

# FENWICK VILLAGE



**COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2014-2019**



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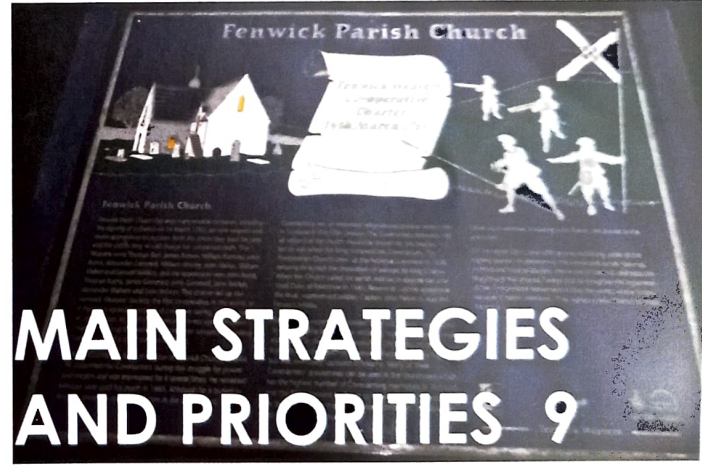
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# INTRODUCTION



This Community Action Plan summarises community views about:

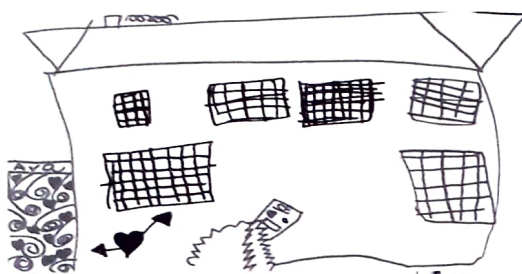
- Fenwick now
- The vision for the future of Fenwick
- The issues that matter most to the community
- Our priorities for projects and action.



The plan is our guide for what we - as a community - will try to make happen over the next 5 years.

## FENWICK COMMUNITY FUTURES STEERING GROUP

The preparation of the Action Plan has been guided by a local steering group which brought together representatives from Fenwick Community Council, Fenwick Community Group, Fenwick Weavers, the Fulton Club, other local groups and interested residents.



**193 COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY FORMS WERE RETURNED FROM 450 HOUSES**  
**STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS AND FOCUS GROUPS WERE HELD WITH LOCAL GROUPS,**  
**BUSINESSES, AND SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS**  
**154 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE COMMUNITY FUTURES EVENT**

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART – IT'S A GREAT RESPONSE AND**  
**GIVES WEIGHT TO THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN THIS PLAN**



# OUR COMMUNITY NOW

## FACTS & FIGURES

We have summarised below some of the main facts and figures from Community Profile – a report produced by the Steering Group to give a picture of Fenwick now.

### LOCATION

Fenwick is a small, historic village situated approximately 4 miles north east of Kilmarnock, bypassed by the busy M77 motorway. It comprises of two distinct areas, High Fenwick and Laigh Fenwick.

### POPULATION

The population estimate of the Fenwick Community Council area in 2011 was 1,019. Ten years previous the population was slightly higher at 1,060. During that period the percentage of children and working age adults decreased and the percentage of retired people increased. We now have a significantly higher percentage of over 60 year olds than East Ayrshire and Scotland.

### HOUSING

The size of the village has almost doubled in the last 20 years. Over the last few years there have been many new private developments, mainly large and expensive houses. Fenwick reports a higher level of owner occupied housing than the East Ayrshire and Scotland average. As a result, there is less local authority, social and private renting.

As at July 2013, the Council currently has a stock of 50 properties in Fenwick, with 155 people on the waiting list for a Council house.

### EMPLOYMENT AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Historically, the economy of the Fenwick area was based on quarrying and weaving. Fenwick Parish consisted of land of little use to agriculture owing to its boggy nature and although some was eventually drained and used, the land mainly supported sheep, cows and pigs. Some oats and flax were grown along with potatoes, these crops were mainly for local consumption.

Local stone, mainly limestone, was quarried. Some coal was found and some iron ore but not sufficient to be developed into a commercial proposition. Local trades included basket weaving from locally grown reeds and rushes. Weaving developed into a principal occupation for many in the village.

