘A thriving community focussed town that provides work and social opportunities for residents.’

‘A greener, cleaner place to visit and stay.’

‘Somewhere the next generation can be proud of.’

‘A place where I could walk at night and feel safe.’

‘Modern, with modern schools and jobs and cleaner streets.’

‘Ayrshire’s Culture Town of the Year.’

‘A forward thinking and exciting place for young and old alike.’

‘A market town where people like to visit at the weekend to get away from it all.’

‘A smart wee toon.’

‘A place that attracts tourists with a better vision of the history of Cumnock and community activities.’

‘A vibrant, local community providing good housing, shopping, recreation and education to local residents and visitors.’

‘A dynamic, attractive commercial and residential centre with amenities and facilities commensurate with a prosperous town.’

‘A place that can attract more visitors with improved leisure facilities and national events during summer.’

‘A place where you feel part of the community and people have respect for the things and people around them – where wandering around the town is a pleasant experience.’

‘A modern, inclusive, happening town retaining and celebrating its rich heritage.’

‘A welcoming, dynamic and attractive community which offers well run and high level opportunities for young people.’

‘Utilise heritage as a vehicle for regeneration of economy, social aspects and re-invigorate a community that has suffered over decades of decline’.

‘The activities and facilities of Cumnock improved for the community and visitors alike.’

‘Active, involved community, clean, vibrant, safe place to live.’

‘Individual, friendly, helpful, lots of facilities, nicer, cleaner, attractive shop fronts, leisure facilities, prosperous, attractive.’

‘Sustainable, vibrant, accessible. A place of interest where you would want to bring extended family and friends.’

‘Tidy and Clean.’

‘To be peaceful, playful and funny.’

‘I would like Cumnock to be the best town ever.’

‘A place with a good name and opportunities for young people.’

‘Friendly place with more family involvement.’

‘To be well known and put on the world map.’

Our joint vision...

‘Making Cumnock better to live, work and visit for all.’

[illegible]

Voting for priorities at one of the Open Day events

THEME | Outdoor Activities & Open Spaces



Cumnock Highland Games at Broomfield

Cumnock has a wealth of open green spaces and woodland areas where the people of Cumnock enjoy a range of sports and recreational activities.

There are two main green spaces - the Woodroad and Broomfield. The Woodroad was purchased by the town council in the early 1930s and played an integral part in Cumnock's history where a wide range of popular family and sporting activities took place around the open air swimming pool, tennis courts, putting green and caravan park. Sadly these no longer exist today. All that remains are a children's play area, some open spaces and three different woodland and river walks. These are the Motte Hill, Stepends (or the Strawberry bing) and the Templand walk. In order to attract locals and visitors there is a requirement for consistent management and maintenance of these walks and the provision of modern facilities in both green spaces.

Thirty acres of land was purchased at Broomfield in the early 1960s with facilities for rugby, football and other field games with the later addition of a sports pavilion with changing facilities and a running track. These playing fields are used extensively by nearby Cumnock Academy, Cumnock Rugby Football Club, Cumnock Juniors Youth Club and play host to the annual Cumnock Highland Games and other events. The river Lugar walk also passes through Broomfield and continues through Dumfries House estate. In 2004 Visions Leisure Centre opened in Broomfield offering a modern indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, sauna, steam room, spa bath and hydro-massage bed. All of these places and facilities need to be improved and maintained to cater for the growing population and to conserve the natural beauty of these environments. Townhead Football Park has been home to Cumnock Juniors Football Club since 1934. Today, Cumnock Juniors Community Enterprise provide a Community Sports Hub with a state-of-the-art astro surface, with a range of sports and physical activities for all ages and abilities.

There are various small green open spaces within the town itself including, Cumnock Bowling Club, the Flush playing field, Murray Park and several small play parks. We should embrace these areas and continue to make improvements to provide recreation to all residents within the town and to attract visitors.

Setting priorities for all these areas will require long-term commitment in the community, as well as time and funding to ensure the continued use and enjoyment of the facilities and the healthy environment that these places offer.

