PATNA

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN
2015 - 2020

Carried out by Patna Community Action Plan Steering Group

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DID YOU KNOW?

Professor Sir David Campbell was born in Patna in 1889. He was educated at Patna Primary, Ayr Academy and Glasgow University. He became President of the General Medical Council of Great Britain. He was knighted in 1953 and received honorary degrees from universities such as Glasgow, Liverpool and Dublin. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Royal Colleges of Physicians in London and Glasgow.

P - Golf Flag A - River Doon T- Monument N - Old Brig A - River Doon

Logo designed by Jack Young, Patna Primary School

INTRODUCTION

PATNA COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN STEERING GROUP

The preparation of the Action Plan has been guided by a local steering group which brought together representatives from Patna Community Council, Patna Primary School PTA, Patna Primary School Parent Council, Patna Primary School, St Xavier's Primary School, St Xavier's Primary PTA, Patna Community Association, Patna Waterside Parish Church, Patna Youth Group, LLOL 139, LOL 47 and Patna Fishing Club, local businesses and interested members of the community.

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

The Action Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement carried out over a six month period from May 2014 - October 2014.

The process involved:

- a community views survey, which was delivered to all households;
- stakeholder interviews with different groups and individuals representing all aspects and ages of the community;
- young people's survey, conducted through Patna Primary School, St Xavier's Primary School and Doon Academy;
- preparing a community profile detailing facts and figures about the community;
- a Community Event.

356 COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY FORMS WERE RETURNED FROM OUR **937** HOUSES

83 SURVEY FORMS WERE RETURNED FROM PRIMARY SCHOOLS

50 SURVEY FORMS WERE RETURNED FROM YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12 - 17

17 STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS AND FOCUS GROUPS WERE HELD WITH LOCAL GROUPS, BUSINESSES AND SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

184 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE COMMUNITY 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 the Community Profile - a report produced by the Steering Group to give a picture of Patna now.

LOCATION

Patna and Polnessan are located in the Doon Valley beside the River Doon and on the A713, approximately 7 miles from Ayr. It is near the villages of Waterside, Dalmellington and Kirkmichael, and close to the Dark Sky Observatory at Craigengillan and a 13th century castle at Loch Doon.

POPULATION

The population of Patna in 2010 was just over 2,200 – there has been an increase of around 1% in the last 10 years.

There is a larger percentage of pre-school children than the national average and at the other end there is a significantly smaller percentage of 16–29 year olds.

The number of over 60's is higher than the rest of East Ayrshire and the national average, this might be due to the fact that there are two nursing homes in the village. This could also account for the higher than average percentage of part time work and the higher percentage of people with poor health.

The gender split in Patna is consistent with the figures reported across East Ayrshire and Scotland as a whole.

EMPLOYMENT & LOCAL ECONOMY

Mining was the mainstay of the local economy until the 1980s when pit closures had a devastating effect on local employment and the economy. The recent decline in the opencast mining industry has further compounded unemployment in the local area. Unemployment rates in the area are slightly higher than the average for East Ayrshire.

Just over 57% of Patna's population are currently in employment, with the majority of those being employed in the health and social care sector. The main local employers in the area are two care homes. Local businesses include a variety of shops, taxi companies and other businesses such as a specialist cake business and construction related contractors.

HOUSING

Patna reports a lower level of owner occupied housing than the East Ayrshire and Scotland average. As a result, the area reports a higher level of local authority renting.

As at September 2014, the Council had a stock of 319 properties in Patna, with 57 people on the waiting list for a Council house. 15 houses are currently vacant, 14 of these are in Doon-bank.

OUR COMMUNITY NOW FACTS & FIGURES

EDUCATION

Pre School:
Patna Early Education Centre

Primary School:
Patna and St Xavier's Primary Schools

Secondary School:
Doon Academy and Queen Margaret Academy

Further Education:
Ayrshire College (Ayr, Kilmarnock and Cumnock)
University of West of Scotland (Ayr)

COMMUNITY AND RECREATION

Community facilities include:
Community Centre, Games Hall, Day Centre, Library and Church Hall.