The most recent figures show that Fenwick has a lower rate of unemployment than East Ayrshire or Scotland as a whole with 70% of males and 54% of females economically active. Self employment in Fenwick is higher than in Scotland as a whole, due to the fact that we have quite a number of small local businesses and farms in the area.

### TRANSPORT AND ROAD LINKS

The A77 Fenwick bypass was built in the 1930's, and in 2005 the M77 was extended to reach Fenwick. It is literally a stone's throw from Fenwick to this busy road network linking Glasgow to Ayr and Stranraer. This makes Fenwick a popular location for driving commuters to live. Many though park their cars to car share for onward travel.

Fenwick benefits from a good regular bus service during the day to Glasgow and Kilmarnock, there is also a small local service to Galston.





# OUR COMMUNITY NOW

## EDUCATION

Fenwick Primary School roll in 2013 was 161. Maximum capacity is 210. Around 25% of the children are from out with the Fenwick area due to placement requests. Fenwick Pre'ss has space for 45 children. Most older Children travel to attend secondary school at Loudon Academy.

## COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The John Fulton Memorial Hall is run at the moment by East Ayrshire Council, but is the subject of the ongoing asset transfer review.

The Church has a well used hall with a small car park. We have tennis court, a basketball court, football pitch and pavilion all situated on the King George V Playing field. Also Fenwick has outdoor and indoor bowling. A small children's playpark is situated in Kirkton Road. A mobile library visits the village once a fortnight. The Covenanter is the monthly magazine produced by Fenwick Parish Church, with lots of information about groups and activities.

## HEALTH AND CARE SERVICES

There is a part time surgery but no car parking. There is no pharmacy in the village and the nearest dentist and optician is in Kilmarnock. The nearest hospital is in Kilmarnock. A group of local volunteers have been trained as 1st Responders to provide a response to emergency calls in the village. Hallhouse Care home provides a care facility for the elderly.

## ENVIRONMENT

There is access to the countryside using core paths that extend from the village. Craufurdland Estate is a family run estate offering accommodation, fisheries, 10km of mountain bike trails and a burial ground. The estate owner is keen to work with the community to develop paths from the village.

## HERITAGE

Fenwick, or Finnock as it was known, appears on one of the earliest maps of Scotland by Timothy Pont who compiled a map of Cunningham in 1600, it also appears on early road and track maps situated on the 'great' road between Glasgow and Ayr and the road to Irvine via Kilmaurs. Fenwick has very strong connections with the Covenanters and additionally its heritage includes that of being the place where 16 weavers in 1761 formed what has been recognised as the world's first co-operative for which full records exist.

## HISTORIC SITES AND FEATURES

- Lochgoin and Fenwick Covenanters monument and museum
- Fenwick Parish Church and graveyard
- Parliament wall where Weavers co-op used to meet.
- Weavers Trail





# OUR COMMUNITY NOW

## LIKES



2%	Environment and Outdoor Heritage
9%	History / Heritage
13%	Public Services / Transport
13%	Community facilities/organisations/events/information
17%	Local shops/other amenities
23%	Location
28%	Community spirit/Friendliness
36%	Nature of the Community

### What People Said...

*"Compact, not too large, it still maintains its identity"*

*"I feel totally safe and relaxed in Fenwick"*

*"Fenwick is a good place for kids to grow up".*

*"No one passes without a smile and even the young teenage boys will say "hello""*

