

# **Darvel & District**

## **Community Action Plan**

**2020 - 2025**





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Darvel & District Community Action Plan  
2020 - 2025



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# Introduction

Darvel & District Community Action Plan  
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A Community Action Plan seeks to engage a community in identifying priorities for their area and to stimulate the community into making those priorities happen. The plan is not a shopping list for things we want done. This plan is a vision for how we want Darvel & District to be. It's up to us as a local community, working alongside others, to get involved and make things happen.

The Coronavirus pandemic has had a major impact on the life of all communities across the world and the action plan attempts to chart how the resilience of the Darvel & District community - so obvious through the lockdown and subsequently - can be built upon as we look towards a different kind of future.

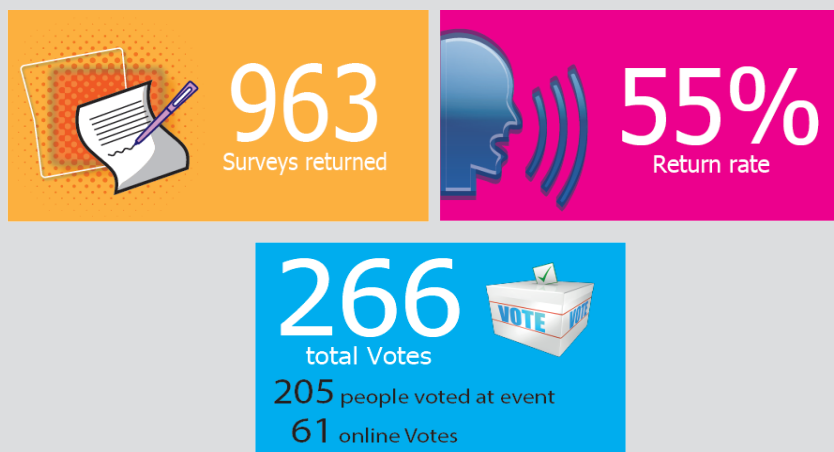
There are many groups, organisations and individuals within the town and surrounding area that actively encourage the local community to get involved and help provide services, facilities and community events. The Community Action Plan is an attempt to develop one vision for Darvel & District that will chime with the residents and encourage continued active involvement in making the town a better place in which to live, work and visit.

Within this document, we will share the outcome of our engagement exercises and detail the priorities for the next five years. The plan is for the whole community and is jointly owned by all the organisations and individuals in Darvel & District. We will be working together to ensure its implementation over the next five years.

The consultation process involved the following:

- a household questionnaire delivered to all households
- 2 community events - June 2019 and February 2020
- focus group discussions, with different groups representing all aspects and ages of the community
- online questionnaire and survey

We received 963 responses from households both online and in paper returns. This is the equivalent of 55% of households in Darvel & District responding. We also hosted a community voting event to decide the final priorities to be included in the plan with 266 people voting on the day and online. This has been an excellent response from the community.





# Community Profile

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## Location

Located in East Ayrshire, the town of Darvel lies at the head of the Irvine Valley on the busy A71. It lies on the border between East Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire and it is an important gateway to Ayrshire for visitors, commuters and commercial vehicles. For many, Darvel is their first experience of East Ayrshire.

## Population

Following a decline during the latter part of the 20th century, the population of Darvel & District has risen steadily over the last twenty years. At the last Census in 2011, 3,871 people lived in Darvel & District. Of the 3,871 people, 55.5% are between the ages of 16 and 60, 17.5% are under the age of 16 and 27% are over the age of 60.

## Housing

Total number of dwellings in Darvel & District as at the Census in 2011 was 1,763. Of these there is a higher level of owner occupied housing than the East Ayrshire and Scotland average and also a lower level of other social rented and private rented housing. The area also reports a higher amount of those living rent free.

## The Darvel Community

The community is a very active and caring community. If this needed to be shown then the response of Darvel to Covid-19 clearly indicates this with many, many neighbours helping neighbours, the Darvel Dinner Ladies continuing to provide meals to families in need, the work of the Crossroads hub and the support for residents given by the Coronavirus Support Group. Our community is a caring and compassionate community.

