

Kilmaurs

Community Action Plan

2021 - 2026



Contents

Community Profile	Page 3
Community Response	Page 6
Community Priorities	Page 11
Theme 1 - Village Appearance and Outdoor Services	Page 12
Theme 2 - Transport and Accessibility	Page 13
Theme 3 - Services and Amenities	Page 14
Theme 4 - Tourism, Economy and Heritage	Page 15
Theme 5 - Community Spirit, Activities and Events	Page 16
Make it Happen	Page 17

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 Kilmaurs 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 village that actively encourage the local community to get involved and help provide services, facilities and community events. Through the Community Action Plan, it is hoped that we can come together and develop one vision for Kilmaurs outlined in this plan.

Within the document, we will share the outcome of our engagement exercise 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 Kilmaurs. We will be working together to ensure its implementation over the next five years.

Community Profile



Community Profile



Despite a recent major housing development edging Kilmaurs ever closer to becoming a small town, it is still a village in name, in outward appearance and in the affections of its current and ex-pat residents. A passing visitor might view Kilmaurs as '*a nice wee place, quiet, a bit run-down in places, but a friendly wee village*'. Look behind this façade and you find an incredibly rich history.

Over the years, Kilmaurs has hosted many diverse businesses and industries. The retail outlets and the two popular eatery pubs in the village continue to adapt, bringing visitors and revenue into the village and supporting the community through event sponsorship. As the population grows and the community continues to develop, the physical structure of the village will inevitably need to undergo further change. With the lack of parking being one key problem still unsolved. Whatever happens in the future, the big spirit of Kilmaurs and its people will no doubt weather the storm like they always have.

Location

Kilmaurs is a village in East Ayrshire, situated 2 miles north of Kilmarnock and 4 miles south of Stewarton. Kilmaurs offers transport links to Glasgow, North Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Carlisle, Newcastle, Stranraer and South Ayrshire.

Population

The population of Kilmaurs has fluctuated over the last twenty years. At the last Census in 2011, 2,833 people lived in Kilmaurs. Of the 2,833 people, 65.7% are between the ages of 16 and 65, 16.2% are under the age of 16 and 18.1% are over the age of 65. Since the last Census, further housing development has taken place leading to an assumed rise in population over the last 10 years.

Community Profile

Employment

The figures indicate 39.6% of economically active people work in full time employment. Self-employment represents 7.7% of economic activity while unemployment in Kilmaurs stood at 4.7% at the time of the 2011 Census. Economically inactive people are mainly represented by those who are retired at 18.4%.

There are significantly less people employed in the manufacturing, water supply, accommodation and food service sectors than the East Ayrshire and National average. There are significantly more people employed in the construction, wholesale, retail and transport sectors than East Ayrshire and Scotland averages.

Housing

The total number of dwellings in Kilmaurs as at the Census in 2011 was 1256.

Kilmaurs reports a higher level of owner occupied housing than the East Ayrshire and Scotland average. The area reports a lower level of other social rented and private rented housing than East Ayrshire and Scotland average.

Kilmaurs has a lower percentage of flat dwellings than the East Ayrshire and Scotland wide statistics. As a result, there are more terraced, semi-detached and detached dwellings than the East Ayrshire and Scotland wide statistics.

There has been significant development in the south-west of the village by Hope Homes, building 60+ new homes at the Botanics site. Marshall Gardens also a Hope Homes development took place in the early 2000's. There have been additional smaller developments at Irvine Rd, Malcolm's Court, Knockland Hill and Allsop Court. There are some plans for future developments within the village, including development on Irvine Road.

