

AUGUST 2017



# KIRKCOLM

# COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



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# SUMMARY

Kirkcolm is a quiet residential village on the northern tip of the Rhins of Galloway peninsula, south-west Scotland. The parish is bounded on the north and west by the sea, on the east by the bay of Loch Ryan and on the south by Leswalt parish.

Like many small rural settlements in South West Scotland the village and its residents have been handed the opportunity to make a difference to their community through access to wind farm benefit funds or Community Benefit funds.

Community Benefit funds can be a blessing or a curse and over the years communities have had mixed success when administering such funds.

In order to maximise the potential of this cash windfall the community council has commissioned consultants to work with the community to produce a Community Action Plan. The Community Action Plan will identify local need and set

out options to meet that need using the Community Benefit funds.

The main failing of some communities in receipt of these funds has been not to develop a legacy. Often the funds have been squandered on small quick fix projects which have done nothing to secure the long-term future and sustainability of the settlement. This plan will try to create a plan of action which meets both the short-term and the longer-term needs of the community. It will also demonstrate how wind farm benefit funds can be used to lever additional funds, adding further value to projects.

Crucial to the successful management of wind farm benefit funds is the need for transparency as well as the capacity to manage the process.

Transparency takes the form of creating an application procedure that people understand. It also sets out clearly what the money can and

can't be used for and explains the size of the fund and its limitations.

Finally the community must have the capacity to manage the process and the projects it decides to take forward. In some cases communities have decided to employ staff to help manage Community benefit funds, both to administer grants to organisations and to help develop bigger legacy projects.

This plan will illustrate how the community can build its capacity and the benefits of doing so. However the decision to go down this route will rest entirely with the community.

The Community Action Plan is a document designed to support the community make best use of the wind farm benefit funds and insure that the funds are being used for projects that the majority support. Its findings are based on extensive community consultation which took place over a 3 month period at the start of the year 2017 which included a questionnaire delivered to every house in the parish and one to one focus meetings with partners and stakeholders as well as Kirkcolm School pupil consultation.

# KIRKCOLM AND PARISH COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2017 - 2022

This Community Action Plan is a tool for change. It will help Kirkcolm and surrounding parish achieve its aspirations and to make a better place to live, work and visit.

This will be the guide for what the community will focus on achieving over the next five years.

This plan will show:

- what it's like to live in Kirkcolm and its parish now
- how Kirkcolm could change in the future
- what things matter most to the people who live here
- what the priorities are and how they can be addressed

Many communities in Scotland produce such plans, as they deal with issues arising in changing times and often in relation to the receipt of Community Benefit Funds.

A community action plan needs to be:

- ✓ clear, well-researched, robust, strategic, accessible and importantly, readable
- ✓ designed in a way to contribute to securing funds for projects
- ✓ able to help shape local services
- ✓ able to make best use of community assets - land, buildings, funds and people

# KIRKCOLM AND PARISH NOW

## Safety, Health & Wellbeing

The town of Stranraer (which is seven miles from Kirkcolm) has nearest emergency services, police, fire service, ambulance, hospital, doctors surgeries, dental surgeries, pharmacies care homes and sheltered accommodation.

Kirkcolm has a parish church which is currently serviced by a Methodist minister from outside the parish.

## Local Economy and Employment

Only **51%** of the population are **economically active**



## Population and Demography

The total population of the parish is approximately 750 and Kirkcolm Parish has a larger than average population of older people aged 60 – 75 (22.4%) and elderly people aged 75+ (8.2%), compared to the Scottish National average of 15.5% and 7.7%. Similarly the number of young people aged 16 – 29 (12.2%) is substantially lower than the Scottish National average of 18.5%. In common with many rural areas in Dumfries and Galloway, Kirkcolm experiences a disproportionate level of out-migration of young people (aged 16-20) and in-migration of those in the older age groups. It is predicted, with the outward migration of younger generations and related figures, that by 2020 the area will face the following implications:

- significant declines in the number of younger and 'prime' working age people
- a small increase in the number of older working age people
- significant increases in the number of people of retirement age

## Transport

The connectivity of Kirkcolm is patchy. There are several bus stops in and around the village, but there is only one bus service route with 8 buses from Kirkcolm running to Stranraer each day and 8 running back from Stranraer to Kirkcolm. The last bus leaves Kirkcolm at 5.42pm and there are no return buses in the evenings. Similarly the last bus to leave Stranraer is at 5.20pm, which means that people who are employed in Stranraer beyond 5.20pm cannot use public transport to take them home to Kirkcolm. There are also no buses running to or from Kirkcolm on Sundays.

