

# Loans Place Planning

Priorities for Action

Engagement outcomes July 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 February 2022, the Council undertook a series of Community Conversations with the community in Loans, 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 Loans began in November 2021 and continued through February 2022. 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.

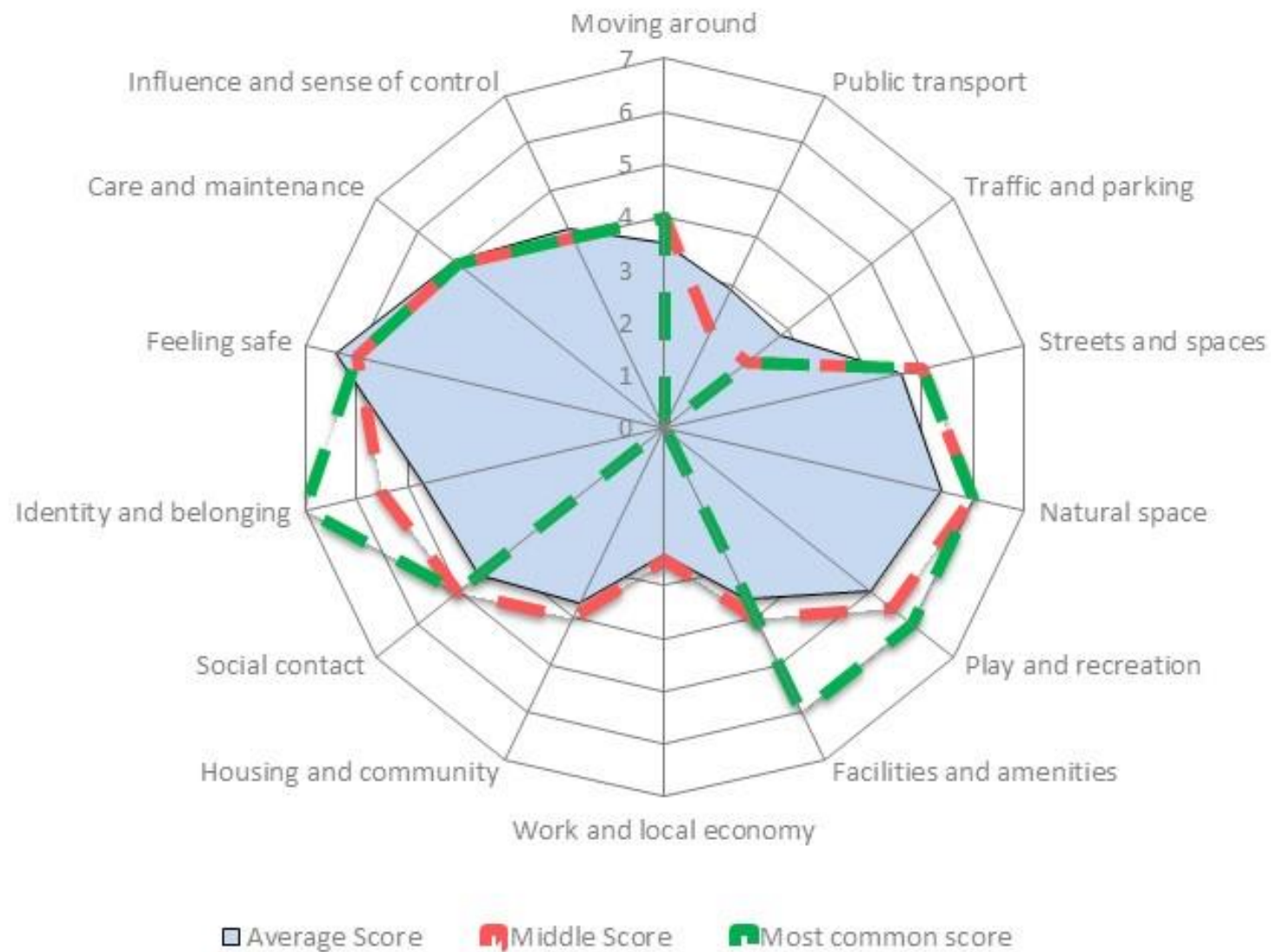
The Place Standard sees a score awarded for each of the identified topics that make up a successful place. This ranges from 1, where most improvement is needed, to 7, where no improvement is needed. The scores given by each member of the community who took part were averaged to give an indication of priorities. A total of 10 people took part in the consultation including from 2 in person surveys and 8 online surveys.

The findings of the consultation are laid out in the table below, and in the diagram on the following page. Three topics were identified as being of particular concern, scoring below the median of 3.5: Work and local economy (scoring 2.4), Traffic and Parking (scoring 2.8) and Public Transport (scoring 2.9).

At the other end of the scale Feeling Safe, Natural Space and Care and Maintenance scored highly.