Education

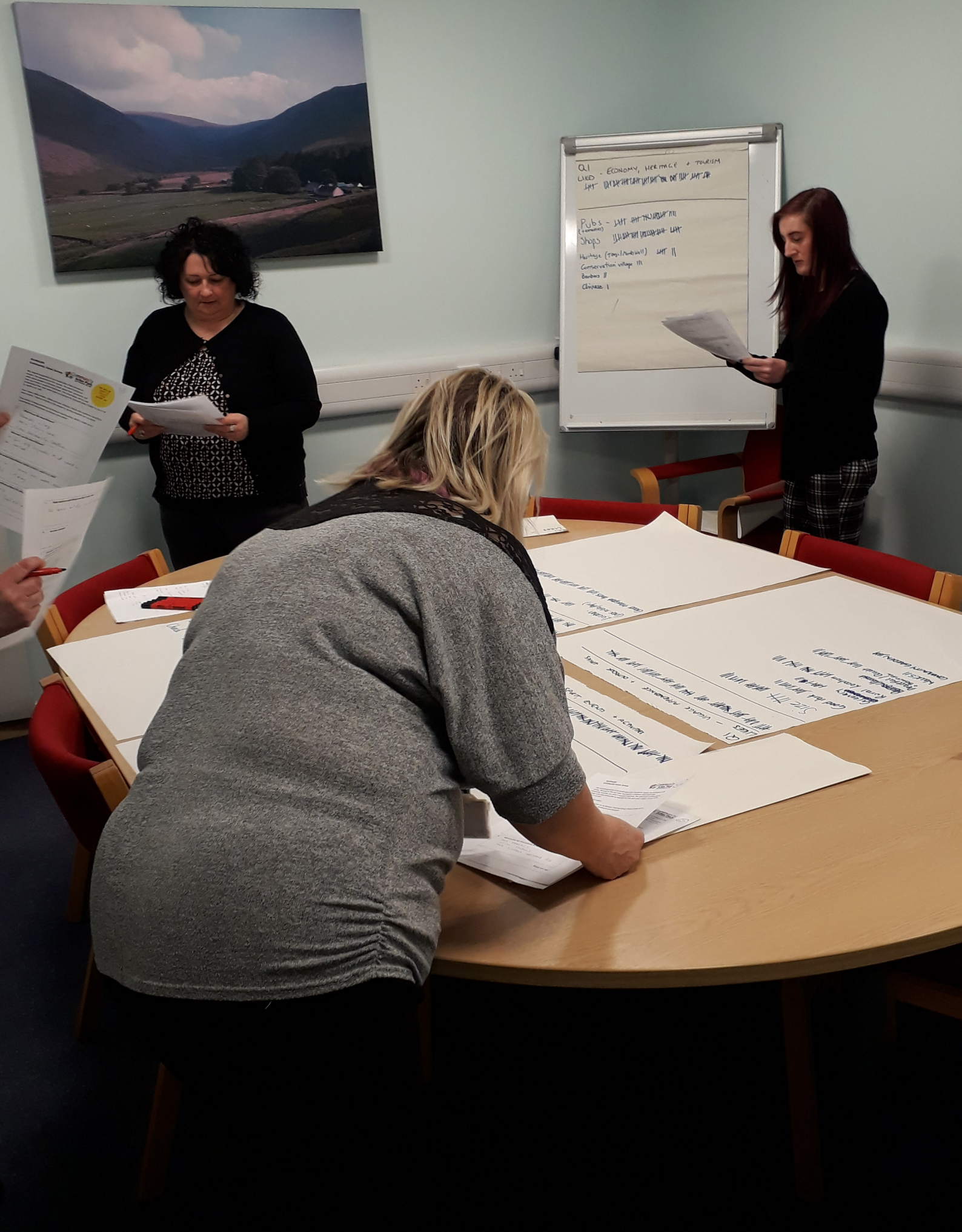
There is a new Early Childhood Facility that has recently opened on East Park Drive.

Kilmaurs Primary School has places for 292 children. There are capital works scheduled for the improvement of the school building. Primary schools attended by local young people outwith the local area include St Andrew's Primary, in Kilmarnock.

Stewarton Academy is the zoned secondary school for Kilmaurs young people and currently 124 pupils from Kilmaurs attend. Secondary schools attended by local young people outwith the local area include St Joseph's Academy (4 young people).

