

# 2024 - 2029

## Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington

Community Action Plan



'Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington will be a close, safe and welcoming community with good quality facilities providing a wide variety of activities for all ages including opportunities for training, employment and economic growth'



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## Vision for Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington

As part of your responses to the survey, our communities were asked what they would wish our areas to be like in 5 year's time. This is YOUR future vision for our areas. Here are a number of your responses that summarise the main aspirations:



Upgrade all play parks with new equipment and better drainage



More & better shops e.g. Greggs, McDonald's, Bakers, Hairdressers and Chinese



Establish a youth club



Ensure the football field and cage are playable with goals and drainage fixed



Continue to support the Community Centre, charity shop, larder and wellbeing rooms



Convert or re-purpose the derelict church, empty shops and garages at Craigens



Utilise waste ground next to centre for Skate Park, Bike Park or seating area



Continue to support the Community Garden with regards to volunteering, funding and events



More activities for all in the centre e.g. dance classes, art classes and acting classes



Support the Bowling Green at events e.g. bingo, indoor & outdoor bowling and increase the membership



## Second Generation Plan Rural Action Plan

Welcome to the Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington Second Generation Community Action Plan (CAP) for 2024 - 2029. This reflects the views of our community gathered from a series of surveys and online voting that was open to all residents, businesses and visitors to our area. This latest Community Action Plan follows on from the last plan that was launched in 2015. A steering group has prepared the plan from local groups, residents and help from East Ayrshire Vibrant Communities.

### The consultation process involved the following:

- A household questionnaire delivered to all 1044 households.
- Online questionnaire/survey.
- Steering group attended the community garden to gather surveys.
- Stakeholder meetings with different groups representing all aspects and ages of the community.
- Young people's survey completed in schools.
- A community voting event in 2023.

A total 457 households, together with online responses, were returned with community views which, is a 40% return of surveys. 97 people attended and voted at the voting event and 18 stakeholder meetings were completed.

The plan is for the whole community with the aim of bringing groups, organisations and residents from all three areas to get involved and support services, facilities and community events.

The research and preparation was organised and led by Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington Action Plan Steering Group during November 2022 - May 2024.

### The aim of the group:

- To provide the community with an opportunity to come together to plan and realise the changes needed to improve their communities for the future.
- Share views and ideas.
- Raise awareness of the communities.
- Work in partnerships with all the groups in the communities.
- Work with the whole community to achieve the priorities identified within this plan.







## Our Community Now

### Location

This is a fairly new community of under seventy years of age. The first houses were built at Skerrington with the bulk of the houses in Netherthird being built in 1951. The area sits at the southern end of Cumnock and is a suburb of the main town.

### Population

The population of the area currently served by the Community Council stands at 2499 with 1044 households identified by the Community Action Plan Steering group.

### Housing

The social housing stock is 60 - 70 years old with the exception of James Young Avenue which, is younger. The majority of the social housing stock is managed by Shire Housing with the remainder managed by East Ayrshire Council and a small minority by private landlords. There are few empty houses however the construction of new developments has enabled the population to remain stable.

### Education

Netherthird Primary and Netherthird Early Childhood Centre is situated centrally and is a focal point for the area. The Primary School currently have 209 young people on its roll and the Nursery have 110 young people registered.

### Employment

Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington offers great opportunities for employment including the Community Centre, Community Garden, Bowling Club, Shops, Curtainwise, Howden's and the Factory Outlet. The area is easily accessible to Caponacre where Emergency One is located which, offers apprenticeships and secured employment.

### Health & Wellbeing

The nearest Doctor's surgery is the Tanyard Medical Practice based in Cumnock Health Centre. It is easily accessed by public transport and sits next to the main bus terminal and car park. East Ayrshire Council and a variety of private care organisations deliver services within the local area.