*"Good transport links"*

*"Love the surrounding countryside"*

*"A village pub, village shop and post office"*

*"Shops are good and they know you"*

*"All the community organisations give a community spirit to the village."*

*"I think all the effort that goes into Gala week is admirable".*

*"The delivery of and information contained in the Covenanter magazine."*

*"Good bus services to Kilmarnock, Ayr and Glasgow"*

*"Good Nursery and School"*

*"The doctor's surgery is good"*

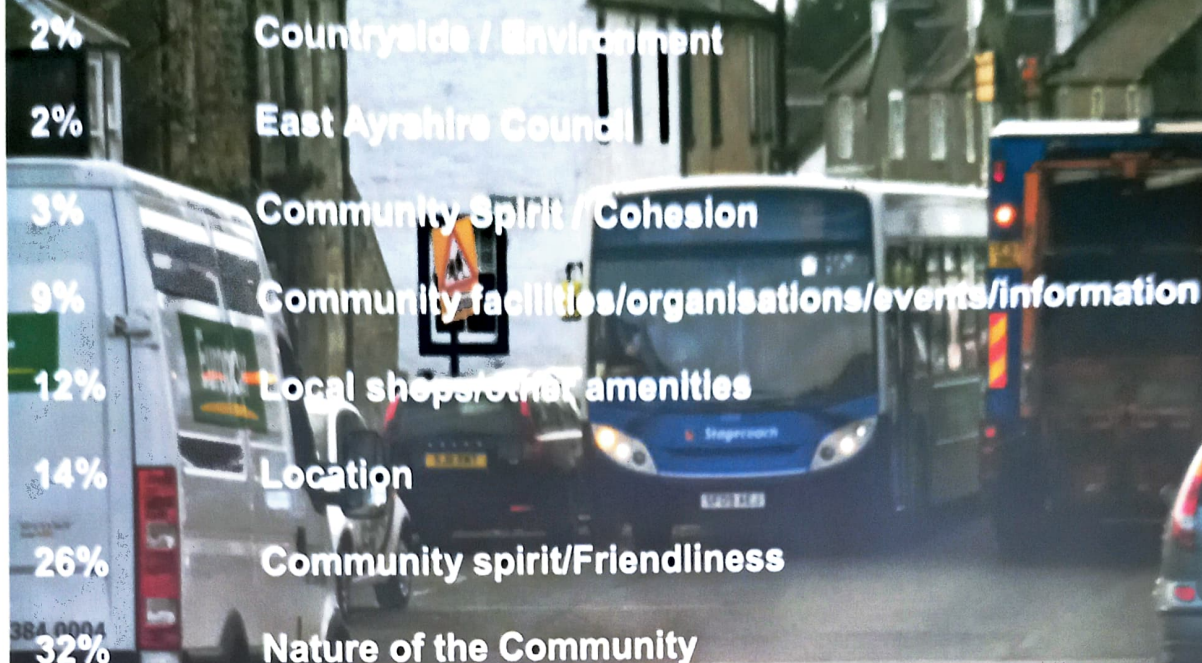
*"The Weavers history notice boards let visitors know about our heritage"*

*"I like the fact it is a conservation village and also the Covenanter history"*

*"Being able to walk peacefully in the countryside"*



# OUR COMMUNITY NOW DISLIKES



## What People Said

*"The swing park is in very poor condition" "Litter on the roads and pavements"*

*"Grass cutting needs to be put back to the way it was before all the budget cuts"*

*"Too many cars abandoned during the day"*

*"Pavements are too narrow or blocked in places. I have a large buggy and have to go on the road"*

*"The size it has grown to, it has lost its village status"*

*"The building of more houses outwith the keeping of the village"*

*"Lack of 1 and 2 bedroom houses, particularly needed for older people and young couples wishing to stay in the village"*

*"Lack of bus shelters/stops for express bus"*

*"No bus service to Stewarton and bus service to Kilmarnock very poor at night."*

*"Doctors surgery should have full time hours and reception area should have more privacy"*

*"If only people would start using the local shops and post office to keep them"*

*"Hate having to drive to Kilmarnock if I run out of bread and milk after 5pm"*

*"There is no community atmosphere anymore. People tend to keep themselves to themselves".*



# OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

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.



## **Making the most of our heritage & environment . . .**

Our vision will be to make more of our heritage and environment to bring more visitors to the village. We will celebrate and promote our Weavers and Covenanters history, and work together to improve safe access and a range of countryside pursuits.

## **Services, shops and the environment keep pace with housing, and not grow beyond a village . . .**

Our vision is to create a village with a strong focal point, attractive parks, open spaces, niche shops and good well used community sport and recreational facilities. There will be easy access to a range of quality services, including schools and health.



