



GALSTON
**COMMUNITY
ACTION PLAN**
2025-2030



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INTRODUCTION

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 Galston to be. It's up to us as a local community, working alongside others, to get involved and make things happen.

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 Galston that will resonate 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 Galston. 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 between Spring and Winter 2024;
- online survey for residents, businesses, stakeholders and visitors available online between Spring and Winter 2024;
- voting event to prioritise priorities took place in February 2025.

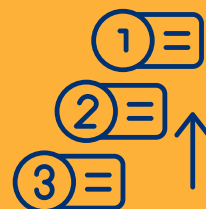
We received 880 responses from households both online and in paper returns. This is the equivalent of 41.2% of households in Galston responding. We also hosted a community voting event to decide the final priorities to be included in the plan with 93 people voting on the day and online.



880
survey
responses



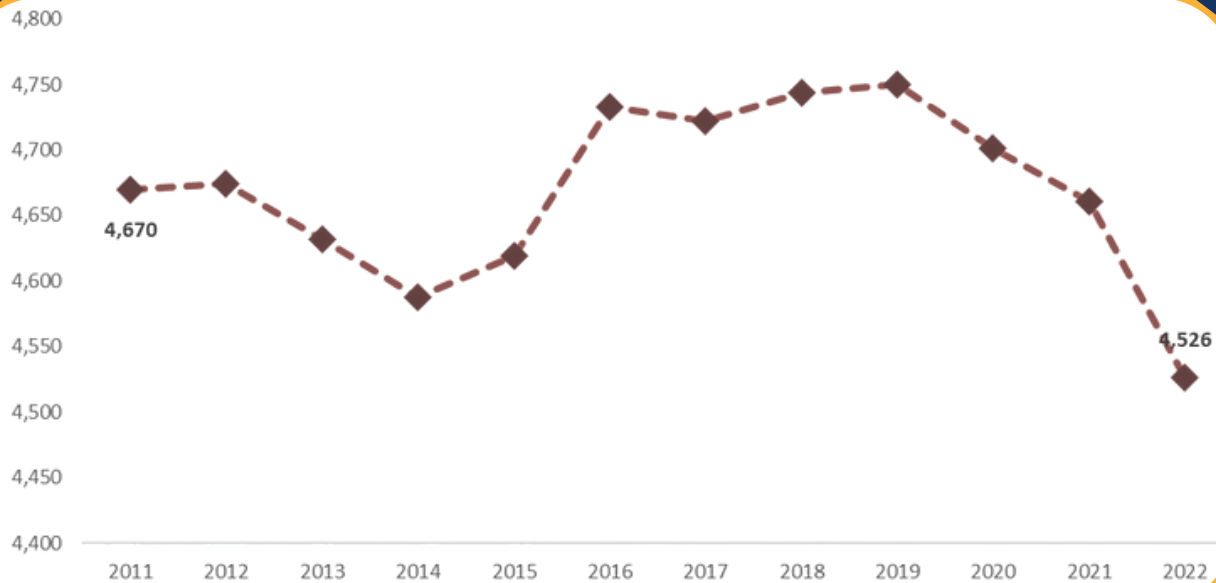
41.2%
return
rate



93 total
votes on
priorities

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Population



Source: Population – Census 2011/22, NRS Mid-Year population estimates – 2012-21

Total population and age structure

Age	Total Number	Percentage of survey population
Under 5	175	4%
5-9	253	6%
10-15	300	7%
16-24	403	9%
25-44	999	22%
45-59	999	22%
60-69	675	15%
Over 70	722	16%
Total	4526	100%

COMMENT

The population of Galston experienced both increases and decreases since the 2011 census, with an overall decrease of 3.08%.

