

DUNDONALD

Priorities for Action

Engagement outcomes May 2022

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Making a Difference Every Day 

Introduction

South Ayrshire Council is currently undertaking Place Plans with many of the communities in South Ayrshire. These plans are at the heart of a new approach to placemaking in South Ayrshire, one that is embedded within, and driven by the Community's own concerns and aspirations. The aim is to develop plans collaboratively with the community that are a true reflection of the priorities of those who live and work in the towns and villages of South Ayrshire. The plans will provide a series of actions that the community, the Council and other partners can work together in delivering.

In the second half of 2021, the Council undertook a series of Community Conversations with the community in Dundonald, that sought to identify the main concerns facing residents. This report presents the findings from the engagements in 2021, and provides the basis from which the next round of conversations can take place where actions to address priorities will be developed.

Outcome of Engagement

The Community Conversations in Dundonald began in August 2021 and continued through to October 2021. The engagement consisted of a number of focused meetings with community groups as well as an online survey. The Scottish Government designed Place Standard toolkit was used to measure and assess the community's priorities.

The Place Standard sees a score awarded for each of the identified topics that make up a successful place. This ranges from 1, where most improvement is needed, to 7, where no improvement is needed. The scores given by each member of the community who took part were averaged to give an indication of priorities.

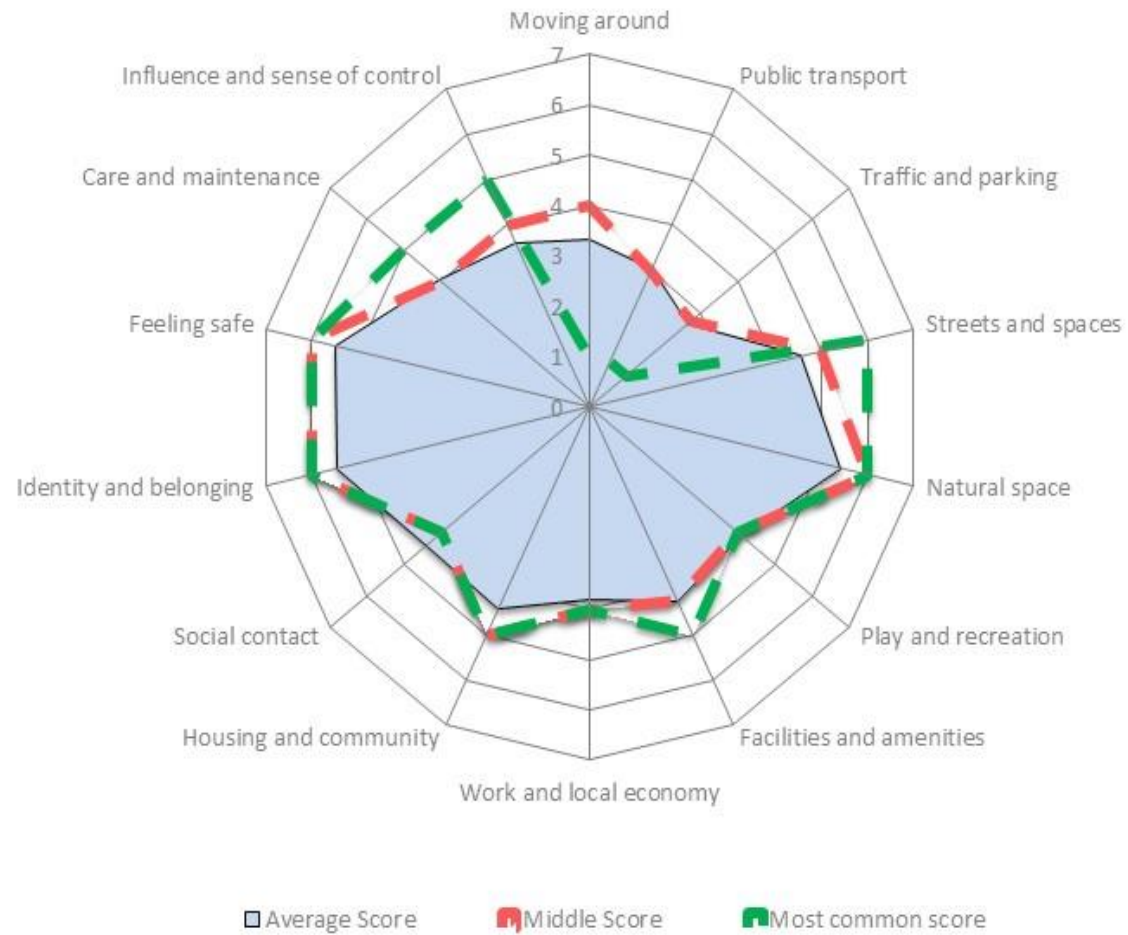
The community conversations took place over 7 weeks between 24 August and 13 October 2021. A total of 160 people took part in the consultation including from 7 community groups; 94 online surveys were completed.