The 2011 Census indicates that 31.3% of people in Kilmaurs aged 16 or over have no qualifications, slightly lower than the East Ayrshire average and considerably higher than the Scottish average. The rate of people aged 16 or over with a degree in Kilmaurs (21.4%) is significantly higher than the East Ayrshire average, but lower than the Scottish average.

Community Response

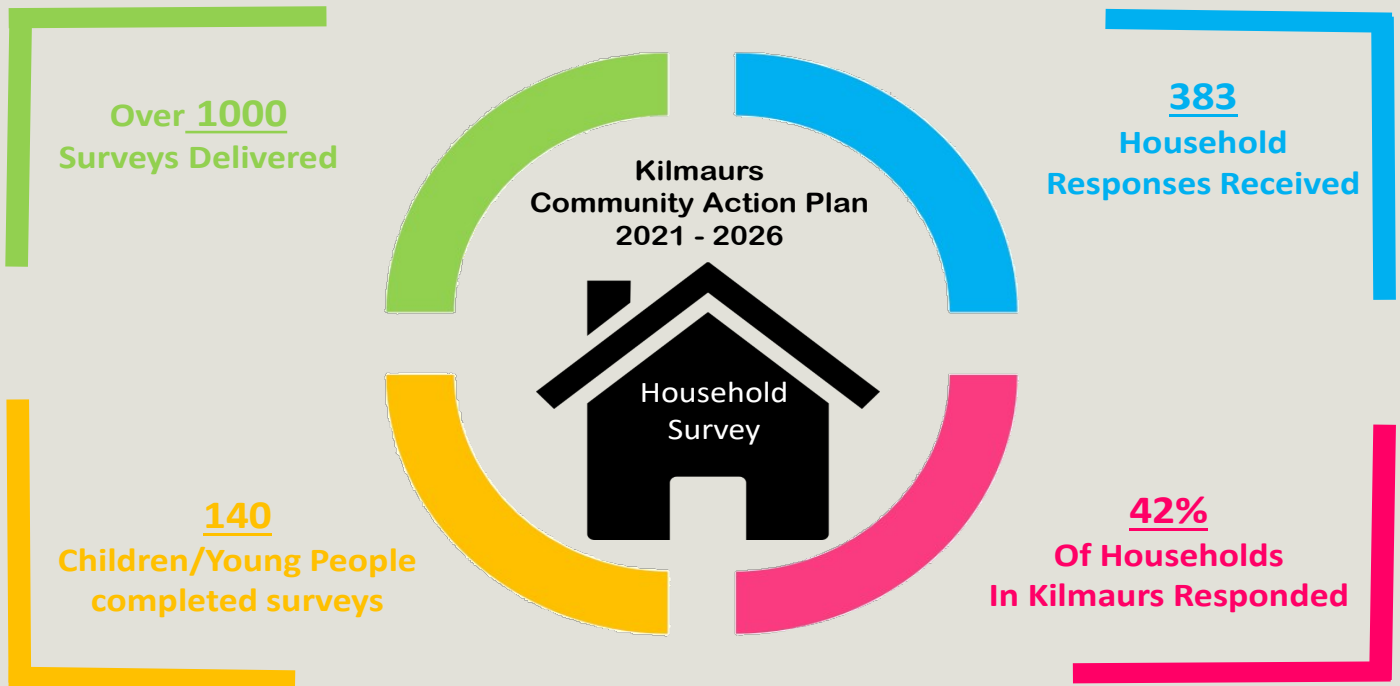


Q1 - ECONOMY, HERITAGE & TOURISM
L1 - DISPERSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE

Pub - L1 & L2
Shops - L1 & L2
Heritage (from 1/2000) - L1 & L2
Conservation village III
Barrows II
Church I

