

The Impact of COVID-19 on Development Planning & Regeneration

We would like to reassure customers that we are doing everything we can to reduce the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on our ability to deliver our service. As our offices are closed staff are working remotely to maintain business continuity. All staff who are fit for work will continue to carry out as many of the regular duties as possible, subject to the restrictions set out by the government.

Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2)

The Main Issues Report (MIR) is the first stage in the preparation of the next local development Plan (LDP2) which will replace the current adopted East Ayrshire Local Development Plan (2017). The Main Issues Report identified 29 key issues which were considered to be vital topics that should be addressed in LDP2. **A formal public consultation was open from the 1st June 2020 to 31st July 2020.**

Representations

A total of **299 representations** were received during the public consultation period. Generally, representations focused on a number of key issues, most notably:

- **Issue 7: Stewarton – Approach to Sustainable development**
- **Issue 14: LDP1 Future Growth Areas**
- **Issue 22: Bellfield Interchange**
- **Issue 23: Loudoun Castle Garden and Designed Landscape**
- **Issue 27: Flooding**

Coalfield Environment Initiative (CEI)

The CEI are delighted to have a new member of the team, **Project Officer Emily Hay**. Emily has a passion for plants and has been instrumental in successful community growing projects, even growing fruit and vegetables for people shielding during lockdown. Her wonderful energy and excellent contacts will help us to build connections within and between communities for working together on exciting community projects.



Over the coming months CEI will work with communities to grow beautiful wildflowers, spring bulbs and fruit trees to be enjoyed by people and to benefit our declining pollinating insects. Please contact Emily.Hay@ea-cei.org.uk if you would like to get involved.

- **Issue 29: Priorities, Issues and Proposal (PIP) Sites** (particularly sites around Stewarton, Fenwick, Dunlop and Kilmaurs)

What happens next?

All representations will be reviewed, given full and due consideration in the formulation of the Proposed Plan. The proposed Plan is anticipated to be published in **Autumn 2021**.

As part of the preparation of the Proposed Local Development Plan it is anticipated that there will be further engagement work undertaken. Further updates will be provided when the dates, locations and times of these events have been confirmed.

What is the Proposed Plan?

The Proposed Plan is the second stage the Local Development Plan process. The Proposed Plan will set out the proposed policies that would be used to assess planning applications and identify development opportunity sites. Further public consultation will be undertaken at this stage.

Interwar Housing Centennial

As part of the upcoming 2021 centennial of the first interwar housing estates (between 1918 and 1938) to be constructed in East Ayrshire (in 1921), Development Planning & Regeneration are preparing a series of guidance documents which aim to support the appropriate maintenance of interwar properties and celebrate their historic value:

- **Piersland Park Conservation Area (Non-Statutory Supplementary Guidance)**
- **Piersland Park Conservation Area Appraisal**
- **East Ayrshire's Interwar Housing: Good Practice Guide**

Piersland Park is the only interwar housing estate which holds Conservation Area status. However, there are a number of other important sites across East Ayrshire which merit celebration. We will consult on these drafts shortly.



Studies and Tenders

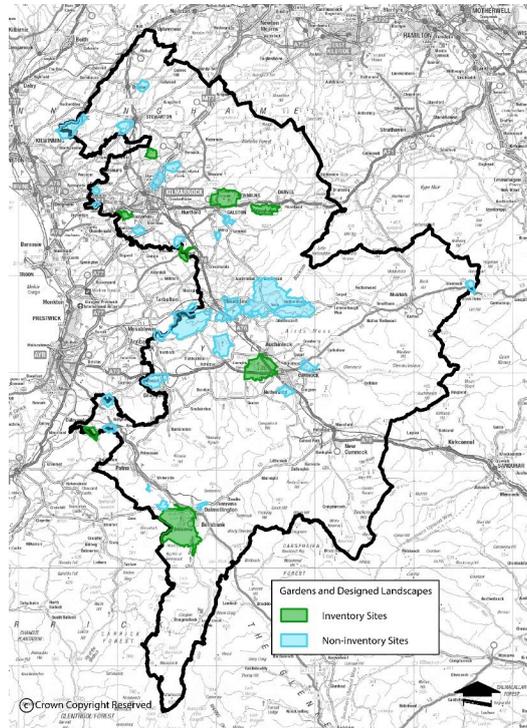
We have a number of tenders out for studies which relate to Local Development Plan 2. These include a review of *Business and Industrial Land, Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Local Landscape Areas*. These studies will also inform separate but more expansive Supplementary Guidance (SG) as part of LDP2.

Business and Industrial Land

Avison Young has been appointed to undertake a review of East Ayrshires' Business and Industrial land. The study, which is now well underway, will analyse current and future demand for business and industrial use in East Ayrshire and will assess our existing sites to consider whether they remain suitable and viable sites for future industrial use. Site visits are about to be undertaken and a business space questionnaire will be issued to businesses throughout East Ayrshire. The study will be a really important tool to ensure LDP2 takes a proactive and evidence based approach to planning for future business and industrial development.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

Peter Drummond Architects has been appointed to undertake a review of East Ayrshire's Garden and Designed landscapes (both inventory and non-inventory sites). This will involve assessing their historic and value, boundary extents, site condition and make recommendations on how the heritage value of these sites can be managed through the development planning system. It is intended that the study will fit into the development plan process by providing an action and evidence base, informing the protection and future maintenance of these sites through a policy framework.