Priorities

Cumnock is EXHILARATING - Rejuvenate the Woodroad Park

Actions

- Improve and develop infrastructure
- Explore the re-opening of camping and caravan facilities
- Create a range of family orientated attractions and activities suitable for all ages and abilities
- Maintain and upgrade woodland flora and fauna, trees and paths and include mapped trails, adventure walks, signage and bins.

Cumnock is ACTIVE - Improve Broomfield

Actions

- Develop woodland walks, river walks and cycle routes
- Install information boards and signage
- Improve sports and recreational facilities
- Develop cycle and walking links within the local area.

Cumnock is ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY - Create welcoming, friendly outdoor spaces

Actions

- Develop and upgrade walking routes
- Plant more trees and flowers around the town
- Identify green spaces for allotments and community gardens
- Clean up rivers, riverbanks and make them accessible.

Cumnock is FIT - Introduce new and improved outdoor sports facilities for all

Actions

- Identify areas to introduce new and increase existing outdoor sports and recreational activities
- Re-energise all play parks and play areas to facilitate their use by all ages and abilities.

Who could help move this forward

To realise the above priorities as identified by the local community, the members of Cumnock Action Plan Steering Group recognise the need to identify and work with others. We have identified potential stakeholders to assist with this and encourage others to come forward where they support any priority stated within the plan.

Ayrshire Rivers Trust, Barr Environmental, Central Scotland Green Network Trust, Cumnock Community Council, Cumnock Juniors Community Enterprise, Cumnock Rugby Football Club, Cumnock & District Angling Club, East Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Leisure Trust, East Ayrshire Woodlands, Glenfton Cycles, Greenspace Scotland, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), The Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust, Visions Leisure Centre, yipworld, local community groups, organisations and residents.

THEME | Local Economy



Mary's Fabric Shop - Townhead Street

Cumnock businesses offer a unique, personalised service in a diverse, traditional and contemporary choice of shops and facilities. Long-term businesses have adapted to change and survived the demise of mining and textile industries and the competition of online shopping.

Long term Cumnock business people play a key role in successful planning and investment for business growth. They aim to attract potential business investment that will offer new employment opportunities in the future.

The local economy of Cumnock has a hard working discipline and work ethic that supports the needs of the local community. It has a strong voice and a bold, imaginative approach in identifying creative solutions to provide a range of visiting opportunities. These include cultural events, restaurants, street entertainments and positive shopping experiences.

Through working together the local businesses are sharing their vision to deliver the priorities for the town. These are: to sustain and market the local economy through promotion of opportunity for new business; enabling innovation in existing businesses; encouraging the people of Cumnock to take ownership and realise the potential for a successful local economy. Developing closer links between Dumfries House Estate and the town could also encourage additional footfall.

Priorities

Cumnock is OPEN FOR BUSINESS - Develop a new shopping centre

Actions

- Complete the demolition of the existing precinct and attract potential investment of a supermarket and high street retailers to develop a better range of shops
- Provision of internet access, evening cafés, community shop/facilities, fast food franchise
- Range of small business units, sheltered shopping areas, signage and shop directory
- Good parking and security
- Pedestrianised walkways maintained to a high standard.

Cumnock is WORKING - Improve employment and training opportunities

Actions

- Develop investment opportunities for small and new business projects
- Develop training opportunities, apprenticeships and set up a job forum
- Attract more employment opportunities and provide training and support in interview skills
- Develop an all-inclusive Social Enterprise Project for the benefit of young people.

Cumnock is COMMERCIAL - Develop Caponacre and Ayr Road business parks

Actions

- Support incentives for small and large factory units
- Promote and develop transport links to and from the town.

Cumnock is ENTERPRISING - Develop local markets

Actions

- Support market stalls, farmers markets and Christmas markets
- Encourage regular car boot sales.

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Abellio ScotRail, Ayrshire College, Business Gateway Ayrshire, Council for Voluntary Organisations East Ayrshire, Cumnock Area Musical Production Society, Cumnock Business Association, Cumnock Community Council, Cumnock Juniors Community Enterprise, East Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Works, Network Rail, Scottish Passenger Transport, yipworld, local businesses, community groups, organisations and residents.

THEME | Better Town Appearance



Glaisnock Street looking towards the Square

The people of Cumnock are proud of their town and want visitors to see it at its best.