## **Well connected, but more than a commuting town and not over-run by cars . . .**

Whilst we have a well connected road network there is a definite need to improve public transport to major towns, cities and rural areas. We will not become a dormitory town or a giant car park

## **A community that works together & keeps community spirit alive . . .**



Fenwick will maintain a strong identity and sense of community largely through the efforts of local people, groups and organisations working together to make a positive contribution to village life. There will be more activities and events where we pull together, share experiences and where all of the community of all ages are included



# MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

*These are the main strategies and priorities identified by the local community in surveys, interviews and the profile and prioritised at the Community Event.*

## THEME 1:

### TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT & ROADS

Inconsiderate parking and lack of off road parking provision is a real problem for Fenwick. Its location just off the M77 makes it a popular spot for motorists to park and car share for onward journeys. In addition, there is inadequate parking for local facilities including the doctor's surgery, the Fulton Hall, the primary school and the Church Hall, which again means that the streets are full of cars. This causes serious problems for pedestrians crossing roads, and negotiating narrow pavements, particularly those in wheelchairs or with small children.

Many of our services and shopping needs are reached by public transport. The X77 express service bus is well used, but there are issues with accessibility which need to be addressed.

The condition of roads and pavements is also a concern, and exacerbates the problems caused by traffic and parking in the village.

#### Main priorities

- Develop a solution to the parking issues
- Improved access to bus services – bus stops, routes, timing
- Improve road and pavements surfaces

## THEME 2:

### ENVIRONMENT & ACCESS

Fenwick is an attractive conservation village, set in magnificent countryside, and so has a lot to offer both locals and visitors in the way of outdoor recreation. However, many people felt that the look of the village could be improved by a general tidy up – litter, dog fouling, unkempt areas.

There is already a reasonable network of paths out into the countryside, and these could be improved and made safer by creating more off road routes directly from the village, and developing clear signage – this would include routes to all surrounding areas.

#### Main priorities

- Tidy up the village
- Improve paths and walks into the countryside
- Make more community use of Craufurdland Estate





# MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

## THEME 3: COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

We have a large King George V Playing Field, which is greatly underused at present. The small children's play park opposite is in need of upgrading, and could benefit from being relocated in the King George V Field. This would make it more accessible for school children and create a one stop, well used leisure facility promoting sport and wellbeing for everyone. The Fenwick Community Group is currently looking to improve and extend the Pavilion for community use.

### Main priorities

- Re-develop the play park, including a skate park
- Improve pavilion for community use
- More activities for families and young people

## THEME 4: HERITAGE, VISITORS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

There are already many people coming to Fenwick from all over the world to tour the Fenwick Weavers Trail due to the important historical significance. The interpretation plaques and improvements to the village entrance from Kilmarnock are a great step forward, and we can now build on this by developing a heritage museum, and attracting and encouraging more businesses to set up.

### Main priorities

- Develop & promote local heritage to attract visitors
- Enhance entrances to the village
- Support local businesses
- Improve broadband and electricity supply.



## THEME 5: HOUSING & SERVICES

Fenwick has seen significant growth over the years and recognises the potential dangers of unmanaged growth. The survey noted that local views are not always taken into consideration in the planning process. There is a need for existing Council housing to be upgraded.

Existing services are much valued and well used – particularly the primary school, church and GP surgery. So, we would like to support and retain these vital services, and work with them to ensure that they grow and develop in a way that meets the needs of the community.

### Main priorities

- No more housing development
- Upgrade existing Council housing
- GP/health services more accessible
- Upgraded/extended primary and nursery provision

## THEME 6: FENWICK VILLAGE SQUARE

A possible solution to many of the issues raised by the community was brought forward at the Community Event. This Theme encompasses several of the priorities in other Themes, which will be taken forward at their own pace, but will all be part of an overall plan to develop a focal point in the village – Fenwick Village Square

### Main priorities

- Development of a central village square
- Relocation of play park to King George V Field
- Provision of off road parking facility around the new square
- Develop a heritage museum with facilities, alongside Church hall
- Reduce height of existing Church Wall to create a panoramic view





# ACTION

First steps to be taken over the next 12 months

## THEME 1: TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT AND ROADS

### PRIORITY 1

#### **Develop a solution to the parking issues**

- Work with Strathclyde Passenger Transport to undertake a feasibility study into options for park and ride, and pick up points to alleviate some of the parking issues
- As part of the Village Square development, consider off road parking provision