There are no rail links from Kirkcolm, however the nearest rail station is 7 miles south in Stranraer, which runs 8 times a day up to Ayr with connections to Glasgow and the central belt.

## Education

Kirkcolm village has a privately-run nursery which provides early years education for the parish and for some children from the neighbouring parish of Leswalt. Currently there are around 20 children.

Kirkcolm Primary school currently has around 50 pupils and the school is led by a shared head teacher who also looks after Leswalt and Port Patrick schools.

There is not senior school in the village and young people are transported to the Academy in Stranraer. There are some issues for senior school students who wish to take part in additional activities and sports outside normal school hours as transport isn't provided.



## Community Organisations, Groups and Clubs

- Kirkcolm Community Council ● Women's Institute ● Girl Guides
- Bowling Club ● Kirkcolm Development Trust ● Brownies
- Sailing Club ● Senior Citizens Welfare Committee

## Facilities with the Community

- Village Hall ● Hotel and public house ● Two Play Parks
- Bowling Club ● Car parks ● Church
- General store with Gift Shop and Post Office
- Sailing Club ● Early Learning Centre/Nursery ● School

## Environment and Location

The name Kirkcolm is derived from *kirk*, meaning church and *colm*, referring to St Columba. Kirkcolm village is situated on Loch Ryan on the northern tip of the Rhins of Galloway peninsular, Wigtownshire, Dumfries and Galloway, south-west Scotland. It is 6.5 miles North of Stranraer, which is the nearest large town to access supermarkets, banks, clothes shops and other services and 58 miles (by road) south of Ayr. Kirkcolm is situated 78 miles east of the county capital of Dumfries, with a drive time of 1 hour 45 minutes.

Kirkcolm Parish extends to the very north of the Rhins peninsular with Irish Sea coastline on the east and north boundaries, Loch Ryan on the west boundary and the southern edge has a boundary with Leswalt Parish. The total population of the whole parish is approximately 750 and consists of mainly farms, with Kirkcolm being the sole village in the parish. The B738 circles to the north and east of the parish, with many tracks and small roads leading off it to connect the outlying farms.

A number of small burns sprawl across the rugged, hilly peninsular and the mild climate creates the perfect environment for a vast selection of flora and fauna. (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-dict/scotland>)

Wig Bay, 2 miles south of the village of Kirkcolm, is a haven for bird and wildlife and is also home to Wig Bay Holiday Park. The holiday park provides static caravan holiday accommodation with many family friendly facilities, including an indoor swimming pool and jacuzzi, two children's play parks and other activities at their sister caravan park, Three Lochs Caravan Park, 20 miles east of Wig Bay.



## Heritage and History of the Parish

The village originally known as Stewarton, or Steuart-town, as a planned village, started in 1789. Prior to that there was no village in the parish, with all settlements associated with farms. Key industries were farming, in particular Black Galloway cattle, and fishing for salmon, herring and oysters in Loch Ryan. In 1840 there were 40 farms in the parish. Muslim embroidery was an important cottage industry with complete 'muslim kits' containing needles, printed muslim blanks and threads being supplied by Glasgow firms to women who did embroidery in their homes.