## Community groups and clubs include:

Darvel & District Community Council, DIG (Darvel Improvement Group), Darvel Music Company, Darvel Dinner Ladies, Darvel Community Trust (Sports Darvel), DART (Darvel Area Regeneration Team), Bowling Club, Craft Angels, Darvel Mother & Toddlers, Darvel Juniors Football Team, Darvel Victoria FC, One O'Clock Club, Supper Club, Flame Church, Darvel Primary Parent Council, WRI, Ranger Guides, Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Hub Mums and Bubs Group, Soup/Lunch Club and Ladies Peer Support Group, Darvel Gaming Group, Gala Committee, MIST Productions, Valley Twalk Group, Slimming World.



# Community Profile

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## Heritage and History

Established as a town in 1752, Darvel's history and existence is closely connected to weaving and by the 1920's lace furnishings industry in the valley had become the largest in the world. Darvel is the birthplace of Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin, the world's first antibiotic. And isn't it a remarkable parallel here as the world searches for a vaccine to counter the coronavirus. The world is looking for a modern-day Fleming.

In addition, Loudoun Hill is the site of two battles, one involving Bruce which was the first victory he achieved in the Scottish wars of independence in the 13th century. There are few towns which can directly see the site of a momentous battlefield.

Heritage features in the town and the area include: The memorial to Sir Alexander Fleming in Hastings Square; Weavers' cottages and houses; The Town Hall – the third largest hall in East Ayrshire; The Telephone Museum; The Dagon Stone in Hastings Square; SAS and War memorials; Chambered cairn at Loanfoot Farm and the site of the Roman encampment at Loudoun Hill (no longer visible).

## Employment

Darvel has 2,880 people between the ages of 16 and 74. The figures indicate 39.5% of economically active people work in full time employment. Self-employment represents 7.5% of economic activity while unemployment in Darvel stood at 5.6% at the time of the 2011 Census. Economically inactive people are mainly represented by those who are retired, at 18.7%. There were 162 people counted as unemployed in Darvel at the time of the census in 2011. In addition to natural changes which would have occurred in the 9 years since then, Covid-19 is currently having an impact on the unemployment rate which it is anticipated will rise.

In the employment sector there are higher levels of people working in the manufacturing, construction and administrative and support services activities sectors than the East Ayrshire and Scotland averages.

Of course, at one time Darvel and neighbouring Newmilns had thriving lace and textile manufacturing industries. Sadly, the industry declined towards the end of the 20th century and the last power looms closed in 2007. Darvel is now primarily a dormitory town with much of the workforce commuting to work elsewhere. Having said that, there are still many small businesses in the town and 27 working farms in the area.

## Education

The Darvel Early Childhood Centre has places for 120 children. Darvel Primary School is the main primary school in the local area. St Sophia's Primary School in Galston is also attended by some local children.

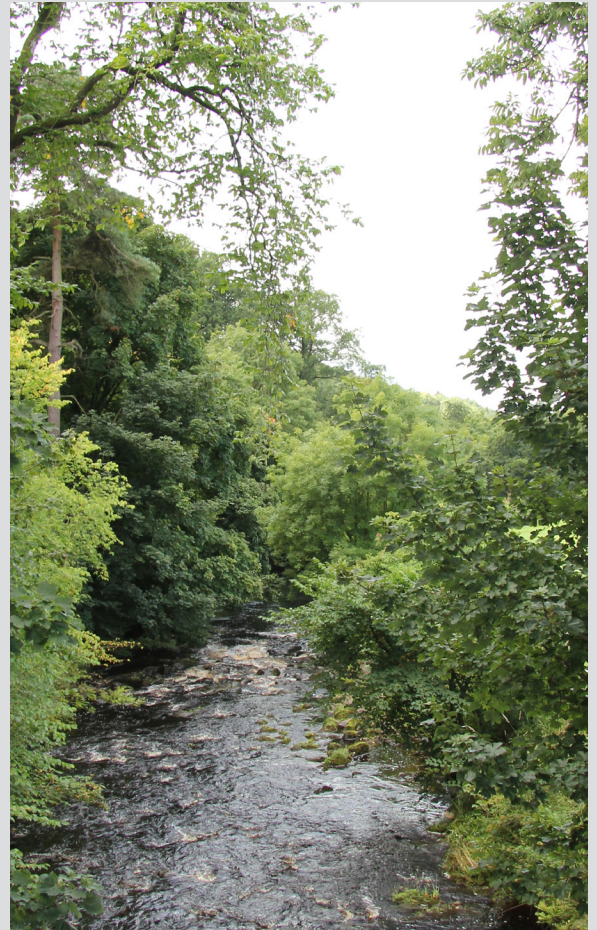
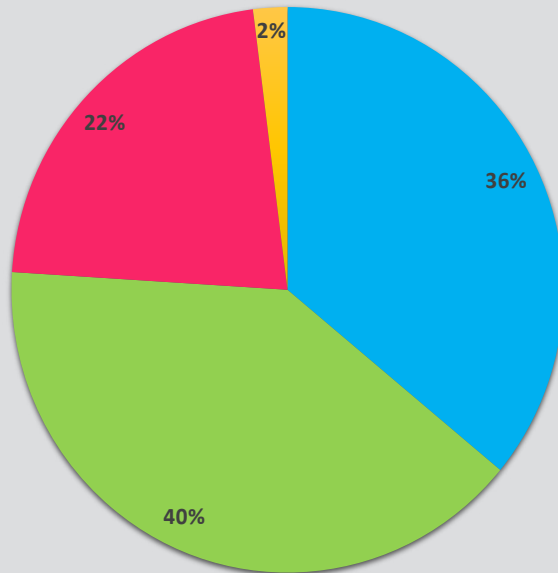
Darvel Early Childhood Centre and Darvel Primary School are part of the Loudoun Learning Community. Secondary aged pupils from Darvel are zoned for Loudoun Academy, approximately 4 miles away while some also travel to St Joseph's Academy in Kilmarnock.