Community groups and clubs include:
Patna Youth Group, Splash Club, Lunch Club, Community Association, Community Council, PACT, Fishing Club, Golf Club, Over 60's Club, LLOL 139, LOL47, Courage, Cuppa & Cake, S.A.D. Club, Patna Primary School Parent Council and PTA and St Xavier's Primary School Parent Council.

PARKS AND PLAY AREAS

There are two parks within Patna, one is situated at Doonbank and one off Carnshalloch Avenue.

HEALTH AND CARE FACILITIES

Patna Resource Centre, built in 2012 replaced the old Doctors' Surgery in Patna. The resource centre now houses the following services/staff.

- Community Staff / Auxiliary staff
- GP's/District Nurses/Practice Nurses
- Health Visitors
- Podiatrist
- Community Psychiatric Nurses (CPNs)
- Addictions Team
- Chaplaincy Service
- Dietician

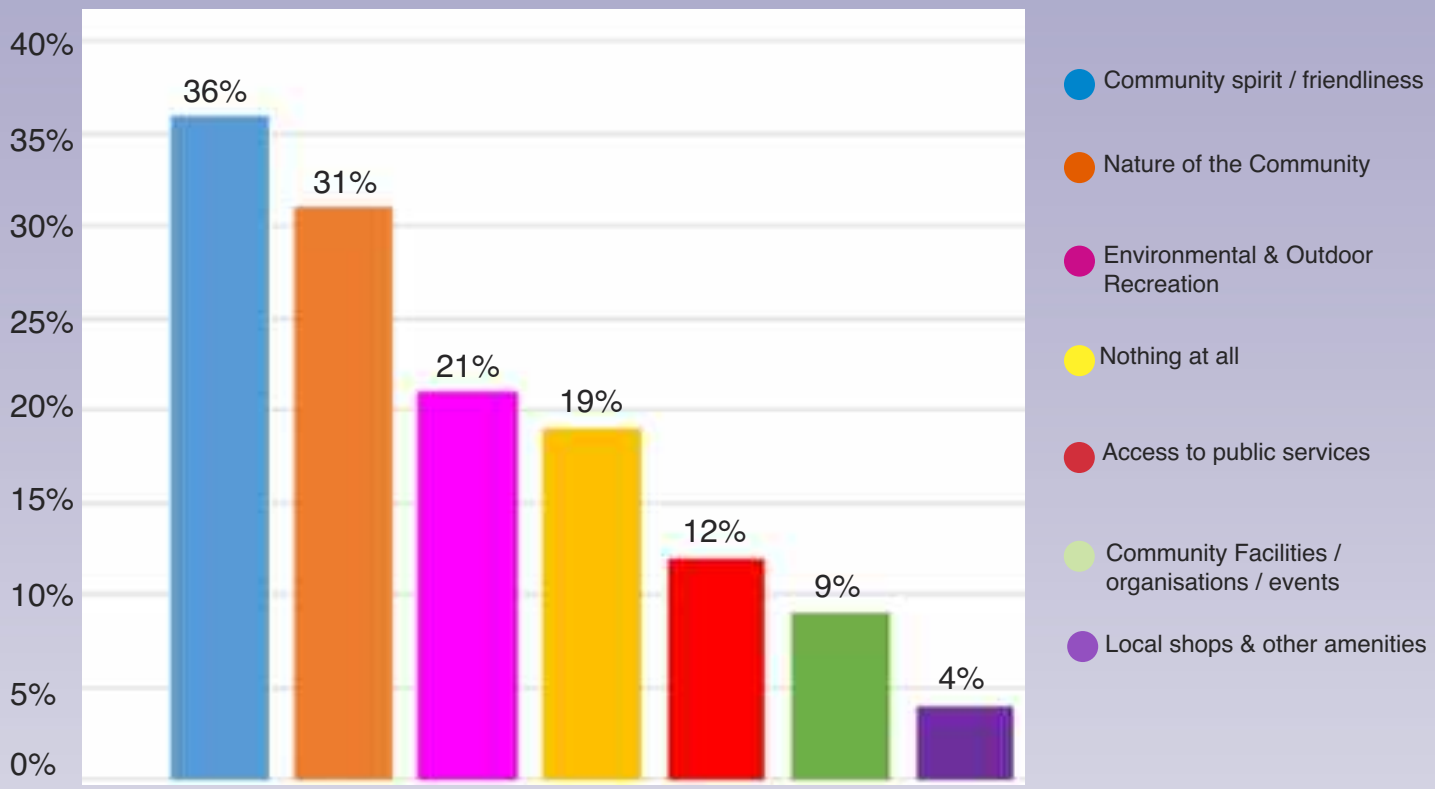
There are 5 partners based within the practice, with over 4,500 people registered. The practice also serves the communities of Rankinston, Coylton and Dalrymple.

