

Kilmarnock

COMMUNITY FUTURES

Community Action Plan



03

Kilmarnock

ACTION ACTION...

THIS SECTION DETAILS SOME OF THE ACTIONS PROPOSED

IMPROVING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

PRIORITY 1 **Create more employment opportunities locally by establishing a multi use community workspace**

Main Actions:

- Survey and list unused and redundant buildings for potential re-use
- Explore options for upgrading the telephone network to support broadband and ADSL
- Approach Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire to make links and explore funding possibilities

ROADS, PATHS AND SAFETY

PRIORITY 1 **Ensure that the A811 through the village is safe for all users**

Main Action:

- Lobby for continuing improvements including the installation of speed cameras

PRIORITY 2 **Establish clear understanding about priority use on the National Cycle Route**

Main Action:

- Set up a meeting with the National Park Access Officer and West Dunbartonshire Council officer
- responsible for sustainable transport and cycling to identify projects and actions to
- support this

PRIORITY 3 **Improve access, which will include as priority projects: refurbishing the rights of way, a footpath linking Kilmarnock Parish Church, the War Memorial and the village itself and one creating a circular walk via Ross Loan and the Mill Loan, and create a local core path network in conjunction with WDC and LLNP**

Main Actions:

- Approach WDC to explore ways of extending the pavement to Kilmarnock Parish Church and the War Memorial
- Arrange a meeting with the Access Officers of the National Park Authority and the local authority to
- explore ways of refurbishing the Rights of Way and identify a core path network for the
- immediate area

PRIORITY 4 **Improve parking in the village especially at the area of the school and at the KMH**

Main Action:

- Work with the school and the local authority to raise funds for improvements to parking and to
- create a safe "drop-off" point



Gartocharn
Primary School

ONE
TWO

A

08

Kilmarnock

NEXT STEPS 1...

KILMARNOCK COMMUNITY FUTURES

PROPOSED ACTION

Kilmarnock Community Futures Group will now take this Action Plan to the Community Council and the wider community.

Other communities have established community development trusts to drive forward action plans such as this. Kilmarnock already has a number of local trusts and organisations, in particular the Gartocharn Trust, which have been successful in establishing projects such as the Kilmarnock Millennium Hall for example. It may be that there is a new role for one or more of these to lead on the action plan in association with the Community Council. Alternatively, it might be useful to set up a new locally managed organisation to do so. The members of the steering group and the Community Council plan to debate this fully, openly and widely within the community over the next months and to explore how other communities have undertaken work of this kind.

SUPPORTING THESE ACTIONS

We would welcome and encourage the involvement of local people in supporting this programme of action.

REVIEWING THE ACTION PLAN

A year from the launch of this Action Plan a REVIEW meeting will be held.

MAIN CONTACTS

For further details about the Kilmarnock Community Futures plan, contact:

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Ardoch House, Gartocharn, G83 8ND
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Ben Lomond from Duncryne Hill (Tom Weir)



Kilmaronock COMMUNITY FUTURES

KILMARONOCK COMMUNITY FUTURES

The community of Kilmaronock prepared its Community Action Plan with the assistance of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Community Futures Programme. The Plan was prepared following extensive consultation within the community over the period March to July 2002 and has been developed since then by the local steering group.

Consultation included:

- a series of 12 interviews with different groups and individuals representing all aspects of the community;
- a community views survey that went to all households;
- a community profile detailing facts and figures about the community;
- a community workshop.

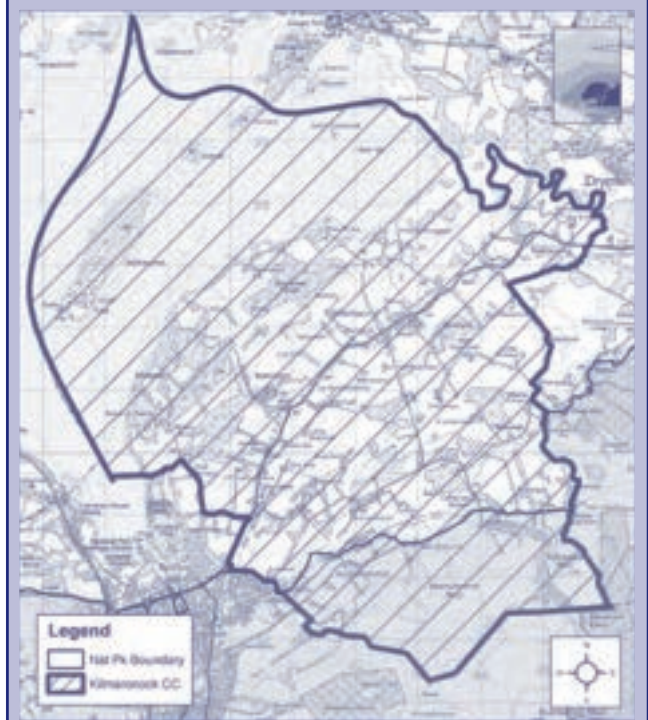
A local Community Futures Steering Group was established by the Community Council to guide the preparation of the Plan. Members were David Morgan, John Kelly, Iain Anderson and Irene Forrester