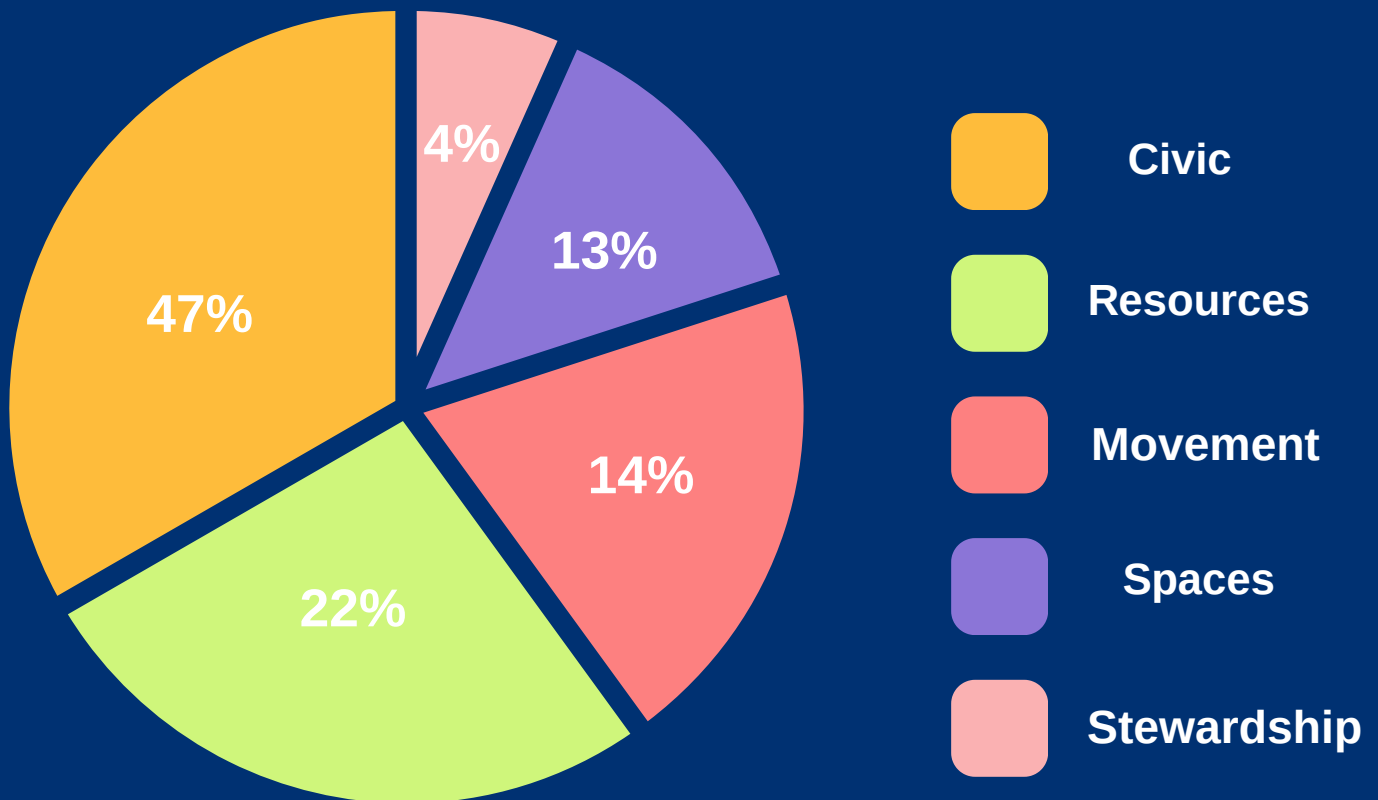
Housing

Tenure	No. of houses	Galston percentage	East Ayrshire percentage	National Percentage
Owned	1405	65.87%	63.51%	63.2%
Owned Outright	762	35.72%	34.01%	33.92%
Owned with a Mortgage or Loan	635	29.77%	29.04%	28.42%
Shared Ownership	0	0%	0.08%	0.25%
Shared Ownership Equity (LIFT or Help-To-Buy)	6	0.28%	0.37%	0.6%
Social rented	511	23.96%	25.72%	22.5%
Private rented	193	9.05%	9.53%	12.87%
Living Rent Free	25	1.17%	1.24%	1.43%
TOTAL:	2,133	100%	100%	100%

Source: Households – Census 2022



Survey responses - Likes



What people said:

"Good geographical location short drive to Glasgow or Ayrshire Coast or countryside"

