

NEW ABBEY LOCAL PLACE PLAN

2025 - 2035



COMPILED BY
NEW ABBEY
COMMUNITY COUNCIL:
LOCAL PLACE PLAN TEAM
2024/25



New Abbey Local Place Plan 2025

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1. Introduction

The New Abbey Community Council (NACC), as the designated Community Body for the New Abbey Community Council Area, began their Local Place Plan (LPP) exercise in September 2023 following the acceptance of their 'Expression of Interest' by the Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC). The purpose was to ensure the views of the New Abbey community could be taken into account by DGC Planning as they develop, and enact, their new 10-year Local Development Plan (LDP3). The current Local Development Plan LDP2, only has one entry for New Abbey and that is regarding a site allocation identified for the provision of an additional 10 houses which has never been developed – see Affordable Housing in the Housing section in part 3a.

It is also hoped that by doing so it will improve community engagement with the local planning system and planning matters, and ensure that the opportunity for a community led, collaborative approach to creating great local places in New Abbey is realised.

The New Abbey Community Council LPP Steering Group, in preparing this document, followed the guidelines and structure provided in the DGC LPP Template, guidance as laid out in the Scottish Government Planning circular 1/2022: Local Place Plan, and the further guidance provided by Planning Aid Scotland. They also took regard of those National Policy Framework 4 Policies within their capabilities as a small rural community in the South West of Scotland.

The Place Standard Tool (PST) was used as the basis for the face-to-face exercises and the online questionnaires, although the PST was modified, in light of experience, to accommodate the wide-ranging nature of the discussions and comments and the flexibility required to ensure discussions were not stifled. The 14 PST Themes support areas within the NPF4 Policy and Scottish Government Planning guidelines, DGC LDP, as well as many other activities suitable for local action by the local community.

In creating the New Abbey LPP, the LPP Steering Group, consisting of three New Abbey Community Council Councillors and three volunteers from the New Abbey community, carried out extensive community wide consultation exercise under the banner of 'Community Conversations'. In this way the views on Development and Land Usage, and other areas of interest, expressed by individuals, social groups and parties, such as local businesses and land owners / users, could be collected and shared.

The communication channels used were a mix of face-to-face meetings at group gatherings, such as the local school Parent Council, local coffee mornings etc., along with Facebook notices, posters in the local shop and on the village notice board, as well as flyers hand delivered to the homes in New Abbey village and immediate surrounds. LPP was also a set item on the New Abbey Community Council Ordinary meeting agendas where progress and activities were reported and discussed.

In terms of gathering feedback, after testing our event delivery and effectiveness by using the Shambellie House Trust Art Group as 'critical friends', three 'open-to-all' community workshops were held in the village hall. These workshops were spread out in terms of day of the week and time of the day to make them suit the widest range of people's availability. We utilised online questionnaires based on the Place Standard Toolkit and also created an adapted versions of it specifically for businesses.

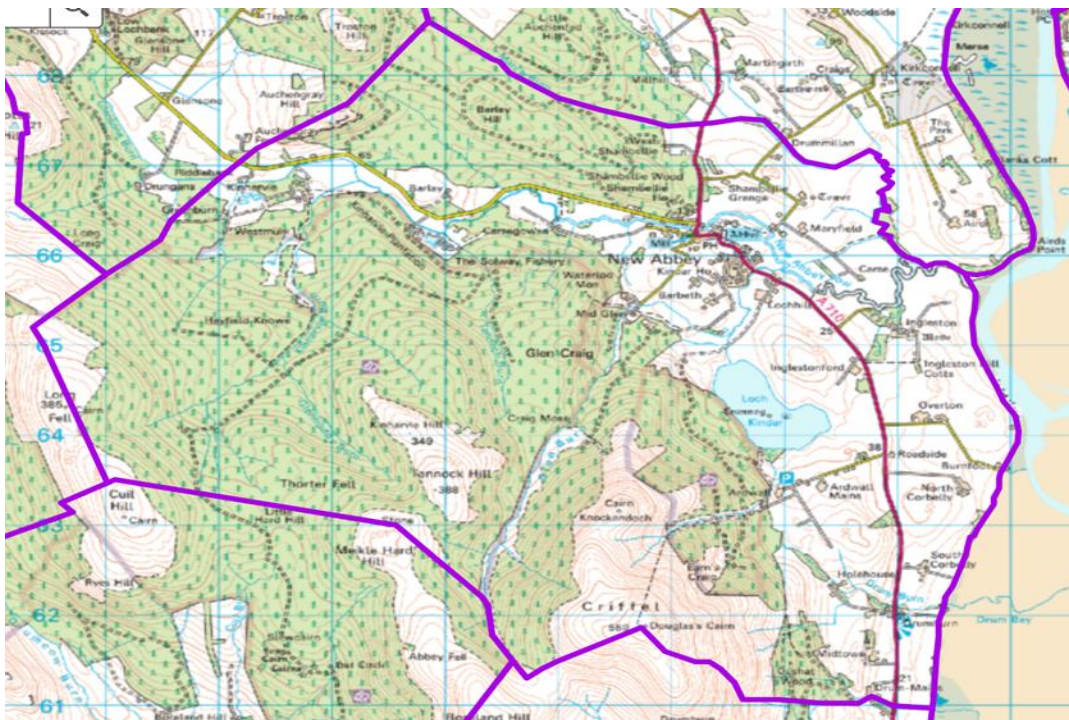
To gather the views of our youngest community members two sessions, for the P1-P3 and P4-P7 pupil groups, were held at the local primary school with the support of the school team.

We set up an engagement session for our local teenage community (13 - 18-year-olds), arranging for the session to be run for them at Shambellie House by students from the SRUC supported by two members of our Steering Group. The session was advertised in the New Abbey Facebook page, using local posters, by directly messaging parents, by speaking to young people at the local bus stop, and it included the offer of free snacks and hot chocolate. However, despite our best efforts we failed to get any of them to attend the session. They also did not attend any of our general face-to-face sessions and, while the online feedback route does not identify individuals, no one who completed it gave their age as being in the teenage group. However, as issues were flagged on their behalf at our community conversation events, we hope to engage with them later to discuss those specific issues.

The New Abbey Community Council Area, according to the 2022 Census, has a population of 549 people with 258 of those living within the New Abbey village; there is no other sizable concentration of houses in the New Abbey Area. Based on this data, we estimate the number of residents who provide feedback is approximately 24% of the New Abbey village population. More residents have engaged with the process less formally as the LPP team sought out available groups, for example attending a school Parents Council meeting, by 'doorstepping' events such as local coffee mornings, and through the published minutes of the New Abbey Community Council where it was regularly reported on and discussed.

Looking specifically at the two high level feedback areas, 'What Works Well Now' and 'What Could Be Better' the total number of separate adult feedback comments, over all the PST Themes, was 515. We gathered an additional 274 comments from the primary school sessions.

The respondents to the survey cannot be assumed to be representative of the whole community, as they were not sampled randomly across the whole population distribution, but all residents were invited to take part. The analysis therefore describes the frequencies of answers / comments provided, going over the PST themes, by those who contributed their feedback at either a face-to-face meeting or online.



This Local Place Plan was initially intended to cover the whole of the New Abbey Community Council Area but, again, we cannot confirm that the distribution of the participants represents a geographical spread over the New Abbey Area; for example, it is reasonable to assume that the majority who attended the face-to-face meetings lived in the village.

The LPP is for the years 2025 to 2035, with a review potentially in 2030; but in our view it could be updated if circumstances within the village or DGC change substantially, or, if a majority of the community asks, once their more immediate concerns have been resolved, for feedback to be sought in areas not significantly highlighted by this LPP, such as Climate Change. During the consultation period it was identified that exploring some topics that required more in-depth expertise and resources would be outside the scope of the New Abbey Local Place Plan. These areas are included within the action plans with the potential for members of the community to lead, develop and explore.

The New Abbey Community Council took the opportunity presented by their Community Conversations to create a Community Action Plan (CAP) to address the needs, wants and aspirations of the community which were expressed during these events but did not fit into the LPP Development and Land Usage remit and this is included within this LPP.

The draft Local Place Plan formed part of the Statutory 28-day consultation. We issued the draft document to the Elected Members of Kirkbean Community Council & Colvend and Southwick Community Council (the only adjacent active CC's), and also issued it to our Dumfries and Galloway Council Abbey Ward Councillors; Davie Stitt, Kim Lowe and Ian Blake. As part of our 28-day Community Consultation of the draft plan we held a series of events in the New Abbey Village Hall. The events in the village hall were advertised on Facebook, at the village shop, and by flyers which were hand delivered to each house in the village.

The 28-day Community Consultation activities included:

- 18 Posters displaying summaries of the draft plan key messages, feedback analysis and Action Plans were on display in the larger of the VH halls from the 12th of May until the 15th of June 2025.
- Open sessions held in the village hall, on each of the 4 Sundays from the 18th of May until the 15th of June 2025 from, 3pm until 5pm, where over the 2-hour period, people could look over the posters and discuss areas of interest with the LPP Steering Group members in attendance.
- Printed versions of the full draft plan were also made available to attendees of the Sunday events so that if someone wanted more detail on something than the posters gave, they could explore it further while at the hall or take one away to read at their leisure.

We also visited New Abbey Primary School to go through the plan with the children and explain how their ideas have been included in the document.

In addition, a New Abbey Community Council website was created so that an online version of the draft plan could be accessed by those unable to attend a Sunday event; this also had a feedback facility for comments or questions. The access details for the website were included in the Facebook adverts for the events and in the flyers.

The Village Hall events were attended by 21 people and the website was accessed 46 times; it is likely some people who attend the events also visited the website link to see a copy of the draft LPP before coming.

Feedback was analysed by the steering group and a small number of changes were made to the final document, throughout the Local Place Plan, namely to:

- Strengthen statements and, if necessary, action points related to:
 - The value of the environment in and around New Abbey to the wellbeing of the community and the importance of protecting it
 - Climate change and environmental considerations
 - Housing requirements
- Clarification of the availability of land for housing development following a change by the owner of Barbeth Farm in relation to the withdrawal of the original site, in LDP2, to say it will now only to be considered if his new development site proposal at Abbeybank is accepted by DGC.

2. New Abbey, Context and Description of our Area



New Abbey – A Brief History #1

The village of New Abbey is situated on the southern bank of the New Abbey Pow, which flows eastward into the river Nith within a rich pastoral valley opening out to the more exposed coastal flats to the east. To the west are the open slopes leading up to Criffel. It is on the boundary of the Coastal Granite Uplands and the Coastal Parkland as defined in the NSA Management Strategy and

surrounded by a number of low rounded hills, such as Loch Hill and Barbeth, Airds Hill, Barhill and Craigs Hill. New Abbey is set largely on a terrace of glacial clay suffused with sand, pebbles and boulders.

New Abbey is an extremely significant historic settlement and a conservation area for New Abbey was first designated in 1974, covering almost the whole of the historic village as well as the fields of the Abbey Precinct of Sweetheart Abbey as a part of the village setting.