Sheona MacLennan from the National Park Community Futures Programme worked as a community agent with the steering group to assist with the consultation process.

Publicity for the survey was through word of mouth, the local newspaper - the Dumpling Times, and by posters. The survey was sent out by post with a reply paid envelope for its return.

**OVER 40% OF THE COMMUNITY
RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY AND
30 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE
COMMUNITY FUTURES WORKSHOP**

Kilmaronock Community Council Area



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Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority,
National Park HQ, The Old Station, Balloch, G83 8BF

Community Action Plan

NEXT STEPS 2...

NATIONAL PARK COMMUNITY FUTURES PROGRAMME

The National Park and its community and agency partners will continue to support communities to develop and work towards their Community Future.

Support will include:

- taking account of the Community Action Plans in the preparation of the National Park Plan
- drawing community priorities to the attention of other agencies and organisations
- developing a programme of support which will help to develop local 'community futures' organisations and to
- assist in progressing priority projects and actions.

MAIN CONTACT

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Community Futures Programme Manager,
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THE VILLAGE

The village of Gartocharn houses will be transformed in to beautiful straw brick houses with rosebuds and ivy creeping up with flowerbeds and hexagonal paths. In the Hungry Monk car park I hope there will be Chinese, Thai, Pizza Parlour and MacDonalds with organic produce gardens to grow food without pollution. The roads will be just the same except there will be lollipop lady to make it safer for children. There will be more woodland for wild animals to grow and breed.

THE SCHOOL

The Gartocharn School will have automatic doors and trays. The blackboards will be large computer screens which you use a keyboard to operate. Instead of writing we have personal computers to do work on and the computer checks it for you and sees you got it right. The playground will hopefully be bigger and have more things in it to play with for the 2020 children. I hope there will be great big greenhouse for the gardening club, like Botanic gardens with exotic plants. There will be robots to do a bit of the teachers work so they can have a break without going bankrupt. In the school a library will be built where you can just go to a computer to get a book. I hope there is a computer room where you can just hang out.

THE LIFE

The life will be peaceful and everyone gets along and has a pet. There will be a community centre and a spiritual shop called "Spirits of the North!"

By Robyn Campbell



Community Action Plan

...PROFILE

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The village of Gartocharn has one shop which is the main focus of village life and houses the local sub Post Office and petrol station as well as being a general store.

There is a Primary School, a children's nursery, the Kilmaronock Millennium Hall - which supports many local groups and activities. Kilmaronock supports two church buildings - Kilmaronock Parish Church and Gartocharn Church.

ENVIRONMENT AND LOCATION

Kilmaronock is within the boundaries of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park and part of the parish falls within the Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve and National Scenic Area boundaries. There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest and a candidate Special Area of Conservation, all of which are the responsibility of Scottish Natural Heritage.

The parish lies between the Highland Boundary Fault and the remains of a long extinct volcano – Duncryne Hill.

HERITAGE

An early settlement site in the area was at Aber, at the loch side, which was later used to ship out quarry stone. Also in Aber is the site of a pre-reformation chapel dedicated to St Kessog, the ruins of which were removed in the 18th century. In the 14th century, a church was in use on the site where the present day Kilmaronock Parish Church now stands, the present building dates from 1813.

Kilmaronock parish first appears in the records in 1324 when King Robert the Bruce granted the patronage of Kilmaronock to the Abbey of Cambuskenneth near Stirling.

In 1841 The New Statistical Account stated that "There is no village in the parish: there are not even four dwelling houses in it closely contiguous..."

It is thought that the development of the village of Gartocharn occurred for a variety of reasons – a location on the old military road, the quarry, the school, the Church and the modernisation of farming and the need for services associated with that.

Kilmaronock Parish Church (Tom Weir)



Kilmaronock
Memorial Hall

Kilmarnock

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

THE TYPE OF PLACE WE WANT IT TO BE...