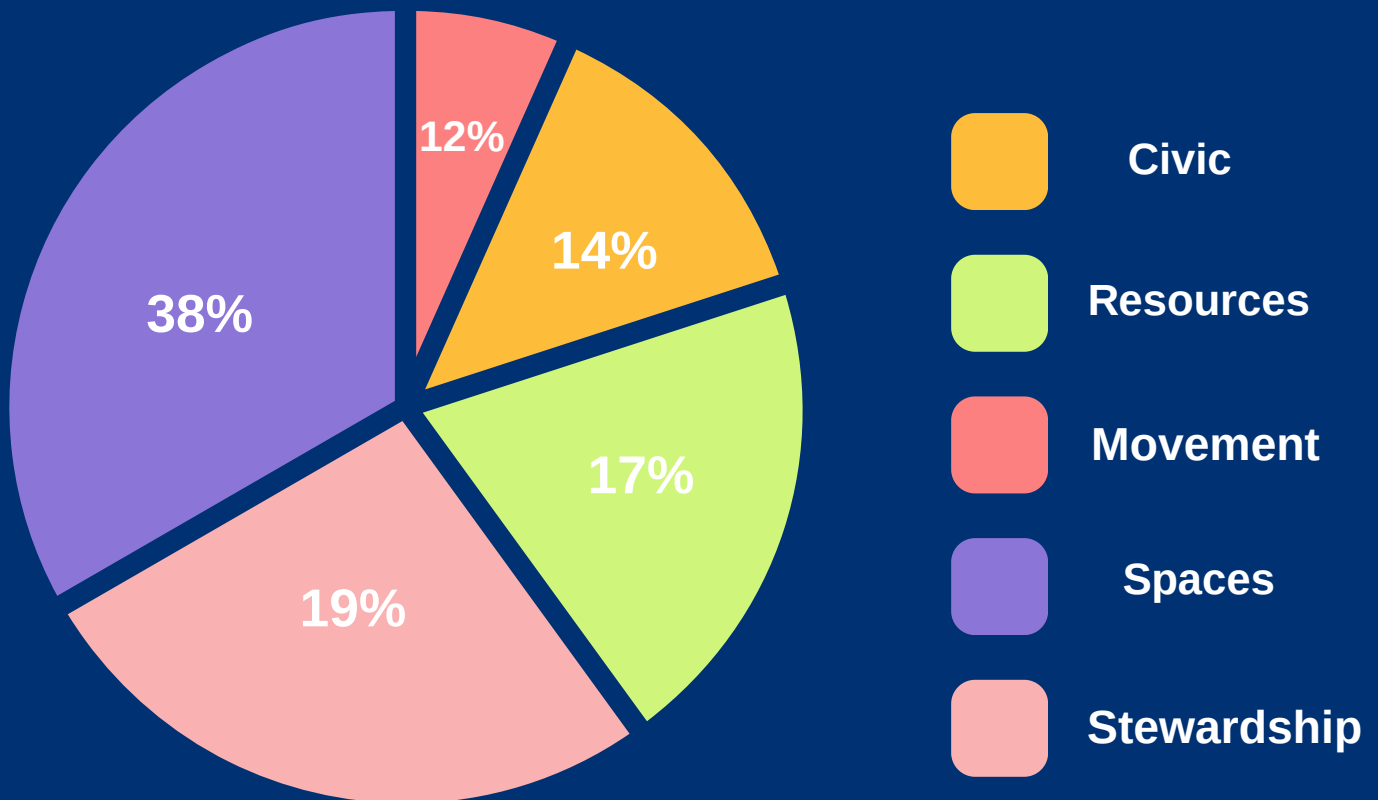
"It's quiet, near the countryside and not far from busier towns when needed"

"Sense of community. Independent shops"

"Galston is a friendly place to live in. It has always been a good community of people"

"The history we have is amazing and must be preserved"

Survey responses - Dislikes



What people said:

"The traffic lights at the four corners. There is no filter coming from Henrietta Street. And the cars come through orange lights from other side leaving you either stranded or having to go through red"

"The unhealthy appearance of the Main Street and the state of the roads, parks and pavements throughout the town"

"More money could be spent on other sporting activities for kids, tennis courts near Bowling Green used to be fantastic but now is waste land"

"Nobody has pride in anything"

"Lack of investment in roads and pavements"

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Movement

"nice and easy to walk around"

"better public transport links to other places"

"better traffic management and parking opportunities"



Spaces

"smooth and maintained roads and pavements"

"public art and murals around the town"

"clean, well maintained town that people are proud of and want to visit"

Resources

"revamped town centre with improved amenities for all"

"a thriving community with a wide range of small shops and an aspirational outlook"

"better quality of Council houses"



Civic

"full restoration of Loudoun Estate to celebrate history and heritage of Galston"

"get back that small town pride"

"safer place to live"

Stewardship

"brightly decorated shop fronts that are a welcoming atmosphere to the town"

"gardens are looked after with bright flowers"

"local people and groups working together to do good things in the local community"



MAKING IT HAPPEN

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 Spring 2024 and Spring 2025.

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 Galston. 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, a Local Place Plan has been lodged with the Planning authority for consideration for Local Development Plan 3. Local Place Plans provide a further opportunity for residents to influence the priorities for our town in regard to land use.

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

Photo credits: John Bryson; Bill Greer; Sarah Ellen MacDonald and Henk Bembom.





GALSTON LOCAL PLACE PLAN

What is a Local Place Plan?

Local Place Plans offer communities the opportunity to develop proposals for their local area, expressing their aspirations and ambitions for future change.