Quote from Rev James McCulloch Statistical Account of 1791:

***“Till within these three years, there was not the least vestige of a village in the parish; but, since that time, about thirty houses, contiguous to each other, have been built. They are, in general, inhabited by tradesmen, but some of them by common day-labourers. Unfortunately, however, more than one third of these houses may be called gin, or rather whisky shops, as they all sell that pernicious liquor. What effects this must have upon the morals of the people, not only in the village, but in the neighbourhood, may be easily foreseen.”***

An extract from A Topographical Dictionary of Scotland, originally published by S Lewis, London, 1846, provides a wonderful insight into life in the parish of Kirkcolm in the 19<sup>th</sup> century:

***“The number of acres under cultivation is between 10,000 and 11,000; there are upwards of 1200 acres waste and pasture, and between 100 and 200 planted. The crops of wheat, oats, and barley on lands covered fifty years back with whins and heath, show the great progress of the parish; but the climate is bleak and rainy, and not favourable to the highest improvement of the soil. The farm-houses, with few exceptions, are substantial and comfortable dwellings. The best black Galloway cattle without horns are numerous; but the cross of the Ayrshire cow with the black Galloway bull is generally preferred in the dairy-farms [... ..]The only village is Stewarton, where the young women, as in most other parts of the parish, are chiefly employed in embroidering muslin webs. Little traffic is carried on; but the basin called the Wig, on the coast of Loch Ryan, is a convenient and safe retreat for vessels, two or three of which, under forty tons' burthen, belong to Kirkcolm.”***

In more recent history, the sheltered sand spit of Wig Bay was used as an RAF base for Sunderland flying boats that hunted enemy submarines in World War Two and was set up on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1942. July 1943 saw the arrival of the No. 11 Flying Boat Fitting Unit, in 1944 two hangars were built and by January 1945 over 1000 personnel and 170 aircraft were based at RAF Wig Bay. The site remained in operation after the war to develop and support the Short Sunderland aircraft and RAF Wig Bay closed in November 1955.

## PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

This Action Plan has been created by community engagement and the process of gathering and prioritising the views of the community involved:

- Interviews and meetings with different groups and individuals representing all aspects of the community
- Carrying out a community survey, which was delivered to every household in Kirkcolm and the surrounding parish
- A school survey for pupils of Kirkcolm School

## Questionnaire Responses

There were 107 questionnaires completed with 20 returned uncompleted out of 468, a rate of 22.86%.

The following summary highlights the key findings:

- 448 questionnaires were distributed and 107 were returned completed which is a 23.88% return rate
- The majority of respondents were aged 56 plus, with the biggest proportion 66 and over, which is in-line with demographic information and the majority of respondents had lived in Kirkcolm for 21 years or more. 47% of respondents were retired and 18% are in part time work which is in line with expectations
- People feel safe living in Kirkcolm and 92% felt there was a good community spirit. 100% of respondents said they were happy living in Kirkcolm
- 97% of respondents wanted to insure the village kept a shop and post office
- 63% want to see the play park upgraded and 81% want to see more events and activities for young people
- 84% want to see more services and activities for older people
- 57% felt that an upgraded community meeting place with modern facilities is needed
- Views of public transport were mixed with 34% being satisfied
- There was strong support for making better use of the local landscape and heritage, 91% support for tourism
- 90% think there needs to be better broadband connectivity
- 74% would like to see more businesses in the Kirkcolm area



In terms of specific improvements, respondents wanted to see:

- better access to health care
- improved broadband
- more employment and business opportunities
- more local facilities, such as shops
- support for the elderly
- support and opportunities for young people
- improved access to health services
- an upgraded community building/village hall

Overall people are very happy living in Kirkcolm and the surrounding parish. The questionnaire did raise some contradictions and in some areas, further consultation into specific subjects may be beneficial.

When asked to comment on the challenges facing Kirkcolm in the future people said they were concerned about inadequate Broadband, lack of public transport, access to the facilities available in larger towns, remoteness in relation to big towns, lack of amenities and shopping, lack of things for young people and children to do.

The positive feedback included the friendliness of the people and the community, location, scenery, peacefulness, safety and low crime rate.

## Kirkcolm School Pupil Questionnaire Responses

The children were asked three questions shown below with the top answers.

