

Ballantrae
Our Community Our Plan!

Ballantrae

2024 - 2029

Community Action Plan



This Community Action Plan

This Community Action Plan sets out the priorities and initiatives that the local people of Ballantrae want to see happening in the area.
It is the result of people of all ages and backgrounds in the community coming together to identify their needs, understand their ambition and agree positive action to be taken which will make the area a better place to live, work, play and visit. The area that this plan covers can be seen in the map on page 3. Locals want to bring up their families here, thrive here, work here and grow old happily here and this action plan should help towards those goals.

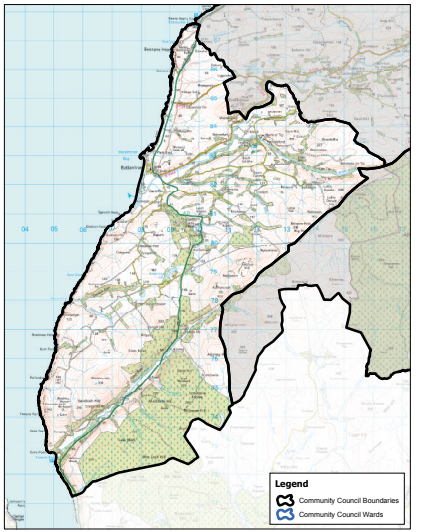
This is the fourth Community Action / Development Plan for the village. The most recent, produced in 2015 ended in 2018. This plan covers a 5 year period from 2024-2029 although there are some aspirational ideas that may take longer to establish. Those who took part in the consultations are eager for things to happen quickly but there is also a recognition of a need to be aspirational and ambitious.

Who is leading the plan

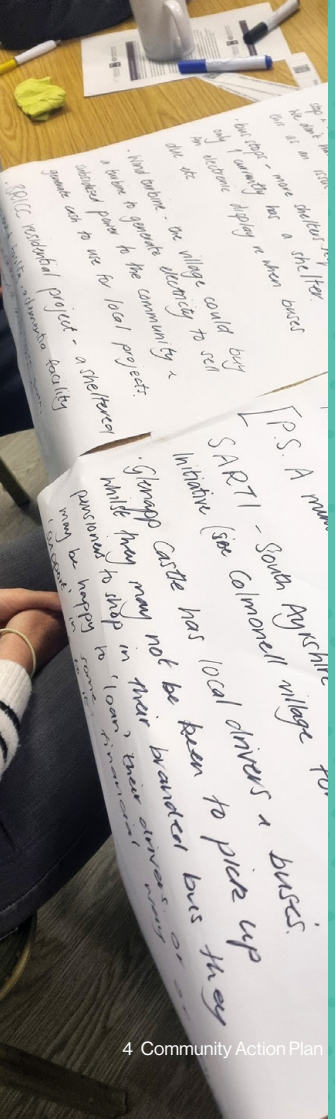
Funding for this plan came from The Ayrshire Rural and Islands Ambition (ARIA) Fund and the Ballantrae Community Fund (wind farm) and the process was kept on track by a small steering group drawn from the Ballantrae Planning Group which represents The Community Council, The Community Association, The Ballantrae Trust, Ballantrae Parish Church, and local businesses.

The plan itself however needs to be owned by the wider community. The projects and initiatives set out in this plan under the six thematic areas need to be the responsibility of the whole community to implement and no one group should be responsible for implementing all of the ideas.
It will be important to empower local groups and individuals to feel a sense of ownership and to move these ideas forward.

It is hoped that the Planning Group will continue as the oversight body with a small Delivery Group that will meet regularly to ensure the Community Action Plan ideas are taken forward and to support those in the community who have an interest in a particular project.



