

# Barrhill 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 October and December 2021, the Council undertook a series of Community Conversations with the community in Barrhill, 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 Barrhill began in October 2021 and continued through December 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.

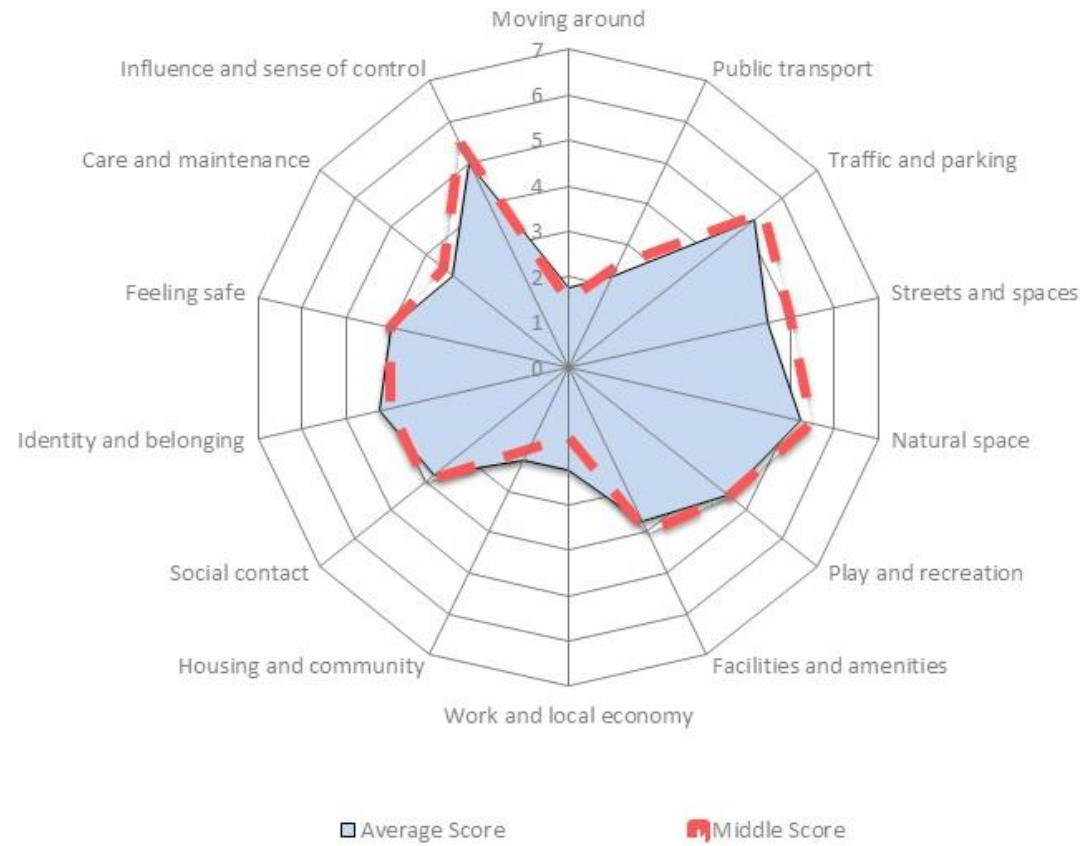
The Place Standard sees a score awarded for each of the identified topics that make up a successful place. This ranges from 1, where most improvement is needed, to 7, where no improvement is needed. The scores given by each member of the community who took part were averaged to give an indication of priorities. A total of 7 people took part in the consultation including with a community group and 3 online surveys.

The findings of the consultation are laid out in the table below, and in the diagram on the following page. There were five areas that were identified as being of particular concern, with scores below the median of 3.5. These were the topics of Public Transport, Moving Around, Housing and Community, Care and Maintenance and Work and Local Economy.

At the other end of the scale Influence and Sense of Control, Traffic and Parking and Natural Space scored highly.

Topic	Average
Moving Around	1.8
Work and local economy	2.3
Public transport	2.3
Housing and community	2.3
Care and maintenance	3.3
Social contact	3.8
Facilities and amenities	3.8
Feeling safe	4.0
Identity and belonging	4.3
Streets and spaces	4.5
Play and recreation	4.5
Influence and sense of control	5.0
Traffic and parking	5.3
Natural space	5.3

## PLACE PLANNING : BARRHILL ONLY



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.