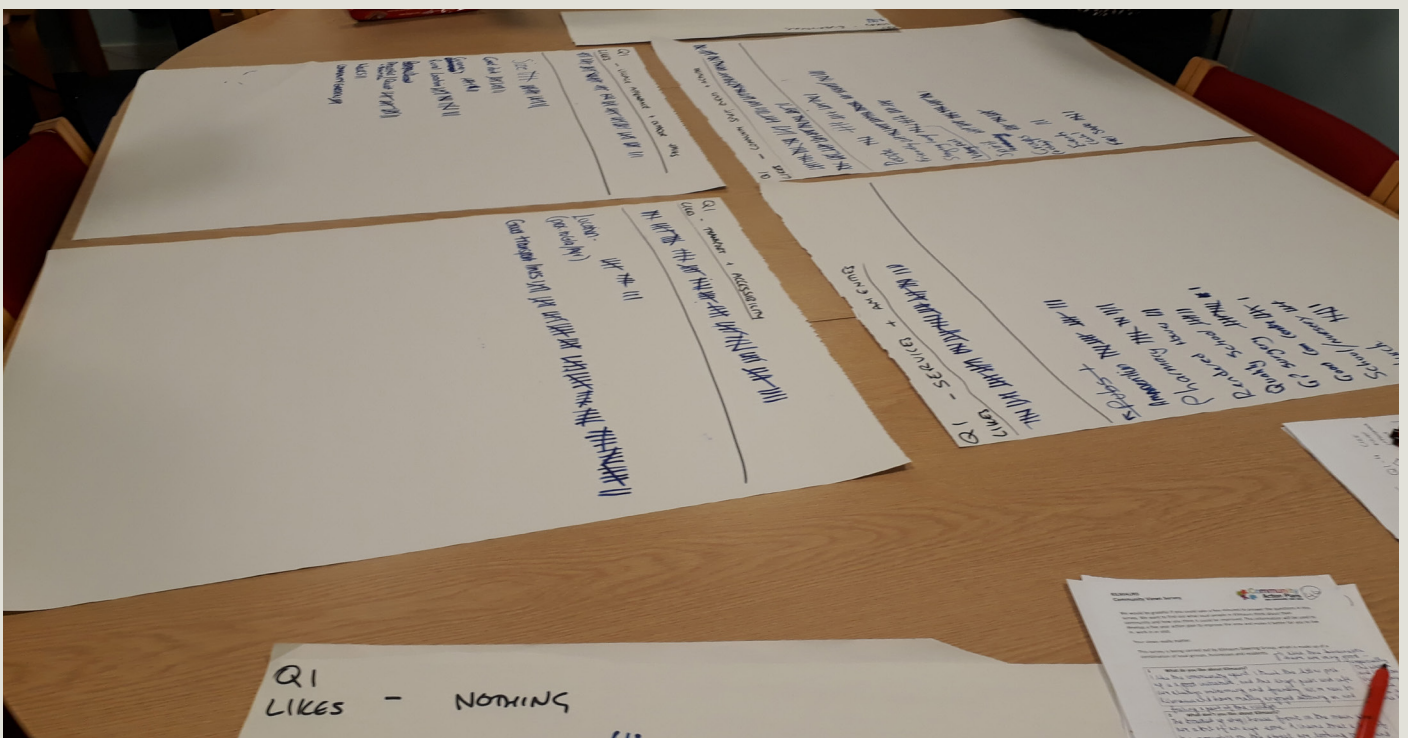
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