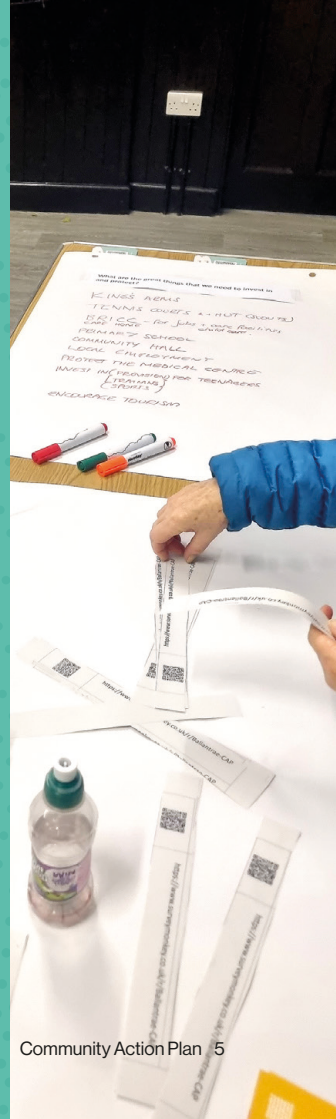
Ballantrae Community Council



What We Did

This Community Action Plan is the result of extensive community engagement and research carried out over a three month period in late 2023 and early 2024. The process involved speaking to local people where they were to get views from different perspectives. Community Enterprise, an independent social enterprise consultancy, facilitated this to ensure it was entirely independent and objective. Community Enterprise organised the following:

- A community survey which resulted in 83 individual survey responses representing a further 151 family members (90 adults, 28 youth and 33 children under 13) so this represented the views of over 200 people.
- 15 stakeholder interviews with individuals who have an interest in or know the community well.
- An interactive session in the primary school with 42 children. The children used art and conversations to identify the things that were important to them and what they would like to see in the village in the future.
- Asset mapping to understand the built environment and the spaces and places that the community wants to protect and invest in.
- An initial open meeting in December 2023 for villagers to come together to identify early issues and ideas.
- A visit to the Cosy Space in the Kings Arms Community Pub and Hub where we spoke to 18 separate people from different walks of life.
- A drop in at the BRICC coffee morning where 12 people engaged and gave their views.
- A "Community Brunch" in January 2024 to offer an opportunity to prioritise ideas which was complemented by a second online survey distributed across the community. As well as the 20 people at the meeting a further 32 voted online.



Preparing this Plan

83
survey responses on behalf of 200 people.

15
Stakeholder interviews.

42
children from a primary school participating on an interactive session.

2
open consultation events

18
people at the Cosy Space in the King Arms Community Pub and Hub

12
people engaged at BRICC coffee morning

32
people voted online in addition to the prioritisation event

Thanks to everyone who took part.

Out of a population of less than 600 people and 250 households, we were delighted with the response.

Prioritising Projects

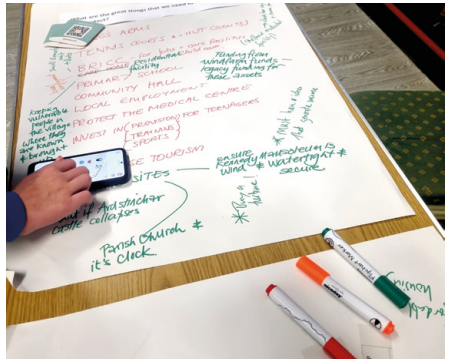
The research and consultation above led to a series of themes and suggested projects. The public meeting in late January gave the community an opportunity to discuss these emerging projects and to indicate which ones were priorities for them. This took the form or conversations, notes and a series of votes on the project ideas.

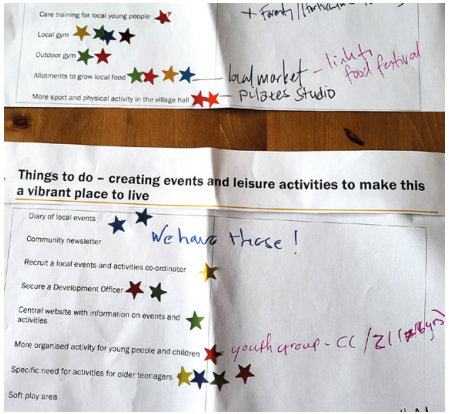
To ensure everyone had a chance to contribute, a simple on-line survey was circulated and a further 32 people voted on their top three priorities.

