

# Colmonell 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 communities in Colmonell, 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 Colmonell began in October 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.

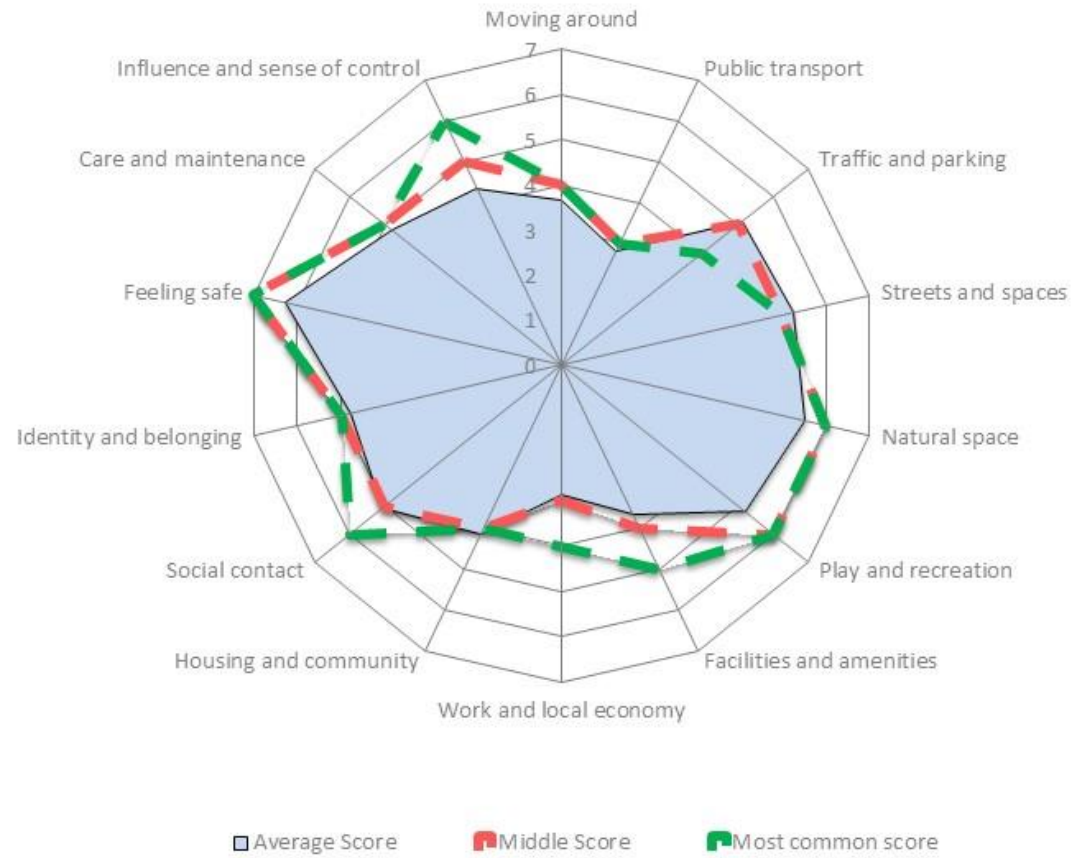
The Place Standard sees a score awarded for each of the identified topics that make up a successful place. This ranges from 1, where most improvement is needed, to 7, where no improvement is needed. The scores given by each member of the community who took part were averaged to give an indication of priorities. A total of 31 people took part in the consultation including through 2 community meetings and 13 online surveys.

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

At the other end of the scale Streets and Spaces, Natural Space and Feeling Safe scored highly.

Topic	Average
Public transport	2.8
Work and local economy	2.9
Moving Around	3.7
Facilities and amenities	3.7
Housing and community	4.1
Influence and sense of control	4.3
Care and maintenance	4.8
Identity and belonging	4.8
Traffic and parking	5.1
Social contact	5.1
Play and recreation	5.2
Streets and spaces	5.3
Natural space	5.5
Feeling safe	6.3

## PLACE PLANNING : COLMONELL



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.