# Likes

Darvel & District Community Action Plan  
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Community Spirit Location Facilities Other



**Over 900 responses were made by our local residents of all ages in our community views surveys and questionnaires.**

## What People Said

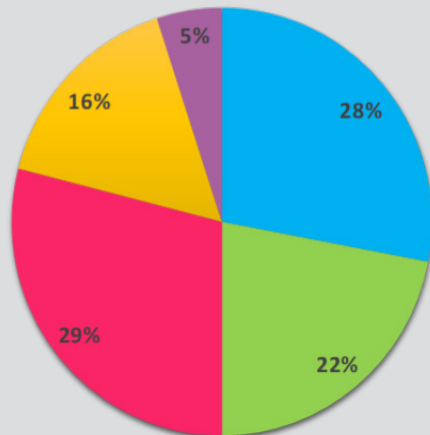
- Marvellous setting surrounded by excellent countryside
- Loving the community spirit that has recently shown how strong we can be
- Community spirit is probably the most important aspect as having groups of people dedicated to making Darvel a great place to live
- The sense of rural tranquillity with ease of access to the countryside
- There is a very strong community feeling in the area with a large number of voluntary groups looking to help various groups of residents
- Beautiful countryside, friendly people. Good location for coast and city access. The recently renovated Hastings Square is looking great
- The community feel, the new rose garden, the park and the Lanfine Estate walks
- Welcoming community and sense of togetherness when things need done
- Lovely members of the community. Very clean, good upkeep of public areas compared to many other towns or areas. Very polite young people/children
- I like living in a community that cares about the town. Most of the people say hello when they see you and would help you if you need it



# Dislikes

Darvel & District Community Action Plan  
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■ Built Environment      ■ Traffic and Transport  
■ Lack of Community Participation      ■ Facilities  
■ Other



## What People Said

- The general run down state of the town with derelict buildings
- Lack of transport to areas such as Strathaven, East Kilbride. The disused buildings left to crumble and the lack of shops
- Negativity of some of people born and bred in Darvel to new ideas
- The number of empty buildings which have fallen into disrepair due to neglect by the council or private owners
- Littering seems to be endemic as does dog fouling
- Heavy traffic and congested streets. Litter. Dilapidated, neglected and derelict buildings
- The lack of tourism funding invested in the area
- The area generally is run down. The roads around most of Darvel are in terrible condition and the Main Street is let down by abandoned buildings and poorly maintained private let and council let properties built in the 60s/70s
- Not a great area for shopping. It also seems to be difficult for Darvel to support a decent coffee shop
- The fact it has become a Dormitory Town and as such there is a distinct lack of enthusiasm from the younger/middle aged people to join and take part in voluntary work or groups
- Some anti-social behaviours