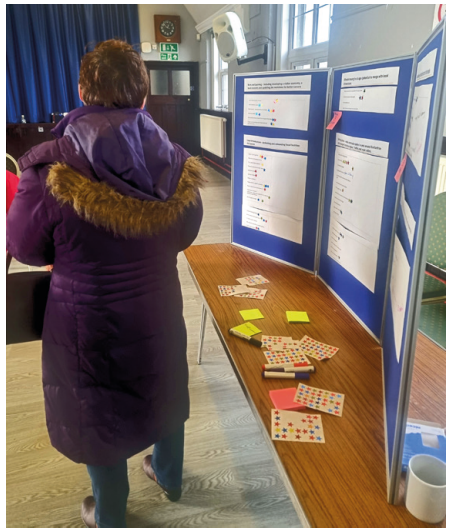
Each of the six thematic areas had a long list of ideas and members of the community were given the opportunity to give their top three priorities. We used this data to identify the final projects that have appeared in the action plan itself. We are confident therefore that the direction of travel is driven by local people through an open and transparent process.













Mapping Ballantrae's Assets

Ballantrae Village Map Key

Attractions

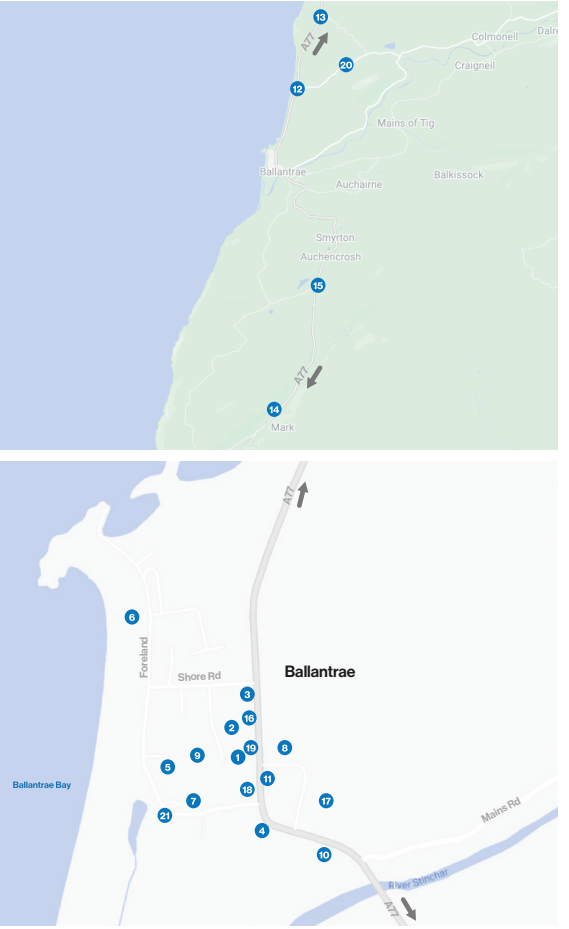
1. Foreland
2. Kennedy Mausoleum
3. Ardstinchar Bridge
4. Garleffin Wood
5. A77
6. Ayrshire Coastal Path
7. Old Windmill
8. Ballantrae Harbour & Harbour Wall
9. South West Coastal 300
10. SSSI Shingle Beach
11. Sawney Bean's Cave
12. The Coig Tourist Route
13. War Memorial
14. Knockdolian House
15. Tollhouse
16. Ardstinchar Castle
17. Motorhome Facilities
18. Ballantrae Beach