The whole of the Abbey Precinct is a Scheduled Ancient Monument together with the Abbey itself and the Precinct Wall. The Corn Mill and its associated land, ponds and lades running south from its source at Loch Kindar are also protected with the associated buildings in Category A. In addition, much of the Conservation Area is designated as an Archaeologically Sensitive Area. Any development within the scheduled areas will require Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic Environment Scotland. Any ground disturbance within the area that goes below 500mm excepting for the footprint of existing buildings will also require permission. Proposals within the Archaeologically Sensitive Area may need to be referred to the Council's archaeologist. The whole of the New Abbey Conservation Area is highly significant archaeologically. Developers and anyone proposing to undertake works that involved ground disturbance are encouraged to seek archaeological advice at an early stage. The setting of scheduled monuments and, in particular that of the Abbey ruins, must be fully considered in any development proposals and should similarly form part of early discussions with the Council's Archaeologist.

New Abbey Conservation Area (Within Purple Border)



New Abbey

The origins of the village of New Abbey are intimately bound up with the history of Sweetheart Abbey. Founded in 1273 and progressively dismantled after dissolution in 1610, the Abbey was a daughter house of Dundrennan Abbey near Kirkcudbright, which had been founded in the previous century. A medieval settlement appears to have developed at the precinct gates, encouraged by the

economic growth of the Abbey. The Precinct Wall, still an outstandingly impressive monument, may have been a defensive structure giving some security for the villagers and their livestock. With the final closure of the Abbey in 1609 its lands reverted to the Crown and in due course to the Stewarts of Shambellie who became the principal land owners. It was they who, over the next two hundred and fifty years, introduced agricultural improvements with enclosures, new land and stock management, and up-to-date farm steadings.

The twentieth century saw the growth of the village outside of the Conservation Area. The first major expansion of housing was the Kindar Drive development by Kirkcudbrightshire Council in the 1930s, which was further extended in the post war period. This drew the centre of population away from the old centre around the Square with the public houses and post office/ shop to a new centre around the churches and the school. This part has been further strengthened by more social housing and the Shebburn Surgery in the early 21st century. Meanwhile the only post WWII addition to public housing in the historic centre were the four homes at Milldamcroft above the Corn Mill Pond area towards the Glen.

The main pedestrian flows are along Main Street, which lacks footways in parts and though there are several paths and side lanes within the conservation area these do not provide an alternative to Main Street. The A710 through the village, being the main traffic route, is at times congested with supplier's HGVs, timber transport lorries, tractors serving local farms, as well as local and tourist vehicles. This impacts on the perception of the village by those on foot going to the local shop or visiting the local facilities or attractions.

New Abbey Today and Our Assets

New Abbey is a vibrant village with a wide range of facilities for its size, including a doctor's surgery and pharmacy, a village shop, tea room, hotel with public bar, plus B&Bs, holiday self-catering properties, motor garage, sawmill, two Churches, primary school, village hall, Shambellie House Trust (SHT) Arts and Crafts Centre, Wellness Centre, bowling club, Abbey Vale football club, pitch and facilities, and the HES sites of Sweetheart Abbey and Corn Mill with pond.

The village also has an active Community Council, Resilience Team, Community Flowers Team, and a very successful Play Park Committee which, in March 2024, carried out the complete refurbishment of the local play park after over four years of planning and fundraising.

The Village Hall offers excellent facilities for the many clubs and events held there as well as being the home of the local bowling club. The Hall recently completed a move to become a registered charity so that it can more easily seek out grant applications to widen its offerings to the community and ensure it remains a successful village hub.

Shambellie House Trust is charity run by a Board of Trustees to secure this heritage asset for their community and visitors alike. It is located just outwith the village, linked by a short path thanks to Robin Rigg, Coastal Communities and New Abbey Charitable Trust funding. It runs as a creative centre hosting events, exhibitions and workshops for different interest groups, attracting participants from a wide area as well as from within the New Abbey Area. Funded programmes focus on community access. Regional Cultural Funding was used to develop a self-guided conservation walk for the village and enable a joint cultural event with Historic Scotland. A repeat of their successful Japanese Festival is planned for August 2025, hopefully becoming an annual event. During school holiday periods free children's activities within the grounds and at the house have been available thanks to DGC's Amazing Summer funding.

New Abbey is a tourist site in its own right, attracting many sightseers with its HES properties, scenic cobbled square and narrow main street. For visiting hill walkers there are different challenges with the walk up Criffel being the most strenuous and other easier ones such as to the Waterloo Monument or on local forest and designated Core Paths. The Abbey Cottage Tearoom on the edge of the car park ensures weary walkers and travellers can rest and refresh themselves within the shadow of the village’s main attraction, Sweetheart Abbey.

The Community Flowers Team work hard each year to ensure the village always looks its best with its annual display of flower planters and hanging baskets for which the village has become well known. The local primary school plays its part with pupils helping to plant up the hanging baskets before they are set out within the village.

The community of New Abbey has a key proportion of its working people occupied either within the village or in its immediate surroundings; with farming, forestry, the local sawmill, and tourism support activities being the main employment areas. Alternative employment is usually found in Dumfries with a number of people travelling in and out to work each day.

The bulk of the homes are owner occupied or long-term rental homes with a small number of holiday and holiday-let properties. There is an acknowledged shortage of affordable homes for people who work in New Abbey but live outside of its boundary, and for those who grow up here and wish to remain here when adults; as is covered in more detail later in the document.

3. Community Engagement & Conversations

Our engagement activities including the following:

Face-to-face sessions	Communication methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shambellie House Trust Art Group ● New Abbey School Parent’s Council ● Three open meetings in the Village Hall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evening ○ Afternoon ○ Weekend ● All primary school children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Posters on Village Hall noticeboard and in shop window ● New Abbey FB – multiple per event ● Flyers posted to all houses ● Flyers available in shop ● Flyers handed out at coffee mornings ● Flyers sent home with primary school children ● Agenda item at each New Abbey Community Council meeting and in the meeting minutes; which are also distributed on Facebook and on the village noticeboard.
<p>Online questionnaires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Place Standard Tool (PST) standard ● Chunked PST based on feedback ● Business specific based on chunked PST 	

For the purposes of this section, we are presenting the summary data in three different categories which shows feedback from:

- a. The general face-to-face events and online questionnaires
- b. The primary school sessions
- c. The business online questionnaire

a. The General Face-to-Face Events and Online Questionnaire Feedback

The community engagement sessions and online questionnaires generated a number of comments over the range of PST themes; split into the key categories of What Works Well Now (WWWN) and What Could Be Better (WCBB). The comments for these separate categories have been pulled together into single lists for each of them. Within each theme common comments were then pulled together so that priorities for the theme could be more easily identified. Where comments written in one theme went on to list comments appropriate to another theme these were reallocated so that all the community comments and issues could be counted rather than some being lost. In creating the different theme pie charts one-off comments, and simple remarks, have been added together into one grouping to ensure the charts are simple, easily understood, and not overly 'busy'.

This section of our Local Place Plan deals only with adult feedback. The comments provided by the primary school children at their engagement sessions and by businesses in their online questionnaire have been reported separately so that their voices can be distinguished.

Climate Change matters, which did not have significant levels of feedback during our community conversations, can be covered in later community engagement exercises if requested by the community.

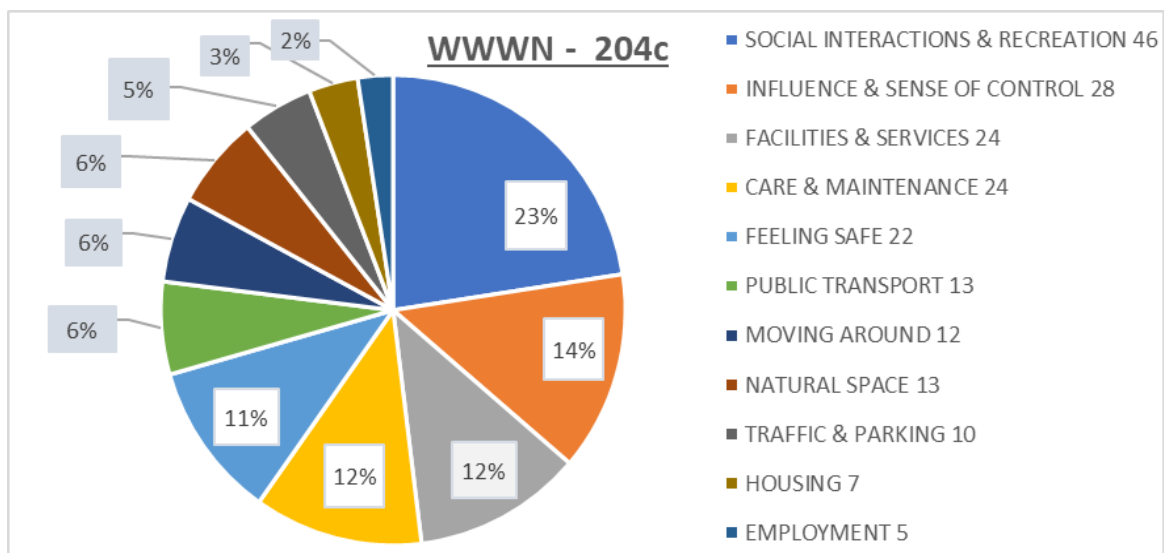
Brief Overview of the General Feedback

In looking at the WWWN community comments the sense of an active and vibrant community within New Abbey comes through along with it being somewhere that provides, in the main, what they require to live well here.

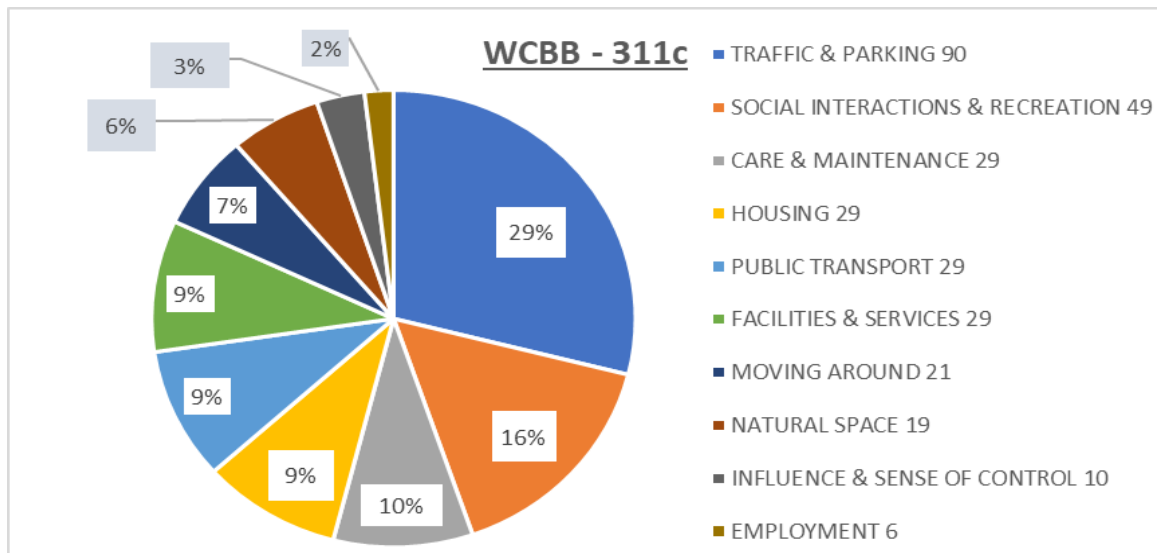
WCBB comments flag the challenges of living in a historic village in a modern world; traffic speed and volumes, narrow streets, and poor pedestrian provision. It also highlights other areas where improvements could make life better / easier, such as more varied recreation opportunities, more affordable housing, and an improved public transport timetable.