# Vision Statements For Darvel 2025



**This statement has been prepared to summarise the main aspirations for the future as expressed by local people and organisations in their replies to the survey and stakeholder interviews.**

**An attractive and safe residential town with a great quality of life**

- A pretty town where people can enjoy bringing up their children
- A town in which anti-social behaviour is not tolerated
- An attractive main street where the removal and renovation of derelict properties and the sprucing up of unsightly buildings has made it more appealing to all

**A town which continues to be recognised internationally as a Music Town**

- A great place to enjoy music at the Darvel Music Festival
- With more regular music events throughout the year
- With music promoted and celebrated throughout the town

**A town which is widely recognised for its heritage**

- A great place to learn about the history of lace manufacturing and weaving
- A great place to learn about Sir Alexander Fleming

**A town with good and well-kept open spaces and good access into the countryside**

- A place with good parks and recreational facilities
- A place that is a good base for walking, cycling and other outdoor activities

**A town with good community facilities, events and activities, with a strong community spirit**

- Retained and developed community facilities which are well used and run
- Friendly community with regular community wide events
- With strong community organisations working well together
- Where local people become actively involved in supporting local projects and initiatives

**A market town with a good mix of shops, cafes, and places to stay**

- Known as a good place to set up and run a business with a growing economic base
- A vibrant main street with a thriving regular market
- Where local people choose to do much of their shopping





# Making it Happen

Darvel & District Community Action Plan  
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The Community Action Plan Steering Group has strived to engage and consult with our community to ensure that the priorities presented here are wholly representative of views in the town and surrounding area. The Period of engagement took place between April 2019 and February 2020.

Local groups and individuals will continue to work together to take forward local priorities within the Community Action Plan. The projects listed here will need to be progressed by the local community and our community organisations with the support of a wide range of stakeholders and partners as indicated for each of the priorities.

The Community Action Plan is the vision of the local community and aspirational for Darvel & District. We recognise that we won't be able to complete all the actions within the plan, but will strive to be transparent in our progress and try our best to represent the whole community and drive progress locally.

In tandem with this, it is intended that a placemaking map is produced. Placemaking is a process that provides further opportunity for residents to influence the priorities for our town.

In order to assist the process a strategy group has been established to represent a range of organisations that contribute to the life and spirit of Darvel – Darvel & District Community Council, Darvel Improvement Group, DART, Gala Committee; Darvel Music Company, Darvel Community Trust (Sports Darvel) and other voluntary organisations. In addition to assisting in the coordination of activities and developments within the town, the strategy group will monitor the implementation of the Community Action Plan and produce an annual progress report for the community.

## Thank You

The Steering Group would like to thank all those who took the time to share their views and to all who gave their time willingly and voluntarily to be part of the Steering Group, hand out surveys and organise the voting event.

The Darvel Community Action Plan was resourced and supported in partnership with East Ayrshire Council's Vibrant Communities. East Ayrshire Community Led Action Planning is based on the Community Futures Programme designed and supported by STAR Development Group.





Theme 1

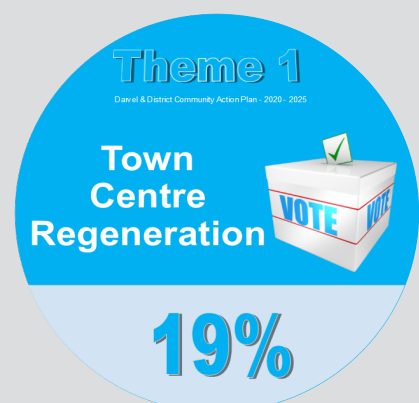
## Town Centre Regeneration

Darvel & District Community Action Plan - 2020 - 2025

Darvel is an attractive small country town – but is blighted by some derelict buildings – in particular the Turf Hotel and some Council property. The consultation for this action plan recognised that one of the derelict buildings had now been demolished with plans in place for Darvel's Garden and Market – The Corner. There is a need to continue to press for further improvement.