*What do you like about living in Kirkcolm?*

- 7% - School
- 7% - Quietness of the village
- 7% - Everyone is lovely
- 6% - I love playing with my friends
- 6% - I like Gala Day

*What don't you like about living in Kirkcolm?*

- 38% - Nothing
- 11% - The play parks are boring
- 7% - Not a lot to do

*If you had one wish to make Kirkcolm a better place what would it be?*

- 27% - Make the play parks better – more than just swings
- 15% - A school playground
- 6% - A new football pitch and new goals
- 6% - More shops

## Top Priorities at a Glance

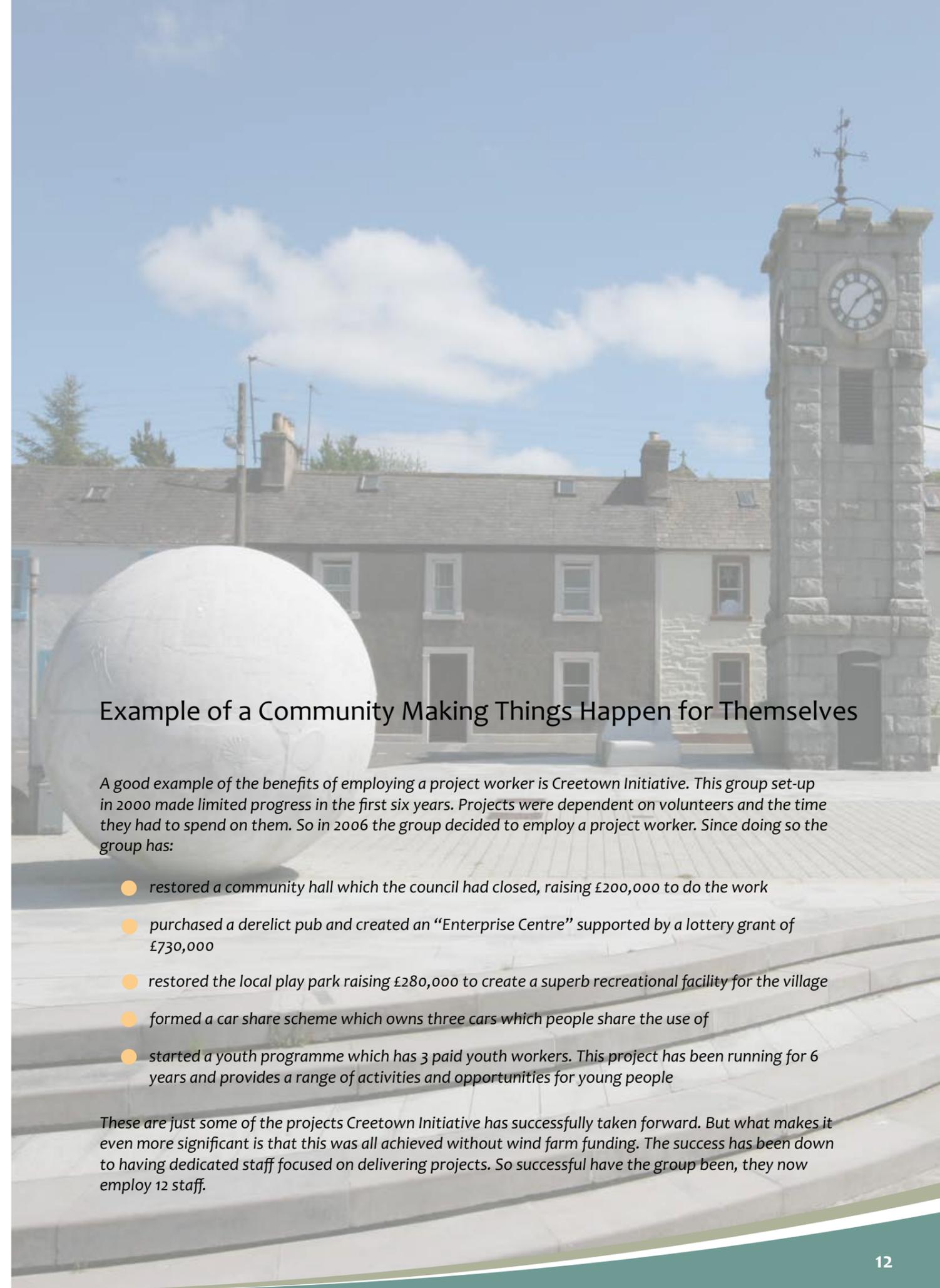


Whatever course of action the community decides to take, capacity to deliver and manage the process is critical. There are possible scenarios for use of the Community Benefit funding:

- 1) The money is distributed each year to groups that apply for the money
- 2) The funding is targeted at major long-term (potentially self-sustaining) projects
- 3) The funding is used to distribute to groups, as well as to carry out long-term projects

If the money is to be distributed each year to groups that apply for funds, there has to be a procedure in place. The procedure must explain carefully the application process and explain how decisions whether to fund or not are made. It must be transparent and explain the selection process and who will make the decisions.