The different themes are reviewed in this section mainly from the WCBB perspective, with the proposed actions to mitigate the issues raised recognising the need to ensure that areas of What Works Well Now are not degrade or lost.

What Works Well Now – All Themes - 204 Comments



What Could Be Better - All Themes - 311 Comments



Traffic and Parking

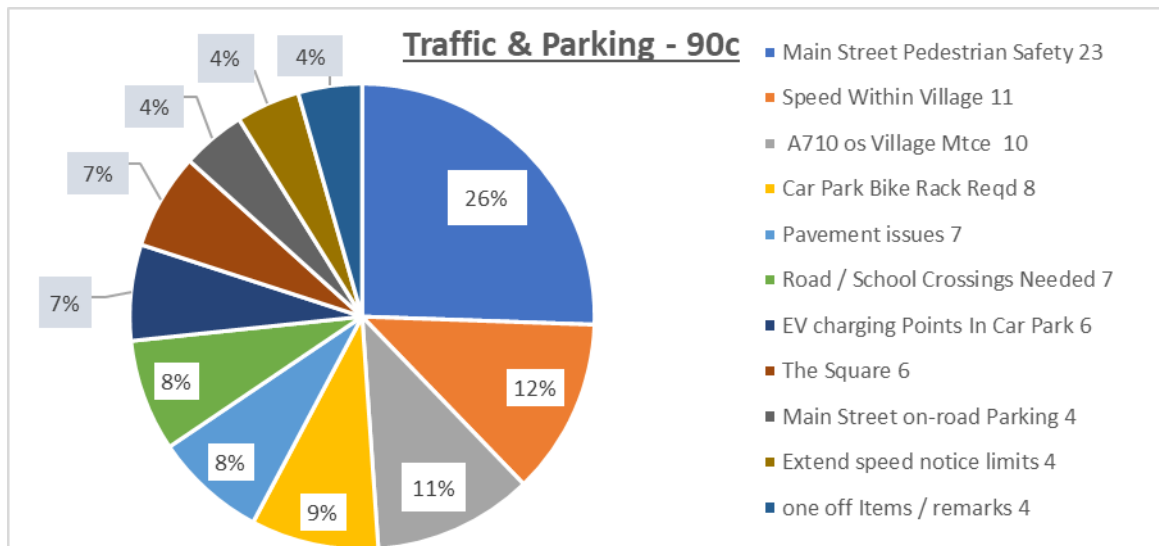
<u>THEME SET</u>	<u>THEME CATEGORY</u>	<u>Comment Count</u>	<u>Percent of Total by Set</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
What Works Well Now	TRAFFIC & PARKING	10	4.9%	9
What Could Be Better		90	28.9%	1

Traffic and Parking was the area that attracted the most What Could Be Better (WCBB) comments but some of the fewest of the What Works Well Now (WWWN) comments.

The WWWN comments were in the main saying how good having the Abbey public car park is while the WCBB comments covered several areas of concern, with the lack of safe pedestrian provision in one part of Main Street being the main issue. The speed of traffic within the village, footway issues, congestion in the Square, the poor location of the 30mph speed limit signs being other key points raised to improve pedestrian and overall road safety.

The volumes of traffic in New Abbey are in part due to it being a popular tourist destination because of the Historic Environment Scotland properties of Sweetheart Abbey and the Corn Mill. In addition, the A710 going through the village, going from Dumfries to Dalbeattie, takes in the coastal tourist areas of Southernness, Sandyhills, Carsethorn, Rockcliffe and Kippford. This means that the volume of traffic is higher during holiday periods, adding to the normal volumes of local cars, timber transport lorries, service and farm vehicles. There is likely to be a further increase in tourist traffic if the proposed Galloway National Park is implemented at some time in the future.

What Could Be Better – Traffic and Parking - 90 Comments



Main Street - Pedestrian Provision and Traffic Speed

Main Street has a narrow section where pedestrians must walk on the road because there is no footway; the stretch is approximately **70m long** from 6 Main Street to the Village Hall at 18 Main Street. Due to the volume and mix of traffic the common experience is that this section of road is unsafe for pedestrians; especially children, those less mobile, people pushing prams and tourists who are not used to sharing the same physical space as large and imposing vehicles.

Main Street Traffic Examples



In addition, there is a small raised area running along the left side of the road, as you face the Abbey, which, in addition to being a trip hazard, forces wheelchair users and people with prams further out into the road, increasing their risk of accident and injury from passing motor vehicles and cyclists.

Pedestrian Accessibility Issues in Main Street



The speed of traffic within New Abbey has been a concern for several years and although the traffic speed monitoring exercise carried out by DGC in 2023 recorded a mean average speed of 27.5mph (31mph 85%tile), at 36 Main Street, the feeling that the traffic is too fast in some parts of the village is still common. The introduction of a 20mph speed limit within the village has the potential to inform and change road users’ perception of the risk to others while driving here and so reduce the likelihood of accidents and injuries by them, even if the actual speed reduction of vehicles is small. A study by Edinburgh University on driver behaviour following the introduction of lower speed limits in parts of the city supports this assumption. #2

However, a ‘Shared-Use Street’ option was suggested at community conversation sessions and was positively received by the session participants – see text boxes below.

<u>Shared-use Street Option</u>	
<p>The ‘Shared-Use Street’, or Shared Surface Street, is used in other pedestrianised areas within the UK where road vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians must share a common travel route within an urban area. The traffic volumes in New Abbey can be high at times which supports the provision of a raised footway rather than a texturized unraised footway which low traffic volumes would allow.</p> <p>The adjacent text by Nottinghamshire County Council provides a simple description of a ‘Shared Surface Street’ which could potentially meet our needs. #3</p>	<p><i>‘Shared surface streets with a designated pedestrian route are those where the separation between carriageway and footway is reduced and the difference between the vehicle track, where vehicles are permitted, and the area set aside for pedestrians only is less physically distinct than a standard footway and carriageway separated by a kerb.</i></p> <p><i>In these streets it will be necessary for part of the street to be kept free of traffic and hence for the sole use of pedestrians. This protected zone can be defined by a range of measures subject to agreement with the County Council. Typical measures include kerbs, textured surface and colour contrast providing a continuous demarcation between the shared zone and the protected zone to aid navigation for people with a visual impairment and helping to control vehicle movements. A range of other features may be considered to supplement and support the function of the protected space.’#3</i></p>

The 20mph speed restriction, along with the 'Shared Surface Street' footway, are both required to deliver a basic level of pedestrian safety as required by the community in this section of road.

The pedestrian footway option is only required at one side of the carriageway, on the right-hand side going from the Abbey to the Square; it would be a continuation of the existing footway from the Abbey car park that ends at the Village Hall. In this section the small raised areas at the side of the road would be replaced by a type of footway as described in the text box above. The profile of the footway would be limited by the height of the house door sills, to prevent water ingress, and rainwater gullies with drainage links would also be required.

Given that this part of Main Street is within the New Abbey Conservation Area any materials used to create the shared-use street would have to be carefully chosen to be in keeping with that.

Footway & Bridge Issues

New Abbey has other roads without footways; in Kindar Road, towards Milldam Croft and from the junction of the A710 / Beeswing Road to Craigieside. Milldam Croft is basically a single lane road going up the Glen and has little space to add a footway. Kindar Road has grass verges which could be replaced to include sections of footway and provide safe passage for the benefit of children and those less mobile / wheelchair users. Craigieside has a wooded area which could offer up space for a footway, to aid walkers and locals alike, with Shambellie Estates co-operation.

Two other key areas of concern are the bridges in the village which don't have footways to cross them so forcing pedestrians to walk on the road, these are the bridge over the New Abbey Pow, coming into New Abbey from the Dumfries side, and the bridge over the Sheep Burn after Townfoot on the Kirkbean side of the village.

At the bridge over the New Abbey Pow the footway from the Square to the bridge ends before the bridge and the road must be crossed to access the footway which goes on towards the bridge but ends at it. However, the road must be crossed at the Corn Mill road junction and on a bend which blocks pedestrians view of the traffic coming from the village. Looking in the other direction the bridge hump also reduces visibility of incoming traffic from Dumfries making crossing the road a risky activity which is unsuitable for children or those less able. As you need to listen for oncoming traffic before crossing those with a hearing impairment are particularly disadvantaged; the much quieter electric vehicles exacerbate this problem.

Line of Sight at the Road Crossing Area Near New Abbey Pow Bridge



There was no easy solution suggested to these issues. The alternative to crossing the road opposite the Corn Mill junction is to walk around the Corn Mill on the water wheel side. This would be on sections of road without footways and which carries HGV traffic to the sawmill and a local farm; it is also less obvious to visitors and slightly longer. Pedestrians would then cross the main road at the Square which has its own challenges. Also, there is still an unresolved issue, on the section of road at the water wheel side of the Corn Mill, where despite a separate community consultation, and planning applications by HES, no solution to the damaged road there has reached consensus.

At the Sheep Burn bridge the situation is that the footway is on one side of the road going to the bridge, but on the other side of the road beyond the bridge; this means pedestrians must not only cross the bridge, with no pedestrian provision, but also cross the road at the same time, so increasing the risk involved in crossing there.

Irrespective of these issues, and as a minimum, the white lines over the Pow Bridge should be refreshed more regularly and similar paintwork should be added to the Sheep Burn Bridge. A short footway section, 2m-3m long, could also be provided at the opposite side of the road from the existing footway, just before the bridge, to enable pedestrians to cross the road before they then cross the bridge, mitigating the risk involved from having to do both activities at the same time. Separately, a white line painted on the road between the Beeswing Road and the new Shambellie House Trust path would help reduce the risk of walking on the road there – see page 27.

Sheep Burn Bridge – Showing Footways Switching Sides of Road at Bridge



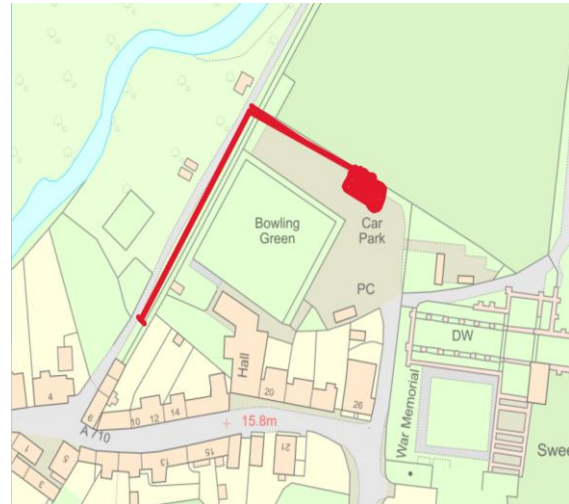
Car Park

The main car park in the village is located beside Sweetheart Abbey, the Abbey Cottage Tearoom, and the Village Hall / Bowling Club. Due to this location, it is well used and, in the summer, when there are events on in the village hall or bowling club, the car park gets very busy. It also has campervans parking overnight causing further congestion at times, which may become a larger problem over time and will therefore need ongoing monitoring.