### Main Priorities

- Address derelict property on Main Street (specifically the Turf Hotel and 85/87 East Main Street)
- Improve the general appearance of property and streetscape of Main Street, including the Town Hall, the provision of Christmas decorations and planters/hanging baskets
- Ensure The Corner development is completed and its potential realised
- Increase the number of local shops and businesses



What needs to be done?	How should it be done?
Address derelict property on Main Street (specifically the Turf Hotel and 85/87 East Main Street)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate options for dealing with the derelict Turf Hotel in conjunction with EAC and determine an appropriate course of action</li> <li>Identify other property falling into this category and develop action plan to address this</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC/DART	
Improve the general appearance of property and streetscape of Main Street, including the Town Hall, the provision of Christmas decorations and planters/hanging baskets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage owners of property/businesses to take greater pride in the front of premises</li> <li>Liaise with EAC to secure further improvements to council properties (following the painting of residential property in Hastings Square)</li> <li>Ensure improvements identified in the recent participative budgeting exercise are carried through</li> <li>Liaise with EAC Housing on the longer term potential use of the site of 85/87 East Main St after demolition</li> <li>Continue to undertake the excellent annual work in maintaining (or expanding) the hanging basket and planter provision</li> <li>Identify sources of funding to assist in extending the Christmas decorations, particularly in the town centre area (Hastings Square and The Corner)</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC (with EAC Housing), DIG and DART	
Ensure The Corner development is completed and its potential realised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek additional external funding to allow the completion of the full project</li> <li>Engage contractors to undertake work</li> <li>Develop effective marketing strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DART	
Increase the number of local shops and businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This priority is dependent on what opportunities potential shops and businesses see within the town</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC and DART	







Theme 2

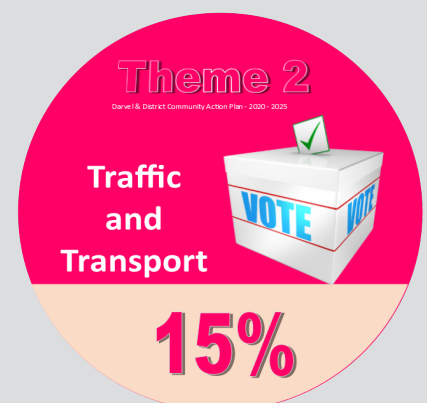
## Traffic and Transport

Darvel & District Community Action Plan - 2020 - 2025

The A71 runs through Darvel and residents expressed concerns about the high level of HGV transport and excessive speed through the town. Significant concerns were raised about the general condition of the roads and pavements throughout the town. Parking along the Main Street remains an issue and residents also called for improved public transport.

### Main Priorities

- Improve road and pavement maintenance
- Ensure road safety along Main Street
- Address Main Street parking issues
- Sustain improvements in local bus service
- Consider options and opportunities to develop an infrastructure which encourages the use of sustainable transport



What needs to be done?	How should it be done?
Improve road and pavement maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibility lies with Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA)</li> <li>• Liaise with ARA to secure appropriate level of support for the town</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC to engage ARA in discussion about levels of maintenance	
Ensure road safety along Main Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reality is that the A71 is a trunk road and therefore requires to carry HGV traffic through the town. There may be some scope for discussion about promoting the orbital route as an alternative</li> <li>• Always be aware of the business benefits derived by local business from passing traffic</li> <li>• In conjunction with ARA, EAC and other organisations identify traffic calming measures which might reduce the attraction of the A71 as a through route for HGV's</li> <li>• Investigate the options for speed reduction or calming measures along Main Street</li> <li>• Liaise with other Valley Communities and Strathaven CC to determine if a common traffic control strategy can be agreed</li> <li>• Initiate discussion on the suitability of fixed speed cameras or reduced speed limits along the valley route</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC and ARA	
Address Main Street parking issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite ARA to review the parking arrangements along Main Street, particularly adjacent to street corners</li> <li>• Consider removal of extended kerbs at junctions and introduction of corner parking restrictions</li> <li>• Review potential of other present or future vacant areas adjacent to Main Street.</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC to engage with relevant local groups, Sustrans and transport providers	
Sustain improvements in local bus service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold further discussions with Stagecoach and other relevant providers to options appraise the local bus offer</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC	
Consider options and opportunities to develop an infrastructure which supports and encourages the use of sustainable transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with local walking and cycling groups to identify issues and requirements</li> <li>• Open dialogue with public transport providers and EAC to identify sustainable transport options</li> <li>• Engage with organisations like Sustrans to determine what assistance might be available to support this strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC	





Theme 3

## Community Facilities and Activities

Darvel & District Community Action Plan - 2020 - 2025

Since the previous Community Action Plan was published in 2014 steps have been taken by Darvel Community Trust to retain the sports hall but concerns were raised in the consultation that the town hall and library might still be under threat of closure. There was also a call for a wider range of community events to be organised, although there does remain the uncertainty about such initiatives in the aftermath of Covid-19.