Ballantrae Village Map Key

Community

1. Kings Arms Community Pub and Hub
2. Ballantrae Library
3. Ballantrae Medical Practice
4. Old Cemetery
5. Public Toilets
6. Putting Green
7. Ballantrae Primary School
8. Tennis Courts
9. Recreation Ground & Play Park
10. Public Garden
11. Bus Stop Arrol Avenue
12. Bus Stop after B734
13. Bus Stop Bennane Head Access Path
14. Bus Stop Glenapp Church
15. Bus Stop Kilantringan Loch
16. Ballantrae Community Centre
17. Ballantrae Bowling Club
18. Ballantrae Parish Church
19. Bus Stop Kings Arms
20. Bus Stop Mossgavel Cottage
21. E-Vehicle Charging Points



Ballantrae Village Map Key

Businesses

1. Craigiemains Garden Centre & Traebakes Coffee Shop
2. BRICC Home Care and Thrift Shop
3. McCulloch Rail
4. Scotmid Coop and Post Office
5. Shellknowe Garage and Petrol Station
6. Studio 74



The maps on pages 10 to 12 give an impression of the scale and quality of assets that the village has. The village is luckier than most communities to have a range of spaces from buildings such as the Community Hall, BRICC and the Kings Arms Community Pub and Hub to open / green spaces such as the beach, the harbour, the play park and recreation ground and the public garden. Ballantrae also has an important historical built environment including the Old Windmill, Ardstinchar Castle, Ardstinchar Bridge and the Kennedy Mausoleum.

Some of these important assets can be seen in these images but what emerged from the research is that they cannot be taken for granted. In these challenging times, there is a need to protect, care for and invest in the village's built and natural assets and this has formed an important priority within the projects.

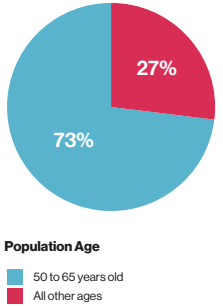


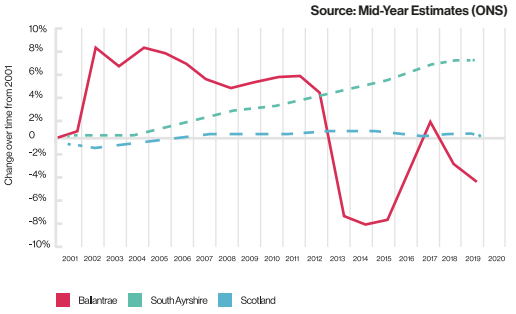






The Nature of the Community:





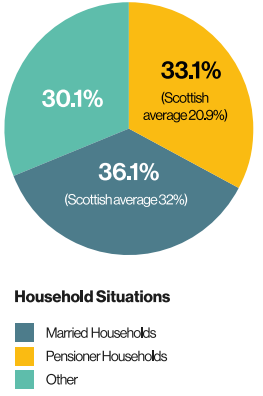
Population:
Ballantrae has an ageing population. As well as the disproportionately high older population just over 27% of the population (both male and female) is aged between 50 and 65. This is the largest age group and shows that over a quarter of the population are nearing retirement age.

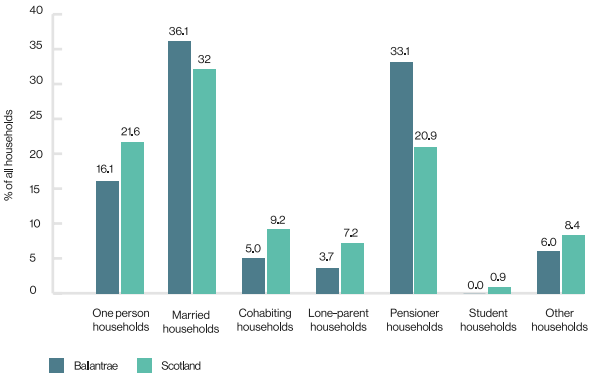
This is also a changing population. The population decline of Ballantrae is not like either local or national averages. The population of South Ayrshire has stayed almost constant since 2001, meanwhile the population of Scotland has steadily grown by almost 8% in the last 20 years.

There is a clear need to create better spaces, facilities and opportunities to stabilise the population and encourage an organic growth and a focus on a mixed community of different ages and backgrounds.

