

A Progress Report on our Community Action Plan

Following consultation with the Darvel community, the Community Action Plan was published in September 2020. A copy can be found on the East Ayrshire Council's website: [Darvel and District Community Action Plan 2 \(east-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk).

6 key themes for action were identified in the plan and several priorities were identified for each. Here is a brief update on progress being made in implementing these priorities. A lot of progress has been made

Theme 1 Town Centre Regeneration

Main Priority	Brief Summary of Progress
Address Derelict Property on Main St (Turf Hotel)	Work has now started in converting the property into three dwelling houses
Improve appearance of property and streetscape of Main St	Placemaking exercise completed. Former Horseshoe Bar now converted to veterinary surgeon. Funding allocated from Darvel Lottery for Christmas lights. DIG has refreshed all planters, flower beds and hanging baskets
Ensure Corner Development is completed	Funding of £430,000 has been secured. Groundwork commenced on 21 June and good progress is being made. Scheduled completion date for all groundworks – early October. Funding now being sought for construction of the canopy.
Increase number of local shops and businesses	A long overdue addition to the local businesses is the new coffee house and ice cream parlour – Stormin Norman's.

Theme 2: Traffic and Transport

Main Priority	Brief Summary of Progress
Improve road and pavement maintenance	Repairs to the bus stops completed following concerns raised by residents. Concerns remain about road and pavement surfaces
Ensure road safety along Main St	Road traffic survey by ARA completed. Report of findings awaited. Request made for survey in Priestland
Address Main St parking issues	ARA has undertaken a further survey of parking concerns raised by the community. Action awaited.
Sustain improvements in local bus service	4 buses per hour service reinstated. Route to Strathaven will not be reintroduced.
Consider options and opportunities to develop infrastructure that encourages sustainable transport	Discussions ongoing with Sustrans to create cycle station in the Corner, together with cycle routes in the area. EAC has installed a car charging point in Ranoldcupp Road car park.

Theme 3: Community Facilities and Activities

Main Priority	Brief Summary of Progress
Maintain and expand the use of the Town Hall	Report produced by DDCC and DART. Steering Group set up by East Ayrshire Leisure to develop proposals for modernisation of the town hall. First meeting in August.
Further develop provision at Sports Darvel	Following pandemic, Sports Darvel is moving towards full return of activity. Renovations and improvements to the centre underway re accessibility, gym equipment, lighting and security.
Widen the range of arts activity within the town	Darvel Photography introduced by DART, monthly winners chosen and successful photographs will feature in the Darvel 2022 online calendar.
Widen the range of community events	Despite the impact of the pandemic a very successful Christmas Package of activities was provided in the town. It is hoped that relaxation of Covid restrictions will allow various community events to be restarted – the Scarecrow Festival and events organised by the Darvel Music Company.
Look to develop appropriate facilities and activities for young people	Sports Darvel are currently developing plans for additional activities for young people.

Theme 4: Environment and Access

Main Priority	Brief Summary of Progress
Address the site of the former factory on Jamieson Road	No real progress. Some steps taken by the Council to improve security. Owners of the site not interested in any improvement or repurposing.
Improve the look of derelict sites within the town	Good progress being made- The Corner, Renovation of the Turf and the Horseshoe Bar as dwelling houses and VET respectively.
Continue to improve the green areas of the town and surroundings	Waterlip improvements completed and pamphlet produced. Proposals for the regeneration of Morton Park being taken forward by project team. Community survey has been carried out. Litter picks have increased with several local initiatives now being taken forward. Plans for wild flowering of several location being pursued.
Increase level of effective recycling	Consideration being given to ways of encouraging recycling.

Theme 5: Local Economy, Heritage and Tourism

Main Priority	Brief Summary of Progress
Encourage greater levels of local shopping	Social media campaign. Irvine Valley Business inventory for shops and business in Galston, Newmilns and Darvel issued to all households
Ensure Darvel remains internationally known for its music	Music Company planning on restarting concerts from November 2021 with further dates in March 2022. Preparation of anniversary book to be published in 2022
Continue to promote the culture, heritage and history of Darvel	Darvel Heritage Walk pamphlet prepared. As part of the Ton Hall Modernisation proposals, consideration will be given to expanding and possibly relocating the Heritage Museum. DIG continues to progress plans for the renovation of the Sir Alexander Fleming memorial.
Develop facilities to attract visitors and provide for residents	The ilovedarvel website has been renamed discoverdarvel and launched. Discover Darvel car stickers produced. Report Darvel: A Town in Transition produced. Plans being developed for Morton Park regeneration including proposals for café and toilets. Stormin Normans coffee house opened.

Theme 6: Community Safety and Wellbeing

Main Priority	Brief Summary of Progress
Increase visibility of police officers	Police presence evident through use of quad bikes
Continue to reduce anti social behaviour	Litter picks organised and poster and social media campaigns initiated.
Increase level of voluntary activity in local projects	High level of voluntary activity – including volunteers for the Coronavirus Support Team, and for supporting planting, watering and maintaining flowered areas throughout the town. The TWALK group
Ensure effective communication and dissemination of information about developments and activities within the town	Extensive use of the discover darvel (DDCC) Facebook page. A coordinating group (Darvel Strategy Group) established by the community council to assist communications and coordination. Darvel online Bulletin introduced in 2020. Bulletin 6 now published. New Darvel website launched in June 2021 (discover darvel)
Response to Covid and support for community wellbeing (Although not identified in the consultation, this was an inevitable consequence of Covid-19)	Extensive support provided during the pandemic: The Coronavirus Support Group offered range of support, together with online family fun nights and online Darvel summer music event. Get Darvel Cooking initiative continuing (DART and Crossroads Hub). Darvel Wellbeing Project being considered.
Renewal and Recovery from Covid-19 (as above, a	Various submissions made by the Community Council on post pandemic support. Also report produced (Darvel: A Town in Transition) promoting change