### Main Priorities

- Maintain and expand the use of the Town Hall
- Further develop provision at Sports Darvel
- Widen the range of arts activity within the town
- Widen the range of community events (for example repeating the excellent 2019 Scarecrow Festival)
- Look to develop appropriate facilities and increase activities for young people



What needs to be done?	How should it be done?
Maintain and expand use of the Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a working group to review the current usage of the town hall and formulate plans for extending its use</li> <li>Review the long term future for the town hall and prepare proposals for consideration by DDCC</li> <li>Carry out further promotions on the use of the Darvel Library</li> <li>Darvel Music Company to consider increasing use of town hall</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC/DART/Darvel Strategy Group/Darvel Music Company	
Further develop provision at Sports Darvel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans have been prepared by Darvel Community Trust to extend the facilities at Sports Darvel</li> <li>Look to secure necessary resources to enable further development to proceed</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> Darvel Community Trust (Sports Darvel)	
Widen the range of arts activity within the town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine the potential of developing further the scope for widening the range of arts activities (art, photography, music, crafts) in the town through short life working group</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DART (possible input from Darvel Music Company and voluntary groups)	
Widen the range of community events (for example repeating the excellent 2019 Scarecrow Festival)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure current level of annual events is maintained</li> <li>Produce an annual calendar of projected events</li> <li>Investigate possibility of mounting a significant community event at Christmas</li> <li>Maximise support for Walkfest – the Valley's Walking Festival</li> <li>Use social media to advertise walking programmes</li> <li>Liaise with East Ayrshire Leisure Trust to secure improvements to the paths network</li> <li>Establish a community choir</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> Gala Committee, Darvel Music Company, voluntary groups, DART	
Look to develop appropriate facilities and increase activities for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities should be explored to widen activities for young people</li> <li>Promote community support for current activities</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> Sports Darvel, Youth organisations	





Theme 4

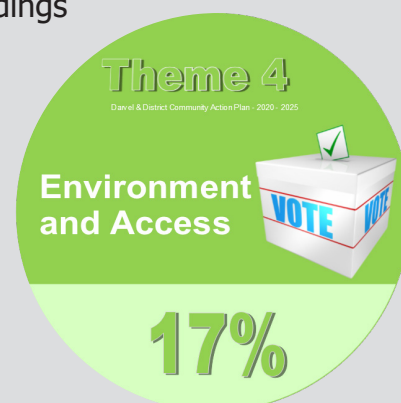
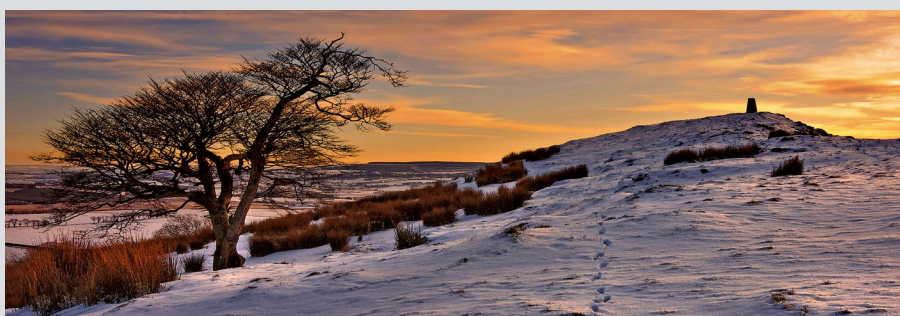
## Environment and Access

Darvel & District Community Action Plan - 2020 - 2025

In addition to derelict property in Main Street, there was a very significant call for the site of the former factory on Jamieson Road to be addressed, together with other derelict sites in the town. Concerns were also expressed about the quality of maintenance of open areas in the town, including Morton Park, Hutchison Drive Park and the Waterlip walk. There is also a desire to increase level of recycling in the town.