Similarly if the money is to be used for major legacy projects the community will need people to take any such projects forward. It is unlikely that all of the potential projects could be delivered by volunteers so such a course of action would require the employment of staff. Employing staff in itself is often a daunting prospect for some communities, but the benefits of doing so outweigh the challenges.



## Example of a Community Making Things Happen for Themselves

A good example of the benefits of employing a project worker is Creetown Initiative. This group set-up in 2000 made limited progress in the first six years. Projects were dependent on volunteers and the time they had to spend on them. So in 2006 the group decided to employ a project worker. Since doing so the group has:

- restored a community hall which the council had closed, raising £200,000 to do the work
- purchased a derelict pub and created an “Enterprise Centre” supported by a lottery grant of £730,000
- restored the local play park raising £280,000 to create a superb recreational facility for the village
- formed a car share scheme which owns three cars which people share the use of
- started a youth programme which has 3 paid youth workers. This project has been running for 6 years and provides a range of activities and opportunities for young people

These are just some of the projects Creetown Initiative has successfully taken forward. But what makes it even more significant is that this was all achieved without wind farm funding. The success has been down to having dedicated staff focused on delivering projects. So successful have the group been, they now employ 12 staff.

## Funded Youth Work

Youth work is often due to the commitment of long-standing volunteers. Whilst there are far reaching benefits of having voluntary-run clubs and activities, in reality, with the pressures of modern life, family commitments and work, many volunteers can feel overwhelmed, under-resourced and unsupported. Consequently, volunteers drop out of youth work, cancel planned activities with little or no warning and create an unstable, inconsistent service to the young people, leaving them feeling confused, deflated and sometimes even resentful. Generally the most consistent and successful youth work is carried out by employed youth workers.

The very nature of youth work is generally unsustainable, as it is designed to provide a low cost (often free) facility for young people (and frequently vulnerable and disadvantaged young people) to access support and skills development opportunities and to feel empowered within an environment which they feel comfortable.

Funding for youth work provision is actually more plentiful than one might believe. There are a number of large charities that support young people in many forms, including BBC Children in Need, Big Lottery's Young Start and YouthLink Scotland, and also smaller, local charities, such as The Holywood Trust.



# MAIN THEMES AND PRIORITIES

Out of the consultation process there have been four main themes and priorities identified that the community will work towards achieving over the next five years.

1: Services    2: Community Facilities    3: Business and Tourism Support    4: Community Capacity

## Theme 1: Services

What could be Done	By Whom	How will it be Achieved	Benefits
Superfast broadband	Community council and project worker	Investigate the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband programme. There is a new Scottish Government programme being launched shortly that will provide 100% coverage by 2021. In the meantime there is a Better Broadband Scheme which might bridge that gap, but this would need to be taken forward by the whole community, so further community consultation would be required.	Satisfies both individual and business requirements.
Access to healthcare	Community council and project worker	Investigate bringing an outreach surgery to the village - this may be by a video link up.	Residents who are not mobile can access a doctor without going into the surgery
Access to a hairdresser for elderly residents	Community council and project worker	Investigate organising for a mobile hairdresser to visit the village once a week	Elderly or infirm residents who are not mobile have access to a hairdresser. Improving quality of life.
Access to a chiropodist for elderly residents	Community council and project worker	Investigate organising for a chiropodist to visit the village once a week/fortnight.	Elderly or infirm residents have access to a chiropodist. Improving quality of life
Village newsletter	Community council and project worker	Quarterly to be distributed around the village and wider parish	The whole community is kept informed of activities and encourages the rest of the parish to feel part of the community.
Install a public defibrillator	Community council and project worker	Purchase public defibrillator and fix on village hall. Provide training to residents.	Public access to emergency equipment.
Handyman service	Employed part time handyman	Elderly and disabled people are given access to a handyman to carry out small DIY jobs. A small charge may be made to help keep the service sustainable	People who might live alone and feel isolated have support to have small D.I.Y jobs done.
Youth Club	Project Worker and Youth workers	Establishment of a village youth club - junior and senior club	Activities for children and young people of the community.
Friday/Saturday evening transport	Community council and project worker	Hire of bus/minibus on a Friday and Saturday night to take and bring people back from Stranraer cinema etc.	Those without transport have access to Stranraer on a Friday and Saturday night.