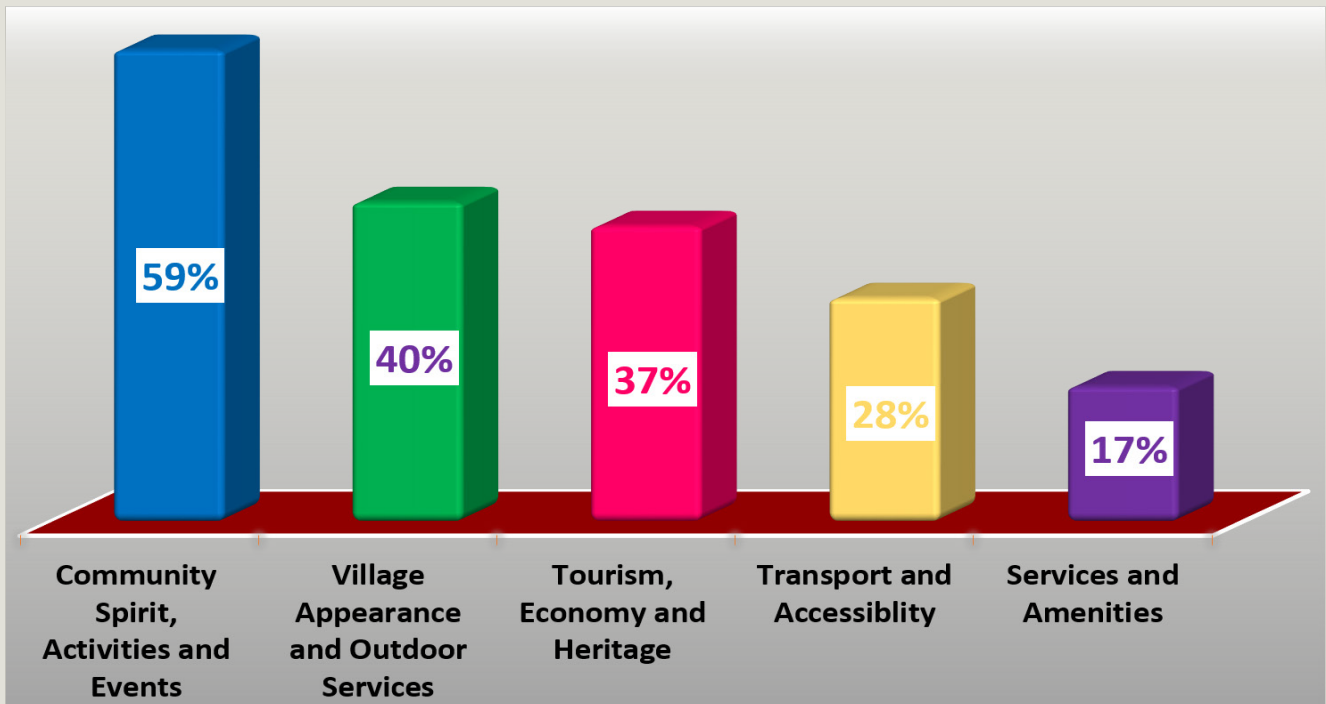
Community Response