While there is good support for the car park the lack of a secure bike rack for cyclists to safely leave their bikes in was commented on a number of times. This can lead to bikes being left against the car park fence or Abbey Cottage Tearoom railings causing issues for cars entering or leaving the car park

by narrowing the road. The lack of secure bicycle parking can deter Active Travel, and stop touring and local cycle groups from staying to view the village, enjoy its facilities, and the HES sites. A recent appeal by New Abbey Community Council LPP Steering Group to DGC to supply a bike rack is now being actively examined by them and Historic Environment Scotland is also planning to provide a bike rack at the Corn Mill; Shambellie House has already provided a bike rack.

Another benefit to the car park would be electric vehicle charging (EVC) points. These will encourage visitors with electric cars to visit the village and enable residents, who don't have driveways, to consider electric vehicles and play their part in tackling climate change. The power feed for EV charges could potentially be brought in from an existing power pole in the dirt lane that runs alongside the Abbey wall between 4 & 6 Main Street. The EVC points need to be away situated from where Campervans usually park otherwise, they may use them as a general power supply and deny electric car access.



The Square

The Square is part of the character of New Abbey with its cobbled pedestrian areas, large commemorative lime tree (planted to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897) and pretty houses. It is a focal point for tourists and with its shop, the Abbey Arms Hotel, and bus stops, acts as a node and stopping off point for much of the village community. Limited parking is available at the shop and the Abbey Arms Hotel forecourts, and for the houses within the Square.

Traffic visibility into the Square is restricted from both directions; the Dumfries side road rises into the Square on a bend and the Kirkbean side road is coming from the narrow twisting section of Main Street. Given the volume and speed of traffic now being experienced in the village pedestrians trying to cross the road can find it challenging. In addition, vehicles that park at the shop usually reverse out into the main road, and buses stop on the road to pick up passengers which can further complicate this congested area for pedestrians and road users alike.

Line of Sight at The Square from Outside the Area of the Shop



Ensuring that through traffic is sufficiently slowed before entering the Square is key to improving overall safety there, particularly for people with children, and those with mobility issues. The introduction of a 20mph speed limit in the village along with moving the start of the speed limit area further out from the village on the Dumfries side, covered later in this section, are simple steps that would achieve improved pedestrian safety within the Square.

Road Crossing Point

There is no controlled crossing within New Abbey, not even at the primary school which has many of the children who attend there living in the Kindar estate directly across the road from it. A crossing at this location would also serve those in the Kindar estate when attending the doctor's surgery and those walking into the village as they normally cross the A710 at that point because there is no footway towards the shop on 'their' side of the road.

The main points where people cross the main road are at the Square, the lane to the Church and outside the school; in part due to the road conditions and lack of footways. However, given the different crossing point requirements the details of a controlled crossing would need to be agreed with the community through Engagement events, supported by the DGC Roads team, to identify a consensus of what type of controlled crossing would be best and where they should be situated to have the best outcome in terms of pedestrian safety and usage.

Speed Limit Sign Locations

There was a desire expressed by the community to increase the distance from the village where the speed reduction signs are located. The current 30mph speed limit signs on the A710, Dumfries side, are positioned level with the first home within the village, are at the bottom of a hill, just before the junction with the Beeswing Road, and close to a humpbacked bridge which obscures oncoming traffic from the village and pedestrians crossing the road just beyond the bridge.

Coming into the village from the Beeswing Road, the 30mph speed limit signs are immediately before Craigieside cottages where residents' cars create a narrowing of the road and traffic speed must be slow and considered to manage the space safely. In addition, we are now experiencing an increase in slow moving traffic on the A710 within Shambellie wood as Shambellie House Trust customers turn off into the lower carpark or the driveway for the main house. Shambellie House Trust have recently created a 5-pitch motorhome Aire stopover site in their lower car park which will increase such slow-moving traffic in the area.

The suggestions made are that the current 30mph limits are extended on these sections of road so that they cover the turn-off to Landis Farm, Dumfries side, and the Gardener's Cottage, Beeswing Road. In this way traffic will have slowed before it encounters any village houses plus it should have significantly reduced speed before it enters the Square, with its slow-moving traffic at the shop, bus stops, and much slower pedestrians on the road.

Traffic and Parking - Summary of Community Objectives

The key Traffic and Parking community objectives are to improve the safety of pedestrians walking on or crossing the village roads, plus some improvements for Sustainable Travel.

This to be achieved by:

- improved pedestrian safety where there is no footway in Main Street
- a reduction in the legal maximum speed of traffic in the village
- pushing the speed restriction areas further out of the village

- improving areas without footways, such as Kindar Drive, the Pow Bridge and Sheep Burn Bridge, the road section to the new Shambellie path
- providing a controlled crossing at the primary school, or other preferred location
- the provision of a bike rack in the Abbey car park
- the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging points in the Abbey car park

Social Interaction and Recreation

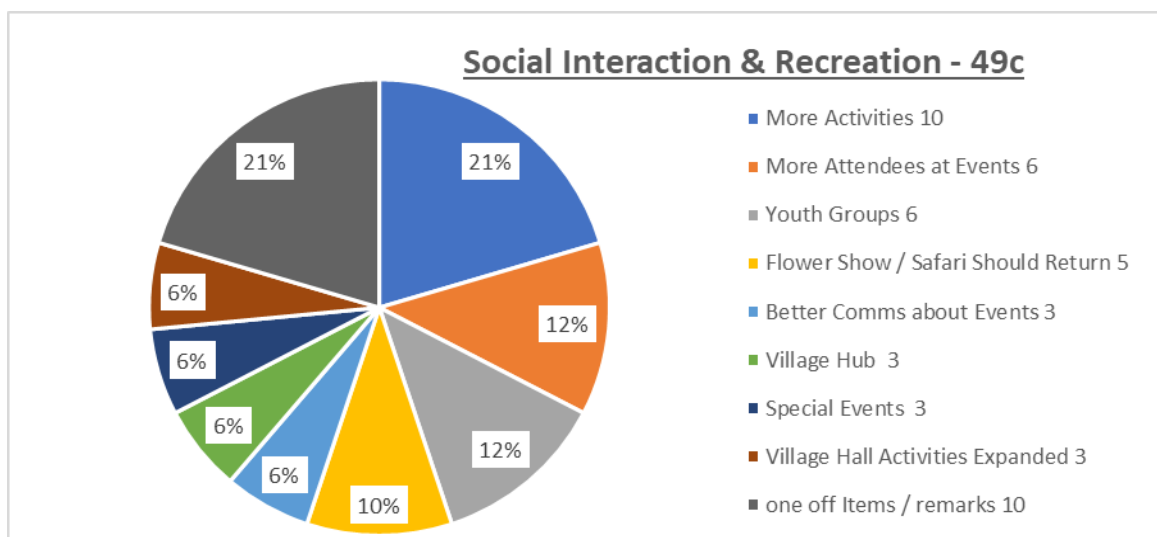
<u>THEME SET</u>	<u>THEME CATEGORY</u>	<u>Comment Count</u>	<u>Percent of Total by Set</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
What Works Well Now	Social Interaction and Recreation	46	22.5%	1
What Could Be Better		49	15.8%	2

Social Interaction and Recreation are both areas which gathered high number of comments in both What Works Well Now (WWWN) and What Could Be Better (WCBB). While this seems a contradiction it shows that social events and activities are important to the community in New Abbey but that, for different reasons, the number of activities and events could be improved or have fallen below what happened in earlier years; perhaps another impact of Covid.

Within WWWN the comments indicate that there are still a lot of activities taking place allowing groups to share time together, with the Village Hall, along with its Bowling Club, being a hub where much of what happens takes place.

The comments from WCBB reflect that popular activities such as the annual Gala, Flower Show and Garden Safari no longer take place, and that there is a demand for more activities from smaller interest groups such as mothers and toddlers. There is also a call for ‘whole community’ special events such as film shows or musical events to take place but a recognition that activities that are taking place need more support from the larger community to ensure they continue. It also was recognised that our young adults currently have no provision made for them or space set aside for them.

What Could Be Better - Social Interaction and Recreation – 49 Comments



More Activities & Special Events

Comments suggesting different types of activities or events that could be held to increase social interaction taking place vary from events such as Cinema Nights or live music nights, to calls for perhaps more niche type activities such as Smartphone photography. Live music nights are now being tried at the Village Hall and Shambellie House Trust are expanding their activities.

The Village Hall has two separate halls within the building with the Lounge Hall being primarily used by the Bowling Club during match and practice days in the summer, as well as general activities at other times. The Main Hall is the larger and marked up for sports and games as well as having a raised stage area, and is often the venue for coffee mornings, craft fairs or larger social events. The Village Hall is a very flexible space and, given both halls have separate kitchen facilities, it is suitable for a wide variety of social activities; there is a basic hourly charge for each hall. However, after Covid some activities did not restart because the people who ran clubs did not come back while others that did restart then closed because they did not attract sufficient numbers to make it worthwhile. There have also been comments that people don't know what clubs / activities are taking place as they relied on those running them to post information about them on the local Facebook page or post details on the noticeboard outside the Village Hall.

Youth Groups (12 to 18 years) currently have no separate provision, in terms of clubs or spaces, in the village just for them. The number of young people in this age group, 13 by 2022 census count, is not high but their social life with peers is unlikely to take place in New Abbey, and the people-taxi to and from Dumfries is probably very active.

There is the Abbey Vale football pitch, which is used by the Primary School adjacent to it for their sports activities, and that young people could potentially use. It was said that when the football pitch was created there would also be a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) provided but, if promised, this has not happened.

The annual Flower Show stopped during Covid and never restarted although it is believed that the organisation that ran it still has available funds and exists in some form.

The Garden Safari was an annual event where residents opened their gardens up to visitors over a weekend. However, this stopped with insurance requirements per garden being cited as the reason.

The Village Hall is a great venue for activities; however, it must pay its way through charges etc. as it is not subsidised. It has recently become a registered charity which will open it up to grant opportunities, and perhaps allow subsidised activities to be held. The Village Hall Committee has been providing free drop in events this winter so that residents can come along and have a coffee and chat with friends and neighbours. The Village Hall Committee have increased their drive to fill each hall's vacant availability and now publish a monthly list of what events are on. As one of the villages that does not directly benefit from Wind Farm monies, the cost of providing special events such as cinema or music evenings in the Village Hall is likely prohibitive for the community but could be explored further.

Shambellie House Trust runs a wide selection of events, exhibitions and art courses which are frequent, varied and widely advertised on Facebook and their own website. These include a regular art group, tapestry group, live music, smartphone photography, and children's activities as part of their broad range of activities and events.