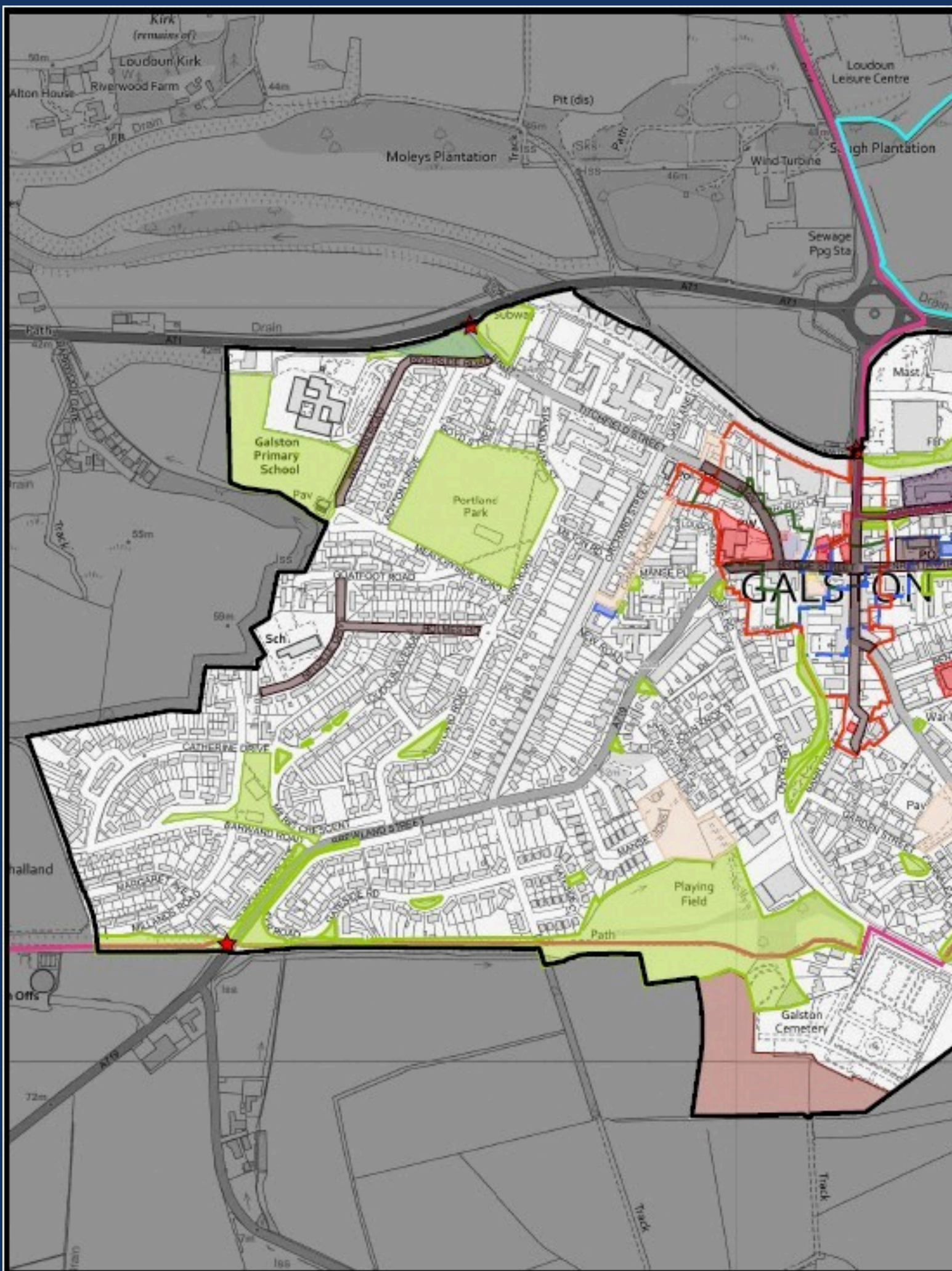
The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a statutory right for community bodies to produce their own Local Place Plans.