A rural community...

- ...where agriculture is still the main land use within a framework that protects the diversity of the local environment and where new development is small scale and maintains and supports the existing character of the village.

A safe community...

- ...where people take priority over traffic.

A balanced community...

- ...with a good mix of ages and a sufficient range of housing to suit local needs, retaining young people in the area, first class community facilities and recreational activities, with good educational opportunities and a thriving community spirit to keep it a good place to live and bring up a family.

An active, welcoming community...

- ...with good paths and routes for walking, cycling and riding.

An enterprising community...

- ...where good opportunities for working locally are encouraged and supported through intelligent re-use of redundant buildings and first class professional support.



View over Gartocharn looking towards Ben Lomond (Tom Weir)

Community Action Plan

...ACTION

MAKING GARTOCHARN A MORE BALANCED COMMUNITY

PRIORITY 1 **Create more affordable housing for local people**

Main Actions:

- Carry out a survey of local households to identify housing need
- Contact Community Links Dunbartonshire to seek assistance
- Investigate mechanisms for establishing a local housing association or to work with
 - existing associations
- Identify land that might be available for low cost homes in the village

PRIORITY 2 **Improve and provide additional recreational facilities**

Main Action:

- Carry out a survey in the community to identify recreational needs

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PRIORITY 1 **Ensure that any new development is undertaken in an appropriate way sympathetic to maintaining the character of Kilmarnock and Gartocharn itself as rural community**

Main Actions:

- Seek funding to draw up a Village Design Statement
- Establish a coherent village plan

THREE

FOUR



Gartocharn Church

View of Gartocharn and Duncryne Hill from Ross Loan



Community Action Plan

MAIN STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

KILMARONOCK COMMUNITY FUTURES IDENTIFIED FOUR MAIN ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

IMPROVING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Improving the local economy of the village and the parish are vital if the community is to develop a stronger economic identity of its own and create more of a balance between a dormitory, commuter settlement future and one which encourages local enterprise.

MAIN PRIORITY:

- Create more employment opportunities locally by establishing a multi use community workspace

ROADS, PATHS AND SAFETY

The village is concentrated around and along a through-route which disrupts daily life and the safety of local people to an extraordinary extent.

MAIN PRIORITIES:

- Ensure that the A811 through the village is safe for all users
- Establish clear understanding about priority of use on the cycle route past the village
- Improve access, which will include as priority projects: refurbishing the rights of way, a footpath linking
- Kilmarnock Parish Church, the War Memorial and the village itself and one creating a circular walk
- via Ross Loan and the Mill Loan, and create a local core path network in conjunction with WDC and LLTNP
- Improve parking in the village especially at the KMH and in the area of the school

MAKING KILMARONOCK A MORE BALANCED COMMUNITY

People locally are only too aware of the way in which some villages in National Parks become a kind of mono-culture over time and they feel it is vital for them to maintain a broad mix of people within their community.

MAIN PRIORITIES:

- Create more affordable housing for local people
- Improve and provide additional recreational facilities

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There are strong views locally about the way in which new developments can lead to a deterioration of local distinctiveness. One way to guard against this is for the community itself to shape up an agreed vision for the local built environment.

MAIN PRIORITY:

- Ensure that any new development is undertaken in an appropriate way sympathetic to maintaining the
- character of Kilmarnock and Gartocharn itself as a rural community

Community Action Plan

OUR COMMUNITY NOW

Kilmarnock Community Futures gathered lots of views and facts and figures about the community now. We have summarised below some of the main findings from the Community Views Survey and some of the key facts from the Community Profile. If you would like more details and/or copies of the Survey or Profile reports please contact the member listed at the end of this Action Plan.

THE COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY ON KILMARNOCK

WHAT WE LIKE ?

<input type="checkbox"/>	The Location/Scenery/Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	59%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural way of life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	45%
<input type="checkbox"/>	The people/community spirit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30%
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Facilities - Shop/Village Hall/School/Nursery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	27%

“scenery, peace, people”

“beautiful countryside with nature reserve, good facilities – nursery, school, post office, village hall”

“close to urban amenities and the cities of Glasgow and Stirling”

“an ideal place to live and bring up children”