Cumnock is a friendly, outgoing and busy wee town where the historic Square is traditionally seen as the town centre alongside the main shopping areas at Townhead Street, Glaisnock Street, Lugar Street and Ayr Road.

Residents are keen to see these areas developed and maintained to a high, modern standard whilst keeping the Victorian feel of the majority of the buildings and surrounds.

These areas should have green and accessible spaces which are clean and tidy, easy for locals and visitors to find information and directions with a good range of shops, cafes, restaurants and public facilities. The environment should be safe and have pleasant meeting and seating areas for all to use, with empty shop properties being made more attractive.

This requires businesses, residents and the full community to work together in identifying best practice and funding opportunities.

Priorities

Cumnock is BEAUTIFUL - Develop and improve town centre appearance

Actions

- Develop 'Keep Cumnock Beautiful' campaigns
- Provide more dog waste and litter-bins
- Develop seating areas and green spaces
- Develop a town recycling project
- Ensure shops and spaces are accessible
- Provide more and improved bus shelters
- Maintain roads and pavements to a high standard
- Improve condition of public toilets and extend opening hours during evening and weekends.

Cumnock is THRIVING - Develop and promote business and community facilities

Actions

- Encourage more cafes and restaurants to open in the evenings
- Identify empty shops and negotiate the use of window space for community use
- Develop a maintenance and signage policy for shop fronts
- Encourage owners to maintain and upkeep their premises
- Promote and identify potential grants and alternative funding opportunities.

Cumnock is DYNAMIC - Promote town centre spaces

Actions

- Develop town information maps and signage
- Provide more flowerbeds, hanging baskets and trees
- Provide better 'Welcome to Cumnock' signage at all entry points to the town
- Develop public art projects
- Provide a family friendly community area.

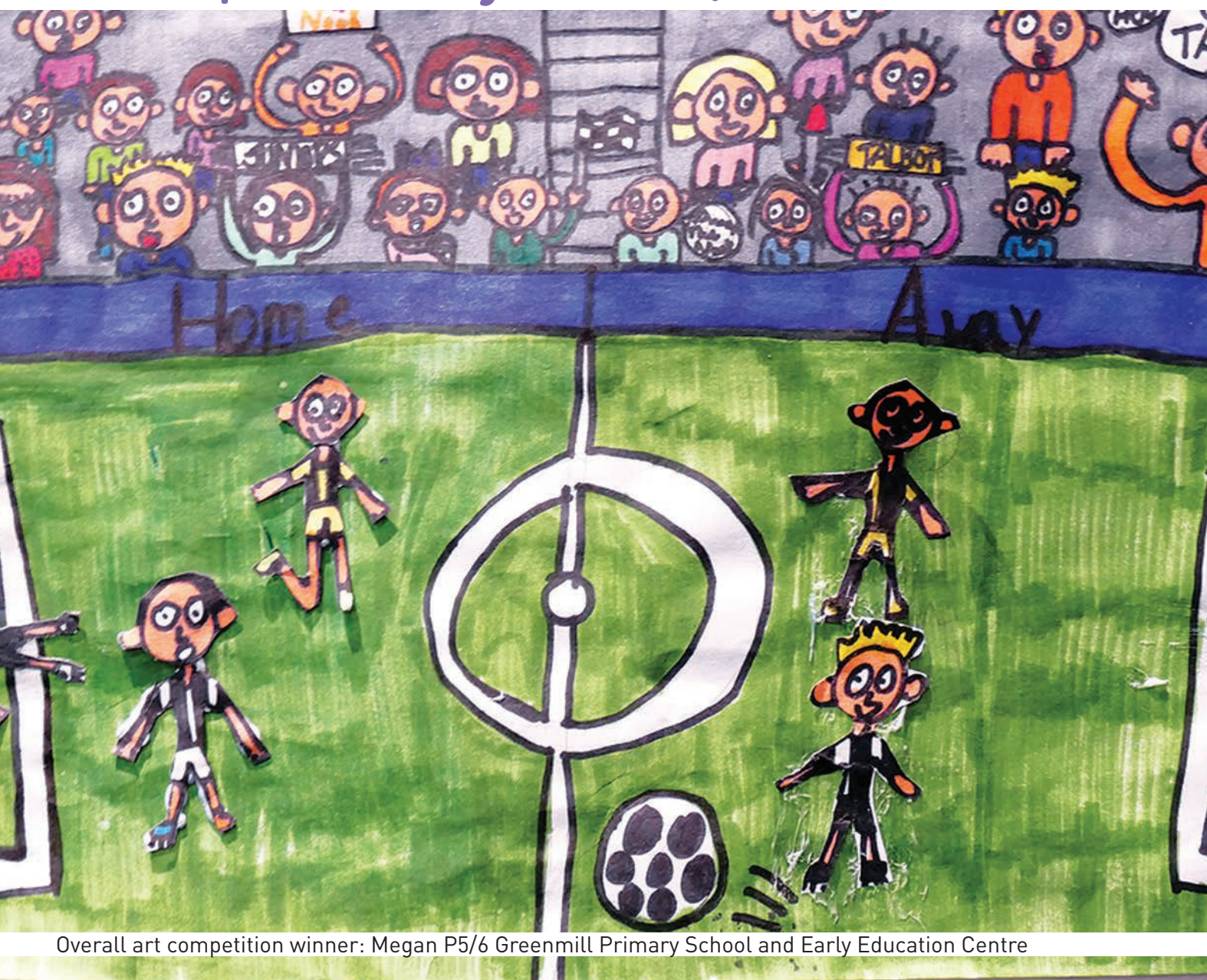
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Ayrshire Litter Volunteer Network, Barr Environmental Limited, Business Gateway Ayrshire, Create, Cumnock Area Musical Production Society, Cumnock Business Association, Cumnock Community Council, Cumnock History Group, Cumnock Juniors Community Enterprise, Cumnock Rugby Football Club, East Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Woodlands, Scottish Passenger Transport, yipworld, local businesses, local community groups, organisations and residents.