The Nature of the Community:

Figure: Population by household composition
Source: Census 2011





Households: Ballantrae has a higher proportion of married households (36.1%) and pensioner households (33.1%) than the Scotland averages (32% and 20.9% respectively).

There was a lower proportion of one person households, cohabiting households, lone-parent families and 'other' households in Ballantrae compared to the rest of Scotland. There were no student households in Ballantrae.

What you said

Respondents reported that Ballantrae has:

"a very vibrant community with a very good community spirit"

and many people really appreciated:

the open and green spaces, safety and quietness of the community.

A few respondents noted that the people in Ballantrae are

"adverse to change"

and

"quite conservative in their approach"

This needs to be kept in mind during the implementation phase.



What we found out

- The need to enhance learning and create employment.
- The importance of protecting our facilities and spaces.
- The lack of affordable housing.
- Rural isolation and the challenges of getting around
- A priority to look after people as they get older
- The need for things to do, to keep active and to come together as a community

What we found out



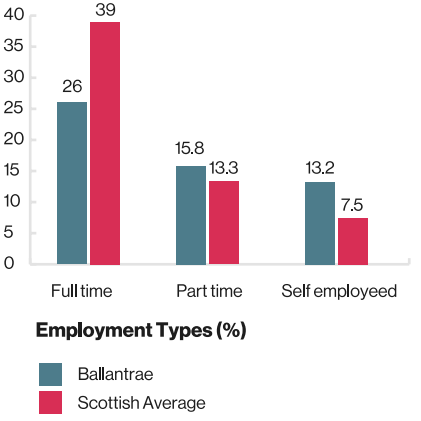
Source: 14 Place Standard measures of a strong community: https://www.ourplace.scot

The need to enhance learning and create employment

26% of people in Ballantrae are full-time employees which is over 13% lower than the Scottish average. However, Ballantrae has more part-time employees (15.8%) and self-employed people (13.2%) than the rest of Scotland (13.3% and 7.5%, respectively).

54% of survey respondents said that Ballantrae was a poor or very poor place to work. In addition, 34% felt it was not a good place to visit. Many feel that this is a missed opportunity and that there are opportunities for tourism based businesses to develop. The history, geology, links to Southwest Coastal 300, The Coig and the Ayrshire Coastal path were all identified as real attractions that could be exploited more effectively. Ballantrae's Festival of Food and Drink already brings a lot of visitors to the village.

Source: Census 2011



"We have a few great businesses and a fabulous scenic area but have limited work opportunities"

"We need to continue to develop our offering. That's about sustainability of current good businesses eg 'Trae Bakes, the garage and SCOTMID shop and working to develop the Kings Arms Community Pub and Hub"

In the survey, lack of facilities for tourists and a poor visitor experience was highlighted as a key concern as well as the need for better jobs and careers based on tourism.

Community Enterprise used the "**14 Place Standard measures of a strong community**" and concern about work and the local economy was one of the highest issues.

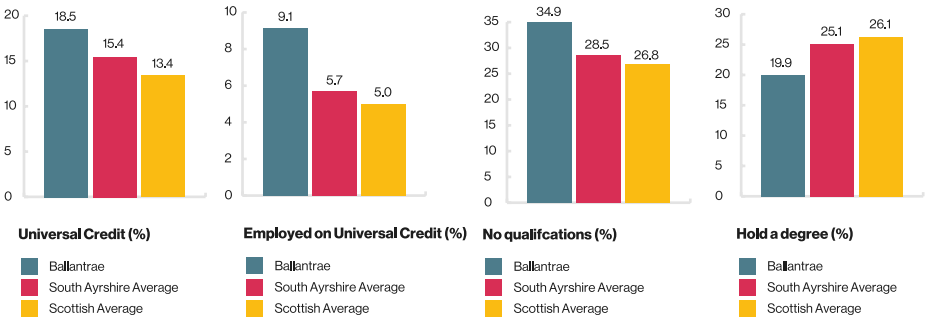
As well as developing existing businesses and exploiting tourism, some people mentioned the need for more trades and also the idea of a small business hub to encourage local enterprise.