There is also a Boots pharmacy located within Patna Resource Centre.

The nearest hospital is Ayr Hospital which is approximately 7 miles away. This also includes an Accident and Emergency Service.

OUR COMMUNITY NOW LIKES

Over 500 responses were made by local residents of all ages in our Community Views survey. The results helped to inform this action plan. Here is what people said they like about the community now... and what they were not so keen on.



What People Said.....

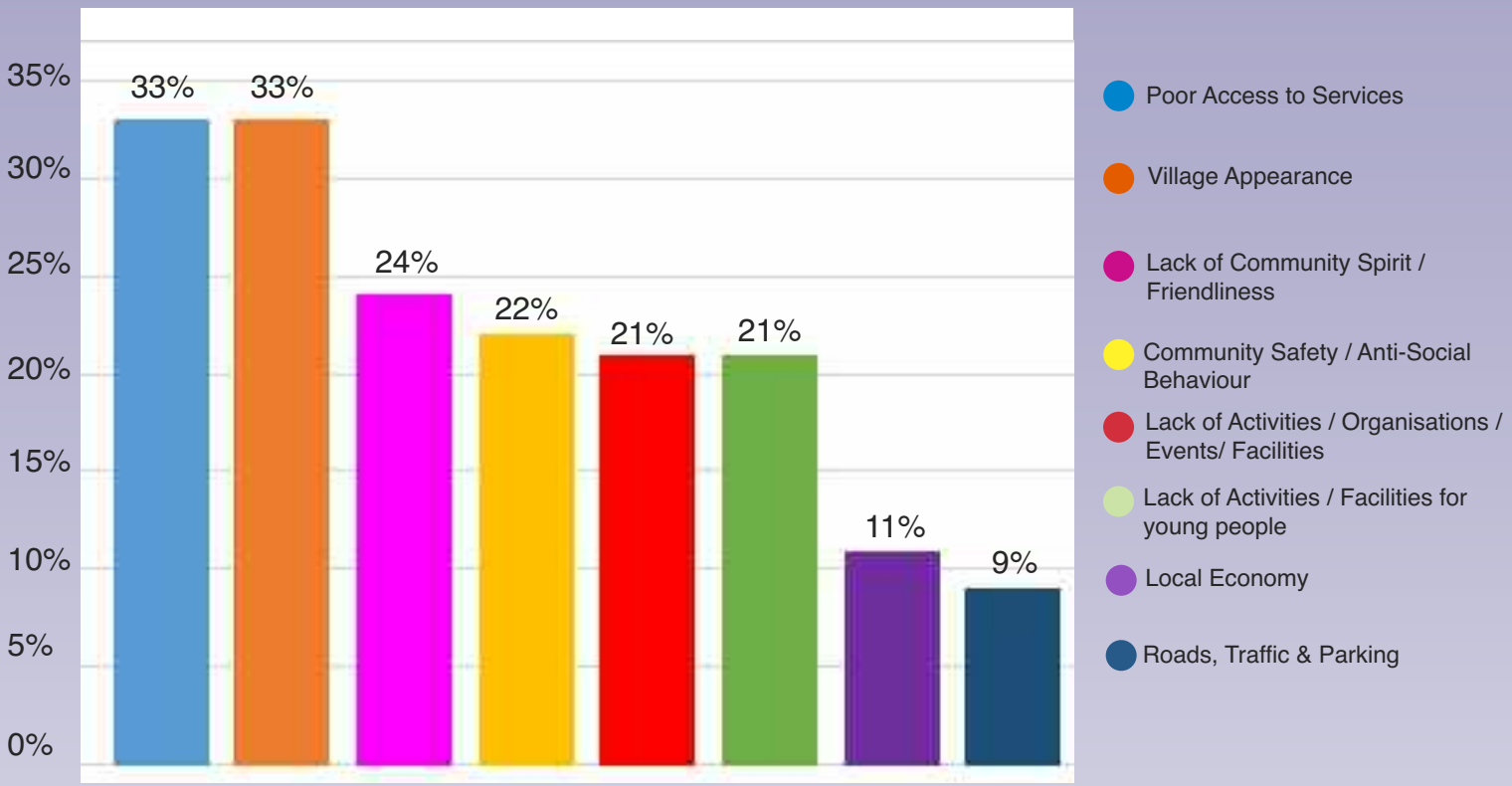
'It's a strong family community where everyone pulls together in hour of need'
'Has the potential to be a great place, people just need to gain the belief that we can do it'
'It's a close-knit community and most families remain here throughout their lives'
'It is situated in a lovely picturesque area which is lovely and peaceful and on the tourist route'
' A good place to bring up children'
'I enjoy the safety of being able to carry out your normal daily chores and the feeling of wellbeing in your own home'
'Patna is a lovely wee village set on the river Doon. Walks are lovely and there are a lot of open spaces with potential for the kids'
'Community projects such as the river walk way are fantastic and rarely seen elsewhere'
'We live in a beautiful valley with a famous river running through it, it changes with the seasons'
'Having a good library and school. A Games Hall and Golf Course especially if it encourages youths to participate in healthy activities'
'Modern, newly built school. Modern, newly built medical centre'
'It has everything you need e.g. doctors, dentist, pharmacy, shops and other businesses.
'It now has a Steering Group'
'We have our community church and shop cafe'