## Before and After







## Great Achievements (Assets)



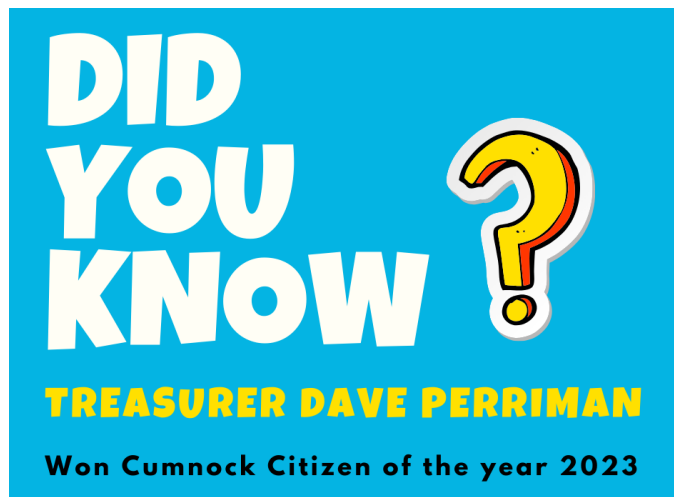
**Netherthird Community Centre - Established 2010. Registered Charity No: SC045565**

Situated in the heart of the community of Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington near Cumnock. The centre is open 9am till 9pm Monday to Friday and is available at weekends for pre booked functions.

- N-CAFE, our Community Café is open 9am till 3pm, Monday to Friday
- N.I.C.E. Charity Shop is open 9am till 3pm, Monday to Friday
- Community Larder is open 9am till 3pm, Monday to Friday and re-opens in the evening from 5pm - 7pm, Monday to Thursday
- Employment and Volunteer opportunities available

### **Activities within the centre include:**

Afternoon Tea, Christmas Fayres, Cinema, Dancing, Employability Classes, English Speaking Classes ESOL, Epic Pipe Band, Fitness Classes, Funerals, Health and Wellbeing Classes, Karate, Megan's Space, Sewing Group, Slimming World, Stroke Group, Toddler Group, Training, Weddings / Parties, Work Experience and Youth Club.



A Voluntary board of trustees manage Netherthird Community Centre.  
For more information call on 01290 428630 or drop into the centre.



## Great Achievements (Assets)



**Netherthird Community Garden - by Maggie Campbell  
Established 2010 - Registered charity: SC045908 and a Social Enterprise.**

Netherthird Community Garden was formed to give the people of our Community some really good Community assets and volunteer opportunities.

We registered with Companies House in August 2010. We wrote a business plan, went to lots of training courses and joined a Social Enterprise Academy to help us understand how to run a Community business.

We wanted to develop a synthetic football pitch and a Community Garden at the playing fields and the field next to the school. We developed the small Community Hub across from the shops at Netherthird with summer seats and planters.

We worked hard to bring the synthetic sports pitch to Netherthird but we were not successful. We run a very popular FREE Summer Fun programme for children and parents and carers. This brings our Community together and people from lots of other Communities too.

We try and get involved in all different activities within our Community and we work very closely with Netherthird Community Centre, Netherthird Community Council, Netherthird Community Action Training and Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington Community Action Plan.

We try and help everyone in these hard times and we are really involved in bringing mental health services to our area because we have a high suicide rate and this is heart-breaking. We are now a registered Charity with OSCR.

### **Activities include:**

1-1 Space, Animal Attractions, BBQ's, Easter Egg Hunt, Family Learning, Free Play Areas, Fun Days, Halloween Events, Intergenerational Learning, Litter Picks, Meeting Space, Nature Trails, Outdoor Classrooms, Parties, Plant Sales, Training and Volunteer Opportunities.

A Voluntary board of trustees manage Netherthird Community Garden .  
For more information email: [jamielor@aol.com](mailto:jamielor@aol.com)





## Great Achievements (Assets)

### **Glaisnock Valley Bowling Club**

opened for play in August 1977. The first opening day was April 1978 and the clubhouse was opened in September 1979.