Away The Nock

THEME | Community Facilities, Activities & Events



Overall art competition winner: Megan P5/6 Greenmill Primary School and Early Education Centre

Cumnock enjoys a close-knit, friendly community spirit, which is reflected by the wide range of community groups and clubs that have formed and continue to operate in our town.

There are a limited number of recreational facilities in the community which are available for use by local groups offering a variety of activities. These activities vary from sports, arts and crafts and include a wide range of other interests for all ages. These activities are delivered in various venues available across the town, however each have varying capacity, services and levels of access.

There is no central hub for sports or arts and crafts and the development of affordable and accessible venues for all age groups and abilities is seen as a priority.

The promotion of existing groups and the development of new local groups, activities and facilities is viewed as very important and would benefit the local community and attract visitors to the town.

Priorities

Cumnock is SPORTY - Develop a Sports Hub/Games Hall/Community Centre

Actions

- Explore and develop an indoor accessible Sports Hub/Games Hall/Community Centre for all ages and abilities
- Tailor opening hours for current facilities to suit different lifestyles
- Provide and encourage participation in a range of affordable, year round sports and community activities.

Cumnock is ARTY - Develop an Arts and Crafts Centre

Actions

- Explore and develop an accessible Arts and Crafts Centre for all ages and abilities
- Provide and encourage a range of affordable, year round arts and craft activities.
- Provide and develop a cinema/theatre facility.

Cumnock is ACCESSIBLE - Develop accessible activities for all ages and abilities

Actions

- Develop tailor-made facilities, activities and events for young people, family, elderly and specialist groups.

Cumnock is SUPPORTIVE - Develop personal support projects

Actions

- Encourage and support social enterprise projects for all ages and abilities
- Develop money management and fuel poverty projects.

Cumnock is TALENTED - Promote and encourage community activities and events

Actions

- Promote new and established clubs and events
- Encourage participation at events and classes
- Provide opportunities to showcase achievements.

Who could help move this forward

To realise the above priorities as identified by the local community, the members of Cumnock Action Plan Steering Group recognise the need to identify and work with others. We have identified potential stakeholders to assist with this and encourage others to come forward where they support any priority stated within the plan.

Citizen's Advice Bureau, Council for Voluntary Organisations East Ayrshire, Create, Cumnock Area Musical Production Society, Cumnock Camera Club, Cumnock Community Council, Cumnock History Group, Cumnock Juniors Community Enterprise, Cumnock Rugby Football Club, Cumnock & Doon Valley Access Panel, East Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Leisure Trust, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, Sovereign Credit Union, Visions Leisure Centre, yipworld, local businesses, community groups, organisations and residents.