DID YOU KNOW?

'There are 10 rights of way in and around Patna'

'Between 1849 and 1965 there were around 52 ironstone and coal mines in the Patna area'

OUR COMMUNITY NOW DISLIKES



What People Said.....

'The uncertainty of keeping community facilities open'
'The police don't show up very often and they don't patrol the area hardly'
'I do not like the fact that a community spirit is absent in Patna, lets pull together and we will have a village to be proud of'
'High levels of alcohol and drug abuse'
'Lack of facilities for the youngsters as they congregate around the shops at night which is intimidating'
'Lack of safe, fun play areas for all ages'
'The lack of a community hub where people can meet for tea/coffee/cakes and a chat'
'One cashpoint and always broken'
'The lack of prospect and activities for young people are a worry and can lead to anti-social behaviour'
'Speeding cars'
'The mess left by the Opencast. This has cost Patna its heritage, walks and cycling areas'
'Nothing to attract tourism to the area, nowhere to go for a meal, hotel etc'
'There are not a lot of employment opportunities in the village'

DID YOU KNOW?

'The last steam passenger train from Patna was April 4th 1964, bonafide travelling stopped in 1962'

'The first telephone system in Patna became operational in 1930'

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE PATNA 2020

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.

A CLOSER COMMUNITY WITH A STRONG PRIDE IN OUR VILLAGE

- To be an upbeat and happy place for the future generations of the village. A place to be proud to say you live in.
- A thriving community where we all have a sense of belonging.
- A place where everyone takes pride in their village.

A VILLAGE THAT IS CLEAN, ATTRACTIVE AND SAFE

- Friendly, peaceful and no one is afraid to go near the shops after 7pm.
- For people to be proud of their houses and gardens.
- A clean, tidy, pleasant and happy place to live, with things to do for families with children.

WITH GOOD COMMUNITY FACILITIES, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- To be more of a community with days planned through the year to bring us together.
- A busy vibrant community with lots to do regardless of age, gender or disability.
- A community that has plenty of opportunities for people to learn new skills.

TO HAVE A STRONG & HEALTHY LOCAL ECONOMY

- To have Main Street redevelopment for new businesses.
- To be a village that attracts tourists, to have more cafes, public toilets and more things to do.

TO BE RECOGNISED FOR ITS HERITAGE, ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOOR RECREATION

- A place people will want to visit with its well promoted networks of paths and walks.
- To create new paths and cycle trails to entice tourists.

MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

These are the main strategies and priorities identified by the local community through profiles, surveys and interviews, which were further prioritised at the Community Event.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The village has always had a strong sense of community but has seen a decrease in the number of events and activities in recent years. The consultation process highlighted a desire for this to improve and to see the return of events such as gala days, the raft race and the development of community based projects.