<b>Public Transport = 2.8</b>	
<p><b><u>Positive</u></b></p> <p>Public transport is safe            Bus drivers are good            Enough bus stops</p>	<p><b><u>Negative</u></b></p> <p>Bus every 2 hours and none on a Sunday            Not frequent or reliable            Too many connections to get to desired destination            No buses to Ballantrae</p>

<b>Work and Local Economy = 2.9</b>	
<p><b><u>Positive</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Negative</u></b></p> <p>Not many jobs locally            No space for local business to start            Need to travel for work            Childcare availability poor</p>

<b>Moving Around = 3.7</b>	
<p><b><u>Positive</u></b></p> <p>Reasonable walking and cycling routes            Walking routes are good and well maintained            Good access to greenspace</p>	<p><b><u>Negative</u></b></p> <p>Outwith village there are no footpaths            Too many potholes on public road            Some rural paths overgrown            Heavy lorries</p>
<p><b><u>Suggestions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Path near cemetery would be good</li> <li>• Repair benches on road towards Craigneil</li> <li>• Marked routes / stiles over fences</li> </ul>	

<b>Facilities and Amenities = 3.7</b>	
<p><b><u>Positive</u></b></p> <p>Online delivery service is good            Very good school and village hall            Many activities take place in hall</p>	<p><b><u>Negative</u></b></p> <p>Have to travel for some amenities – doctors, places to eat            Difficult to access due to poor public transport</p>
<p><b><u>Suggestion</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would benefit from a community shop</li> </ul>	

**Housing and Community = 4.1****Positive**

Good mixture of housing  
 Good quality houses

**Negative**

No available houses to rent or buy  
 New houses not affordable homes

**Suggestion**

- More affordable housing needed in area for younger generation

**Influence and Sense of Control = 4.3****Positive**

Strong community  
 Opportunities to contribute and get involved  
 Community Association well established

**Negative**

Whole community against last major housing development but still went ahead  
 No one listens or cares to major issues  
 Small group of volunteers – same people involved in all groups and committees

**Suggestion**

More support from council and other agencies  
 Consult and involve young people more  
 Need to review role of the community council – people unsure of what they do

**Identity and Belonging = 4.8****Positive**

Good community spirit / support  
 Positive history, heritage and culture  
 Community association / volunteers

**Negative**

Village is isolated  
 Don't know the history  
 Don't feel I belong

**Suggestion**

- No signs with information about Colmonell

**Care and Maintenance = 4.8****Positive**

Spaces and buildings well cared for  
 Lovely hanging baskets and tubs in the village  
 Park is well maintained

**Negative**

Land behind the hall is messy  
 Some dog fouling issues  
 No recycling facilities

**Suggestion**

- Old bank building and bakery could be developed and used

**Traffic and Parking = 5.1****Positive**

New 20mph traffic regulation excellent  
Sufficient parking / safe and secure  
Not too much traffic

**Negative**

Speeding vehicles  
Parking congestion at school  
No dedicated parking area for hall

**Social Contact = 5.1****Positive**

Good community  
Lots of local events and groups  
Good communication

**Negative**

No indoor space to meet up  
Covid has prevented larger events being organised

**Play and Recreation = 5.2****Positive**

Good amenities – playpark, bowling club,  
community garden  
Lots of activities / groups

**Negative**

Small park – only suitable for younger children  
No sports space  
Room for more outdoor activities

**Suggestion**

- Space for development next to playpark
- More playpark equipment would be good

**Streets and Spaces = 5.3****Positive**

Attractive village  
Houses and gardens well kept  
Local landmarks, historic buildings

**Negative**

New houses not inkeeping with village  
Some footpaths hazardous  
One derelict building

**Suggestion**

- Advertise walking routes more in the area

**Natural Space = 5.5****Positive**

Good natural space all around  
Accessible for all  
Air quality is good  
Lots of opportunity to learn and explore

**Negative**

Local landowner discourages access  
No parks for walking  
Seating outwith village removed

**Suggestion**

- Seating near the bridge would be good

**Feeling Safe = 6.3****Positive**

Minimal crime and antisocial behaviour  
Safe for children to play outside  
Real sense of community – people look out for each other  
Know everyone

**Negative****Next Steps**

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