Symington Place Planning

Priorities for Action

Engagement outcomes June 2022

THRIVING PLACES
POSITIVE · PROUD · AMBITIOUS
PLACEMAKING IN SOUTH AYRSHIRE

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.

Between November 2021 and January 2022 , the Council undertook a series of Community Conversations with the community in Symington, that sought to identify the main concerns facing residents. This report presents the findings from the engagements 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 Symington began in November 2021 and continued through to January 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.
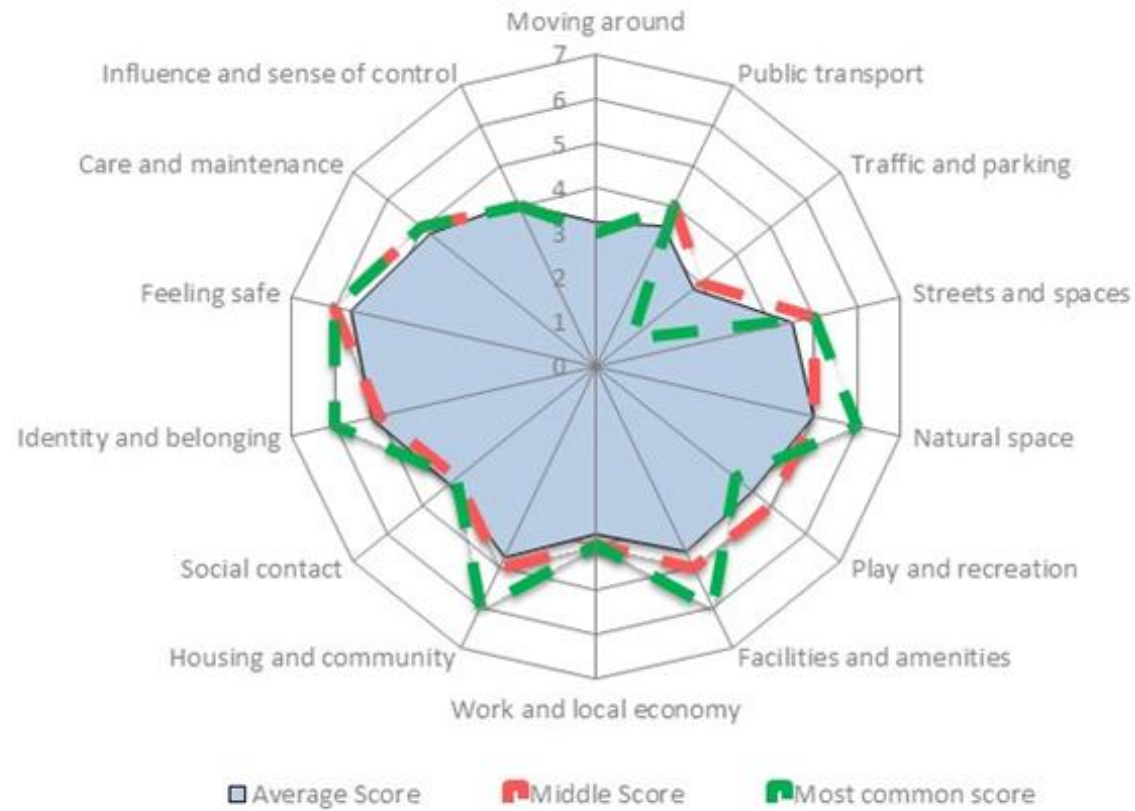
The Place Standard sees a score awarded for each of the identified topics that make up a successful place. This ranges from 1, where most improvement is needed, to 7, where no improvement is needed. The scores given by each member of the community who took part were averaged to give an indication of priorities. A total of 118 people took part in the consultation including from 3 community groups and 88 online surveys.

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, Moving Around and Public Transport. These marks show that issues around mobility, connectivity and how vehicles use the village is of high concern to residents.

At the other end of the scale Feeling Safe, Identity and Belonging and Natural Space scored highly.

Topic	Average
Traffic and parking	2.8
Moving Around	3.3
Public transport	3.5
Work and local economy	3.7
Influence and sense of control	4.1
Social contact	4.2
Play and recreation	4.5
Streets and spaces	4.5
Facilities and amenities	4.6
Housing and community	4.7
Care and maintenance	4.8
Natural space	5.0
Identity and belonging	5.1
Feeling safe	5.6

PLACE PLANNING : SYMINGTON

Radar chart showing scores across: Moving around, Public transport, Traffic and parking, Streets and spaces, Natural space, Play and recreation, Facilities and amenities, Work and local economy, Housing and community, Social contact, Identity and belonging, Feeling safe, Care and maintenance, Influence and sense of control. Scale 0 to 7.

Legend: Average Score, Middle Score, Most common score

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.

Traffic and Parking = 2.8	
Positive	**_Negative_**
Parking mainly ok but getting busier Adequate parking Conditions outside centre are better with traffic calming measures	Inconsiderate parking – on corners/pavements Certain streets busy with parked cars – dangerous and difficult to pass (eg. Main Street) Speeding vehicles Increasing volume of traffic from new housing developments

Suggestions
- Could parking bays be marked to ensure there is enough passing place
- More traffic calming measures – eg. double yellow lines on Main Street, speed bumps
- Reduce speed limit to 20mph for whole village
- Room for improvements – lots of grass patches that could be used for parking

Moving Around = 3.3	
Positive	**_Negative_**
Lots of paths in and around the village – great for bikes/scooters ; doggy walks Routes link nicely and provide different routes to popular features Good walking routes / plenty of options for cycling Everyything is within walking distance	Paths are narrow making it difficult for wheelchairs, prams, walking frame Lack of lighting in some areas Pavements are in poor condition Hedges are taking over paths in many areas No safe routes for cycling Increased volume of traffic