Younger members of our community want to see an improvement in the facilities available such as improved play areas and the introduction of new facilities, with a skate park and AstroTurf pitch being the main desired attractions.

In addition, the community would like to retain current facilities such as the Games Hall and the Day Centre and improve awareness and use of these.

Main priorities:

- Retain and improve community facilities, e.g. The Games Hall, Day Centre.
- Improve facilities for young people.
- Increase community events and projects e.g. Gala Week and a Community Garden.
- Increase in community groups, e.g. sports groups and groups for adults.

VILLAGE APPEARANCE

Patna is a very scenic village with areas of particular beauty but is blighted in some areas with derelict or run down buildings. Through the consultation process the community highlighted a desire to see the removal and improvement of buildings which detract from the attractiveness of the area, with the shopping area a particular concern.

The amount of litter and dog mess was also highlighted as an area of improvement for residents as well as the introduction of more decorative features in the village:

Main priorities:

- Increase in decorative features e.g. hanging baskets and planters.
- Reduce litter and dog fouling.
- Improve the appearance of the shops and removal of derelict buildings/ maintenance of derelict land.
- Help residents refresh the appearance of homes and gardens.

MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

LOCAL ECONOMY AND SERVICES

There was a strong need identified to support current local businesses and attract more businesses to the area. This was seen as a key factor in developing facilities which would encourage tourism to the area and celebrate our local heritage.

The community also highlighted the need to increase employment and training opportunities as well as facilities to support working families such as an increase in child care facilities.

Main priorities:

- Attract more businesses e.g. café,restaurant.
- Increase employment and training opportunities e.g. work experience, support local businesses.
- Develop attractions and facilities to increase tourism e.g. public toilets and increase the number of ATM's.
- Increase child care facilities.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

While residents like living in the community, the consultation showed a lot of concern around an increase in anti-social behaviour. Members of the community feel intimidated by youths congregating in the village and would like to see an increased police presence and other measures taken to reduce this.

Under-age drinking, drug use and vandalism also featured highly during the consultation with many members of the community concerned about the levels of these activities in the village.

Main priorities:

- Increasing police presence around the village.
- Increase the safety of the shop area e.g. increase lighting, install CCTV.
- Tackle issues of underage drinking, drug use and vandalism.

MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

The community appreciate the existing outdoor recreation activities available such as the Jubilee Walk and the Golf Course and would like to see measures in place to make these more accessible. Specific concerns included lighting on the walk way and the lack of programmes encouraging membership of the Golf Club.

Improving parks featured highly for residents, as did the introduction of cycle routes and extending current walking routes.

Main priorities:

- Extend walking routes and encourage community involvement in their development.
- Creation of cycle routes around the village.
- Keep the Golf Course open and available.
- Develop outdoor park facilities e.g. play areas, picnic areas.

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

The speed of vehicles around the village give the community cause for concern, particularly around the school and the main road. Other concerns which featured highly included a lack of maintenance of roads and pavements.

Residents would like to see enhancements made to the current walk way between the shop area and the GP's surgery, making the journey between two important areas of the village both safer and easier.

Main priorities:

- Increase maintenance of roads and pavements.
- Development of traffic management methods including parking and speed restrictions.
- Improve path network from shops to GP surgery.

ACTION

THEME 1 – COMMUNITY FACILITIES, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Priority 1	**Activities for Young People** • Develop proposals for increased play park facilities for all ages, including the creation of skate/bike park and the introduction of play park equipment for young people aged 5-16. • Support the creation of a variety of groups for young people. • Develop proposals for a 7-a-side football pitch/all weather surface at the football field that could be used for a variety of activities.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council, Friends of Patna Church, Community Association, Community Councils, Patna Youth Club & Splash Group.*
Priority 2	**Increased Community Events** • Develop community events and social activities such as a Gala Day and a Christmas Fayre.
Action by	*Friends of Patna Church, Community Association, Community Council, Patna Primary School & St Xavier's Primary School PTA's & Parent Councils, Bridgend and Patna Fishing Club, Shop Owners, Schools, Golf Club*
Priority 3	**Community Groups** • Support and develop existing and new groups for adults, such as life skills workshops for young adults, PC skills, etc. • Support and develop sports groups for all ages.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council*
Priority 4	**Community Projects** • Encourage and support community involvement in community events. • Develop proposals for community projects, such as a community garden.
Action by	*Friends of Patna Church, Community Association, Community Council, Patna Primary School & St Xavier's Primary School PTA's & Parent Councils, Bridgend and Patna Fishing Club, Shop Owners, Schools, Golf Club and East Ayrshire Council*