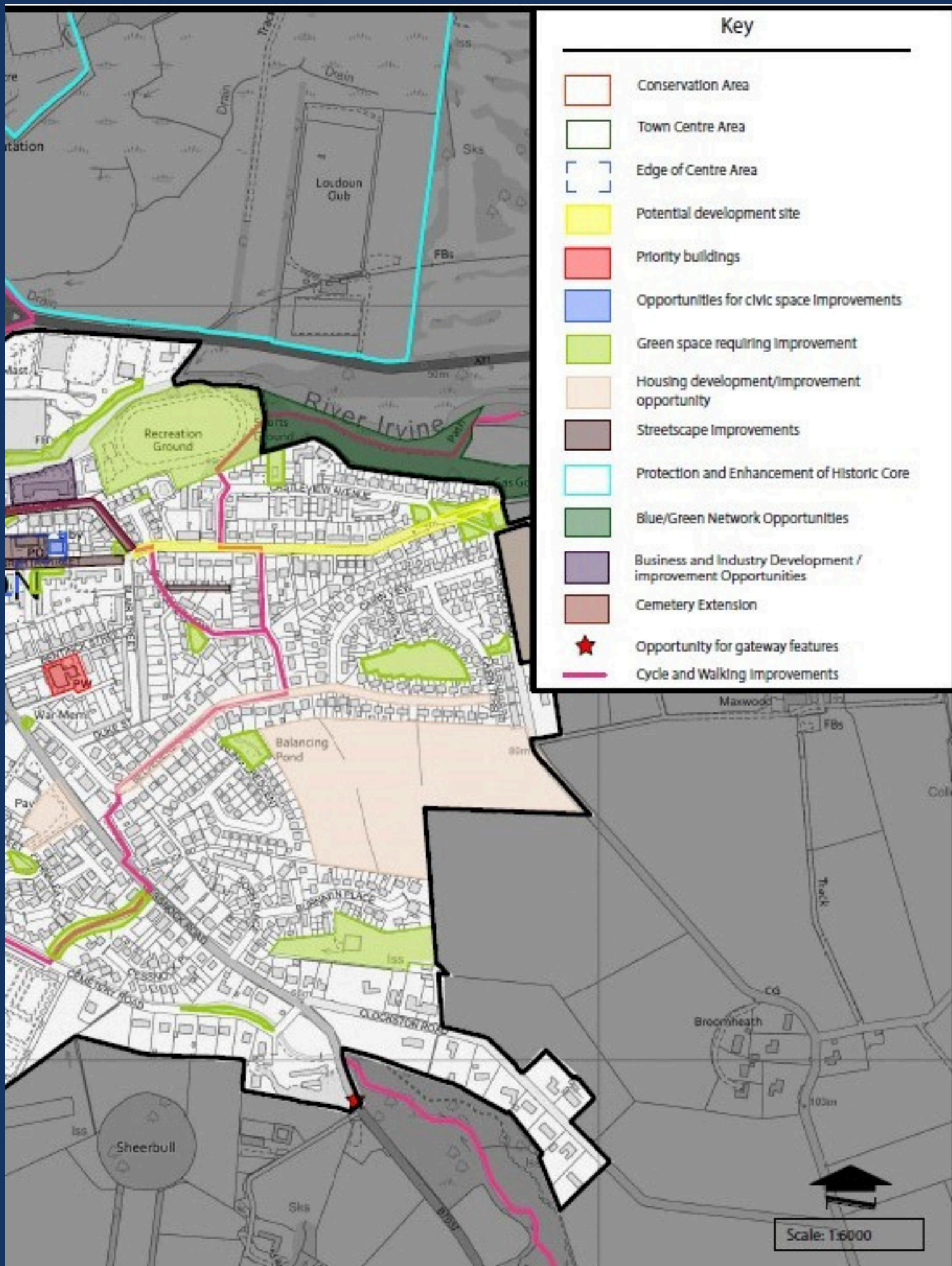
The Purpose of a Local Place Plan is to express the local community's aspirations and priorities with regards to the development and use of land.

For example, a Local Place Plan can be used to identify:

- Places or buildings which the community values and wishes to protect
 - Sites where the community would welcome the development of new housing or community facilities
 - Improvements for town, village, or neighbourhood centres
 - Sites for community projects such as food growing, community gardens, or recreational space
 - Proposals to tackle climate change, such as renewable energy, flood risk management and tree planting
 - Initiatives to improve and promote active travel
- ... and many other land use issues, depending on what is important to your community!

The Galston Community have developed a Local Place Plan alongside their Community Action Plan. The map can be found on page 12 and 13, with the integrated Community Action Plan and Local Place Plan priorities from pages 14 to 22.





THEME 1: MOVEMENT

Priorities	Local Place Plan Priorities	What needs to be done
Better transport links	Investigate the introduction of rail travel (re-open the station in Galston).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with rail companies and Scottish Government to investigate the potential of reintroducing rail services at Galston • Liaise with SPT and Stagecoach with improvement suggestions for bus services
	Improvement to transport links within Galston.	
Introduction of rail travel	Investigate the introduction of rail travel (re-open the station in Galston).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with rail companies and Scottish Government to investigate the potential of reintroducing rail services at Galston
More parking spaces	Investigate the provision of more parking spaces in Galston town centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with ARA to investigate additional parking options • Liaise with private land owners to investigate additional parking options
Better traffic management	Local road safety initiative - replace the stop sign at Brewland Street / Cross Street.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do traffic management assessment across Galston, exploring noted target areas: • Explore stop sign and junction management at The Cross • Double yellow lines required outside co-op and up to masons arms • Speeding at Barrwood Gate to be addressed • Speeding at Henrietta Street needs addressed
	Provide safety measures to reduce traffic congestion on residential roads and create better traffic management - provide double yellow lines outside Co-Op and up to Masons Arms as a road safety requirement; reduce traffic speeding on residential roads at Barwood Gate and Henrietta Street.	
	Reduce traffic on Polwarth St and short sections of the adjoining streets. Make these single lanes with traffic flow controlled using lights. This will improve the safety for shoppers and allow pavements to be widened and shop fronts to be improved which will help create a town centre residents want to spend money and time in.	