Local Landscape Area

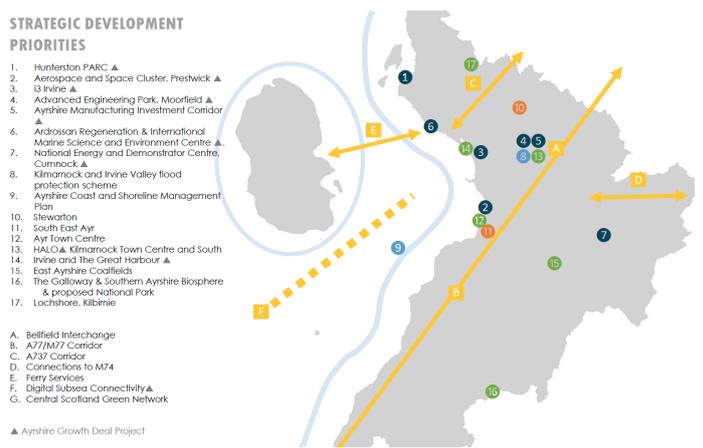
A review of the Local Landscape Area has been put out to tender as part of the preparation for LDP2. The overall purpose of the Local Landscape Area Review is to identify East Ayrshire landscapes which are of particular value and that merit special attention as designated local landscapes. It is intended that the study will be part of and fit into the development plan process by informing (1) the allocation of Local Landscape Areas and (2) the associated policy framework which will be prepared for the East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2).

Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy

Along with our partners North and South Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Council has approved an Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy (iRSS) for Ayrshire.

A new requirement of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, the iRSS takes a regional approach to planning, setting a vision, outcomes and strategic development priorities on an Ayrshire-wide basis.

The iRSS has now been submitted to the Scottish Government and will be an important mechanism in making sure that the ambitions and priorities for Ayrshire are embedded within National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Work will soon commence on developing the 'indicative' RSS into a full RSS; a process that will involve lots of engagement and partnership working. The iRSS identifies 17 spatial development priorities.



Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership



We have now been granted "Permission to Start" by NLHF so it's all go. Some project partners have already made a start recruiting for their projects. Project Supervisor, **Colin MacDonald** assisted the Coalfield Environment Initiative in holding outdoor recruitment interviews (Dean Castle) for the **Perfect Peatlands Project Officer** (a CCLP project). A Social Distancing first for us...We're all very glad the sun was out!

We have also advertised for 2 Project Officer Posts for the CCLP delivery team. They will be assisting the project partners to deliver their projects.



Follow us on [Facebook @EACCLP](#) for more news.

Hot to the Press: We are pleased to announce that we have secured **£825,752.08 (ERDF £611,664.80 and SG funding £214,087.28)** from the Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge Fund Round 3 Awards.

Regeneration Capital Grant Fund

Monitoring reports have been submitted to the Scottish Government on all of the active RCGF projects advising of the impacts of COVID 19 on these projects, a response is awaited.

Centrestage's Kilmarnock Academy Legacy Project is continuing to progress well on site, a Stage 1 application for additional funding for Phase 2 of the development was submitted in June, and the investment panel sat to make recommendations in August, it is anticipated that a decision will be made by the Scottish Government by the middle of September, if successful a Stage 2 application will then require to be submitted.

Crossroads Community Hub (CCH) /Ayrshire Food Hub is due for completion in November 2020. The appointment of staff for the hub is underway and the business plan is continuing to be updated based on Scottish Government guidance on the opening of the café, retail and community facilities.

Above Adventure's West of Scotland Climbing Centre has been delayed awaiting confirmation of funding from

Historic Environment Scotland and Social Inclusion Scotland, it is now intended that the contract will commence on site in November 2020.

Town Centre Regeneration Fund - the projects which we are helping to coordinate in the Doon Valley and Hurlford are continuing to make progress with the work in the Doon Valley and the temporary Parklett, both to be installed in October 2020.

Additional RCGF Funding Secured

We have received notification of additional RCGF funding from the Scottish Government for three of our RCGF projects, to support accelerated delivery: <https://www.gov.scot/news/regenerating-communities-1/>

Project	RCGF Funds
Ayrshire Food Hub	£58,000
Kilmarnock Academy Phase 1	£500,000
West of Scotland Climbing Centre	£275,000

Mauchline CARS

With the upcoming appointment of a dedicated Conservation Accredited Architect, the **Mauchline CARS** project will very soon be open to applications for grant funding for repairs and improvements to Priority Buildings and other key buildings within the focus area of the Mauchline Conservation Area. We already have several expressions of interest which we hope to be able to progress as soon as possible.

We have managed to secure a two day visit from **Scotland's Rock Art Project Team** to work with community volunteers undertaking Archaeological Fieldwork - Researching, 3D modelling and recording, the unique Neolithic/Bronze Age Cup and Ring Marks and other glyphs close to Ballochmyle Viaduct.

We will be seeking Volunteers to take part in this and other Community Participation and Educational Activities later in the year.

Due to COVID-19, we are still unable to occupy our new Project Office in Mauchline. However, we are working towards this.