Social Interaction and Recreation - Summary of Community Objectives

The key Social Interaction and Recreation community objectives are:

- to increase the number, variety and quality of social events and community activities
- to have whole community events that have ceased resurrected where possible
- to hold more special events, for example films and music nights, with co-ordination being carried out by the different providers.
- youth groups to be specifically engaged with to understand their unique social interaction and recreational needs and wants.

Housing

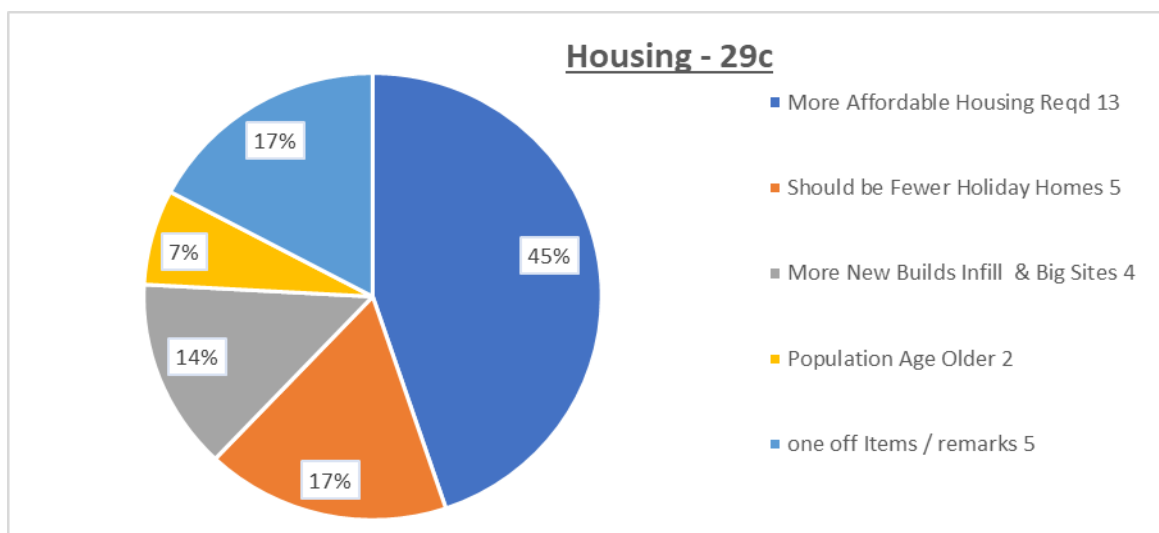
<u>THEME SET</u>	<u>THEME CATEGORY</u>	<u>Comment Count</u>	<u>Percent of Total by Set</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
What Works Well Now	Housing	7	3.4%	10
What Could Be Better		29	9.3%	4

Housing is one area where we see a clear difference between What Works Well Now (WWWN) and What Could Be Better (WCBB).

In reviewing the comments, WWWN is mainly about there being a good mix of private /social / rental housing and without too much in the way of holiday homes and holiday rentals.

WCBB comments highlight the need for more affordable housing within the village, to restrict holiday homes, the potential increase of house prices and rents by the creation of a Galloway National Park, and that the limited housing stock is preventing younger families from living and working here and so help maintain the viability of local services and the primary school.

What Could Be Better – Housing – 29 Comments



Affordable Housing

There is little in the way of obvious infill sites for single houses and much of the centre of New Abbey is a Conservation Area with green areas that are classed as a 'Protected Area of Open Space' and valued by the community as such.

The desire expressed in the feedback is for affordable housing for the community, renters or first-time buyers, and that it should include larger homes suitable for growing families. The need is for

houses in the community where local youngsters can live when they grow up and have families of their own, so that people who work here are able to live here, and for local workers to have somewhere they can own, or rent, if that is their preference instead of a tied house.

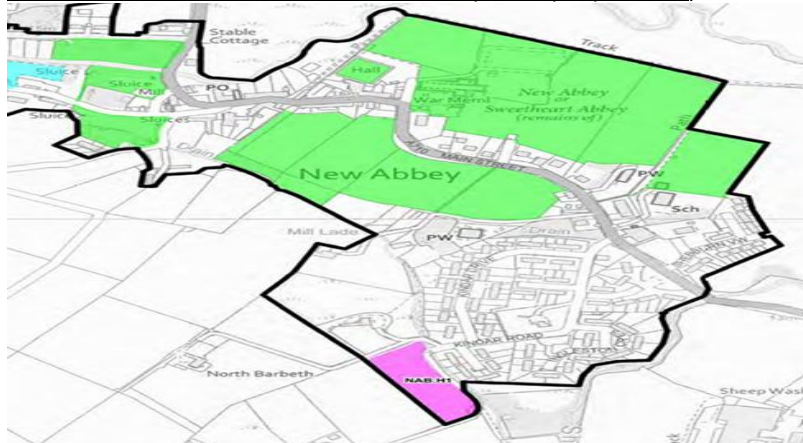
Barbeth Farm Development Option

The DGC Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) has a development allocation identified for the provision of 10 houses on Barbeth Farm, where it meets the top part of the Kindar housing estate, but its potential for development has been clarified with the owner now stating that the Barbeth Farm allocation, although not formally withdrawn at this time, has its potential to be withdrawn dependent upon the new Abbeybank development site being accepted by the Council.

A Transport Appraisal, to demonstrate the ability for the development to deliver a suitable access strategy, and a Development Proposal showing a possible site layout, has been produced on behalf of the applicant and landowner. No formal planning application, to our knowledge, has been made for the Abbeybank development at this time.

As the Abbeybank development was not received by the NACC LPP Steering Group until after completion of the Community Conservation events the new proposal was not discussed with the community before the creation of draft LPP. An outline of the plan was made available to the community through the draft LPP and the 28-day Community Review events. Comments received from these events in the village hall, and by email, have raised questions and concerns which can only be answered by the landowner.

Barbeth Farm – Potential Withdrawn Option (purple area)



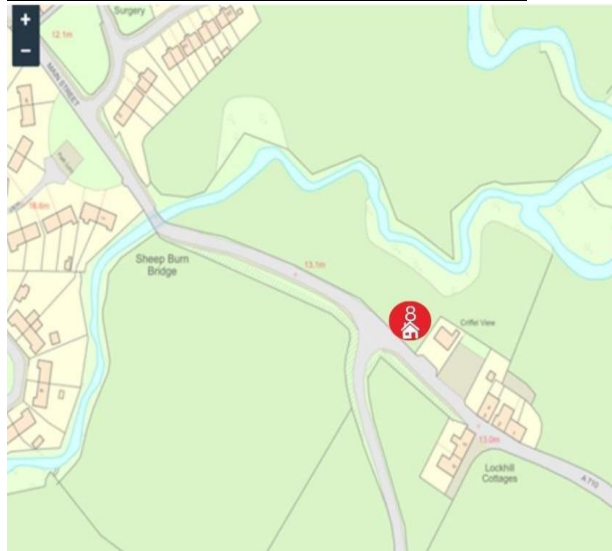
Abbeybank Development Proposal



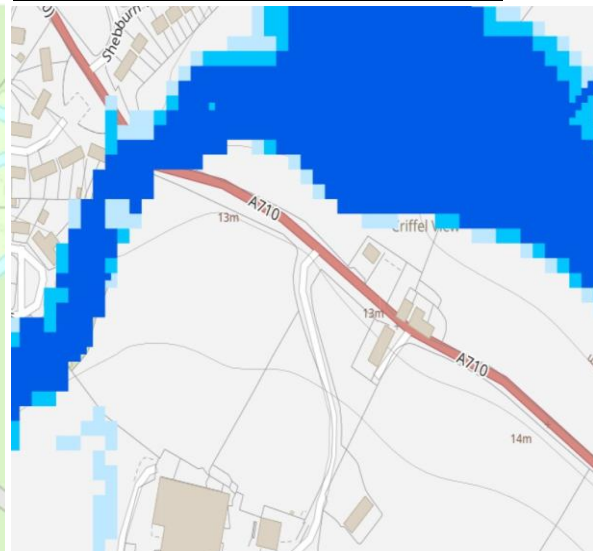
Lochhill Farm Development Option

During the Community Engagement events carried out for the Local Place Plan a site was proposed by Lochhill Farm owners; it was something they had considered but never progressed because they were told it was beyond the current village Settlement Boundary. The site is as you head out the village going towards Kirkbean, between Sheep Burn bridge and Criffel View cottage, and is within the current 30mph speed limit area. The suitability or otherwise of this site would have to be determined, the SEPA flood map shows possible issues the closer to the Sheep Burn it goes, but there does seem the potential for a small number of houses around the immediate area surrounding the existing cottages.

Map Showing Area of Potential Lochhill Site



SEPA Flood Map of Potential Lochhill Site



Housing - Summary of Community Objectives

The key community objectives in 'Housing' are:

- to see an increase in the amount of affordable housing stock
- to identify other building opportunities within the village
- to restricting the sale of houses for holiday homes or holiday lets
- to encourage empty houses to be more speedily offered up for sale or rent.

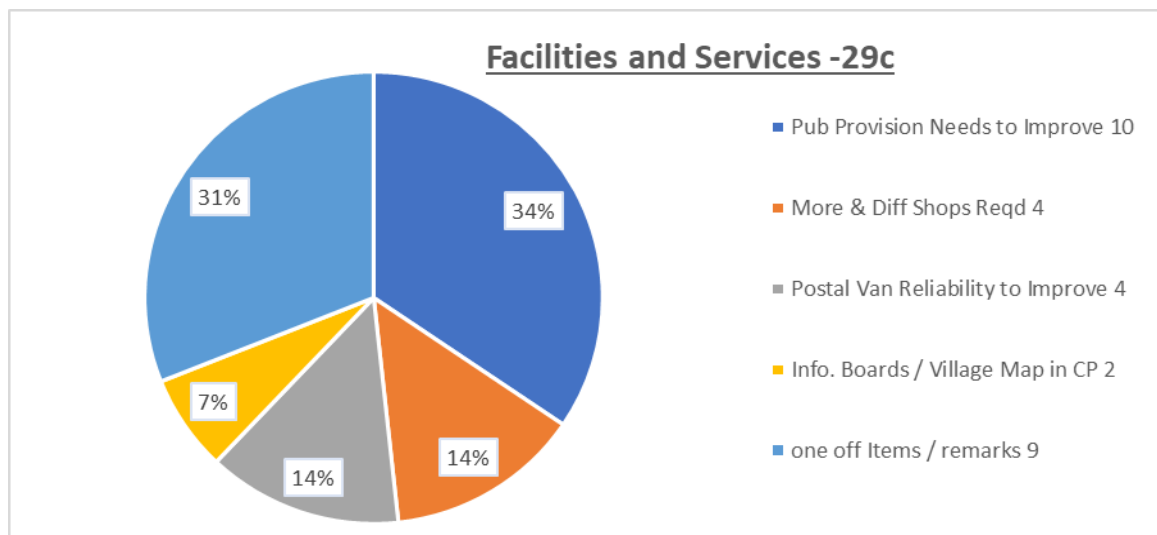
Facilities and Services

<u>THEME SET</u>	<u>THEME CATEGORY</u>	<u>Comment Count</u>	<u>Percent of Total by Set</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
What Works Well Now	Facilities and Services	24	11.8%	3
What Could Be Better		29	9.3%	6

Facilities and Services recognises, in the WWWW comments, the good level of services we have within New Abbey for such a small village; with an excellent doctor's dispensing surgery, primary school, shop, tearoom, hotel and pub, daily postal van, regular bus service, and with many social and recreational activities provide by both the Village Hall and Shambellie House Trust.