We currently have 80 members.

#### **Activities within the Bowling Club include:**

Bingo, Employment, Entertainment, Funerals, Indoor Bowling/Outdoor Bowling, Licensed Bar, Live Music, Meeting Rooms, Tournaments, Volunteering, Weddings/Parties, Youth Club and Fundraising.



**NETHERTHIRD COMMUNITY ACTION TRAINING**

**Netherthird Community Action Training** is a charity which focusses on providing training and employment opportunities to disadvantaged young people in the East Ayrshire area. We provide training and employment opportunities to young people aged between 16-25 years old who have previously faced barriers to employment due to a number of different issues such as substance misuse, physical and mental disability, criminal history and other varying issues.

Trainees are placed on a 4-8 week work experience and training scheme, 3 month training and employment scheme and 6-12 month training and employment scheme's within NCAT.

Whilst being placed with NCAT, trainee's receive on the job training in garden maintenance and landscaping from a garden maintenance training officer who has had more than 15 years' experience in garden maintenance and landscaping.

Trainees are then supported into attending accredited training courses to improve their work prospects and increase their chances in the jobs market. Support is then provided to the young person to create an effective CV, search and apply for employment, training and further education opportunities, support in gaining funding to access training or further education and other support needed to take the next step in a positive career destination.

We also have developed and currently maintain 3 green spaces within the area and we use these green spaces to provide volunteering opportunities for local people.

We are a wide ranging social enterprise who are currently partnership working with a number of other groups to improve our community and maximise our impact on the local community.

**by Jamie Campbell**



## Great Achievements (Assets)



### Netherthird Primary School

In September 1959 Netherthird Primary School opened and welcomed its first intake of pupils with 370 pupils. In 2004 Netherthird Early Childhood Centre opened to provide educational and care needs from pre-school stage. In 2017 the future of the Netherthird Primary School & ECC were in jeopardy with structural faults within the building resulting in it being deemed unsafe. The pupils and staff were decanted to Greenmill Primary.

East Ayrshire Council built a new Early Years Childhood Centre and Primary School, which opened in February 2023



### SL66 (Skills & Learning)

The Skills & Learning (SL) Service purposefully designed function within East Ayrshire Council Education Service, which supports young people, adults and parents towards positive destinations. SL66 was introduced as a one-stop-shop resource to streamline communication and referrals and eradicate duplication in services in the Cumnock and Doon Valley area.

This space mirrors the offer available at SL33, expanding the service across the Southern Locality for ease of access to the community. SL66 is a building in Netherthird area with 3 designated learning spaces including Digital Cafe and 3 partnership pod spaces that can be used by local practitioners such as Jobcentre Plus, Skills Development Scotland and Ayrshire College.





## Local Economy

### Howdens

Howdens is situated at the start of Netherthird. This depot has a long-standing reputation for supporting local trade and their customers with a wide variety of projects, from big home renovations, to kitchen remodels, and joinery updates throughout a home. Located next to the Factory Outlet, they have a showroom with a good selection of products, including the latest kitchens, worktops, flooring, and doors. They also have a well-stocked counter full of trade essentials.

### Curtainwise

Is a family run business that has been established for over 30 years, specialising in the design, manufacture and supply of bespoke soft furnishings for commercial and residential customers, including Roman Blinds, Curtains, Swags and Tails, Valances, Pelmetts, Flame Retardant Curtains, Curtain Fabric and Drapery Fabric, all tailored to suit your individual requirements.

### Factory Outlet

The Factory Outlet at the start of Netherthird is a great asset for the community, which hosts a fantastic selection of merchandise including children and adult clothing, household items and beautiful gifts. They also have a café, which attracts visitors and tourists from all over Scotland, bus tours visit and have lunch. Unfortunately, there was a fire in the kitchen of the Factory Outlet in 2022 and the building had to be closed down, however it is expected that the Factory Outlet will re-open in September 2024.