Surveys

We hand delivered over 1000 surveys to residential properties within the village and received 383 responses from households both online and in paper returns. In addition to this, 140 children and young people also completed surveys. A total of 523 surveys gathering over 1000 views of the local community were returned. This is the equivalent of 42% of households in Kilmaurs responding. We also hosted a community voting event to decide the final priorities to be included in the plan with 160 people voting on the day and online.





'I like the village feel despite the growing population'.

'I like the friendly feel of the village and how most people take pride in their home or business'.

'I like the flowers and greenery around the village'.

'I like the rural setting, although very close to Kilmarnock'.

'I like that there are lots of good local businesses down the street'.

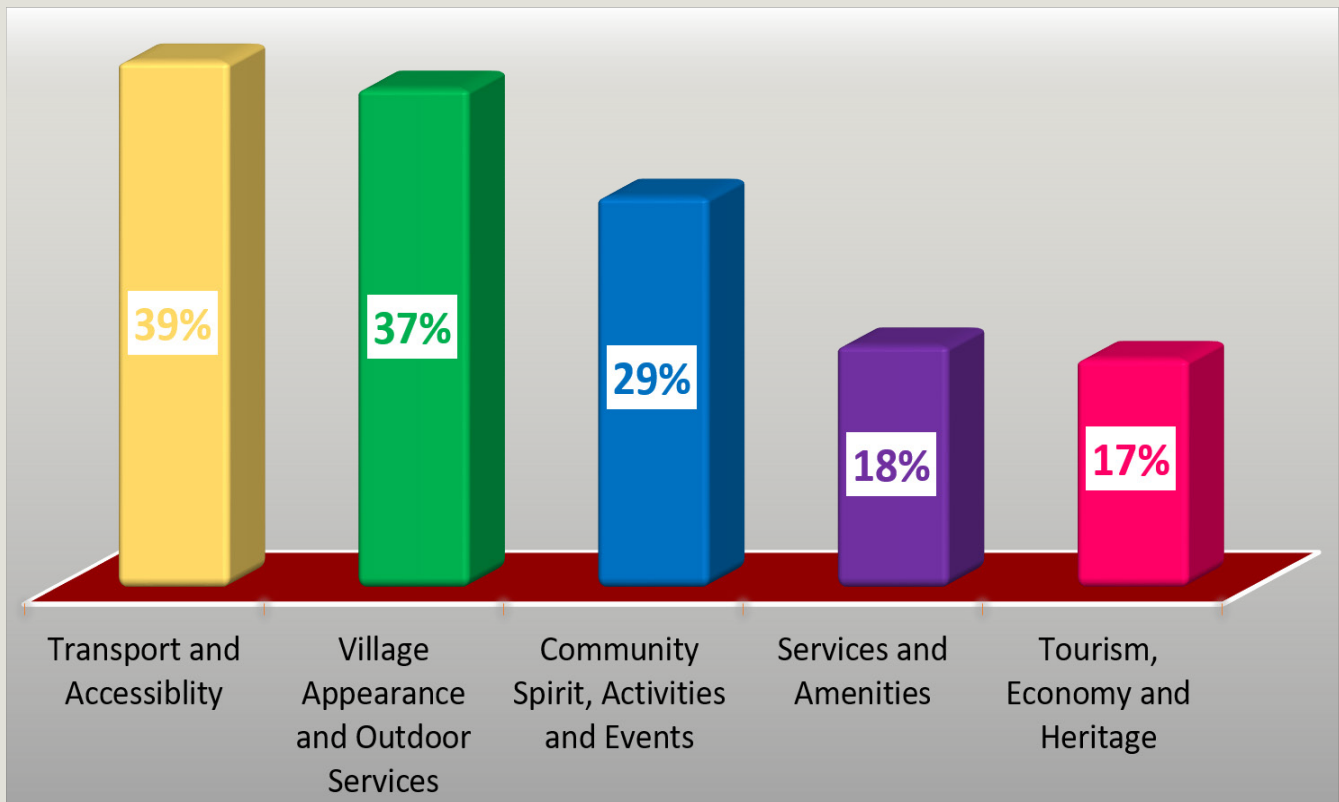
'The history and heritage of the village, with iconic buildings such as the Jougs, Public Hall, Weston Tavern and Church'.

'The transport links between Ayr, Kilmarnock and Glasgow are good'.

'I like the access to buses and regular train services within walking distance'.

'I like that the community has lots of facilities – the school, nursery, community centre and surgery'.

'I like that some of the council houses have been rendered and look much better'.



'I don't feel that there are enough safe places to cross in Kilmaurs'.
 'We need to find a traffic calming solution that people actually adhere to'.

'I don't like the dog fouling and litter left in the streets and parks'.
 'I don't like the way some buildings look in the village, in need of some TLC'.

'I don't like the stigma around drug and alcohol problems'.
 'I don't like that I can't find out what local groups are doing in the area'.

'I don't like the uncertainty around the GP surgery and worry about having to travel into Kilmarnock to get an appointment when I need one'.
 'I don't like that the school looks like it has been forgotten about. It needs a makeover!'.

'There are too many empty or derelict properties in the village. The Public Hall is a particular eyesore'.
 'Some of the shops look very run down, which doesn't make the Main Street look its best'.

Vision

What would you wish Kilmaurs was like in 5 years' time?

'I believe Kilmaurs could be Scotland's finest conservation village with lots of green space, fully occupied and maintained buildings and shops, lower levels of traffic and better play facilities for children'.

'I would like Kilmaurs to remain safe and community orientated with a village feel, that it supports the environment and uses the green space around it to its advantage and is drug free'.

'In five years, I would like to have a thriving community with a new school and great community and sports facilities and activities, for all ages, throughout the year'.

'I wouldn't like to see any more developments so we can keep our tight-knit village feel and be able to support local projects and businesses'.