ACTION

THEME 2 – VILLAGE APPEARANCE	
Priority 1	**Increase Decorative Features around the Village** • Introduce features to enhance the village appearance, such as hanging baskets and more Christmas lights. • Develop projects to encourage people to take care of the village and take pride in the village – community garden, community mural, etc.
Action by	*Community Council, Community Association, Patna Primary School PTA & St Xavier's Primary School PTA / Parent Councils*
Priority 2	**Reduce Dog Mess/Litter** • Develop a programme of action and volunteering to reduce litter. • Liaise with services to develop action to attempt to reduce the level of dog mess.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council Wardens and Community Council*
Priority 3	**Improve Appearance of Shops** • Work with local businesses with the aim of improving shop fronts and introducing new signage.
Action by	*Local businesses, East Ayrshire Council*
Priority 4	**Removal of Derelict Buildings** • Liaise with building owners regarding derelict buildings.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council / Owners*
Priority 5	**Clean/Refresh House Appearance and Grounds** • More should be done to ensure that all properties are tidy and improve their appearance.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council, Shire Housing and Residents*

ACTION

THEME 3 – LOCAL ECONOMY AND SERVICES	
Priority 1	**Attract More Businesses** • Make Patna attractive for new businesses to set up. • Identify gaps in the market and encourage businesses to come to Patna and set up – such as cafés, restaurants, etc. • Develop plans to make Patna a tourist stop for those travelling the Galloway Tourist Route.
Action by	*Friends of Patna Church, East Ayrshire Council , Community Association*
Priority 2	**Increase Employment and Training Opportunities** • Support services to create local training opportunities/workshops for young people.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council*
Priority 3	**Develop Attractions and Facilities to Increase Tourism** • Work with providers to increase the number of ATMs available within the village. • Look at the potential to create a tourist attraction to promote the village and its facilities – i.e Heritage Centre, Museum, etc.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council and businesses*
Priority 4	**More childcare facilities** • Support providers to develop and expand childcare to meet the needs of the Community.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council, Patna Primary School PTA & St Xavier's Primary School PTA, Parent Councils*

ACTION

THEME 4 – COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	
Priority 1	**Greater Police Presence** • Liaise with Police Scotland regarding increased Police presence within the village.
Action by	*Police Scotland*
Priority 2	**Shopping Area** • Work with local businesses and Police Scotland to reduce the number of youths congregating around the shop area. • Work with local businesses and East Ayrshire Council to develop plans for additional lighting around the shop area. • Work with East Ayrshire Council to consider the introduction of CCTV around the shop area.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council, Police Scotland and Local Businesses*
Priority 3	**Drugs Misuse and Underage Drinking** • Work with Police Scotland to reduce the level of drug and alcohol misuse within the village. • Support existing services to provide education on the misuse of drugs and alcohol to young people. • Work with local business, Police Scotland and any other services to attempt to reduce underage drinking.
Action by	*Police Scotland, shop owners, Patna Primary School PTA & St Xavier's Primary School PTA/ Parent Councils, Youth Club, Splash Group, East Ayrshire Council*
Priority 4	**Vandalism** • Develop and support a programme of action to reduce vandalism around the village.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council, Police Scotland*

ACTION

THEME 5 – OUTDOOR RECREATION AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE	
Priority 1	**Walking and Cycle Routes** • Develop and support plans to extend and enhance the existing walking routes, as well as the introduction of further routes to create a "Walking Network". • Develop and support plans for the creation of a cycle route.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council, Community Council, Forestry Commission, East Ayrshire Woodlands*
Priority 2	**Keep Golf Course Open** • Support campaigns to retain Patna Golf Course and Club. • Work with the Golf Club to support programmes to encourage participation of all ages.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council, Golf Club*
Priority 3	**Develop Park Areas** • Develop plans to create picnic areas around the village for both locals and tourists.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council, Community Council, Parent Councils, Patna Primary School and St Xavier's Primary School*