The comments in WCBB are that some of these facilities could be improved and that additional facilities and services would be an advantage. These include different shops, better reliability from the postal van, additional offerings from the pub such as meals and social events, and local contact made available by social care organisations, for those who are not mobile or online, by holding drop-in sessions in the Village Hall.

What Could Be Better - Facilities and Services – 29 Comments



The Abbey Arms Hotel

The public bar in the Abbey Arms Hotel has reduced what it offers to customers over the years and has become seen as a ‘regulars bar’ tailored to their needs. While it has a good small public bar, and a small lounge room to the side with a wood burning stove, the range of services it provides is less than it once was. It remains popular in the summer where, on good days, the outside seating is well used and customer numbers increase. However, tourists or locals who turn up wanting dinner are disappointed and the irregular closing times, along with it being a ‘cash only’ bar, can also cause problems for them. The Abbey Arms Hotel has the potential to be more than it currently is for both the community and tourists alike.

Postal Van

The daily postal van is a vital service for New Abbey without which many would have to travel to Dumfries for the services it provides. However, the Dalbeattie Post Office, which runs the van, have experienced problems finding holiday / sick leave cover for the operator and although notice of its absence is given, usually on Facebook or through a notice in the local shop, not everyone sees this so people can be left wondering if it is just late or not going to arrive. The danger is people use the service less because of this unreliability and its long-term sustainability is put at risk. These issues have been flagged up with the Post Office by ourselves and Kirkbean Community Council and we are now waiting to see if reliability improves.

More / Different Shops

The call for more shops offering clothes and beauty services has been commented on but this seems dependant not just on levels of demand but on the availability of suitable premises within the

village. The recently vacated DG Forestry offices in the middle of the village have been upgraded by Rallentando to provide a range of Wellness and therapy services. The only other obvious vacant commercial premise within the village is the old Antique Emporium, next to the garage, but from the outside it looks fairly run down and it is large for a start-up business; although it could perhaps be split into units. Outside the village there was a picture framer and an ironworker near West Shambellie and those premises may still be available to rent from the building owners.

Facilities and Services - Summary of Community Objectives

The key community objectives in Facilities and Services are:

- to increase the retail and service opportunities within the village and see improvements in the services already being provided
- to have key service providers come to New Abbey on occasion, so that people with young children, mobility issues, or not online, don't have to travel to Dumfries for advice.

Care and Maintenance

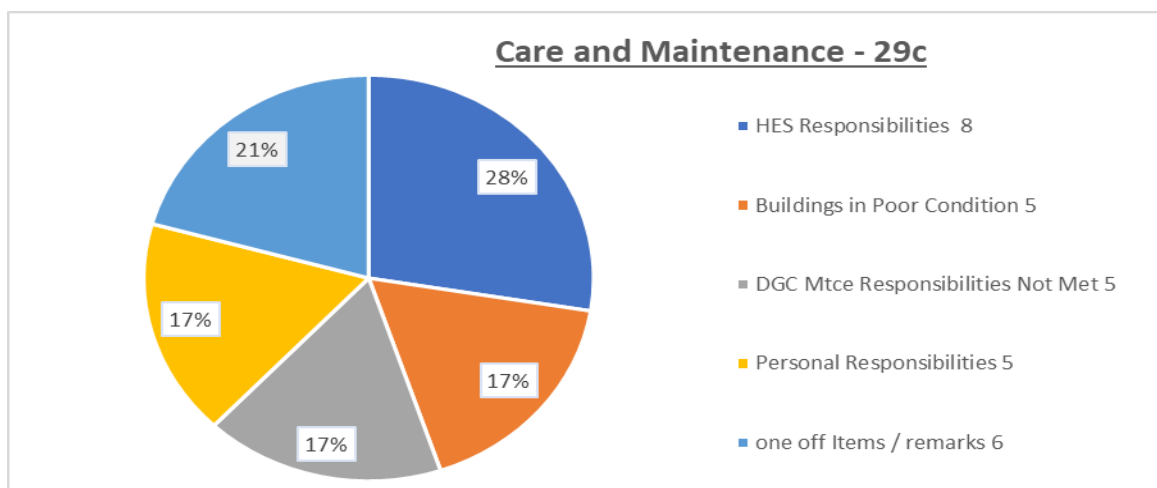
<u>THEME SET</u>	<u>THEME CATEGORY</u>	<u>Comment Count</u>	<u>Percent of Total by Set</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
What Works Well Now	Care and Maintenance	24	11.8%	4
What Could Be Better		29	9.3%	3

Care and Maintenance is another category with a high ranking in both What Works Well Now (WWWN) and What Could Be Better (WCBB), showing its importance within the community.

In WWWN there are numerous comments recorded saying that the village is tidy, clean and well cared for, with few issues such as litter. There were also positive comments on the number of volunteers and the New Abbey Community Council members who help to keep it that way.

However, on the other side, WCBB sees comments around the Historic Environment Scotland properties seeming to be in a permanent state of repair, particularly Sweetheart Abbey. In addition, DGC's delay in starting the season's grass cutting in 2024 and the interval time between cuts has raised some criticism. The general state of repair and tidiness of some private properties in the main street, along with people not picking up after their dogs, was also highlighted.

What Could Be Better - Care and Maintenance – 29 Comments



Sweetheart Abbey is an important feature of New Abbey and one that can be viewed from much of the village and its approach roads. Historic Environment Scotland have been carrying out maintenance work on Sweetheart Abbey for several years now to stabilise the sandstone blockwork used in its construction, with scaffolding projecting beyond the Abbey’s highest point. Completion of this work has been delayed due to Covid and a recent update by HES to New Abbey Community Council indicates it will take another two years to complete, taking it to 2027.

In addition, Heras fencing has been erected around the Abbey, and around the wall in an adjacent field, to ensure the public are not at risk from falling Abbey masonry, and cattle are not at risk from the unstable wall. This spoils the public's enjoyment of the property and its environment.

HES have also had issues at the Corn Mill Pond, in the form of an invasive non-native weed and water leaking through the floor of the pond. The complexity of these issues has resulted in the pond lying empty of water for several years although there has been recent activity to resolve the situation.

DGC also comes into criticism in terms of frequency of grass cutting on road verges and within the graveyard where the older section seemed to be left 2024. While the community accepts that DGC must balance its budget, the community views the reduction of this work as spoiling the look of the village, particularly the delay in the start of the grass cutting programme.

Within the village a small number of Main Street properties are empty and have not been maintained to a reasonable standard and some occupied properties have an untidy and neglected look about them. There is a feeling being expressed that these are due to people not fulfilling their personal responsibilities to maintain the ‘seen’ aspects of their properties. Some of this has been put down to the ending of the Village in Bloom competition and the local Garden Safari which were popular and encouraged people to come together to tidy up gardens and verges etc. as part of a whole community effort.

Care and Maintenance - Summary of Community Objectives

The key community objectives in Care and Maintenance are to:

- start events to encourage the community to take care of their own ‘patches’
- encourage vacant properties to be better maintained
- encourage New Abbey Community Council to keep close contacts with HES
- encourage DGC to maintain a good grass cutting programme
- confirm who is responsible for grass cutting the old part of the cemetery

Public Transport

<u>THEME SET</u>	<u>THEME CATEGORY</u>	<u>Comment Count</u>	<u>Percent of Total by Set</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
What Works Well Now	Public Transport	13	6.4%	6
What Could Be Better		29	9.3%	5

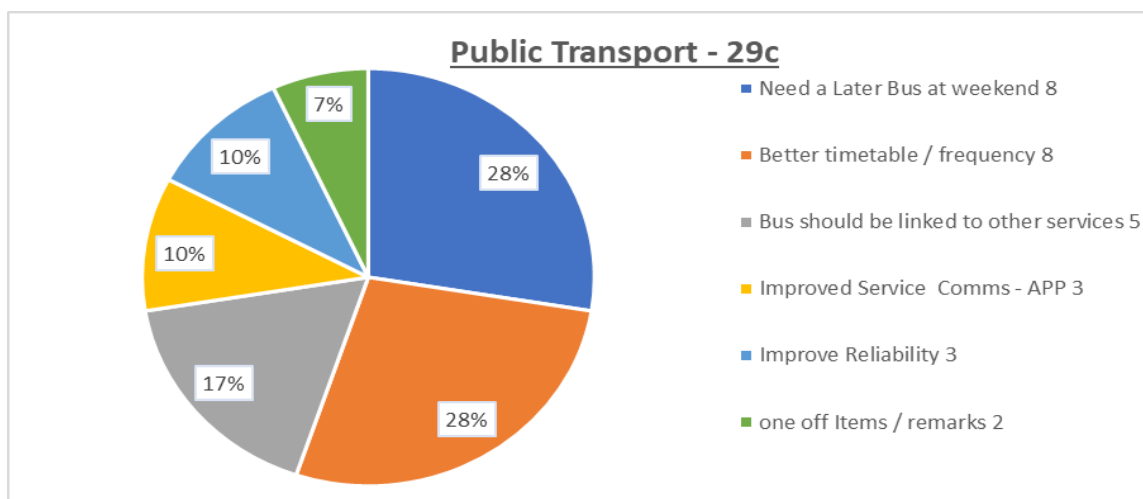
Public Transport gathered a high number of comments in both What Works Well Now (WWWN) and What Could Be Better (WCBB) but the clear direction is for an improvement to be made in this area. WWWN generates most comments that say people are happy to have a regular bus service, that it is reliable, and that taxis are an expensive alternative.

A recent Cost of Living Report from the Dumfries and Galloway Citizen Advice Service indicates that: *“While almost 30% of workers in D&G now work from home, the rest do not. Commuting presents challenges to residents. Limited public transport options – modes, routes and timetables – cause many to rely on car travel. Car travel is more user-friendly than public transport for those living in rural or remote locations with higher commuting distances. However, it is more expensive once all motoring costs are taken into account. It is also more harmful to the environment”*. #4

While this report covers the whole of Dumfries and Galloway it shows the impact of poor Public Transport provision in a rural setting such as New Abbey.

WCBB draws out the failings of the bus service to provide what is required for a vibrant community, especially at night or if required to catch ongoing rail or bus services from Dumfries. Unreliability, not always keeping to the timetable, and the difficulty of getting live up to date service information is also mentioned along with the timing of buses through the middle of the day.

What Could Be Better - Public Transport – 29 Comments



Late Weekend Bus

The bus operator, Houston Coaches, runs a Monday to Saturday service along with a three ‘runs’ Sunday service. The last bus to New Abbey from Dumfries on a Monday to Saturday evening leaves at 20:29pm, arriving at New Abbey at 20:49pm; the last bus from New Abbey to Dumfries is 21:38pm, Monday to Saturday, and 18:19pm on Sunday. The cost of a taxi from Dumfries can be up to £20 depending on the taxi operator and the day and time of travel while the cost of a single bus fare the bus fare at this time, January 2025, is currently £3.20.