'I would love to see a vibrant community with its own distinct identity, full of shops and thriving businesses with local people supporting local projects'.

'I would like to see Kilmaurs clean, tidy and attractive for residents and visitors'.

'For the village to remain a safe and attractive place for families, couples and individuals of all ages to live, work and play'.

'I would like to see a place with a rejuvenated community heart and spirit'.

'I would love Kilmaurs to keep and build on the village charm'.

'Vibrant, bright and busy with safe, clean streets and public spaces'.

'I would love to see more trees, paths, walks and parks to encourage a healthy, active lifestyle'.

'I would love Kilmaurs to be a caring community where people look out for, support and encourage each other'.



Community Priorities



Theme 1 - Village Appearance and Outdoor Services



Priorities	Action	Who
Tackle dog dirt problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install poo boxes / stations on Kilmaurs Trail • More signage for picking up dog dirt • Enforcement with dog owners • More bins and bags available at high impact areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EAC Greener Communities, Community Council, residents
Improve parks and open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the paths at Morton Park to allow better access for prams and buggies • Install toilets at Morton Park • Open a café / Snackshack in Morton Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EAC Greener Communities, Kilmaurs Gala Committee
Tackle litter problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More bins available at high impact areas • Enforcement and fines in place • Residents 'clean my space' campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EAC Greener Communities, EAC Cleaner Communities, Weston Clean Up Squad, Community Council, residents
Improve condition / look of buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce enforcement for owners that don't keep their building to standard • Utilise the craft skills in the village 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business / property owners, EAC Housing, Community Council
More trees / flowers / plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanging baskets on Main Street • Have gardening competition to encourage regular maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EAC Greener Communities, Community Council, Horticultural Society
Better football pitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase grass cutting for playing football • Deal with drainage, a bit less muddy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EAC Greener Communities, Kilmaurs Gala Committee

Theme 2 - Transport and Accessibility



Priorities	Action	Who
Parking issues addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yardside Road parking is required and overdue • Cabin parking needs addressed – lazy parking and HGV's • Inconsiderate pavement parking is getting worse across the village • Enlarge car park behind Weston • Enforce double yellow parking • Install charging points for electric vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA), Community Council
More / safer road crossings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian crossing needed at Main Street in addition to existing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ARA, Community Council
Better traffic management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage ARA to explore traffic management systems for the two mini-roundabouts within the village • Build bypass around village • One-way system around village (Sunnyside / Irvine Rd / Yardside) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ARA, Community Council
Better roads / no potholes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moss and weeds in excessive amounts need removed and maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ARA, Community Council
Cycle / walk routes established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Active Travel group plans for safe walking and cycling route across Annick, incorporating Kilmaurs • Work with local groups and services to clean up and litter pick targeted areas around the village, including: paths to dam and viaduct, route under rail bridge and main roads • Formalise safe link to existing cycle track • Install and host a bike bank for people to hire and use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ARA, Community Council, Active Travel
Maintain pavements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better surfaces required throughout village for wheelchairs, buggies and walking • Moss and weeds in excessive amounts need removed and maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ARA, Community Council

Theme 3 - Services and Amenities



Priorities	Action	Who
Modernise / new school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with EAC Education regarding the upgrading of the primary school, including school facilities, internal and external decoration Lack of paint to start with Toilets need updating, pupils scared to use them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAC Education, Kilmaurs Primary School
More sports facilities (gym, pool, outdoor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and offer a space for young adults to carry out activities Utilise school facilities and merge with community centre for increased lettable usage Claim back indoor sporting facilities that we've recently lost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Ayrshire Leisure, Kilmaurs Gala Committee
Increased police presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackling anti-social behaviour including vandalism, drinking and taking drugs on the streets More patrols in village – makes people feel safer and deters misbehaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police Scotland
Improved GP services / stability confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open dialogue with GP provider and NHS to confirm future of local services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kilmaurs Medical Practice, NHS
Bigger community centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking addressed alongside development Claim back indoor sporting facilities that we've recently lost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kilmaurs Community Association
Improve condition of houses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speak to EAC Housing to encourage improvement to housing condition and appearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAC Housing