ACTION

THEME 6 – ROADS, TRAFFIC AND PARKING	
Priority 1	**Increase Maintenance of Roads and Pavements** • Liaise with East Ayrshire Council regarding the maintenance of roads and pavements.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Roads Alliance*
Priority 2	**Develop Traffic Parking Measures** • Liaise with East Ayrshire Council regarding the development of traffic management methods around the village, including parking and speed restrictions and the development of a crossing at the school. • Liaise with Police Scotland regarding methods to reduce speeding along Ayr Road during the evening.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council, Police Scotland*
Priority 3	**Path from Shops to GP Surgery** • Support proposals to improve the path network from the shops to the GP Surgery.
Action by	*East Ayrshire Council, Community Council*

DID YOU KNOW?

'Patna was founded by William Fullarton in 1802'

'Patna is named after Patna in India'

'The new school was opened on 10th September 2012 by Alex Neil, MSP who is also a Patna boy'

OUR VILLAGE

PATNA

Nestling cosy in the valley of the Doon,
There stands a village – well, gye near a toon,
I tell you now – Patna's its name:
And you should be proud to call it Hame.

It has lovely scenery, and fresh country air,
It sits jist 10 miles fae the great toon o' Ayr.
It's surrounded by trees, and some glens in between,
And a fair share o' hills, to add to the scene.

There is a kirk - no there's twae,
The bottom yin's where I go to pray,
To ask for sins to be forgiven,
But I'm quite sure I'll make it to heaven.

The River Doon flows proudly by,
Passing the fields, wi' the sheep and the kye,
And as I slowly wander along her banks,
I quote the 23rd Pslam and give God thanks.

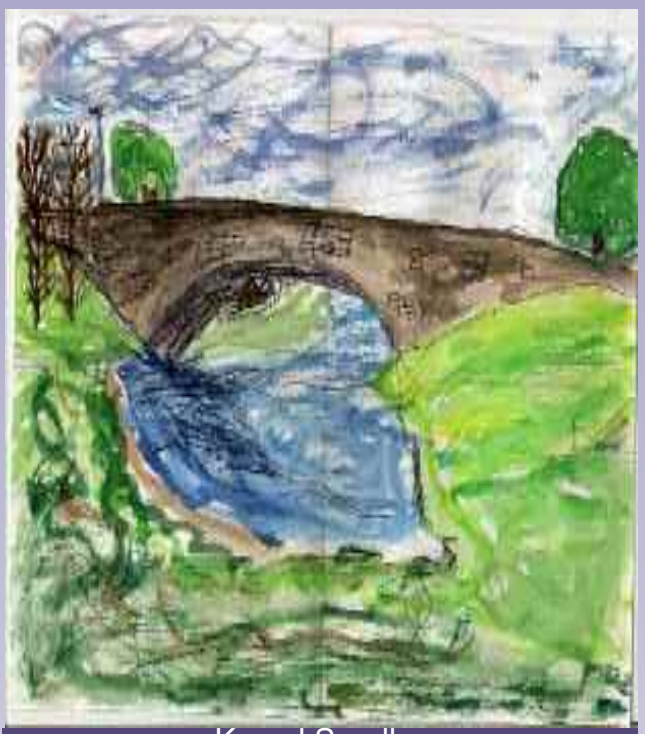
For the beauty is there for all to see;
Just open your eyes, then bend your knee,
And thank the Lord for the miracles he's made
For the earthly beauty that'll never fade.

Patna also boosts a Bowling Green,
Just about the finest ever seen;
A nine-hole golf course – it's a cracker,
But mind your heid or ye'll get yin in the knapper.

There's lots more to see, if you have the time,
A forest walk that's truly sublime.
And up past the Power Station on a lovely day,
There's a view that takes your breath away.