The findings of the consultation are laid out in the table below, and in the diagram on the following page. There were three particular areas that were identified as being of particular concerns, with scores below the median of 3.5. These were the topics of Traffic and Parking, Public Transport and Moving Around. These present a picture that in general the issue of movement, whether in car, bus, bike or on foot, is an area that needs to be improved in Dundonald.

At the other end of the scale Natural Space, Feeling Safe and Identity and Belonging achieved high scores. This shows the strengths that Dundonald has in its location connected to attractive outdoor spaces and strong community spirit and identity.

Topic	Average Score
Traffic and Parking	2.7
Public Transport	3.0
Moving Around	3.3
Influence and Sense of Control	3.6
Work and the Local Economy	3.8
Care and Maintenance	4.1
Play and Recreation	4.1
Facilities and Amenities	4.3
Social Contact	4.4
Housing and Community	4.5
Street and Spaces	4.6
Natural Space	5.4
Feeling Safe	5.5
Identity and Belonging	5.5

PLACE PLANNING : DUNDONALD



As part of the conversations, participants were invited to provide comments relating to the topic areas. These provide an insight into the reason for the scores, as well as some of the possible solutions. A sample of some of the comments received are set out in the boxes below.

Moving Around

Average Score = 3.3

Positive

- Good walks
- Smugglers Trail
- Good walks through woods
- Plenty of places to walk/cycle
- Easy access to countryside
- Cycling is good
- Lots of lovely walks

Negative

- Roads and pavements repairs needed
- Lots of potholes
- Busy roads – unsafe for cycling
- No cycle paths
- Uneven paths
- No seating
- Speeding traffic
- Volume of traffic
- Some walks not suitable for all

Suggestions/Comments

- More dog bins needed
- Traffic lights needed at Main Street
- Lower pavements for elderly
- Safe cycle route needed

Public Transport

Average Score = 3.0

Positive

- Lots of bus stops / good condition
- Bus fares are reasonable
- Lots of buses with good frequency
- Good connections
- Frequent / reliable / convenient

Negative

- Bus routes have reduced
- Frequency of buses
- Limited links to other areas
- No late buses
- Public transport limited

Suggestions/Comments

- Need more information on bus routes
- More modern buses
- Accessibility is important
- Drybridge platform should be re-opened

Traffic and Parking

Average Score = 2.7

Positive

- Traffic calming measures
- 20 mph speed limit on Main Street
- Free parking

Negative

- Main Street is terrible
- No parking on Main Street for doctors or shop
- Very congested with HGVs
- No parking
- Traffic flow
- Volume of traffic

Suggestions/Comments

- Speed cameras on Main Street
- Traffic calming on all routes
- Signage for pedestrians
- Zebra crossings on Main Street

Feeling safe

Average Score = 5.5

Positive

- Feel very safe in village
- Know everyone – safe for everyone
- Low crime rate, feels safe

Negative

- Teenagers hanging about
- Underage drinking
- Lights not bright enough
- Never any police presence
-

Suggestion/comment

- Asb linked more to school holidays
- Better CCTV

Care and Maintenance

Average Score = 4.1

Positive

- Buildings well maintained
- Bin men are very good and clean up
- Generally good

Negative

- Not enough bins
- Dog fouling is an issue
- Litter – flytipping – vandalism
- Derelict garage an eyesore

Suggestions/comments

- Montgomerie Hall needs more work
- Main St could do with a facelift
- Must be a whole village approach

Influence and Sense of Control

Average Score = 3.6

Positive

- Its good to be asked
- People are welcomed to get involved
- Feel like opinions and voices being heard
- Range of ways to contribute
- Active community council

Positive

- Digital isolation for some
- Surveys like this might help

Negative

- Too many consultations with no actions
- Don't feel listened to
- Some folk dominate decision making
- Not knowing / poor communication
- Community council could be more representative of the community