### Retail

There are 5 shops within the main area of Netherthird who stock all daily essentials along with a take away food establishment.

### The Thistle Inn

The Thistle Inn is a detached building with a licensed bar and restaurant and sits at the bottom of Skerrington and is being renovated at this moment in time.

## Potential Investment

### Caledonian Bottles

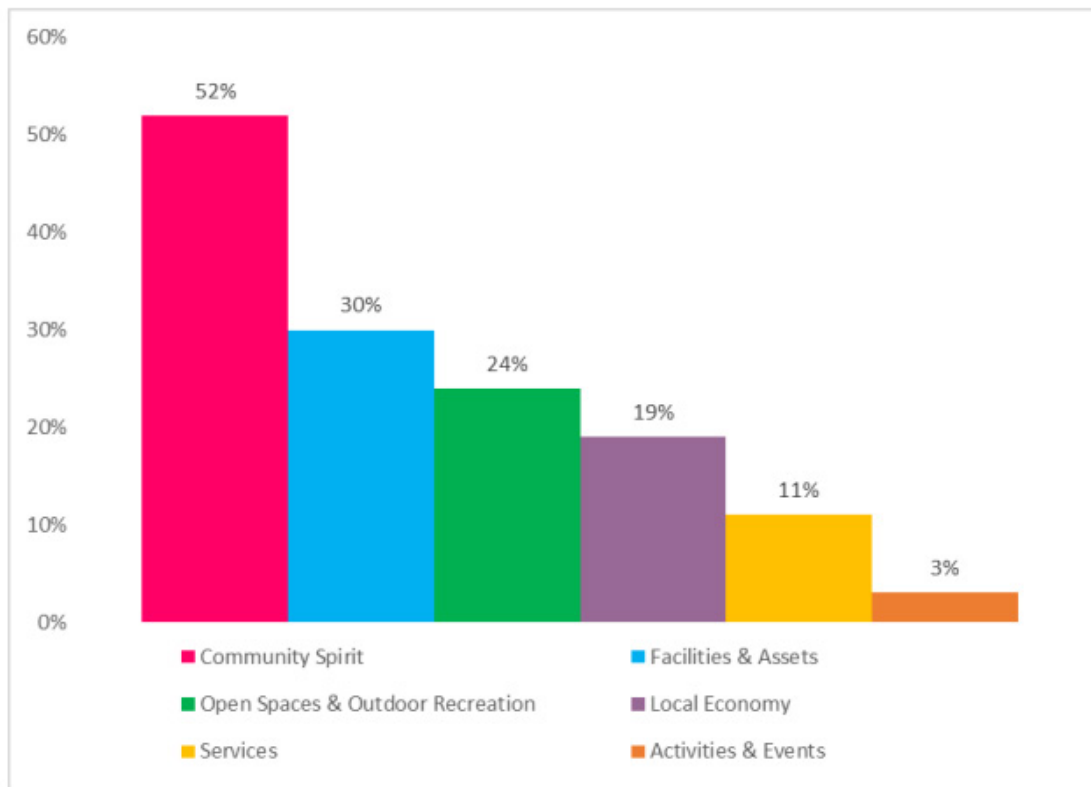
Caledonian Bottle Factory at the start of Netherthird stopped production in 2022 after 28 years. The firm took the decision to close the factory due to rising costs. This would be a great investment.

### Shops

There is 1 shop unit empty at the moment within the main shopping area in Netherthird, which would be a great investment.