14 Place Standard measures of a strong community:
https://www.ourplace.scot

18.5% of people living in the Ballantrae area claim Universal Credit, which is above the averages of 15.4% in South Ayrshire and 13.4% in Scotland. There is also a greater proportion of employed people claiming Universal Credit in Ballantrae (9.1%) than in South Ayrshire (5.7%) and Scotland (5%).

34.9% of people in the area have no qualifications. This is much higher than in South Ayrshire (28.5%) and Scotland (26.8%). Also, 19.9% of people in the Ballantrae area hold a degree level qualification, which is lower than South Ayrshire (25.1%) and Scotland (26.1%).

Source: Census 2011



The importance of protecting our facilities and spaces

The asset asset maps on pages 10-12 focused minds on how important the buildings are in the community and how vulnerable they are to the rising cost of utilities and repairs. In the open meetings there was significant discussion about ensuring that these buildings were retained for the community. In particular it was expressed by many that the Kings Arms Community Pub and Hub started to trade in the most challenging of circumstances and, as a new community enterprise, needs ongoing support to flourish.

Protecting the Community Hall, investing in BRICC and enhancing the tennis courts were identified as priorities in the open meetings.

Green space and access to the shore, coastal paths, the river and harbour were also felt to be important. Heritage assets were also seen as important such as ensuring the Kennedy Mausoleum is wind and watertight.

The History Group and other local groups expressed an interest in being involved in the development of the natural and historical built environment.

The lack of affordable Housing

Many of the 22% who said they were not sure they would would continue to live in Ballantrae put this down to lack of affordable housing.

We used the **14 Place Standard measures of a strong community** and concern about housing was one of the highest issues. Accessible housing for young families was a particular priority raised in open comments.

Ballantrae has a much smaller percentage of flats, maisonettes and apartments (8.9%), than South Ayrshire (27.2%) and Scotland (37.7%).

This is the kind of housing that first time buyers and young families are looking for.

The current average energy rating of dwellings in Ballantrae is lower than the South Ayrshire and Scotland averages, but the potential energy efficiency is high (so there is a higher energy efficiency gap in the Ballantrae area than South Ayrshire and Scotland).

Poor energy efficiency in Ballantrae impacts on the ability to secure a tenancy.

14 Place Standard measures of a strong community:
https://www.ourplace.scot

Rural isolation and the challenges of getting around

There was very significant concern noted in the survey and all the open meetings about road safety and the speed of vehicles coming through the village. **"Traffic through the village"** was one of the most repeated issues raised in the survey. We used the **14 Place Standard measures of a strong community** and concern about transport was one of the highest issues.

As well as traffic calming, many of the open comments in the survey expressed a need for better and safer cycle paths and walking routes.

A study of the travel time data shows that public transport is very poor in the area and it is hard to get around without a car. As well as transport being poor, there was a feeling that timings didn't work well and there was poor connectivity with other communities. Getting to hospital, the job centre, college and work were all noted as challenges.

14 Place Standard measures of a strong community:
https://www.ourplace.scot

A priority to look after people as they get older

As at the 2011 Census (the latest census for which information is available), 28.5% of people in the Ballantrae Community Council area live with a limiting long-term illness. This is almost 10 percentage points higher than the national figure of 19.6%. Among people who are under 65 years old, the level of limiting long-term illness is also higher.

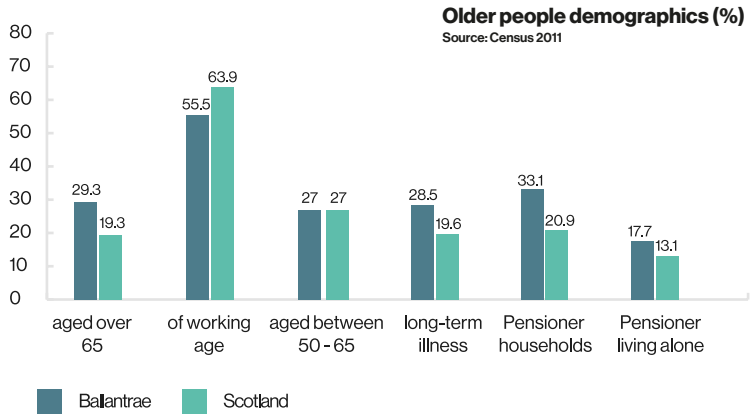
As at the 2011 Census, a third (33.1%) of households in the Ballantrae area were pensioner households, higher than the Scotland wide figure of 20.9%.