## Theme 2: Community Services

What could be Done	By Whom	How will it be Achieved	Benefits
Take on ownership of the village hall	Community Council	Investigate the possibility of taking over the village hall.	The hall is in the community's control and could create an income.
Take over the car park	Community Council	Take on the car park with the village hall.	Ground rent received from garages and BT. Potential opportunity to build on part of it, such as storage unit or business unit.
Create a community meeting space	Community Council and Project Worker	As part of the assessment of the hall, identify potential meeting space.	The hall becomes a place for residents to relax and meet each other, particularly for older folk.
Creation of a meal club in hall	Community Council and Project Worker	Invite elderly residents to join.	Once a week, or less frequent, elderly residents have an opportunity to meet with friends over a meal.
Upgrade of the village hall	Community Council, Project Worker and Architect	Assessment of potential improvements by architect. Look into taking over the hall from the Council. Add broadband and purchase new equipment.	The hall offers better usage and facilities for use by different groups.
An attractive village	Project Worker and Handyman	Purchase planters, plants, maintain and water. Create a flower bed in Bayview Terrace and other suitable parts of the village	The village looks more attractive and creates a feeling of pride by the community.
An attractive village	Handyman	Grass in graveyard cut.	People visiting graves feel as though the grave yard is cared for.
An attractive village	Handyman	Weeds are sprayed	The village looks more attractive and creates a feeling of pride by the community.
An attractive village	Handyman	Cleaning of road signs and other signs	The village looks more attractive and creates a feeling of pride by the community.
Play parks	Community Council and Project Worker	Upgrade both playparks with new equipment.	Children and young people are engaged with play.

## Theme 3: Business and Tourism Support

What could be Done	By Whom	How will it be Achieved	Benefits
Safe cycle routes	Community Council and Project Worker	Liaise with the new Rhins footpath. Liaise with cycle hire to create cycle routes.	Attraction for visitors and encouragement of activity for residents
Develop circular walking route	Community Council and Project Worker	Investigate utilising the already secured core path funding of £10,300 to trigger a larger environmental scheme based around the development of 2 mile circular walking route and reintroduce a shingle plant community on the shore.	Will form part of the North Rhins Coastal Path and add environmental biodiversity.
Heritage and history trail	Community Council and Project Worker	Investigate and link to existing heritage points.	Attraction for visitors
Support for new business start ups	Community Council and Project Worker	This could be in the form of a purpose-built low cost start-up premises.	Encouragement of new business and potential employment opportunities.

## Theme 4: Community Capacity

What could be Done	By Whom	How will it be Achieved	Benefits
Creation of an inclusive members Charitable Development Trust **	Community Council	Amend existing SCIO to a two-tiered structure	Community controls organisation.
Employment of a part time project worker	Community Council and Development Trust	Use of Community Benefit funds and other grant funding.	The Project Worker will make the projects happen and apply for match funding.
Identify and apply to funders for fund projects to match the Community Benefit Funds.	Project Worker	Identify and apply to funders such as The Big Lottery, Holywood Trust etc.	The community benefits from additional funding and maximises the Community Benefit Funding.
Financial support to community groups and clubs	Community Council and Project Worker	Creation of a formal grant application and selection process.	Community organisations and clubs benefit from a fair selection process.
Employment of part time youth workers	Development Trust and Project Worker	Use of Community Benefit funds and other grant funding.	Regular, organised youth activities.
Development of a small electricity generating scheme.	Community Council and Project Worker	This could be in the form of a wind turbine, hydro scheme or solar farm.	Sustainable form of income for the community.