Suggestions
- Walks need to be signposted
- Would like to see traffic lights/zebra crossing at the Co-op
- Better lighting and more seating in park

Public Transport = 3.5	
Positive	**_Negative_**
Frequent and fairly reliable bus service (no.4) Bus stops are in convenient places Adequate bus links Decent service	No public transport near to my home Routes to and from the village are limited No direct bus to Troon/Dundonald/Hospital Bus stops too far to walk for less able Bus fares are expensive

Suggestions

- Later evening bus service needs restored
- Improved bus routes – eg. direct bus to Troon
- X77 having a stop nearer to Symington

Work and Local Economy = 3.7

Positive	*Negative*
Lots of small business owners within village	Local childcare can be difficult to find
Active local economy	Not many job prospects
Opportunities for part-time work and volunteering	No space to local businesses to start up
	No opportunities for young people

Comments

- More a commuter village – most travel for work in larger areas
- Symington has a rural economy

Influence and Sense of Control = 4.1

Positive	*Negative*
Community council opportunity for discussion and influencing decisions	Locals not always listened to – eg. housing developments
Community council approachable	Difficult to know how people can contribute to local decisions
Encouraged to give views on area	Community council views might not reflect everyone's

Suggestion

- Make more use of social media
- Create an ideas box for community to put forward thoughts about how they feel their local community can be improved
- Views need to actioned within parameters identified and not only used as a tick box exercise

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Social Contact = 4.2

Positive	*Negative*
Range of different groups for all ages	Less community spiriti and cohesion now
Lots of places to meet up – hall, bowling club, church, park, pub, scout hut	Elderly residents – harder to get them to meet up and socialise
Good opportunities to meet through groups and clubs	Not sure what is going on – better communication

Suggestion
- Need larger community space / games hall for young people
- Improve outdoor space for teenagers to meet – eg. shelter, picnic benches, public toilets
- More support to help with activities
- Additional bus routes

Play and Recreation = 4.5

Positive	*Negative*
MUGA is good for play and recreation	Older teenagers hang about park but nothing for them to do
Good facilities – tennis courts, bowling green, park	Playparks need upgraded
Lots of playparks for younger children	Very few sports clubs within village
	Limited activities for all age groups

Suggestion
- Village would benefit from an indoor sports hall
- Exercise equipment /outdoor gym equipment at the park for adults and teenagers
- Develop more accessible areas for all ages encouraging intergenerational opportunites

Streets and Spaces = 4.5

Positive	*Negative*
A pleasant and delightful village	Appearance of some buildings
Local church building and grounds well kept	Out of date signage
Park is attractive and plenty of open space	Some areas look untidy and messy
High standard of cleanliness and maintenance	So many overgrown hedges

Suggestion
- Extra bins required
- Lighting could be improved
- Playpark needs upgraded – new equipment, picnic benches
- Pavements upgraded and widened

Facilities and Amenities = 4.6

Positive	*Negative*
Good amount of shops and easily accessible	Community fails to make full use of facilities
Range of facilities – library, surgery, post office, school, church, restaurant	Limited doctors service
Plenty of places to meet friends	Very little for younger people

Suggestion
- Greater need for wider health care facilities – increasing population
- More clubs for children
- Access to a hub for all ages to mix and pass on knowledge and learn
- A tea shop would be good

Housing and Community = 4.7	
Positive	***Negative***
Good quality housing meeting needs of varying household sizes	Lack of sheltered housing or for people looking to downsize
Lots of different styles of housing	Lack of affordable or social housing
Good mix and range of houses	Large scale development has had negative impact on village

Suggestion
- Development of a wider range of housing – affordable for young people and accessible to promote independent living for older people or people with disabilities

Care and Maintenance = 4.8	
Positive	***Negative***
Refuse collection is well organised	Litter and dog mess are the main problems
Active community council – good at looking after interests of village	Leaves/debris on paths in winter
Most spaces/buildings/amenities are well looked after and cared for	Pavilion is in poor state of repair
	Park and facilities need updated

Suggestion
- Signs could be updated and cleaned
- More bins – suggestion from P7 pupils
- More initiatives to encourage recycling

Natural Space = 5.0	
Positive	***Negative***
Plenty of natural space around the village	Woods only accessible to walkers
Local wildflower project has been successful	Being destroyed by housing developments
Shaw Park / woods	Litter, flytipping and dog poo a problem
Fabulous open space in and around the village	Lack of seating areas

Suggestion
• Growing food in some places could be explored
• Creating an attractive social garden or allotments
• Landscaping needed to public gardens
• More footpaths and seating around the village

Identity and Belonging = 5.1

Positive	*Negative*
Made feel very welcome and connected to community	Difficult engaging with people new to the village
Feel I belong – strong sense of community	Lack of disability access
Friendly village – good community vibe	Community diluted by people moving in
Proud to live in Symington	History of village not widely known

Suggestion
• Clean up properties in some areas of the village
• Greater need to conserve areas of historical, natural significance

Feeling Safe = 5.6

Positive	*Negative*
A safe community and environment	Not much police presence
Not much crime and antisocial behaviour	Lack of pedestrian crossings
Feel safe	Road safety – speeding vehicles
No empty/derelict properties	Groups of teenagers hanging around
	People dumping rubbish / litter

Suggestion
• Better lighting around the park area for winter months
• A more visible police presence
• Clearer identification of persons, procedures to strengthen safety and security

Next Steps

The community conversations undertaken to date have established the strengths and weaknesses and priority issues facing Symington. 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.