THEME 1: MOVEMENT

Priorities	Local Place Plan Priorities	What needs to be done
Improve path and cycle tracks	Investment in marketing of Chris Hoy Cycle Track (adjacent to 30 Millands Road).	
	Maintain the cycle path between Galston and Newmilns; cycle track maintenance needs looked at, including improved signage and safe routes throughout Galston to other areas of the valley / Kilmarnock.	
Improvement to bus shelters	Improvement to bus shelters and better transport links within Galston.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with SPT and Stagecoach regarding bus shelter improvements.

Who can help us achieve our aims?

Ayrshire Roads Alliance; Scottish Government; Rail Companies; SPT; Stagecoach; private land owners; Galston Trust; Galston Community Council; community organisations.

THEME 2: CIVIC

Priorities	Local Place Plan Priorities	What needs to be done
Improve street lighting	Improve street lighting throughout Galston town centre.	Liaise with Ayrshire Roads Alliance regarding street lighting in Galston.
Celebrate the history and the heritage of the local area	Loudoun Estate development opportunity – mixed use for houses, tourism and entertainment / visitor attractions; introduce overnight accommodation for visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with potential developers for Loudoun Estate Liaise with land owners of Barr Castle and other heritage sites
	Barr Castle – protect heritage/long term plan.	
	Loudoun Estate – develop, celebrate heritage and history of the site. The socio-heritage aspect will have benefits for employment	
	Retain Co-Op at 14-18 Henrietta Street	

THEME 2: CIVIC

Priorities	Local Place Plan Priorities	What needs to be done
Support initiatives to reopen Loudoun Estate and Loudoun Castle	Loudoun Estate development opportunity – mixed use for houses, tourism and entertainment / visitor attractions; introduce overnight accommodation for visitors	Engage with potential developers for Loudoun Estate
Reduce antisocial behaviour	<p>Development of an outdoor education centre to engage young people and local community to care for our natural environment and its habitat in Galston (on open space adjacent to Galston Primary School)</p> <p>Provide metal enclosed anti-vandal gazebo/shelters with internal seating/benches, with window openings non-glazed in Galston town centre parks/open spaces (Portland Park, Barrmill Park, Burnawn Place Park, Catherine Drive Park) for teenagers to meet and hang-out together – as there is not much for this age group to do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with Vibrant Communities and East Ayrshire Leisure regarding activities and facilities Liaise with Police Scotland regarding antisocial behaviour
Increase police presence	Introduce special constables / wardens	Liaise with Police Scotland regarding increasing their presence in Galston
Increase respect for the local area	<p>Development of an outdoor education centre to engage young people and local community to care for our natural environment and its habitat in Galston (on open space adjacent to Galston Primary School)</p> <p>Conduct a yearly litter campaign involving Galston Primary School</p> <p>Involve businesses and school in maintenance of floral displays</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore education opportunities for children at school about their local community Engage with Vibrant Communities and East Ayrshire Leisure regarding activities and facilities Liaise with Police Scotland regarding antisocial behaviour

Who can help us achieve our aims?

Private land and building owners; developers; Vibrant Communities; East Ayrshire Leisure; Police Scotland; Ayrshire Roads Alliance; Galston Trust; Galston Community Council; community organisations.

THEME 3: SPACES

Priorities	Local Place Plan Priorities	What needs to be done
Improve the maintenance of football pitches and running track	Alleviate flooding problem on Riverside Road/Western Road up to Galston Primary School.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Ayrshire Roads Alliance regarding flooding in the area Engage with Greener Communities regarding improvements to greenspaces managed by East Ayrshire Council
	Improvements to Portland Park open space, Meadows Road including peripheral landscape enhancements; a Landscape Design and Management Plan is required to consider play provision and paths without compromising recreational areas and improve the maintenance/drainage of football pitches.	
	Improve leisure facilities and surface of Barrmill Stadium Running Track (bring back into order) and drainage on grass area inside the track.	
Improve parks and greenspaces	Alleviate flooding problem on Riverside Road/Western Road up to Galston Primary School.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Cleaner and Greener Communities to explore new or better ways to deal with litter in Galston Organise community litter picks that include children and young people
	Improvements to Portland Park open space, Meadows Road including peripheral landscape enhancements; a Landscape Design and Management Plan is required to consider play provision and paths without compromising recreational areas and improve the maintenance/drainage of football pitches.	
	Improve Catherine Drive Park - which needs upgrading.	
	Improve leisure facilities and surface of Barrmill Stadium Running Track (bring back into order) and drainage on grass area inside the track.	
Introduce street art and murals	Introduce street art and murals within Galston Town Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with land and building owners about potential mural locations Once identified liaise with East Ayrshire Council Planning and artists
Maintain and improve woodland areas	Improvements to countryside & woodland walks; maintain well used paths Cessnock & Road/Clockston Road/B73037 wooded area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with land owners regarding improvements to wooded areas Liaise with East Ayrshire Woodlands for advice and support
	Maintain and improve paths and woodland areas Cessnock Road, Cemetery Road (Burnhouse Brae Wood; Cessnock Plantation; Bank Wood; Barr Wood) - enhance signage and accessibility.	