This travel restriction impacts on working people, both those who work in Dumfries and those who work in New Abbey or other places on the bus route such as Carsethorn. This has a greater impact on younger people who are more likely to be working in the hospitality, the Care sector or in retail / supermarkets.

For the general community this also impacts on their evening social and recreational activities, particularly on a Friday / Saturday night, because of the early time of the last bus home. For younger people it means they become more dependent on parents or friends to bring them back to New Abbey if their activities finish after the last bus home. As this may not always be possible, or an option, the current service could be excluding young people from sporting or other social activities with friends.

Daytime Timetable

The timetable of the buses in general is also problematic through the day where it is only a bus every two hours from / to Dumfries. However, we do not have any evidence of the demand levels for additional buses and there are comments in the feedback from the community urging an increase in the use of the buses to protect the service being provided.

Links to Other Travel Services

The Houston Coaches New Abbey bus timetable runs independently from other travel services in terms of heading out of the Dumfries area, and those wishing to go onwards by bus or rail often have long waits before they can catch their ongoing service. A review of the different bus and rail service timetables from Dumfries to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Carlisle could identify any changes that could reduce waiting times at Dumfries for ongoing travel services.

Service Change Communications

Houston Coaches now uses the New Abbey Facebook pages to inform passengers of major disruptions to its service, planned road closure for example, and this is to be commended. However, people want to be able to check for unplanned issues that may affect the punctuality of a service they are planning to use that day; to find out if the service is running early, late or cancelled. However, the service running early could be corrected by driver coaching.

Public Transport - Summary of Community Objectives

The key community objectives in Public Transport are to:

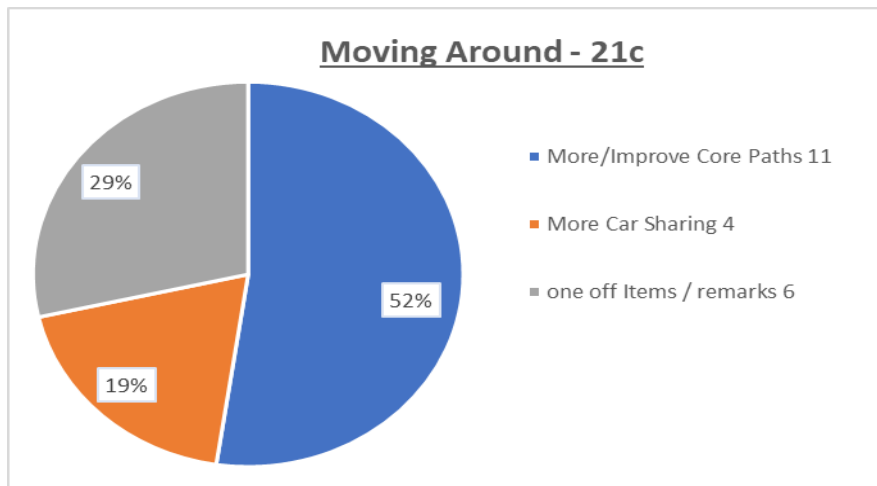
- find out how easy it is to have bus timetable changes made
- to have a Friday and Saturday late bus added to the current timetable
- to better match the current bus service to ongoing travel services
- to have a live bus service / punctuality App available

Moving Around

<u>THEME SET</u>	<u>THEME CATEGORY</u>	<u>Comment Count</u>	<u>Percent of Total by Set</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
What Works Well Now	Moving Around	12	5.9%	7
What Could Be Better		21	6.8%	7

Moving Around receive a mix of WWWW comments regard both the good network of paths and walks around the village and the good paths within. Improvements to and enhancement of the core paths received the highest proportion of the comments in the WCBB set.

What Could Be Better - Moving Around – 21 Comments



Moving Around has picked up its main comments in relation to the core path network, either highlighting the need to improve the condition of the existing paths or wanting links between the existing paths added, so that people can increase the walking distances available or to create circular walking routes. However, with the number of Rangers employed by DGC at an all-time low any action on the core path network is unlikely without volunteers to help with issues or improvements.

Work to improve some individual core paths is being carried out by the South West Scotland Coastal Way project as it moves through our area. These are existing paths which will be used as part of the new coastal trail from Gretna to Stranraer; the core path to Airds Point has seen board walk replacement and stream bridge repair work carried out under this initiative. Once completed the trail will allow people to walk to Dumfries, or further afield, from the village. #5

The Shambellie House Trust have recently provided a safe and fully accessible hard path from the Beeswing Road junction to their lower car park. This new path saves people from having to walk on the A710 going from the village to Shambellie House or on to Shambellie wood walks. The lack of an escape space to enable walkers to get off the road on this short stretch of the A710 makes this provision by Shambellie House Trust a significant safety improvement. To maximise this initiative Shambellie House Trust want DGC to provide a white line on the road from the Beeswing Road junction, across the front of the cottage, to the start of the new path, about 10m. The proposed white line will inform vehicle drivers that they need to take additional care and so lessen the risk for walkers on this small section of road.

New Path by Shambellie House Trust & Section on A710 Where a White Line is Required



Other Moving Around comments were, to help people reduce car journeys through a car sharing scheme, and to help people to access hospital or other vital appointments out with New Abbey by implementing a free or sponsored taxi service.

Moving Around - Summary of Community Objectives

The key community objectives for Moving Around are:

- to have the existing core paths maintained and extended / linked
- the provision of a bike rack in the Abbey car park
- to help people meet hospital and other important appointments if unable to travel by bus
- to have a white line provided from the Beeswing Road to the new SHT path

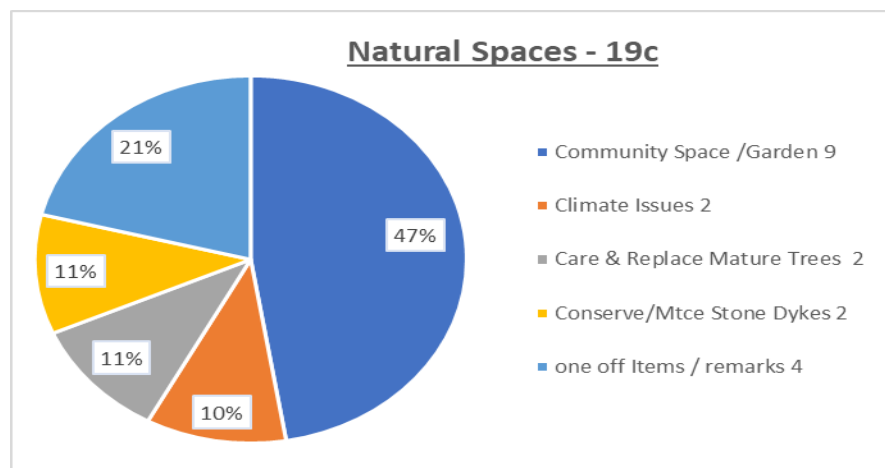
Natural Space

<u>THEME SET</u>	<u>THEME CATEGORY</u>	<u>Comment Count</u>	<u>Percent of Total by Set</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
What Works Well Now	Natural Space	13	6.4%	8
What Could Be Better		19	6.1%	8

In terms of What Works Well Now (WWWN) the village of New Abbey received several positive comments about an enhanced of life quality experienced from its immediate physical environment, with HES properties, an interesting variety of older buildings, the Abbey grounds, and the fields around the church. The surrounding landscape of woods, pasture and hills along with the views coming into the village through an avenue of ancient woodlands were also commended, as were the many excellent walking opportunities. Many commented about the importance of maintaining / retaining these natural spaces going forward.

In terms of WCBB, as can be seen from the chart below, the need for a community space within the village received a high proportion of the comments in this category.

What Could Be Better Natural Space – 19 Comments



In regards to What Could Be Better (WCBB) we received comments expressing the need for a green area in the village, such as a park or community garden, where people could sit, with friends and

family, in a safe, pleasant, natural environment away from traffic and noise; especially those with young children or older people. However, pieces of land within the village that could be repurposed for a community garden are few and, in addition to the costs of such land along with the ongoing costs of maintaining and sustaining it then these may not be borne by DGC and require more volunteer hours than a small village could provide.

Potential locations are; the ‘orchard’ in Kindar Drive, vacant ground down the lane between 4 & 6 Main Street, the plot near the Shebburn Surgery, the field behind the Abbey car park.

Other Natural Space WCBB comments were that mature trees are not being replaced when they fall, the need to ensure the historic field dykes are maintained, and that a community allotment would be beneficial.

Natural Space - Summary of Community Objectives

The key community objectives for Natural Space are:

- to create a community garden within the village
- identify an available space for an allotment within the village if the demand is proven

Influence and Sense of Control

<u>THEME SET</u>	<u>THEME CATEGORY</u>	<u>Comment Count</u>	<u>Percent of Total by Set</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
What Works Well Now	Influence and Sense of Control	28	13.7%	2
What Could Be Better		10	3.2%	9

Influence and Sense of Control received the second highest number of comments in the What Works Well Now (WWWN) Category and the second lowest number in What Could Be Better (WCBB).

Reviewing the comments in WWWN we see that there is a good and active Community Council in the village, that there is a good sense of community spirit, it is easy for people to join in, that people are proud of New Abbey, and that the HES Sweetheart Abbey and the Corn Mill, and their history, are appreciated. The local Facebook page is also recognised in keeping those who have it well informed on local matters but a way of informing those not online needs to be found.

WCBB comments cover the need for local people to increase attendance at community events and activities and to support local clubs. It also asks for more volunteers to help with some of the “day to day stuff”, to have a volunteer drive, and to support the Community Council more.

Influence and Sense of Control - Summary of Community Objectives

The key community objectives for Influence and Sense of Control are:

- to create a list of those volunteers to time to help with different tasks within the village

Employment

New Abbey has a range of local employment as a working village with farming, forestry, sawmill, tourism, the Abbey Cottage Tearoom, the Abbey Arms Hotel, and Shambellie House being the obvious ones. The number of people employed per industry or employer tends not to be that high.

<u>THEME SET</u>	<u>THEME CATEGORY</u>	<u>Comment Count</u>	<u>Percent of Total by Set</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
What Works Well Now	Employment	5	2.5%	11
What Could Be Better		6	1.9%	10

The sawmill recently added solar panels on the roof of its buildings and currently has plans to expand its facilities to improve efficiency and secure existing jobs. However, there is a view that there is less local employment now than there used to be and a recognition that there are limited types of employment available. Also recognised is the lack of premises or workshops available for any new business looking to establish itself in the village, with the Old Emporium being the only obvious candidate. A further point made is that there is little housing available for employees here so people are travelling into the village for jobs, usually from Dumfries, which adds time and costs on to their working day.

Dumfries is the nearest large town for those seeking employment and several people make the daily trip which can add a cost of travel, not just in bus fares or fuel costs but potentially to car tyre damage from the numerous potholes; the bus fare at this time, Jan. 2025, is currently £3.20 one way.

