

Glenkens & District

Community Action Plan - 2020

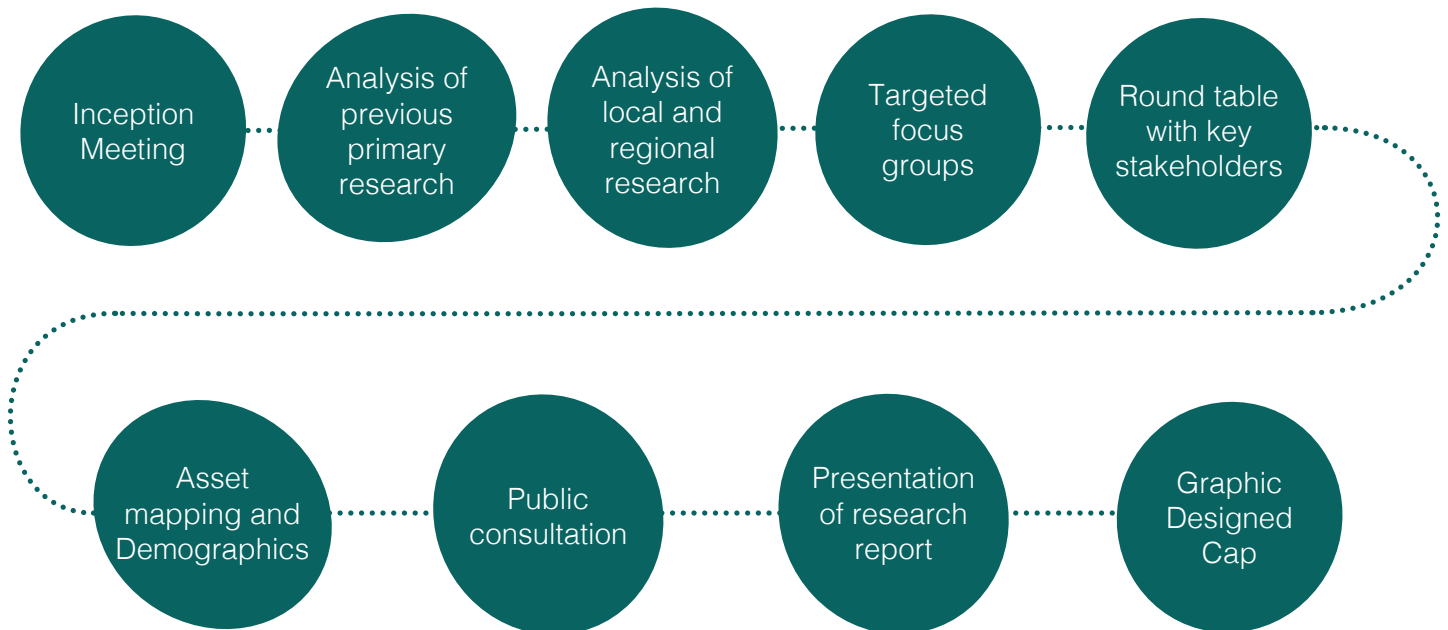


Introduction

What We Did

The thinking for this Action Plan used previous research from 2018 as a key input into a new round of consultation in late 2019 and into 2020.

Community Enterprise and the Glenkens and District Trust engaged with as many people as possible in the local community as a critical part of the Community Action Plan. The methodology can be seen outlined in the graphic below.



Our Goal

The purpose of the Glenkens and District Trust is to resource and enable community development in the part of rural Scotland called the Glenkens along with its surrounding area. The consultative process underpinning this action

plan revealed a widely shared sense, right across our community, of the general direction that development should follow. Our goal is that this will be a connected, resilient and carbon neutral place, where people will

want to live, to work, to bring up their families, and to grow old. It will be somewhere that other places in Scotland will look to for inspiration. This plan outlines proposals that aim to make that goal a reality.