THEME 3: SPACES

Priorities	Local Place Plan Priorities	What needs to be done
Improve road and pavement surfaces	Streetscape and public realm improvements with upgrading of road and footpath surfaces in conservation area and new seating / planting at key locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Ayrshire Roads Alliance and other land owners to improve road and pavement surfaces which are particularly important for wheelchair and buggy users • Noted areas of concern: • The pavement to west park care home badly needs repaired • Western Road and Maxwell Road • Kier Hardie Crescent • A71 Barwood Gate
	Improve road and pavement surfaces: the pavement to West Park Care Home in need of repair; Western Road and Maxwood Road; Kier Hardie Crescent; A71 Barwood Gate; upgrade pavement surfaces to improve accessibility for wheelchair and buggy users.	
More litter initiatives to keep the area clean and tidy	Introduce a street sweeper for Galston area weekly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Cleaner and Greener Communities to explore new or better ways to deal with litter in Galston • Organise community litter picks that include children and young people
	Introduce special constables / wardens.	
	Conduct a yearly litter campaign involving Galston Primary School.	
Regenerate the Main Street and Town Centre	Streetscape and public realm improvements with upgrading of road and footpath surfaces in conservation area and new seating / planting at key locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with land and building owners to improve and regenerate the Main Street and surrounding Town Centre • Explore Shop Front Improvement Programmes facilitated by East Ayrshire Council and Scottish Government • Liaise with Ayrshire Roads Alliance, Cleaner and Greener Communities to improve public realm and gateway features in Galston • Support East Ayrshire Council's redevelopment of Chambers and future redevelopment of old Library site by Galston Trust
	Regenerate the town centre of Galston.	
	Create gateway features on the main routes into and out of Galston.	
	Improvements to Bridge Street/Polwarth Street/Wallace Street Shop Fronts: 8 Polwarth Street; The Buck's Head 15 Bridge Street; 4-28 Wallace Street; improve the general appearance of properties in Galston.	
	EAC site for development (old library) - Galston Community Library, 24 Henrietta Street.	

Who can help us achieve our aims?

Ayrshire Roads Alliance; Cleaner Communities; Greener Communities; land and building owners; East Ayrshire Council; Scottish Government; Galston Trust; Galston Community Council; community organisations.

THEME 4: RESOURCES

Priorities	Local Place Plan Priorities	What needs to be done
More activities for children and young people	EAC site for development (old library) - Galston Community Library, 24 Henrietta Street.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support East Ayrshire Council's redevelopment of Chambers and future redevelopment of old Library site by Galston Trust Engage with Vibrant Communities and East Ayrshire Leisure regarding activities and facilities Engage with local sports clubs regarding the potential for further provision in the area
	Development of an outdoor education centre to engage young people and local community to care for our natural environment and its habitat in Galston (on open space adjacent to Galston Primary School).	
	Improve leisure facilities and surface of Barrmill Stadium Running Track (bring back into order) and drainage on grass area inside the track.	
More council investment in the area, including social housing	Nelville Drive social housing requires improvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with East Ayrshire Council Housing and other social landlords regarding investment in social housing
	Improve housing stock in relation to Holmes Road, and Barrmill Road properties.	
	Maxwood Road to the east side at GA-F1(H).	
	Vacant site at 13-17 Bridge Street site for re-use for footfall generating uses.	
	Holmes Road and Barrmill Road – improve Council houses.	
	13-19 Titchfield Street.	
	Belvedere View (GA-H1).	
	Brewland Street (GA-H2).	
	Garden Street (GA-M3) to the east side of the bowling green.	
	Chapel Lane to the north of number 11.	
Better amenities and infrastructure	EAC site for development (old library) - Galston Community Library, 24 Henrietta Street.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support East Ayrshire Council's redevelopment of Chambers and future redevelopment of old Library site by Galston Trust