### Main Priorities

- Address the site of the former factory on Jamieson Road
- Improve the look of derelict sites within the town
- Continue to improve the green areas of the town and surroundings
- Increase level of effective recycling





What needs to be done?	How should it be done?
Address the site of former factory on Jamieson Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate how this particular site might be best addressed in conjunction with EAC</li> <li>Formulate an action plan for future use if a possible solution can be identified</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC and DART	
Improve the look of derelict sites within the town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial discussion with EAC Outdoor Services and EAC Housing</li> <li>Formulate plans, engaging voluntary support if necessary</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC and youth groups (brownies etc) to take lead, DIG and DART	
Continue to improve the green areas of the town and surroundings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial discussion with EAC Outdoor Services and EAC Housing</li> <li>Formulate plans, engaging voluntary support if necessary</li> <li>Arrange meetings with EAC Outdoor Services to identify plan of securing improvements over a 5 year plan as part of the participative budgeting exercise</li> <li>Investigate possible provision of accessible play equipment</li> <li>Improve entrances to Morton Park</li> <li>Improve the appearance of riverside walks</li> <li>Continue with community based projects to discourage dog fouling</li> <li>Improved maintenance and signage of the paths network</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC, DIG and DART in conjunction with EAC Outdoor Services	
Increase level of effective recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate publicity drive to encourage recycling (particularly plastic)</li> <li>Discussion with EAC about possibility of reinstating and relocating large bins in the town</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC	







Theme 5

## Local Economy Heritage and Tourism

Darvel & District Community Action Plan - 2020 - 2025

While recognising that much shopping is done in other towns such as Galston and Kilmarnock, there was a call for an increased level of shopping locally. Despite steps being taken previously, the consultation indicated a desire for increased attention to be given to local heritage and an effort to improve the attraction of the town for visitors and for residents. Lack of facilities was highlighted together with the need for improvements in the Irvine Valley paths network.

### Main Priorities

- Encourage greater levels of local shopping
- Ensure Darvel remains internationally known for its music
- Continue to promote the culture, heritage and history of Darvel
- Develop facilities to attract visitors and provide for residents



What needs to be done?	How should it be done?
Encourage greater levels of local shopping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with EAC to consider potential business incentives</li> <li>• Establish a shop/business forum to assist local establishments work together to increase business (eg loyalty system)</li> <li>• Carry out regular promotions of shop local events</li> <li>• Produce a comprehensive directory of local shops, businesses and home-based craft entrepreneurs</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC/DART	
Ensure Darvel remains internationally known for its music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore ways in which town hall could be more effectively used for concerts</li> <li>• Consider potential of The Corner as outdoor performance venue</li> <li>• Celebrate the forthcoming 20th anniversary of the Music Festival</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> Darvel Music Company	
Continue to promote the culture, heritage and history of Darvel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicise the existence of the Darvel Heritage Museum using social media and information board</li> <li>• Investigate the development of an interactive Darvel website</li> <li>• Examine potential of incorporating history and heritage elements into The Corner</li> <li>• Identify required resources for renovation of the Sir Alexander Memorial</li> <li>• Demolition of existing memorial and surrounding area. Replace with new design having an educational theme and seated area</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC	
Develop facilities to attract visitors and provide for residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine ways in which facilities within the town can be developed in order to attract visitors and provide for residents (e.g. public toilets, coffee shop)</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC, Sports Darvel	





Theme 6

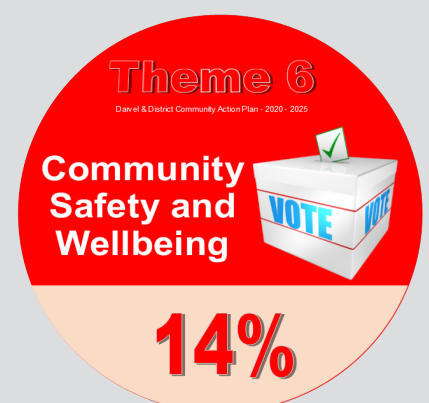
# Community Safety and Wellbeing

Darvel & District Community Action Plan - 2020 - 2025

The consultation picked up concerns about the visibility of police officers, the levels of anti-social behaviour and disappointment at the levels of voluntary activity. The impact of Covid-19 has highlighted various issues relating to the wellbeing of many of our families and the elderly but also demonstrated the resilience of the Darvel Community and the willingness of many residents to volunteer their help.