THEME | Tourism, History & Heritage



Words of Keir Hardie: Lugar Street art project by Cumnock History Group

Cumnock is a great place to live in and visit, and although it has impressive cultural and historic connections it remains largely undiscovered.

Cumnock needs to be on Scotland's tourist map. Our town has a rich historic and cultural heritage, including mining, textiles, weaving, shoe-making and craft pottery, which need to be nurtured, developed and maintained and appeal to both residents and visitors alike.

We need to open up Cumnock by developing a Cumnock tourist and cultural hub and link in to wider tourist routes.

We need to maximise and utilise existing historic buildings by enhancing their function and re-connecting them to Cumnock. We also need to maximise and utilise existing cultural events and connections.

This requires identifying joint partnerships for funding and investment within tourist and cultural networks including the Ayrshire Burns Trail, Dumfries House Estate and the Keir Hardie connection.

This will help to facilitate and support wider joint projects alongside art and cultural events and will boost the town economy.

Priorities

Cumnock is ON THE MAP - Promote the town

Actions

- Identify partners for promotion and investment
- Make businesses, services and events available online and in print
- Promote Cumnock as a tourist destination and feature in Visit Scotland and Ayrshire brochures and other publications
- Promote Baird Museum and Gallery as a tourist and cultural information hub
- Develop heritage trails and tourist routes.

Cumnock is HISTORIC - Preserve, promote and maintain historic buildings and places

Actions

- Identify partners for promotion and investment
- Install blue plaques for historic buildings
- Preserve and maintain Cumnock cemeteries and install information boards
- Promote and celebrate Cumnock's historic milestones.

Cumnock is CULTURAL - Develop, promote and support cultural activities

Actions

- Support and develop local cultural and historic events
- Develop food and drink festivals, exhibitions, fairs and community events
- Identify partners for promotion and investment.

Who could help move this forward

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Ayrshire & Arran Tourism Board, Create, Cumnock Area Musical Production Society, Cumnock Camera Club, Cumnock Highland Games, Cumnock History Group, Cumnock Tryst, East Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Leisure Trust, the Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust, Visit Scotland, yipworld, local businesses, community groups, organisations and residents.

THEME | Services



The Tanyard bus station

Cumnock is a thriving and attractive town providing a wide range of services to residents.

People from Cumnock are proud of the historic character, scenic beauty and characteristics of their town and appreciate statutory educational and social services; health; community safety; public transport and social housing.

Cumnock is the main town that connects all services to the needs of residents in the town and neighbouring communities. These services along with the provision of recreational facilities including walking routes and pathways provide a welcoming and inclusive sense of community spirit.

The drawing power of Dumfries House Estate is seen as being limited by the poor transport links to and from Cumnock and the lack of signposting and information available at Dumfries House about Cumnock.

The priority for Cumnock is to ensure that services are improved or enhanced to encourage success and sustainability of the residency of families in the area. It is also vital that people engage and collaborate with each other to have a shared vision for the future and contribute to the growth of the town.

Priorities

Cumnock is ON THE GO - Develop transport improvements

Actions

- Improve and integrate affordable public transport services including extending operating times and public information boards
- Improve rail links for Cumnock and explore re-opening of town station
- Improve and maintain roads and public walkways
- Enforce traffic and parking restrictions and improve free and disabled parking facilities.

Cumnock is HEALTHY - Develop better health, surgery and community hospital services

Actions

- Recognise and address drug misuse by providing support for drug rehabilitation
- Provide a separate clinic for the dispensing of methadone
- Promote existing health clinics and identify any further needs
- Reduce appointment waiting times
- Explore the inclusion of an accident and emergency service at Cumnock Hospital
- Recognise the potential health benefits of increased participation in community, social and sports activities.

Cumnock is COMMUNICATING - Better communication with East Ayrshire Council

Actions

- Promote open, honest and accessible community engagement on all relevant matters
- Facilitate positive, meaningful and honest responses to community requests and ideas
- Ensure there is a more transparent planning and consultation process.