Values and Principles

The plan is not set in stone. New ideas and proposals will arise. Moreover, the Covid-19 emergency has brought home to us how quickly circumstances can change, and that flexibility will therefore always be important. But we have a clear direction of travel which is underpinned by a set of key principles:

Partnership – collaboration between all sections of the community will be a key element in our projects.

Inclusion – a diverse community will include and welcome people of all ages, abilities and ethnicity. We will welcome project proposals put forward by any members and groups.

Sustainability – projects we support will be outward-looking, flexible and unafraid to take on new challenges. They will provide continuing benefits to the community, and show awareness of the value of community self-reliance.

Respect - for the special environment and rural landscape that has been placed in our trust.

Turning Aspiration into Action

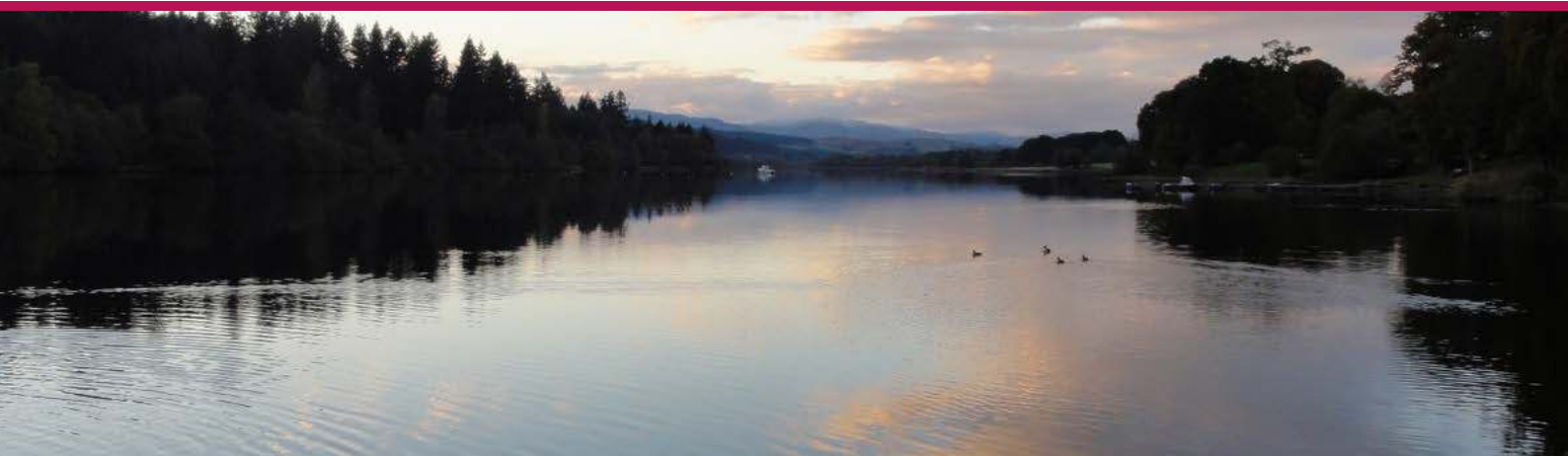
The themes in this action plan have been distilled from those suggested by members of the community during the extensive consultation process described in the Research Report. Decisions about what could and should be included have been guided by the goals, values and principles outlined above, by our sense of the breadth and depth of support, and by an assessment of viability and fit with the plan as a whole.

For each of the four themes, the table below outlines the action areas that emerged as the community's main priorities. Alongside these, in a separate column, possible options for implementation are indicated; these also came out of the consultation process and comprise a first attempt to answer the questions 'who?' and 'how?', although at this early stage some options listed are more detailed than others. A third column provides a timescale – an answer to the question 'when?'.

As noted above, this plan can only be provisional. Since the final consultation event in February 2020, the totally unprecedented Covid-19 global pandemic has impacted communities right across the globe, including

ours. The pandemic has demonstrated that our communities are ready and willing to take immediate and effective local action to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and to find creative solutions providing support to the isolated and vulnerable, young and old.