A higher proportion of pensioner households are pensioners living alone. 17.7% of pensioner households are pensioners living alone, compared to 13.1% nationally.

Many of the 22% who said they were not sure they would continue to live in Ballantrae put this down to a lack of care facilities as people get older.

Ballantrae's award winning GP practice was highly valued but, beyond that, there was a concern raised in the various conversations we had about a lack of health and social care facilities and services as people get older. Many need to travel to Girvan or further for such services and would like to see more facilities in their own community.

There are 593 people living in the Ballantrae Community Council area. The population of Ballantrae is older than the national and regional population. 29.3% of those living in the area are aged over 65, which is much higher than the national average which is 19.3%. 55.5% are of working age, this is lower than the national average which is 63.9%. Just over 27% of the population (both male and female) is aged between 50 and 65. This is the largest age group and shows that over a quarter of the population are nearing retirement age.



The need for things to do, to keep active and to come together as a community

Only 29% of survey respondents feel it is a good place for leisure time. This was picked up in the open sessions where people felt that there was a lack of things to do. Many of the open comments in the survey were about the lack of things to do.

The survey and open meetings indicated that people cherish the natural environment including green space and the shore. The quietness of the community was one of the most important elements but there was also a clear need to build on these assets with more things to do.

It was also expressed in many of the conversations that there are actually quite a lot of things happening, but it can be hard to find out about them and the groups in the village organising events could work together better.

Community events emerged in the survey as something people enjoyed but feel could be enhanced with more events.

"We have a few great businesses and a fabulous scenic area"

A Big Vision for the Future

We have created the following from what people told us about their aspirations for Ballantrae in the future

“ Ballantrae will be a welcoming, thriving and well connected village offering a great quality of life, where people can grow up, work and grow old”

Key principles

There will be a clear direction of travel which is underpinned by a set of key principles:

- **Asset based.** Not just looking to fix problems but using the Community Action Plan to invest in existing assets from buildings to the natural environment.
- **Partnership.** Collaboration between all sections of the community will be a key element in the delivery of projects. No one organisation should be responsible for the implementation of the plan.
- **Inclusion.** A diverse community will include and welcome people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and ethnicity. We will welcome project proposals put forward by individuals and groups.
- **Sustainability.** Projects we support will be outward-looking, flexible and unafraid to take on new challenges. They will need to be financially viable before we embark on them, and some further work may be needed on these ideas.
- **Flexibility.** This plan needs to be regularly reviewed and should be flexible enough to respond as new proposals, opportunities and challenges arise.

Ballantrae's Future Themes and List of Projects



Theme 1

Working and Learning

We will develop a local economy, including developing a visitor economy, underpinned by upskilling the workforce.

Priorities	Actions
Project 1	• To work with regional learning and employability providers to develop a local apprenticeship and training scheme to upskill individuals with a focus on heritage, the environment, tourism and the green economy.
Project 2	• To create small workshop space to encourage and facilitate local enterprise. To consider the feasibility of creating an artisan craft community with retail outlet and demonstrations.
Project 3	• To investigate the opportunities for new environmental and heritage based visitor attractions.

Theme 2 Good Local Infrastructure

We will prioritise protecting and enhancing local facilities and spaces.