Topic	Average
Work and local economy	2.4
Traffic and parking	2.8
Public transport	2.9
Moving Around	3.5
Facilities and amenities	3.6
Housing and community	3.7
Influence and sense of control	4.2
Social contact	4.5
Streets and spaces	4.6
Identity and belonging	4.7
Play and recreation	5.0
Care and maintenance	5.1
Natural space	5.4
Feeling safe	6.4

## PLACE PLANNING : LOANS



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>Work and Local Economy = 2.4</b>	
<p><b><u>Positive</u></b></p> <p>The local hotel, dairy and petrol station are the only immediate source of work</p>	<p><b><u>Negative</u></b></p> <p>Very little work in the village Most employment outwith the village - commute No opportunities or spaces for local businesses to start up and grow.</p>
<p><b><u>Suggestions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A farmers market or fish van would add to the vibe of the village</li> </ul>	

<b>Traffic and Parking = 2.8</b>	
<p><b><u>Positive</u></b></p> <p>Loans is reasonable served by parking spaces Recent traffic calming improvements in Loans have been pretty successful</p>	<p><b><u>Negative</u></b></p> <p>Speeding traffic Parking can make roads narrow No crossing to get to bus stop on Main Street Street parking when events on Drivers don't adhere to the restrictions</p>
<p><b><u>Suggestions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More double yellow lines to stop people parking</li> <li>• One way system through the village – would affect bus service though</li> <li>• Better parking facilities / Speed cameras</li> </ul>	

<b>Public Transport = 2.9</b>	
<p><b><u>Positive</u></b></p> <p>Good access to bus and train routes Buses appear frequent</p>	<p><b><u>Negative</u></b></p> <p>Lack of transport links Very poor bus service – especially for elderly population Poor frequency and time taken to get anywhere</p>
<p><b><u>Suggestions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic timetable would be an improvement</li> </ul>	

**Moving Around = 3.5****Positive**

Loans contained within existing cycle path which will link to extensive coastal route

**Negative**

Drainage a challenge in the winter  
No safe crossing from reservoir side  
Speeding vehicles  
No dedicated cycle paths  
Condition of footpaths

**Suggestions**

- Waiting on new cycle route to Troon linking up with Loans
- Re-route or expand the smugglers trail to make it suitable and enjoyable for walkers and prams, families etc

**Facilities and Amenities = 3.6****Positive**

Lucky to have garage/shop and a nice pub  
Village Hall and Scout Hall both reasonably well used

**Negative**

Shop in garage badly stocked and expensive  
Gp surgery overwhelmed and school is full – stop new builds

**Comments**

- Nearby areas accommodate most local needs
- Improvement to halls could potentially attract further use

**Housing and Community = 3.7****Positive**

Reasonable variety of housing available within the village

**Negative**

Small percentage of social housing and few properties available to rent  
New housing developments – less green space, cost, lack of infrastructure

**Influence and Sense of Control = 4.2****Positive**

Being involved in place planning  
Community council – meet regularly and attendance has increased  
Feel able to take part

**Negative**

No say in developments  
Council could do more

**Suggestion**

- How much difference could be made without wider community involvement

**Social Contact = 4.5****Positive**

Village hall – various clubs and events  
Scout hall  
Very nice village pub  
Enough for my needs

**Negative**

Activities and clubs non existent since covid  
Only have the playground  
Only playparks are in the new builds

**Streets and Spaces = 4.6****Positive**

Lovely village – attractive and pleasant  
Nice public park Attractive historial impression  
(Main St)

**Negative**

Recent housing additions pay little homage to  
the past

**Suggestion**

- Room for improvement around the park areas

**Identity and Belonging = 4.7****Positive**

Village's past and history – not destroyed  
Interesting history  
Strong attachment to village

**Negative**

Loss of identity with new developments  
Prefer to remain as a village  
No community social opportunities

**Comment**

- Would like a stronger sense of community

**Care and Maintenance = 5.1****Positive**

Gardens and open areas within the village are  
generally well maintained  
Nice looked after village

**Negative**

Some of the council properties here have  
issues with garden maintenance

**Play and Recreation = 5.0****Positive**

Loans park is a lovely spot  
Good green area in park  
Play areas equipped for younger children

**Negative**

Not much going on in the village since covid  
Park gets too wet in the winter for activities  
Only a few are prepared to assist or volunteer  
to get activities up and running

**Suggestion**

- Beach park needs to be fully opened
- Potential for organised activities
- Park by the hall could be updated and expanded

**Natural Space = 5.4****Positive**

Loans park is lovely and well utilised  
Good open space  
Good access

**Negative**

Excessive traffic noise at busy periods  
Developments with no infrastructure

**Suggestion**

- Better access to woodland and farmland

**Feeling Safe = 6.4****Positive**

Village people look out for each other  
The monthly police report given to the Community Council rarely has any crime to report

**Next Steps**

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