These community actions are the embodiment of a central theme which already existed in the developing Community Action Plan, that of the need for greater community coordination, resilience and self-reliance. There are valuable lessons to be learned from the resilience response and a desire to see grassroots support activity maintained and the renewed emphasis on kindness maintained and embedded into community life.





However the shock of the crisis has also prompted reflection on the scale of the challenge within this central theme, reflection which in turn poses the questions - are these the right priorities? And are they radical enough?

The Community Action Plan will now move into a set up phase, preparing the route for delivery of the existing community priorities for action while providing scope to ensure that any learning from the pandemic can also be incorporated, both in terms of resilience and ambition.

Key to setting out how the community's priorities will be implemented, this set up phase will refine and add detail to the implementation plans outlined in

the table below, by supporting the identification of community groups and bodies which might be able and ready to take forward some projects now, enabling effective delivery of the immediate priorities, as well as identifying any gaps that need filled in order to maximise successful delivery of priorities in the future.

To guide delivery of this set up phase, which will run until the end of March 2021, the Glenkens and District Trust (GDT) will form a steering group made up of GDT Trustees and members drawn from the local community and community organisations. GDT will tender for expert external support, to work with the steering group and to deliver the following key pieces of work:

- An analysis of the community priorities outlined in the table below aimed at providing information about where existing groups and agencies might already be in a position to implement some of these and establish where the gaps are.
- Post Covid Resilience Learning.
- A Glenkens Summit in Spring 2021. The Summit will be used to create a community conversation on the findings of the post Covid learning and CAP action analysis, and to discuss delivery gaps and how best to fill them
- Publication of the revised 'Outline Action Plan' component below, which adds some more 'who' and 'how' and 'when' to each priority, based on the findings from the Set Up Phase.
- Creation of a final report incorporating the findings from the above, which sets a clear path for ongoing arrangements for the management of the Community Action Plan.

Monitoring the Community Action Plan

Monitoring and evaluation is an essential requirement of any Community Action Plan to ensure it is being implemented and achieving its aims. The purpose of monitoring and review will be to check on progress and take stock of where things are on a regular basis, stimulating and resourcing ideas as required.

While the Glenkens & District Trust, which commissioned this Action Plan, will play a co-ordinating role, community ownership of these processes is key for successful delivery. GDT itself is exploring ways of changing its structure and membership in order to be more representative

of the local community and to increase its capacity to manage the community action plan.

Responsibility for monitoring and review is likely to sit with a grouping evolved from the steering group formed in the Set Up Phase. In addition, we envisage that, building

on the proposed Glenkens Summit, monitoring and review will include a role for an ongoing community action forum, meeting twice a year to review progress on the plan. These meetings will be open to other representative bodies and community groups. During the lifetime of the action

plan this body, if its value is demonstrated, could take on an extended remit.

Final monitoring and review mechanisms will be determined as part of the Set Up Phase and the updated processes will be published along with the updated Action Plan in April 2021.



Theme 1: A Connected Community

Time-scale	Action Areas	Options for Implementation
Short (year 1)	Invest in an effective communication tool for the whole community.	Collaboration with GCAT to develop the Glenkens Gazette.
	Create a collaboration plan for assets and services across the area – facilities will be complementary, working together rather than in competition.	
Medium (year 2-4)	Establish an on and off-line community database of services and spaces, complemented by the enhanced Glenkens Gazette, with well-resourced community journalism.	Links to FE colleges to encourage learning and employability placements to help run database and Gazette.
	Suite of community events to bring people together.	
Long (year 5 and beyond)	Embed gains in community involvement in extended opportunities for cross-area networking, involving community councils, core organisations and community activists.	Build on stories of local resilience from Covid-19 experience. Evolution of community forum that has met bi-annually. Might involve citizens' assemblies to discuss specific issues.