# What We LIKE



## Quotes:

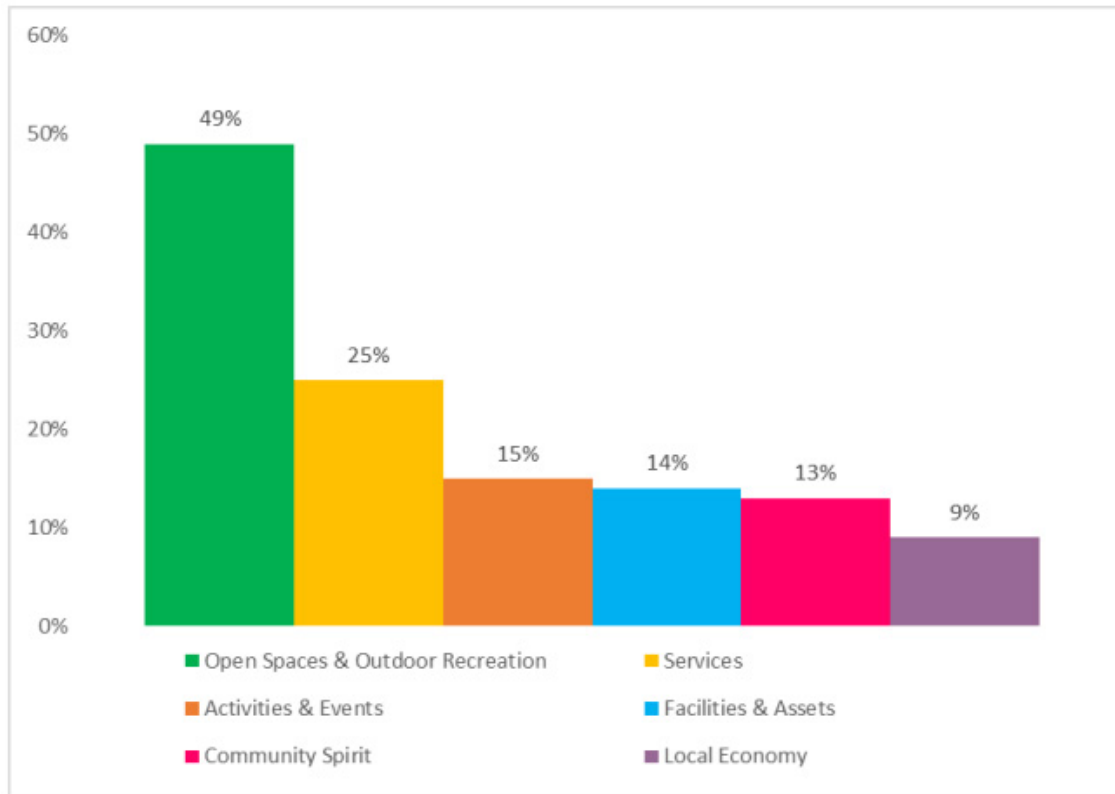
"Great neighbourhood, wee community"  
"Feel safe"  
"Everyone talks to you"  
"Kids are safe"  
"Caring community"  
"It's home"  
"Community minded"

"Good community centre and café"  
"Great staff & great food"  
"Café is clean and welcoming"  
"Community centre and garden are a massive benefit to everyone"  
"Bowling Green is a great asset"

"Flowers at shops are lovely"  
"I like the flowers and trees around the nature walk"  
"Enjoy all the great walks"  
"I love the play parks"  
"I like Craighens play park"

"Garden is amazing throughout the summer"  
"Love going to the garden"  
"Amazing that EPIC is based here"  
"Great summer parties"

# What We DON'T LIKE



## Quotes:

"Play park is dangerous"  
"Poor drainage"  
"Litter and dog mess everywhere"  
"Fly tipping"  
"Graffiti on bins and benches"  
"Vandalism at electricity box"

"No café at weekends or nights"  
"Empty shops"  
"Lack of employment"  
"No chippy, bakers or shop in Craigens"  
"No jobs in the area"

"Badly need a youth club"  
"No activities at nights or weekends"  
"Kids just running about the shops"

"Drugs and alcohol issues are on the rise"

"Church is dangerous"  
"Nowhere for bikes or skate park"  
"Centre is only open through the week"  
"Glaisnock house is a valuable asset that is being ruined"



### Priority 1 - Upgrade public spaces.

- Work with Council to upgrade all play parks with new equipment and better drainage.
- Upgrade football field and cage.
- Provide goal nets in football field.
- Investigate better drainage.
- Ensure the cage is kept clean and tidy.