## Comments

<b>Moving Around = 1.8</b>	
<p><b><u>Positive</u></b> Few safe walking routes</p>	<p><b><u>Negative</u></b> Very few cycling routes – not safe A714 not suitable for cyclists – too narrow and blind bends Roads surfaces not even Some pathways not used and removed by farmers</p>
<p><b><u>Suggestions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pavements should extend to the caravan park</li> </ul>	

<b>Public Transport = 2.3</b>	
<p><b><u>Positive</u></b> Train service quite good Quite a busy station</p>	<p><b><u>Negative</u></b> Frequency of buses is poor / cannot get to work Buses don't link with onward connections Train station is outwith village Cost is prohibitive</p>

<b>Housing and Community = 2.3</b>	
<p><b><u>Positive</u></b> Plenty of houses available to rent Good mix of homes</p>	<p><b><u>Negative</u></b> Heating can be expensive – older homes No affordable housing – for young families Drainage problems Few council houses – especially for those with a disability</p>
<p><b><u>Suggestion</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need pensioner 1-bedroom houses</li> </ul>	

### Work and Local Economy = 2.3

#### Positive

Pub is now community owned and once refurbished will offer employment

#### Negative

No opportunities – only farming  
No support to get people into employment  
Lack of tradesmen  
No one local works at windfarm

#### Suggestion

- There is a need for cottage industry's within the community. Rural grants and support would be crucial in encouraging local people to apply
- More could be done for modern apprentices

### Care and Maintenance = 3.3

#### Positive

Area kept well – always clean and tidy  
Everyone keeps village tidy  
Community council provide free dog poo bags – most people use them

#### Negative

Dog fouling is an issue  
Recycling is an issue – nearest centre 13 miles away  
Disused garage an eyesore  
Flytipping in lay-bys

#### Suggestion

- More skips or recycling points
- Area behind bridge ideal for recycling point

### Facilities and Amenities = 3.8

#### Positive

Facilities are adequate  
Public toilets

#### Negative

Lack of public transport to access activities  
Only one local shop – limited opening times and poor choice of items

### Social Contact = 3.8

#### Positive

Community hall beginning to open up again for groups  
Regular activities at community centre  
Clubs available throughout week  
Welcome pack provided for newcomers

#### Negative

No council run events  
Costly to hire school for events

#### Suggestion

- Pub once refurbished hoped to be a social hub for community

**Feeling Safe = 4.0****Positive**

Virtually no crime  
Village is very safe

**Negative**

Low sky lights not good for safety – especially walking from train station  
No lights at top of village  
Speeding traffic

**Identity and Belonging = 4.3****Positive**

Small village – community spirit is high  
Strong sense of community  
Open, inclusive, welcoming

**Negative****Comment**

- Newsletters and social media posts are helpful and informative

**Play and Recreation = 4.5****Positive**

Excellent playpark – well used  
Good park for kids / bowling green for adults  
Parks are free and safe place for kids

**Negative**

Nothing suitable for kids under 5 years  
No smooth surfaces for cycling / skating

**Streets and Spaces = 4.5****Positive**

Village looks tidy and well signed  
Community spaces are kept tidy – planters, etc  
Good lighting  
Area and buildings nice to look at

**Negative**

Lots of derelict houses on Main Street – look untidy and unkempt  
One private area needs tidied

**Influence and Sense of Control = 5.0****Positive**

Can get point across and gain support  
Everyone can contribute and have their say  
Occasional police representation

**Negative**

Responses to problems not always forthcoming (from Council)

**Suggestion**

- Miss the link officer (community council)

**Traffic and Parking = 5.3****Positive**

Plenty of parking available  
Reasonably good community car park  
Well lit

**Negative**

Trucks park in Main Street at the shop – hazardous  
Avoid walking on roads – vans/lorries  
Traffic can be noisy  
Don't stick to speed limit

**Natural Space = 5.3****Positive**

Abundance of wildlife – and area to sit and watch  
Has nice walks and river – good access  
Good fishing  
Park is well used

**Negative**

Wind turbines and noise

**Suggestion**

- More at park for disabled children
- BBQ area at park for people to meet up

**Next Steps**

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