Theme 2: An Asset Rich Community

Time-scale	Action Areas	Options for Implementation
Short (year 1)	Develop a sustainability plan for current assets and core organisations that cannot be allowed to fail.	Coordination based on collaboration plan developed in Theme 1. Clear, objective and transparent decision making process.
	Create space(s) for younger people, controlled by them, for activities initiated by them.	
Medium (year 2-4)	Develop a rolling and long-term support and investment plan for the halls and community spaces of the area to ensure they are accessible for everyone.	Utilisation of a community DIY approach – reflecting local resilience, links to training and apprenticeships.
	Develop a plan for to enable people to exercise both in buildings and outdoors.	
	Create Better signage for buildings and green space – opening up access to locals and visitors.	
	Commission a Housing Needs Analysis.	
Long (year 5 and beyond)	Dedicated living spaces for older people using an innovative model such as co-housing or other approaches.	Potentially led by Pamela Young Trust or locally active Registered Social Landlords.
	Affordable housing for young people and young families.	To bear in mind carbon-reduction strategy (Theme 4).

Theme 3: An economically flourishing community

Time-scale	Action Areas	Options for Implementation
Short (year 1)	Feasibility study into demand for local childcare and overcoming barriers to delivery.	Commission in depth research. Liaise with local authority.
	Develop a tourism strategy, including developing a brand for the area.	In collaboration with GGLP and Loch Ken Trust.
	Develop plan for more self-sustaining local economy – managing resources, consumption, work and income flows in as ‘circular’ a way as possible.	Embed simple hot-desking and co-working capability into the campus of assets across the community with good wifi. Business support hub - collaborate with South of Scotland Enterprise.
	Develop plan for collaborative production and distribution of local produce.	Collaborate with schools, community organisations and existing producers. Focus on vegetables.
Medium (year 2-4)	Invest in community based childcare provision based on the findings of the feasibility study.	Utilise external support such as Just Enterprise to undertake childcare research.
	Develop a targeted work and training strategy for the area to retain and develop skills needed locally.	Might include: hubs encouraging social enterprises and co-ops, skill share and ‘repair & re-use’ workshops; volunteer led skill share scheme; Database of local volunteers centrally co-ordinated; stronger links with FE/HE.
	Feasibility study into community farm.	Partnership with local farmers. Community run distribution system; encourage new small producers and coordinate with existing ones.
	Develop ‘Eat Local’ strategy involving producers and range of outlets.	
Long (year 5 and beyond)	Create a community farm.	Could be community owned or community supported.
	Further develop local food distribution network.	Could include new community run shops/cafes.
	Further develop enterprise hub network.	

Theme 4: A Carbon Neutral Community

Time-scale	Action Areas	Options for Implementation
Short (year 1)	Research and develop a Local Energy Plan.	Build on existing local momentum and collaborate with local energy providers and national agencies.
	Promote expansion of already available modes of sustainable transport.	Establish more EV charging points; E-bikes for hire and a community bike library; grants for E-bikes.
	Research plan for longer term sustainable transport solutions.	Potential partnerships with Galloway Community Transport, Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership and Loch Ken Management Trust.
	Commission masterplan to bottom out investment required for both sought after and existing cycle tracks and pathways across the area.	
Medium (year 2-4)	Publicise our commitment to carbon neutrality.	Link up with other places aiming at carbon neutrality, and D&G Council.
	Promote new modes of sustainable social transport.	Could include: community car share and car hire scheme; electric community vehicles.
	Research and promote plan to move public buildings and households away from fossil fuel use.	Invite/commission proposals for carbon-reduction heating and insulation strategies.
	Investment in cycle tracks, pathways and signage and information about them which will benefit both the community and tourism alike.	Collaborate with Galloway Glens and Loch Ken Trust.
Long (year 5 and beyond)	Glenkens to become a carbon neutral area.	Planning for longer term aspiration.
	Develop an integrated community controlled transport scheme with a range of vehicles.	Might include an electric boat for Loch Ken.
	Community energy generation at scale.	Community investment in green energy production and battery storage.
	Invest in moving public buildings and households away from fossil fuel use.	Partnerships with owners, landlords and other bodies.

Thanks

**This plan has been created by
the community, for the community.**

For more information please
contact Fiona Smith at
Fiona.Smith1@btinternet.com



community
enterprise