### PRIORITY 2

#### **Improved access to bus services**

- Work with Strathclyde Passenger Transport/Stagecoach to review possible improvements, including bringing the X77 into the village at peak times and improving the bus stops

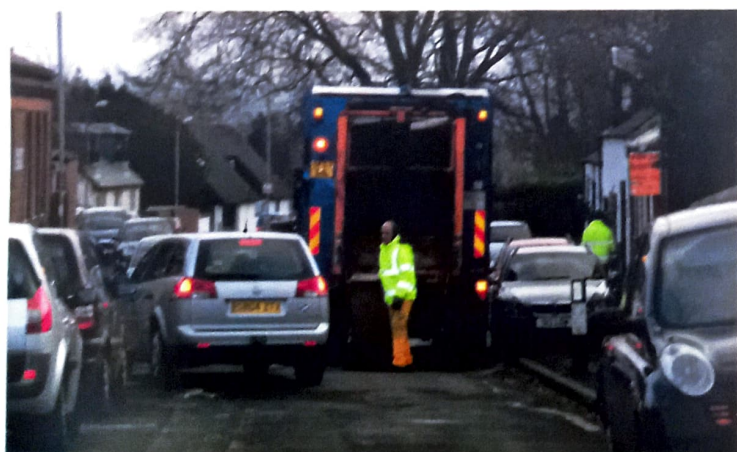
### PRIORITY 3

#### **Improve road and pavements surfaces**

- Identify priority areas for improvement
- Notify East Ayrshire Council of priority areas
- Monitor improvements

#### Action by

Community Council, SPT, East Ayrshire Council, Village Square Action Group, Stagecoach,





# ACTION

## THEME 2: ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS

### PRIORITY 1

#### **Tidy up the village**

- Identify areas most in need of cleaning up
- Organise a team of volunteers to carry out a Spring Clean
- Seek support from East Ayrshire Council for improved maintenance of open spaces
- Request additional waste bins/dog bins in strategic locations

### PRIORITY 2

#### **Improve paths and walks into the countryside**

- Form a Paths & Walking Group – support available from East Ayrshire Council and Paths for All
- Review existing paths and Rights of Way and draw up plan of improvements to be made
- Start to implement priority improvements
- Look into developing paths signage and a walking map

### PRIORITY 3

#### **Make more community use of Craufurdland Estate**

- Support a proposal from Craufurdland Estate to develop a path to the village
- Liaise with Craufurdland Estate to see how best to encourage community use

### ACTION BY

**Community Council, Volunteers, East Ayrshire Council, Paths & Walking Group, East Ayrshire Council Access Officer, Local Land Owners.**





## THEME 3: COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

PRIORITY 1	<b>Re-develop the play park</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the Village Square project, look at relocating the play park into the King George V Playing field – including permission from Fields in Trust and EAC</li> <li>Secure funding for design of new play park</li> <li>Involve school, children and parents in design</li> </ul>
PRIORITY 2	<b>Improve pavilion for greater community use</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish community ownership or long lease of pavilion from East Ayrshire Council</li> <li>Secure funding for design and build of new/improved pavilion</li> </ul>
PRIORITY 3	<b>More activities for families and young people</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore possibility of having more clubs and activities for children and young people</li> <li>Promote existing clubs and activities using website, noticeboards, and the Covenanter</li> </ul>
ACTION BY	<b>Village Square Action Group, EAC, Fenwick Community Council, Fenwick Community Group, School, and Kirk Session</b>

## THEME 4: HERITAGE, VISITORS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

PRIORITY 1	<b>Develop &amp; promote local heritage to attract visitors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build on the work already carried out to further promote local heritage</li> <li>As part of the Village Square project, look at potential locations for establishing a village Museum/Heritage Centre</li> </ul>
PRIORITY 2	<b>Enhance entrances to the village</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore potential to improve entrance signage using the heritage of the area</li> </ul>
PRIORITY 3	<b>Support local businesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publicise local businesses and shops in the Covenanter, and on S1 Fenwick website</li> <li>Involve local businesses in discussions about Village Square project</li> </ul>
PRIORITY 4	<b>Improve broadband</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find out what needs to be done as a community to improve broadband</li> <li>Contact providers to get broadband improved</li> </ul>
ACTION BY	<b>Fenwick Weavers, Village Square Action Group, Community Council, Local Young People, Fenwick Community Group, Local businesses and the Covenanter</b>