Cumnock is ACCOMMODATING - Develop better housing stock

Actions

- Increase the stock of social housing and improve housing allocation system
- Promote better maintenance and repair of housing stock
- Encourage availability of cheaper private housing
- Provide additional sheltered accommodation.

Cumnock is LEARNING - Better education provision

Actions

- Extend and promote lifelong learning provision for all
- Improve access to college courses within Cumnock
- Improve transport for pupils
- Promote credit unions and money management advice within the community
- Extend choice within school curriculum.

Cumnock is SAFE - Improve community safety

Actions

- Increase police presence and extend police station hours
- Promote neighbourhood watch schemes
- Continue to develop community safety initiatives e.g. CCTV coverage, crossing patrol officers
- Introduce speed bumps.

Who could help move this forward

To realise the above priorities as identified by the local community, the members of Cumnock Action Plan Steering Group recognise the need to identify and work with others. We have identified potential stakeholders to assist with this and encourage others to come forward where they support any priority stated within the plan.

Abellio ScotRail, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, Bield Housing Association, Council for Voluntary Organisations East Ayrshire, Cumnock Health Centre, East Ayrshire Council, Lloyds Pharmacy, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, Network Rail, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, Shire Housing Association, Stagecoach, Strathclyde Passenger Transport, the Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust, Police Scotland, private contractors, local businesses, community groups, organisations and residents.

Making It Happen



Welcoming a voter at the Open Days at the Dumfries Arms Hotel

When & How This Will Happen

This plan is accompanied with an ongoing delivery plan which sets out:

- An agreed list of specific tasks, actions and projects that will be taken forward over the coming years
- A record of which community organisation/individual is taking the lead and who they will be working with
- A stated target date for completion
- A clear understanding of the outcome this should achieve and how it will be measured.

The Action Plan will be managed, monitored and reviewed by the Steering Group on behalf of the wider community. EAC Vibrant Communities Team and Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland will work in partnership to support the Steering Group.

The Steering Group will seek regular progress reports from each group responsible for an action, which will then be reported to the wider community through the Cumnock Action Plan website and the Cumnock Chronicle column.

Working In Partnership

Local groups will continue to work together to take forward the priorities set out within this plan.

All local community groups, community organisations, local businesses and local residents are encouraged to deliver on the priorities within this plan.

The priorities and projects listed here will need to be progressed by the local community and its community groups and organisations with the support of a wide range of partners including East Ayrshire Council, Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, NHS, Police Scotland and the Scottish Government.

Resourcing Our Priorities

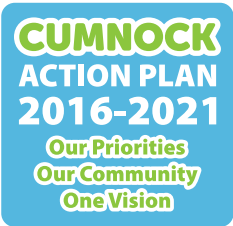
For those priorities that will require funding we will work with partners to identify the best funding sources, both locally and nationally.

Working Together For Cumnock

The Steering Group members will be working towards becoming a registered charity over the next few months to enable a more cohesive approach in working with voluntary groups, partnerships and potential funders.

The current Steering Group are:-

- Eric Bennett
- Neil Given
- Carrie Graham
- Allan Gray
- Bobby Grierson
- Mandy Harrison
- Janice Hendry
- Donald McVicar
- Mhairi McWilliam
- Helen Ng
- Scott Riddex
- Eddie Rutherford
- Alexa Scott
- John Senior
- Irene Smith



How To Get Involved



The steering group

THE past few months have been a busy time for Cumnock Community Action Plan steering group who have been conducting a community wide survey to gather the opinions of the residents of Cumnock.

To date the responses have been very good with a 57.3% return rate. "Initially the distribution and collection of over 3,200 surveys to households in Cumnock seemed like a gargantuan task," said steering group member Bobby Grierson. "However 3 months down the line we have learned from any difficulties in this process and we feel that we are now reaching more and more people as the work goes on."

In addition to the household surveys and information stalls at 5 public events the group recently had an extra 2 pop-up events in November where Cumnockians had their say on what they would like to see happen in Cumnock by 2021.