So all you lucky people who live in the toon,
That nestles beside the River Doon,
May God Bless you All, both young and old,
And treasure the beauty that's yours to behold.

by Jean Payne



Komal Sandhu
Doon Academy

Kerry Robertson
Doon Academy

MAKING IT HAPPEN

WORKING TOGETHER FOR PATNA

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

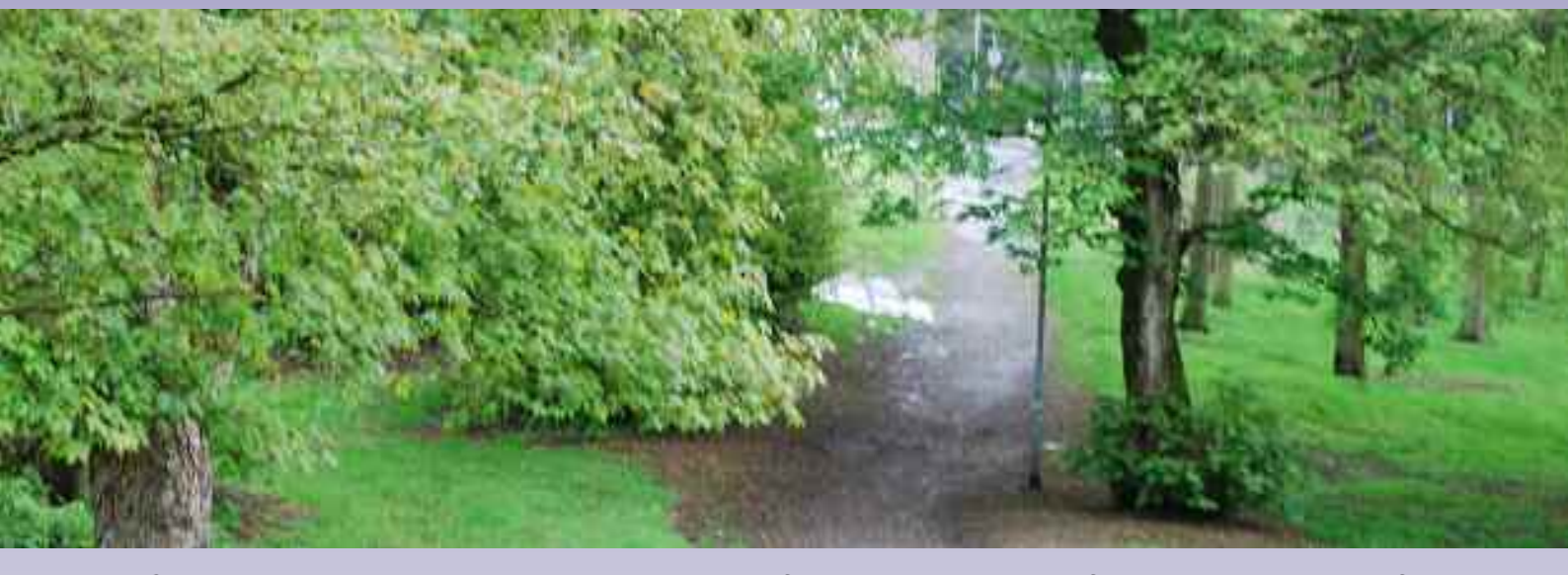
WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The projects listed here will need to be progressed by the local community and its community organisations with the support of a wide range of partners including East Ayrshire Council, Police Scotland, NHS and the Scottish Government.

Theme	Contact
Community Facilities, Events & Activities	Susanne Young - Susanne.young@talk21.com
Village Appearance	Alex Kirk - Telephone: 01292 531336
Local Economy & Services	David McLarty - davidsbikebits@aol.com
Outdoor Recreation & Access to the Countryside	William Stevenson - Stevensonwullie@aol.com
Traffic & Parking	Simon Roberts - Simonandtamarar@aol.com
Community Safety & Anti-social Behaviour	Anne Griffiths - griffbelither@btinternet.com

PATNA

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN
2015 - 2020



This Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of Patna, over the next five years as determined by the community through an extensive process of community engagement. Research was organised and led by local community groups and local residents, carried out over a six month period from May 2014 to October 2014.

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 Patna.
- The main Themes and Priorities for Action.
- Information on how you can stay in touch and get involved.

This plan is for the whole community and is jointly owned by all the organisations and individuals who 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 to all who gave their time voluntarily to be part of the Steering Group. Thanks to the Vibrant Communities team of East Ayrshire Council who supported the Steering Group in carrying out all aspects of the work involved in preparing this plan.

Patna Steering Group working together with

active connected Vibrant COMMUNITIES

East Ayrshire Community Led Action Planning is based on the Community Futures Programme designed and supported by STAR Development Group
www.stardevelopmentgroup.org