# ACTION

## THEME 5: HOUSING AND SERVICES

- PRIORITY 1**      **No more major housing development**
- Ensure that East Ayrshire Council takes account of community views in the development of Local Plan
- PRIORITY 2**      **Upgrade existing Council housing**
- Liaise with East Ayrshire Council to find out when Council housing is to be upgraded
- PRIORITY 3**      **GP/Health Services more accessible**
- Feedback to GP surgery main issues that have been identified – i.e. part time hours, lack of privacy at reception.
- PRIORITY 4**      **Upgraded/extended primary school and nursery provision**
- Support proposals to upgrade primary school
- ACTION BY**      **Service Users, Tenants, Community Council to offer support, EAC, Parent Council**

## THEME 6: FENWICK VILLAGE

- PRIORITY 1**      **Development of a focal point - a Village Square**
- Establish a group to take the lead on this project
  - Secure funding for a feasibility study
  - Commission feasibility study, to include issues of land ownership on preferred site of existing play area and linkages with other projects.
  - Proceed with Village Square in tandem with other projects
- PRIORITY 2**      **Relocation of play park to King George V Park**
- See Theme 3: Priority 1
- PRIORITY 3**      **Provision of off road parking facility**
- See Theme 1: Priority 1
- PRIORITY 4**      **Develop a heritage museum with facilities**
- See Theme 4: Priority 1
- PRIORITY 5**      **Lower existing Church Wall**
- Work with Church Session to implement this





# MAKING IT HAPPEN



## WORKING TOGETHER FOR FENWICK

Local groups will continue to work together to take forward the priorities within the Action Plan. We will consider if we need to constitute an “umbrella organisation” such as a Fenwick Community Development Trust, or if we will simply continue to work in partnership.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The projects listed here will need to be progressed by the local community with the support of a range of partners including East Ayrshire Council, Strathclyde Passenger Transport, local businesses, local land owners and others as required.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED AND CONTACT INFORMATION

As a practical way of taking things forward we will be setting up a number of small Action Groups to lead on each aspect of this Plan. You can help by joining specific groups or engaging with activities as they move forward. Remember, this is your plan and here is your opportunity to make it happen. Your community needs you. If you are interested and want to be involved please contact:

### ACTION PLAN THEME

Traffic, Transport & Roads

Environment & Access

Community Facilities & Activities

Heritage, Visitors & Local Economy

Housing & Services

Village Square

### CONTACT

Community Council Ingrid Sampson 01560 600503

Paths & Walking Group: Bill Craig 07899 898620

Fenwick Community Group: Isobel Gallacher 01560 601199

Fenwick Weavers; <http://fenwickweavers.coop/contact>

Community Council: Ingrid Sampson 01560 600503

Village Square Action Group: Susan McFadzean 01560 600427







This Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of Fenwick over the next 5 years as determined by the community through an extensive process of community engagement organised and led by local community organisations and local residents and carried out over a five month period in 2013.

#### The Plan contains

- A summary of our Community Profile
- Our main likes and dislikes as identified in our Community Views Survey
- Our Vision Statement for the Future of Fenwick
- The main themes and priorities for action
- Information on how you can stay in touch and get involved.

**The Plan is for the whole community and is jointly owned by all the organisations and individuals that took part in its preparation. We will be working together to ensure its implementation over the next 5 years.**

Thanks to all those who took the time to share their views and take part, and to all who gave their time voluntarily to participate in the Steering Group and the co-ordination of the Survey, and to the Vibrant Communities team of East Ayrshire Council who worked closely with the community and supported the Steering Group in carrying out all aspects of the work involved in preparing this Plan.

Thanks to the children of Fenwick Primary School for their drawings.

Thanks also to George McGavin (front cover picture), Jillian McFadzean and others for internal pictures.



**We are grateful to Ayrshire Leader for funding the Ayrshire 21 programme which has enabled us to prepare our local community led action plan and for the support received from East Ayrshire Council through the process of its development.**

#### Acknowledgement:

Specialist training, mentoring and support was provided by the STAR Development Group in carrying out the community engagement process and in preparing the Community Action Plan.



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