### Priority 2 - Develop derelict spaces.

- Re-purpose waste ground next to centre for Skate Park, Bike Park or seating area.
- Develop derelict spaces to benefit the community.

### Priority 3 - Improved Paths.

- Investigate a better path to school.
- Liaise with Council with regards to cleaning and weeding all short cuts and paths.

### Priority 4 - Tackle Litter.

- Set up a clean team.
- Report fly tipping.
- Encourage community clean ups and general tidy up.



## Who could help us achieve these priorities?

**Possible partners include:** Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington Action Plan Group, Netherthird & District Community Council. Community Groups, Businesses, Residents, Netherthird Community Action Training, Netherthird Community Development Group, East Ayrshire, Council Clean Green & Vibrant communities, Skills and Learning (SL66), Stagecoach, External funders, Housing, Nursery, Schools, Police, Shire Housing, Netherthird Community Garden, Netherthird Initiative for Community Empowerment (N.I.C.E.), Netherthird Youthy, Environmental Health, Keep Scotland beautiful and Volunteers.





### Priority 1 - Develop Activities.

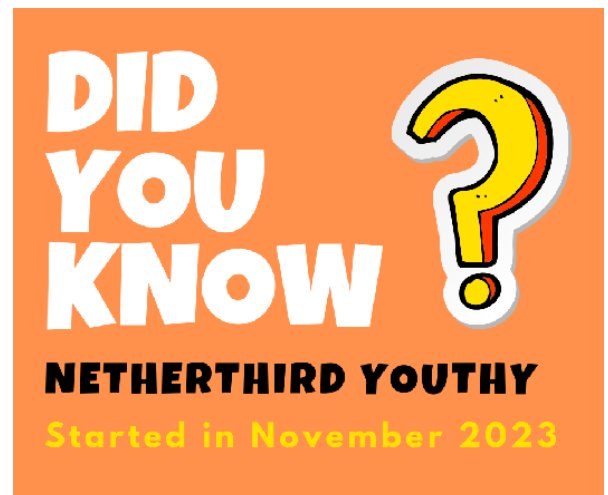
- Establish a youth club with trips, parties & discos.
- More activities for all in the centre e.g. dance classes, art classes and acting classes.
- Better promotion of activities through social media and posters.
- More activities for children under six.
- Classes for budgeting.
- Provide training opportunities for all.

### Priority 2 - Organise Community Events.

- Organise and support more community events e.g. bring back the Gala Day.
- Promote and support one another.
- Source local people for events.
- Promote small businesses.

### Priority 3 - Health and well-being.

- Introduce groups for recovery and addictions.
- Investigate counselling for under 18's.



## Who could help us achieve these priorities?

**Possible partners include:** Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington Action Plan Group, Netherthird & District Community Council, Community Groups, Businesses, Residents, Netherthird Community Action Training, Netherthird Community Development Group, East Ayrshire, Council Vibrant Communities, Skills and Learning (SL66), Stagecoach, Recovery groups, Housing, Nursery, Schools, Police, Shire Housing, Netherthird Community Garden, Netherthird Initiative for Community Empowerment (N.I.C.E.), Netherthird Youthy, External funders and Volunteers.



# IMPROVE LOCAL ECONOMY

## Theme 3



### Priority 1 - Attract investment.

- Facelift for all shops.
- Promote empty factory and derelict land for potential investment.
- Promote tourism through walkways & interesting facts about the area.

### Priority 2 - Building Economy.

- Support the Bowling Green at events e.g. bingo, indoor & outdoor bowling and increase the membership.
- Community Café open at night and weekends.

### Priority 3 - Increase Employment Opportunities.

- Provide employability classes for all e.g. Job Club, CV classes and interview skills.
- Investigate employment & volunteer opportunities.