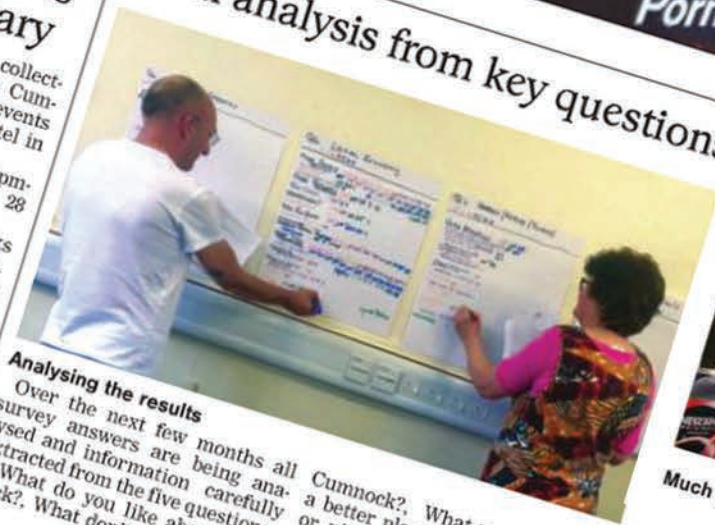
The first event was a which was chosen as the setbacks in getting return and they wanted to give Barshare a chance to ensure were included in the survey.

Although a lot of the parish pressed for time a wide range from those who managed to booth were collected.

The second event was at the Shopping precinct where the on those who visit and live in the centre. Again very good response collected from a diverse group of from secondary school age to the business people, families, shoppers, students, unemployed, visitors, the community police, carers, community workers and more.

All views and opinions were noted, the opportunity to explain in more detail about the aims of the Action Plan was taken.

Final analysis from key questions



Analysing the results

Over the next few months all survey answers are being analysed and information carefully extracted from the five questions. What do you like about Cumnock? What don't you like about Cumnock? What would make it a better place to live in, work in or visit. What three ideas/projects/priorities would you like to see happening? What would you wish Cumnock to be like by 2020?

Much feedback was received



Cumnock Action Plan's Cumnock Chronicle column

Action Groups

As a practical way of taking things forward the Steering Group are setting up small Action Sub-groups. If you are interested and want to become involved please get in touch with our contacts below.

Outdoor Activities & Open Spaces

Neil Given

Tel: 07472 986 802

Email: neilgiven@gmail.com

Local Economy

Janice Hendry

Tel: 01290 422 364 or 07808 936 375

Email: jhendry@yipworld.org

Better Town Appearance

Allan Gray

Tel: 07714 995 441

Email: gr14ay@gmail.com

Community Facilities, Activities & Events

Mhairi McWilliam

Tel: 07595 005 349

Email: jaydenallan@hotmail.com

Tourism, History & Heritage

Bobby Grierson

Tel: 07984 740 663

Email: bgrierson@mac.com

Services

Mandy Harrison

Tel: 07526 797 542

Email: mandy74-27@hotmail.com

Or Email: info@cumnockactionplan.org

Thanks To...

Our thanks to the following groups, organisations and individuals who assisted, encouraged and supported the steering group over the past year.