WHAT WE DO NOT LIKE ?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Roads/Traffic/Pavements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	40%
<input type="checkbox"/>	That is: speed and amount of traffic on the A811; road safety;										
<input type="checkbox"/>	maintenance; drainage & flooding; lack of pavements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Run down appearance of the local environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16%
<input type="checkbox"/>	That is: litter; dog mess; general untidiness of the area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of a “local” pub	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of outdoor sporting facilities for both children, teenagers and adults	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Too few activities and facilities for teenagers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shortage of affordable housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2%

“lack of public transport, lack of affordable housing, both rented and for sale. The lack of vision by local authority”

“lack of pub”

“lack of facilities for children”

“loss of village pub for locals as a meeting place”



Lomond View Stores and Petrol Station, Main Road, Gartocharn

Kilmaronock

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Kilmaronock is the only rural parish in West Dunbartonshire and despite being close to major centres of population it has retained its rural environment and way of life.

It is situated at the southern end of Loch Lomond and includes four of its most southerly islands as well as 4000 acres of the Loch itself. Its eastern boundary is the Endrick Water, and the western edge is the community council boundary of Balloch & Haldane. From the southern edge of the Loch, the parish stretches inland about five miles to the north facing slopes of the Kilpatrick Hills.

The main settlement of the area is the village of Gartocharn, built along the main Balloch to Stirling road, the A811. It is within easy commuting distance of Glasgow and other urban areas and many residents commute to work.

PEOPLE

Although the population of the Kilmaronock area has been increasing gradually over the past 30 years the main change is in the growing proportion of people over 60. The estimated percentage of the population over 60 for the whole of the West Dunbartonshire area for 2001 is 16.9%, for Scotland it is 17.4%, and for Kilmaronock - 23%.

HOUSING

Of the 263 houses, the majority of them are owned privately, with only 19 in the public sector - 16 local authority, 3 housing association - declining from an original number of 52. Due to the small number of available council houses, the pressure of demand and the lack of space for building new housing, West Dunbartonshire Council has an option to apply for 'Pressured Area Status' for Gartocharn. If this is agreed, the remaining social housing would stay in council ownership.

EMPLOYMENT AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

The economy of the area is traditionally agricultural in nature. There is a reduction in the number of farms which are being handed down to sons and daughters - partly because of the recent set-backs in agricultural incomes. There is some diversification within farming, with people moving into transport/haulage, construction equipment hire and hospitality.

After agriculture, the tourism and hospitality business is the next largest employer, but the area is not overtly tourism driven. There is one hotel in Gartocharn and one Private Members Club which between them employ 80 people at peak times. Interestingly, of these 80 only three are local to Gartocharn with the rest of their staff coming largely from Balloch, Bonhill, Alexandria and Drymen.

There are a number of bed & breakfast establishments, self catering businesses, holiday caravan park, the head office of a relatively large holiday business which employs twelve people.

There are a number of thriving small businesses in the area, and a high proportion of self-employed people, but no major industrial development.

The Hungry Monk Restaurant,
Gartocharn



Kilmaronock COMMUNITY FUTURES IN THE NATIONAL PARK

A COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN FOR KILMARONOCK

2003

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Community Futures Programme

COMMUNITIES SHAPING THE FUTURE

Kilmaronock is one of 24 communities that have been assisted to prepare community action plans for their future. The plans have been prepared as the National Park is coming into being so that the Park Authority can understand and work to support the aspirations and needs of the local communities within and around its boundaries.

The plans contain local community views about:

- their community now;
- what their community should be like in the future;
- and the main issues that need to be addressed to make the community a good place to live in, work in and visit.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES TO PLAN AND DEVELOP THEIR FUTURE IN THE NATIONAL PARK

This Community Futures Programme has been developed and supported by a number of partners working together:

- the Association of Community Councils for the National Park Forest Enterprise
- the Interim Committee for the National Park Argyll and Bute Council
- Scottish Natural Heritage Stirling Council
- Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley West Dunbartonshire Council
- Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire Perth and Kinross Council
- Argyll and the Islands Enterprise Small Town and Rural Development Group
-

These bodies will continue to work together - through their participation in the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Community Partnership - to support communities to progress priorities which they have identified through the Community Futures process.

The Community Futures Programme is jointly funded by the Interim Committee for Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, Scottish Natural Heritage, European Union, Scottish Executive Rural Challenge Fund and Shell Better Britain Campaign.

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT OF ALL WHO TOOK PART AND HELPED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS PLAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Community Futures is a participatory planning process and programme designed by the Small Town and Rural Development Group. For further information contact:

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Thanks to Tom Weir for his kind permission to reproduce his photographs in this Action Plan.

The map on page 2 was produced by LLTNPA.