Theme 4 - Tourism, Economy and Heritage



Town Trail

Priorities	Action	Who
Utilise derelict and vacant buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an estate agent type marketing of these buildings to encourage usage and new ownership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EAC Housing, Community Council
Public Hall addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise as a youth facility with activities, gym, cinema • Arts Centre open for exhibitions and refreshments that could be open in evenings – social place that isn't a pub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Council, EAC Community Asset Transfer, Voluntary Organisation
Encourage new business / jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on the kind of business that would be supported locally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Businesses, Visit Kilmaurs
Heritage conservation / Jougs prioritised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside lighting on Jougs to make it a feature • Library facility in Jougs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Council, EAC
More shops / places to eat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage locals to eat and shop locally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Businesses, EAC Economic Development
Improve condition of existing shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better management of litter around business premises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EAC Waste Management, Local Businesses

Theme 5 - Community Spirit, Activities and Events



Priorities	What needs to be done	Who
More activities for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday activity clubs for kids and teenagers • Family social events at weekends • Look at developing Public Hall • Explore possibility of Kilmaurs boys and girls football team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sports Clubs, Community Groups, EAC Vibrant Communities
Drug / alcohol addictions tackled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero tolerance approach by all • Better support services required locally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NHS, EAC H&SCP
Community newsletter / information sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular interesting updates may encourage residents to get involved • What's happening monthly diary bulletin • Community newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CAP Group, Community Council, all local community groups
Christmas lights / decorations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamp post lights for kerb appeal • Encourage local businesses to sponsor these 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Council, Crowdfunding
More community events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Kilmaurs Art Club in the Community Centre / Jougs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Groups
Volunteer opportunities increased and taken up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer bank for helping at different events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Groups

Making it Happen



Working Together

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 village. A period of engagement took place between June 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.

The Community Action Plan is the vision of the local community and aspirational for Kilmaurs. 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.

The Steering Group will report progress periodically over the five year plan.

Place Making

Place Making is a process where local people consider their priorities for the improvement to the places where they live, built on the priorities identified in the Community Action Plan. It involves East Ayrshire Council and the local Community Action Plan Steering Group working together to co-produce a map of the community to identify areas which need improvement and how these improvements might be made. Once adopted, the plan becomes part of planning policy as guidance to the Local Development Plan. It is also useful to grant funders as a visual representation of the priorities identified by the community. This plan has to be taken into consideration by private developers or public sector organisations meaning that our work has influence when considering development or investment in our community.

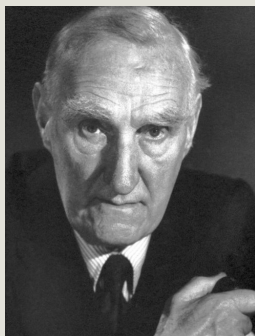
Covid 19

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted every single person and community across the world. The consultation for this plan concluded before the pandemic impacted our lives. We recognise that priorities change and we are committed to evaluate and continue to see the views of our local community over the course of the five-year-plan.

The community of Kilmaurs would like to thank those who came forward and supported our most vulnerable people during the Covid-19 pandemic and a particular mention to the CV19 Kilmaurs Community Kitchen Group for their tireless work throughout the shielding periods.

Lord John Boyd Orr

“When the fabric of society is so rigid that it cannot change quickly enough adjustments are achieved by social unrest and revolutions”.



John Boyd Orr (1880 - 1971)

Born in Kilmaurs, the Right Honourable Lord Boyd Orr was an academic, politician, farmer and businessman in the early 1900's. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1949 for his scientific research into nutrition and his role as the first Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Thank You

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

The Kilmaurs Community Action Plan was resourced and supported in partnership with East Ayrshire Council's Vibrant Communities.

Contact Us

If you want to get involved in taking forward these priorities, please contact:

Kilmaurs Community Action Plan Group: kilmaurscap@gmail.com