Work and Local Economy

Average Score = 3.8

Positive

- Plenty of variety locally
- Local people employed
- Few businesses within local community

Suggestions/Comments

- Industrial units need promoted/advertised
- More tourist opportunities opened in area
- Support local initiatives

Negative

- No opportunities for setting up businesses
- No job centre to help find jobs
- Not a lot of variety of jobs
- Need to travel outwith the village – transport links not good

Housing and Community

Average Score = 4.5

Positive

- Community very welcoming
- Lot of accommodation for elderly
- Lots of new housing
- Various house types with more being built

Negative

- Not a lot of houses / rental properties
- Lack of affordable housing
- Not much mid range / low cost housing
- Families moved in from other areas
- Loss of green space

Suggestions/Comment

- SAC needs to liaise with schools about capacity
- Improve appearance of houses
- Increase services to go with increased housing

Social Interaction

Average Score = 4.4

Positive

- Neighbourly / welcoming
- Lots of groups
- Good facilities
- Range of spaces and facilities
- Very inclusive
- Active church community

Negative

- No places to meet up
- Hard to find information
- Limited choice
- Rise in costs for renting hall

Suggestions/comments

- Need a community hub
- A late night café would be nice
- Need to develop strong local interactions to tackle social isolation

Identity and Belonging

Average Score = 5.5

Positive

- Feel welcomed in the village
- Strong history
- Pride in village
- Lots of activities to get involved in

Negative

- Jibes at school about coming from Dundonald
- Nothing to do in Dundonald – friends wont come
- Village is losing its identity

Suggestions/Comments

- Council need to start fixing and repairing roads

Streets and Spaces

Average Score = 4.6

Positive

- Beautiful Castle and Memorial
- Dundonald has very good landmarks
- Nice decorations for seasonal events
- Nice environment to live

Negative

- Street lighting is not good
- New housing developments cause concerns
- Lack of signage to landmarks
- Quarry encroaching on wood area
- Stop building new houses in our green space
- The conditions of the pavements is very poor
- Abandoned garage makes place unattractive
- Streets are littered with dog waste

Suggestions/Comments

- Streets need swept/cleaned
- Bins emptied more in summer months
- Park in Bruce Avenue needs improved
- Paths in the woods needs upgrading

Natural Space

Average Score = 5.4

Positive

- Lots of natural space
- Air quality is good
- Great nature walks / woods
- Lucky to have woodland walks

Suggestions/Comments

- More maintenance for green areas
- Benches in woods
- Mountain bike trails in the woods
- A public map of the woods
- More bins

Negative

- Quarry is noisy at times
- Antisocial behaviour in the woods
- Access limited for people with mobility issues
- Woods being taken over by quarry and fields by houses
- Development of the playing fields and lack of information

Play and Recreation

Average Score = 4.1

Positive

- Bowling club well run and affordable
- Good afterschool activities
- Skate park and Basketball courts are good
- Good exercise opportunities
- Sheltered Housing have lots of opportunities
- Plenty of space to play and exercise
- Activity Centre available to book

Negative

- Lots of groups stopped due to COVID
- Local authority closed football park
- Nothing for young people
- Closing park for refurbishment
- Play parks poor standard / need maintained

Suggestions/Comments

- Will the community be allowed to use the new football field?
- Could do with more sporting venues and clubs
- More facilities for teenagers

Facilities and Amenities

Average Score = 4.3

Positive

- Good shops and local amenities
- All the cash machines are free
- Cafes good – garden centre / castle
- Village has good range of services
- Great school and nursery with sports centre attached

Negative

- No library – mobile library only visits once a month
- No post office
- Hard to get appointment at GP
- Limited shops make it expensive
- Services under pressure due to increased population

Suggestions/Comments

- Montgomerie Hall needs an upgrade
- Improve the village by introducing eclectic shops
- Breakfast/after school club would be ideal

Next Steps

The community conversations undertaken to date have established the strengths and weaknesses and priority issues facing Dundonald. This information will be used as the baseline for developing actions that will form the final Place Plan in due course. A number of workshops will now be held with community groups to further investigate the issues and possible actions that could be undertaken to address these. Following these workshops a draft Place Plan will be prepared and published online for comment and further input from the wider community.



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DUNDONALD

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