## Who could help us achieve these priorities?

**Possible partners include:** Netherthird, Craigs & Skerrington Action Plan Group, Netherthird & District Community Council, Community Groups, Businesses, Residents, Netherthird Community Action Training, Netherthird Community Development Group, Department of Working Pension (DWP) Skills Development Scotland, Skills and Learning (SL66), Economic development, East Ayrshire Council, Vibrant Communities, Housing, Nursery, Schools, Police, Shire Housing, Stagecoach, Glaisnock Valley Bowling Club, Netherthird Community Garden, Netherthird Initiative for Community Empowerment (N.I.C.E.), Netherthird Youthy, External funders and Volunteers.

# FACILITIES & ASSETS

## Theme 4



### Priority 1 - Community Assets.

- Support the Community Centre, charity shop, larder and wellbeing rooms.
- Continue to support the Community Garden and Netherthird Community Development Group.
- Build training programmes for young people for future employment within the garden and community.
- Build a multi-purpose leisure centre incorporating fitness, swimming, badminton and football (a 4G Pitch) etc.
- Support the bowling green to become sustainable.

### Priority 2 - Derelict Land.

- Convert or re-purpose the derelict church, empty shops and garages at Craigens.
- Re-develop the Yates Yard & Bottle Plant to encourage investment.



## Who could help us achieve these priorities?

**Possible partners include:** Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington Action Plan Group, Netherthird & District Community Council, Community Groups, Businesses, Residents, Netherthird Community Action Training, Netherthird Community Development Group, Glaisnock Valley Bowling Club, East Ayrshire Council, Vibrant Communities, Economic development, Skills and Learning (SL66), Investors, Media, Housing, Nursery, Schools, Police, Shire Housing, Netherthird Community Garden, Netherthird Initiative for Community Empowerment (N.I.C.E.), Netherthird Youthy, External funders and Volunteers.





### Priority 1 - Improved Housing.

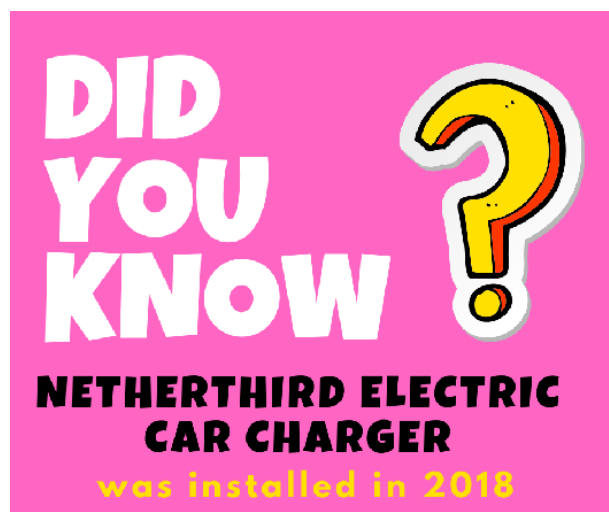
- Investigate the establishment of a recycle station.
- Encourage garden improvements.
- Work with private landlords to improve their properties.
- Liaise with Shire Housing and East Ayrshire Council regarding their properties.
- Improve social housing for families and the elderly.

### Priority 2 - Upgrade Roads & Paths.

- Contact Ayrshire Roads Alliance regarding improved roads, signage and parking.
- Promote and improve walking and cycling paths e.g. a loop around the area.
- Investigate better transport links.

### Priority 3 - Community Safety.

- Tackle anti-social behaviour i.e. Drugs and Alcohol.
- Investigate traffic calming measures.
- More police presence.