Priorities	Actions
Project 1	• To invest in the Kings Arms Community Pub and Hub to support it to become a key sustainable social enterprise and asset.
Project 2	• To secure funding for a shop front improvement scheme.
Project 3	• To create an information centre in the village.
Project 4	• To level and improve pavements including the one from the school to Main Street.
Project 5	• To install lighting on the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in the recreation ground and enhance the tennis courts and Scout hut.
Project 6	• To protect the community hall as a key asset.
Project 7	• To invest in the historic sites including Ardstinchar Castle, Ardstinchar Bridge, Church, Kennedy Mausoleum and the Harbour.
Project 8	• To install more litter bins through the village.
Project 9	• To consider the feasibility of establishing a local heritage centre.

Theme 3 Affordable Housing for All Ages

We will ensure that there is accessible and affordable housing for people at all stages in their lives.

Priorities	Actions
Project 1	• To establish starter housing for young people and young families.
Project 2	• To create sheltered or supported housing for older people.
Project 3	• To consider the viability of a small dementia unit.

Theme 4

Getting About Easily

Traffic and road safety will be a focus to create a safer place. We will invest in walks and cycle paths and better transport to enhance connectivity within the community and across the region.

Priorities	Actions
Project 1	• To lobby strongly for traffic calming measures including speed bumps, average speed cameras and a lower speed limit on the A77.
Project 2	• To improve the local paths network and create better walking routes including a good walking route to Ayr and Girvan and a useable path by the edge of the sea. We will invest in the riverside walk.
Project 3	• To create a community car, taxi or a shared car owned by the village.
Project 4	• To lobby for better public transport and a clear electronic display with bus times.
Project 5	• To work towards better lorry management.

Theme 5

Care and Wellbeing

We will work towards being a place that looks after its own and has good health and care for older people.

Priorities	Actions
Project 1	• To establish residential care for older people in a local asset.
Project 2	• To set up a befriending scheme.
Project 3	• To bring in care training for local young people to deliver Self Directed Support funded care to local people.
Project 4	• To establish both an indoor and outdoor gym.
Project 5	• To find space for allotments to grow local food and the establishment of a regular local market to complement the Festival of Food and Drink.
Project 6	• To enhance sport and physical activity in the village hall and elsewhere.
Project 7	• Improve access to Childcare Services - especially for children with additional needs.
Project 8	• Improve access to all buildings for those with mobility issues.

Theme 6

Things to do

We will create events and leisure activities to make this a vibrant place to live

Priorities	Actions
Project 1	• To create an improved diary of local events.
Project 2	• To source funding for and to recruit a local events and activities co-ordinator.
Project 3	• To organise more activity for young people and children.

Making it happen

Turning Aspiration into Action

The themes and projects in this action plan have been distilled from those suggested by members of the community during the extensive consultation process. Decisions about what could and should be included have been guided by the vision and underpinning principles outlined on page 29, by the breadth and depth of support respondents demonstrated to us, and by an assessment of viability and fit with the plan as a whole.

These community actions are the embodiment of a central theme which ran through our conversations - that of the need for greater community coordination, resilience and self-reliance.

The Community Action Plan will now move into a set up phase. Key to setting out how the community's priorities will be implemented, will be identifying the community groups who will be able to lead on certain ideas, where new groups may need to be formed, and where resources and investment will come from.

To guide delivery of this set up phase, we hope that the Ballantrae Planning Group which is well placed will continue to oversee the Community Action Plan with a small Delivery Group charged with Monitoring and Evaluation.

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 aim 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.

Community ownership of these processes is key for successful delivery.

Responsibility for monitoring and review should sit with a Delivery Group. In addition, we envisage that, there will be a role for an ongoing community action forum, perhaps the Planning Group meeting twice a year to specifically review progress on the plan with those meetings open to other representative bodies and community groups.



Get Involved

The delivery of this action plan is the job of everyone in Ballantrae. We need local people to get involved in leading on projects and making this vision a reality.

Keep an eye on the **Information Ballantrae** Facebook page and let us know if you are interested in being a part of this.

www.ballantrae.org.uk

community enterprise
Ballantrae Our Community Our Plan!
Ballantrae Community Fund
Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba
ARIA Ayrshire Rural & Islands Ambition Fund