### Why Set Up a Charitable Development Trust?

Community Councils are limited by not having charitable status and their constitution which means that they are unable to apply to certain grant funders. Community Councils are not normally able to employ staff due to their constitution and insurance constraints.

\*\*A charitable (SCIO - Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) development trust can access most funders, it can have unlimited members from within the community, or defined area and its members control the organisation, who are able to attend the Annual General Meeting and stand as trustees and members of the board. A development trust can employ staff. It is also possible for them to become a member of DTAS (Development Trust Association Scotland) which offers support, advice, training and in some cases, additional funding opportunities.

SCIOs may have a single tier structure (governed by charity trustees with no additional members) or a two-tier structure (governed by charity trustees with a membership body which has certain powers or duties). The preferred choice would be a two-tier structured SCIO as this allows residents to become members, attend the AGM and stand as Trustees and effectively gives control of the organisation to the community.

There is currently a SCIO which has been set up called Kirkcolm Community Trust which is a single tier organisation with four Trustees. It is recommended that this is converted to a two-tier structure and invite all members of the community to take part by becoming a member.

Development trusts are enterprises with social objectives which are actively engaged in the regeneration of an area - a valley, a town centre, a parish, village - whilst ensuring that the benefits are returned to the community.

## Development Trusts:

are concerned with the long term regeneration of an area in its widest sense - with its economy, its environment, its facilities and the services and the 'spirit' of its communities

seek to be financially self-sufficient and independent - not just relying on grants

aim to create assets in the community and make a profit - but not for private gain. Any profit made is re-invested in the community.

are community based and accountable - in their work, their style and the composition of their boards of management

are forming and working in partnerships between the community, voluntary, private and public sectors

demonstrate that local people can shape the future of their communities in ways that are sustainable, innovative and entrepreneurial.

In short they ensure that the process of regeneration works.

## Funding

The Community Benefit which Kirkcolm is entitled to receive is potentially a massive boost to the village and parish and could be used as match funding to access other funding from grant funders like the Big Lottery, Holywood Trust, DG Leader. A full funding assessment would need to be carried out to see where funding might be achieved for potential projects. This is something that an employed project worker would be able to carry out thereby making employment of a part time project worker one of the suggested first projects.

Some immediate suggestions to follow up would be:

Park improvements - Robertson Trust, Holywood Trust and DG LEADER  
Funded Youth Work – Big Lottery Young Start, Children in Need, Holywood Trust  
Flower planters around the village – Tesco Bags of Help  
Public Defibrillator – DG Council  
Heritage and History Trail – Heritage Lottery Fund  
Upgrade of village hall – Big Lottery Community Assets  
Project Worker employment - Robertson Trust, SSE (due to reopen 2018)

These are just suggestions to show that there are grant funders that could consider funding these sorts of projects. A full funding assessment would be recommended. Committing some of the wind farm money towards these projects will help to lever funds from these funders.

## KIRKCOLM - THE FUTURE

The coming years will present numerous challenges. Some of them are brought to our attention daily - for example Brexit, and the possibility of another Scottish independence referendum at some point in the future.

Added to this is the fact that Scotland's population is ageing faster than any other country in the UK. As mortality rates rise, dependency levels and strain on support services will increase significantly. With the concentration of centralised services in urban and main-population areas, reductions in rural services will almost certainly ensue. The only way to maintain some services in a rural location will be to deliver them through local organisations.

An attitude of community alertness *will* be necessary, and those communities that have put sustainable projects in place will fare better against this changing backdrop.

## Looking to the Future

Following the 2015 Community Empowerment Act communities now have the opportunity to take ownership of local services and facilities. With reduced funding available to regional councils services will shrink unless communities take control and deliver themselves.

Communities who are ready to act on opportunities arising from these changes will be best placed to prosper in the long term. Kirkcolm has a substantial advantage over many other communities due to the Community Benefit Funding and used wisely could create a lasting legacy for the future.





# KIRKCOLM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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