THEME 4: RESOURCES

Priorities	Local Place Plan Priorities	What needs to be done
Improved leisure facilities	Loudoun Estate development opportunity – mixed use for houses, tourism and entertainment / visitor attractions; introduce overnight accommodation for visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with Vibrant Communities and East Ayrshire Leisure regarding activities and facilities Support East Ayrshire Council's redevelopment of Chambers and future redevelopment of old Library site by Galston Trust Engage with local sports clubs regarding the potential for further provision in the area Engage with potential developers for Loudoun Estate
	Galston Community Centre, 34 Orchard Street, improvements.	
	EAC site for development (old library) - Galston Community Library, 24 Henrietta Street.	
	Development of an outdoor education centre to engage young people and local community to care for our natural environment and its habitat in Galston (on open space adjacent to Galston Primary School).	
	Improve leisure facilities and surface of Barrmill Stadium Running Track (bring back into order) and drainage on grass area inside the track.	
Better variety of local businesses	Barrmill Road GA-BS(S) for continued industrial use and new industrial and business development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support local businesses in Galston Encourage local business in the area and advertise to attract new potential businesses
	Barrmill Road site for sympathetic redevelopment for Class 4 (Business) and industrial or residential use.	
	Cross Street / Bridge Street site GA-M2 for the redevelopment for footfall generating uses, residential, Class 4 (Business) and civic space; to be in keeping with the town centre and sensitive to the character and setting of the Conservation Area.	
	Bridge Street site GA-M1 for redevelopment for footfall generating uses, residential and Class 4 (Business); to be in keeping with the town centre and sensitive to the character and setting of the Conservation Area.	
	Maxwood Road site for the redevelopment for residential Class 4 and 5 business and industrial uses.	

Priorities	Local Place Plan Priorities	What needs to be done
Introduction of overnight accommodation for visitors	Loudoun Estate development opportunity – mixed use for houses, tourism and entertainment / visitor attractions; introduce overnight accommodation for visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with potential developers for Loudoun Estate
More sit in and take away fast food options	<p>Barrmill Road GA-BS(S) for continued industrial use and new industrial and business development.</p> <p>Barrmill Road site for sympathetic redevelopment for Class 4 (Business) and industrial or residential use.</p> <p>Cross Street / Bridge Street site GA-M2 for the redevelopment for footfall generating uses, residential, Class 4 (Business) and civic space; to be in keeping with the town centre and sensitive to the character and setting of the Conservation Area.</p> <p>Bridge Street site GA-M1 for redevelopment for footfall generating uses, residential and Class 4 (Business); to be in keeping with the town centre and sensitive to the character and setting of the Conservation Area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support local businesses in Galston Encourage local business in the area and advertise to attract new potential businesses

Who can help us achieve our aims?

Ayrshire Roads Alliance; Cleaner Communities; Greener Communities; land and building owners; East Ayrshire Council; Scottish Government; Galston Trust; Galston Community Council; community organisations.



THEME 5: STEWARDSHIP

Priorities	Local Place Plan Priorities	What needs to be done
Local buildings looked after better	Galston Community Centre, 34 Orchard Street, improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support local businesses in Galston Encourage local business in the area and advertise to attract new potential businesses Support East Ayrshire Council's redevelopment of Chambers and future redevelopment of old Library site by Galston Trust
	EAC site for development (old library) - Galston Community Library, 24 Henrietta Street.	
	The Sporrán, 16 Bridge Street.	
	EAC Chambers, 11 Cross Street.	
	Loudoun Castle - provide a long-term plan for entire estate.	
	Barr Castle, Barr Street - provide a long-term plan.	
	<p>Listed Buildings – Protection and enhancement of historic core:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'A' listed – St Sofia's 7a Bentinck Street 2. 'B' Listed – Barr Castle, Barr Street; Erskine Hall Barr Street; 4-12 Brewland Street; 2-4 Cross Street; Galston Church Brewland Street; Polwarth Street Bridge 3. 'C' Listed - 6-8 Polwarth Street; 10-12 Polwarth Street; 14-18 Polwarth Street; 20-22 Polwarth Street; 24 Polwarth Street; 14 Titchfield Street; 16 Titchfield Street; 18-20 Titchfield Street 	



THEME 5: STEWARDSHIP

Priorities	Local Place Plan Priorities	What needs to be done
More community events	Conduct a yearly litter campaign involving Galston Primary School.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with community litter picking events and encourage similar awareness raising activities Work with other community organisations to improve and increase community events in Galston
Improve look of local shop fronts	Improvements to Bridge Street/Polwarth Street/Wallace Street Shop Fronts: 8 Polwarth Street; The Buck's Head 15 Bridge Street; 4-28 Wallace Street; improve the general appearance of properties in Galston.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with potential developers for Loudoun Estate Liaise with land owners of Barr Castle and other heritage sites
	Improvements to the local shop fronts and buildings on Bridge Street and Polwarth Street - in need of attention.	
Gardens and houses looked after by owners and tenants	Allotments for public use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with East Ayrshire Council Housing, Tenants and Residents Associations and local residents to look after their houses and gardens Explore the potential for allotments for public use

Who can help us achieve our aims?

Cleaner Communities; Greener Communities; Ayrshire Roads Alliance; Vibrant Communities; East Ayrshire Leisure; Galston Trust; Galston Community Council; community organisations; local businesses; East Ayrshire Council; Scottish Government; East Ayrshire Council Housing; Tenants and Residents Associations.