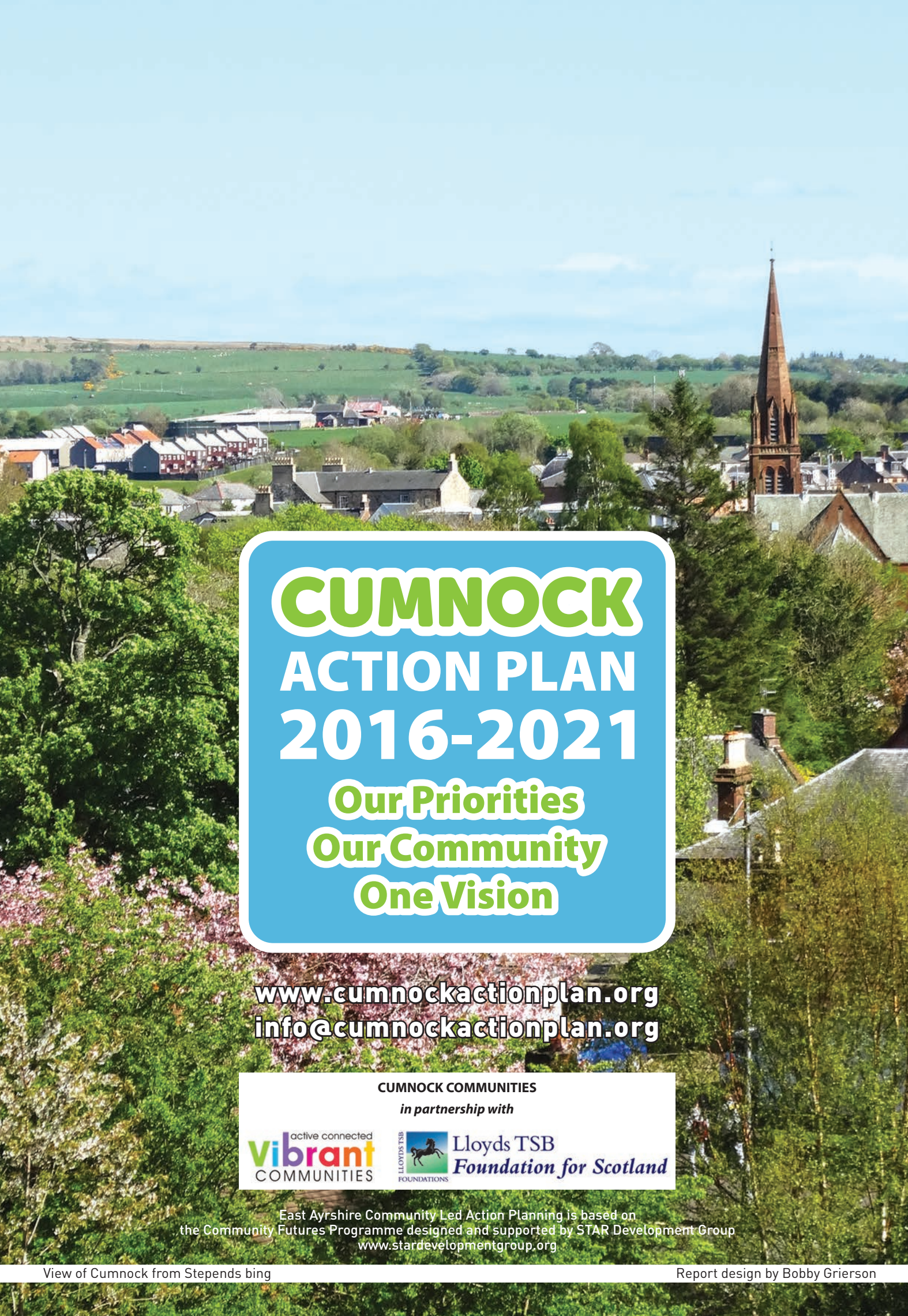
- All Cumnockians, young and old who took the time to share their views, returned the survey forms and turned out to vote
- All who gave their time voluntarily to be part of the Steering Group
- The volunteers who helped deliver and collect the surveys forms
- Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland and the Vibrant Communities team of East Ayrshire Council who have worked in partnership to support the Steering Group in carrying out all aspects of the work involved in preparing this Action Plan.

At the two Open Day events:

- The businesses and community groups who generously donated prizes to the prize draw
- The Dumfries Arms Hotel who gave their function hall free of charge
- The stall holders from the groups and organisations who took part
- Barshare Primary School, Supported Learning and Early Learning Childhood Centre and Greenmill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre pupils for producing fantastic artwork displays and entertainment
- Cumnock Area Musical Production Society for their high-class vocal performances
- St Andrew's Ambulance Service for their demonstration on life-saving
- Jim Withers from Respite Now for compering
- Police Scotland Youth Volunteers for their assistance.

Our apologies to any we have missed.

This Action Plan is for the use of the whole community and is jointly owned by all organisations and individuals who have taken part in its preparation. We will be working together to ensure its implementation over the next five years.



CUMNOCK

ACTION PLAN

2016-2021

Our Priorities
Our Community
One Vision

www.cumnockactionplan.org
info@cumnockactionplan.org

CUMNOCK COMMUNITIES

in partnership with



Lloyds TSB
Foundation for Scotland

East Ayrshire Community Led Action Planning is based on
the Community Futures Programme designed and supported by STAR Development Group
www.stardevelopmentgroup.org