## Main Priorities

- Increase the visibility of police officers
- Continue to reduce anti-social behaviour
- Increase the levels of voluntary activity in local projects
- Ensure effective communication and dissemination of information about developments and activities within the town



What needs to be done?	How should it be done?
Increase visibility of police officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine crime levels over recent years</li> <li>• Liaise with Police Scotland to ensure reasonable visibility of police officers in the town</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC	
Continue to reduce anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support police by discouraging such behaviour and encouraging parents to take responsibility for behaviour of children</li> <li>• Work with young people to promote pride in the community</li> <li>• Identify specific projects young people can be involved in eg graffiti art at skatepark</li> <li>• Encourage responsible dog ownership to reduce dog fouling – make bags freely available</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> Community groups (youth groups etc)	
Increase levels of voluntary activity in local projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote involvement of residents in voluntary activity</li> <li>• Ensure opportunities are well publicised</li> <li>• Strategic funding applications to support voluntary groups</li> <li>• Cohesive and collaborative working between voluntary groups</li> <li>• Holistic approach to community needs</li> <li>• Identify specific people / skills that can be utilised for supporting / establishing community groups</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> DDCC, DART, DIG, Darvel Strategy Group, other organisations	
Ensure effective communication and dissemination of information about developments and activities within the town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compile a comprehensive database of the range of community activity, groups etc to include regular / weekly activities as well as annual / special events</li> <li>• Maximise the use of social media and explore the possibility of developing a web site</li> <li>• Make better use of community spaces to highlight whats on – shops, new notice board etc</li> </ul>
<b>Who's doing it?</b> All community organisations. Strategy Group to co-ordinate	





## Achievements So Far

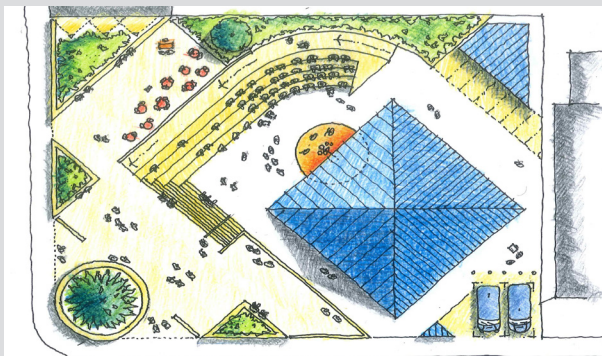
### COOPERATIVE BUILDING

Darvel & District Community Council (DDCC) has taken the lead in tackling Main Street regeneration liaising with EAC. The derelict Cooperative buildings were demolished in September 2019 and plans were developed for Darvel's Garden and Market, now renamed THE CORNER. DART has taken responsibility for leading the project.



### THE CORNER

Plans have now been finalised for the development of The Corner on the site of the cooperative buildings. In addition to providing a market location the development will offer a performance venue, a site for a range of community activities, a gathering point and a meeting place for cyclists and walkers.



### HASTINGS SQUARE

Conversations with East Ayrshire Council resulted in a major improvement to Hastings Square with the tenement properties being painted in attractive pastel shades. The reaction of the community has been extremely positive.





## **DARVEL TOWN HALL**

Concerns were expressed that the Town Hall and the library were in danger of being closed. Increased usage of the library and continued use of the Town Hall has ensured its existence continues.



## **THE ROSE GARDEN**

The Darvel Improvement Group through a renewable energy grant combined with local fund raising and sponsorship succeeded in complete transformation of the garden. The renovation of the rose garden is regarded as a tremendous achievement. Rarely a day goes by without residents and visitors spending time in the garden.



## **SPORTS DARVEL**

Darvel was in the very serious position of losing the leisure centre until Sports Darvel (the charitable Darvel Community Trust) intervened in June 2017 and through their hard work has seen the centre not only survive but thrive. The centre has very ambitious plans moving forward, culminating in an extensive revamp for the centre.



## **DARVEL—A MUSIC TOWN**

The establishment of the Darvel Music Company has seen the town become established as a national and indeed internationally recognised music venue. The music festival since its inception has proved very valuable to our community and the last 5 years have proved no different, with some bands choosing to make the festival - their only scottish date.



*Darvel and District  
Community Action Plan Steering Group  
working together with*