## Who could help us achieve these priorities?

**Possible partners include:** Netherthird, Craighs & Skerrington Action Plan Group, Netherthird & District Community Council, Community Groups, Businesses, Residents, Netherthird Community Action Training, Netherthird Community Development Group, Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA), East Ayrshire Council, Vibrant Communities, East Ayrshire Leisure Trust, Skills and Learning (SL66), Housing, Nursery, Schools, Police, Shire Housing, Private Landlords, Scottish Partnership for Transport (SPT), Stagecoach, Netherthird Community Garden, Netherthird Initiative for Community Empowerment (N.I.C.E.), Netherthird Youthy, External funders and Volunteers.



## Future of Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington

The Community Action Plan Steering group has completed the engagement and consultation process within Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington. Within this plan, the priorities have been identified exclusively through the views of those living and working in the local communities.

Throughout this document, we have shared with you the results of the consultation and who amongst our communities can help take them forward.

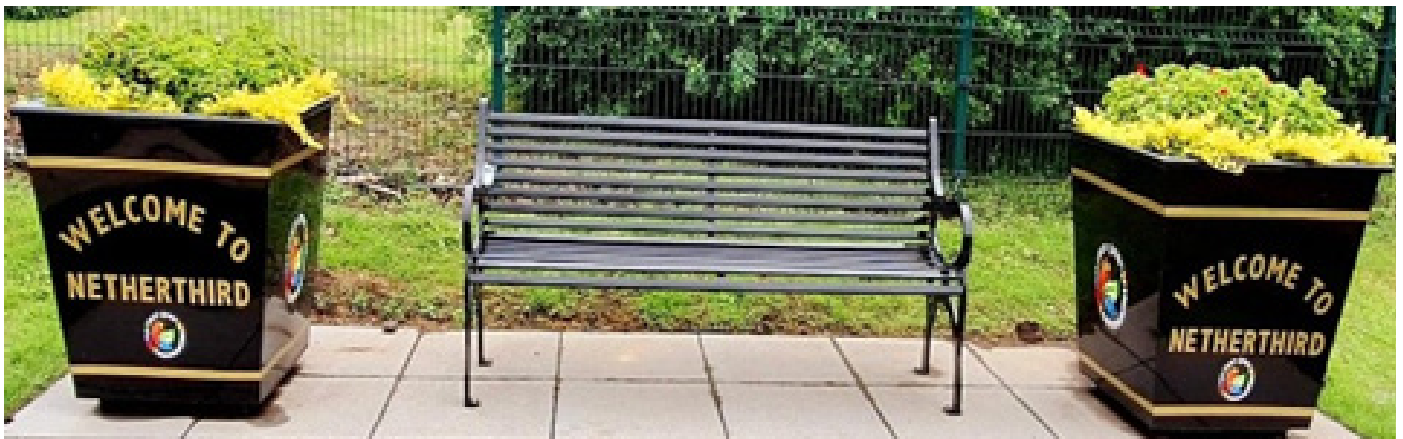
The steering group will liaise with the residents and stakeholders to achieve the actions identified within the priorities.

The steering group cannot guarantee that all priorities will be achieved. However, this plan enables various groups to take ownership of the actions and apply for funding for their activities and events as this, can be part of the evidence required for their applications.

We hope that you will consider helping within your community, as it has been identified that residents want to keep improving the areas. This will ensure Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington remains a beautiful rural location, with a mixture of diverse housing, businesses and agriculture. A place where everyone feels safe, happy and proud to live in.

Local groups and individuals will continue to work together to take forward the priorities within the Action Plan.

If you would like to get involved or for more information - Email: [Ncsactiongroup@outlook.com](mailto:Ncsactiongroup@outlook.com)



THANK  
YOU

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved since November 2022 in trying to improve Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington, whether you have been involved directly or have supported the people, groups and events

All information and photography was provided by  
Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington Steering Group.





The Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington Community Action Plan was resourced and supported in partnership with East Ayrshire Council Vibrant Communities. East Ayrshire Community Action Planning is based on the Community Futures Programme designed and supported by STAR Development Group

*Netherthird, Craigens & Skerrington Community Action Plan  
working together with*