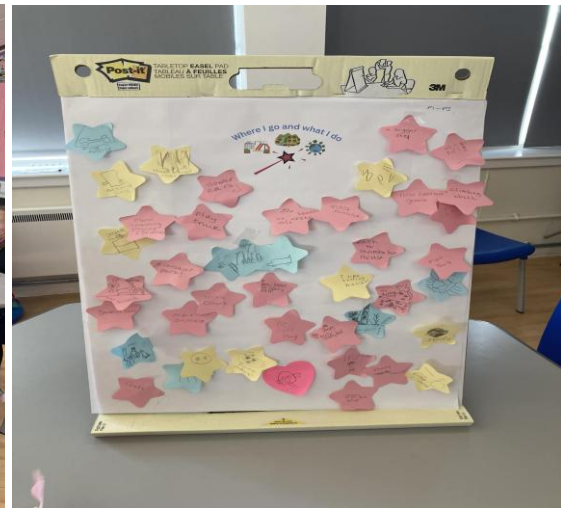
Employment - Summary of Community Objectives

The key community objectives for Employment are:

- to encourage owners of vacant business properties to make them more widely known
- everyone to report potholes online to encourage faster repairs by DGC

b. The Primary School Sessions Feedback

We used an adapted version of the PST for children and ran two separate sessions on the same day, one for P1-P3 and one for P4-P7; all children participated irrespective of where they lived. They were interactive sessions, carried out in small groups, supported by a teacher or member of the LPP team. Children shared their ideas on post-it notes and were given assistance in achieving this.

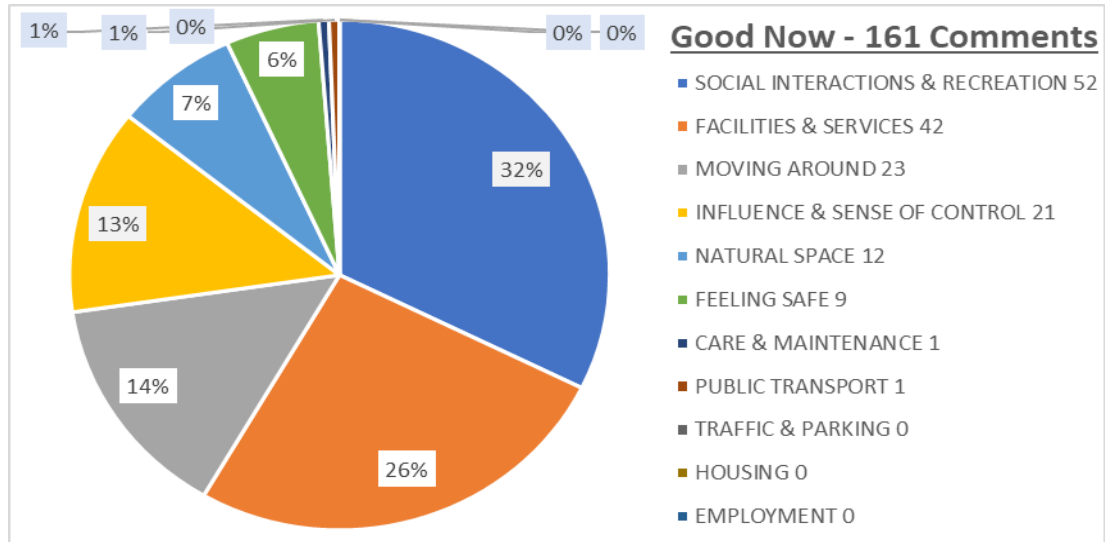


When asked how New Abbey would score now:

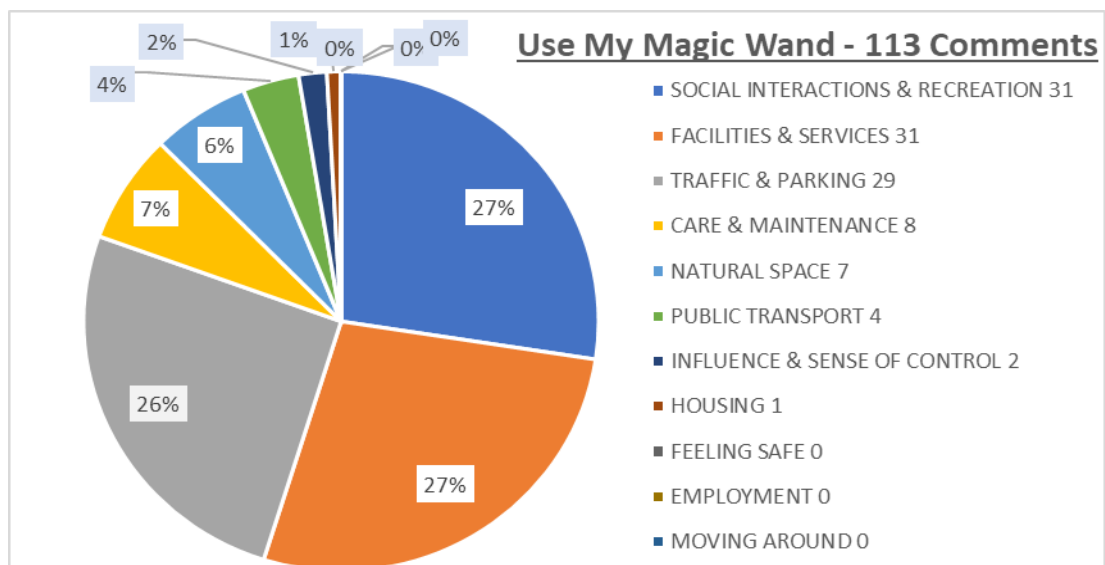
- 87% scored it 3, Great, 'As good as it can be' 👍
- 9% scored it 2, Okay, 'Some improvement needed'
- 1% scored it 1, Not Good, 'Lots of improvement needed' 🗣️

Although the split of comments is broadly represented in the data below when categorised in the same way as the general adult feedback, there was quite a bit of overlap between the categories and comments made therefore the children's feedback is shown by describing the areas that are important to them now and in each of those sections with comments when relevant on areas for improvement.

All Themes Categories: Good Now – 161 Comments






All Themes Categories: Use my Magic Wand - 113 Comments




Discussions around '💖 What is good now' and '🪄 What would I use my magic wand on' saw the following outcomes in terms of the number and share of the comments in each theme category:

School - including the grounds and after school activities



School including the grounds and after school activities		Ranks 1st with 19.25% of comments (31/161)
		Ranks joint 8th with 4.42% of comments (5/113)


 School ranks highest in terms of the number of comments made. The children made positive comments about the **school in general** with specific mention about how kind everyone is, that school feels safe and lunches and the food fridge are appreciated. Several elements within the **school grounds** were highlighted including the play kitchen, tunnel, climbing tree and ropes. Children described the importance of **after school clubs** and how much they enjoy them. They made specific mention of karate, football, running (around the football pitch), swimming and craft.


 There are no 'magic wand' comments about school in general. In terms of the school grounds, the children would like to see more hula hoops and a bike track.

There are some comments about different kinds of clubs and activities that the children would value seeing in the future, but they were not specifically mentioned in relation to after school clubs, so they are not detailed here (See later).



New Abbey Village

New Abbey Village		Ranks 2nd with 13.66% of comments (22/161)
		No comments on New Abbey in general. Specific comments that do not fit into other categories formed 10.6% (12/113)

 Life in **New Abbey** village ranked second highest in terms of the number of positive comments with the children highlighting that people are kind and that they have good neighbours, it feels safe, there are lots of places to go and it is mostly tidy and clean. They love the flowers and they think that guising in New Abbey is great fun. Inclusivity and accessibility also get positive mentions. *"What I like about New Abbey is everyone communicates a lot and we all know each other"*

 New Abbey in more general terms did not feature in the 'Magic Wand' comments. There are some specific comments such as 7% (8 comments) around littering and dog mess and a wish to see this improve with more bins and dog waste bins. The children also commented on finding ways to stop the floods. They also wished for people to be kind, to respect all religions/atheists. Comment was also made about the need for more houses.

New Abbey Playpark

New Abbey Playpark		Ranks joint 3rd with 12.42% of comments (20/161)
		Ranks joint 6th with 6.19% of comments (7/113)

♥ **New Abbey Playpark** came in third in terms of ranking with children describing how they enjoy visiting the park, meeting up with friends there and taking trips to the park from school. Some of the children expressed pride *“I love the park and how Mums helped make it”*

✦ A number of children had some thoughts on how the park could be made even more fun with secret compartments, more equipment including a see saw and a better trampoline. A bigger park and a second park also featured on the wish list.

Facilities

Facilities	♥	Ranks joint 3rd with 12.42% of comments (20/161)
	✦	Ranks 3rd with 12.38% of comments (14/113)

♥ The children like that Abbey Vale FC is in New Abbey and the space provided on the football pitch is welcomed by the children, especially the small goals. Children also mentioned that they enjoy going to matches at Abbey Vale, Queen of the South and at Ibrox. Positive comments were made about the activities at Shambellie House Trust with children valuing the holiday activity clubs and the other things on offer. They also like going to the shop, the tea rooms and the church in general, but specifically for the Christmas service and at the end of the school year. Mention was also made of access to the swimming pool in Dumfries and the Hospital.

✦ The wish list includes new small goals at Abbey Vale football pitch, more seats for Abbey Vale matches and football camps. We also heard some bigger dreams: *“I’d like Ibrox to be in New Abbey”*. Children also wanted a bigger shop, a toy shop and more shops in general. In terms of new things that we do not currently have in New Abbey, mention was made of a small library and a petrol station and access to learning spaces to find fossils and engage with science activities.



Moving Around


Moving around	♥	Ranks 5th with 11.8% of comments (19/161)
	✦	Ranks joint 10th with 3.53% of comments (4/113)


♥ Children described moving around New Abbey as easy by walking, running, riding bikes, scooters and skateboards/skates. To get to places outside New Abbey they go by car and use the bus. They liked the fact that there are several bus stops in the village. For leisure some children enjoyed horse riding.

✦ Children expressed a wish for more ways to travel to places outside of New Abbey and for more frequent bus services.



Nature and Outdoors


Nature and outdoors		Ranks 6th with 10.55% of comments (17/161)
		Ranks 7th with 5.31% of comments (6/113)


 **Nature and outdoors** was described as an important part of children’s lives in New Abbey with specific mention of Criffel and the nature garden.

 In terms of improvements, children wanted to see more open spaces, more plants, trees and long grass and also for fallen trees to be replanted.



Village Hall


Village Hall		Ranks joint 7th with 5.59% of comments (9/161)
		Ranks 5th with 7.96% of comments (9/113)


 The Village Hall is seen as important for the children in general and in terms of clubs, fundraising and social events. Children described how they enjoy the singing at Christmas, Halloween and Christmas parties as well as the car boot sales and race nights. Both the Karate club and Let’s Get Sporty activities got positive mentions.

 Children like the idea of a social event each month and more car boots. They wish the hall had a bigger stage and would enjoy a show at Xmas so that they can volunteer or watch. A roller-skating party and a cinema also made the wish list. More clubs/activities were also mentioned and these are detailed separately below as they would not necessarily be in the hall.

Safety



Safety		Ranks joint 7th with 5.59% of comments (9/161)
		Ranks 1st with 25.66% of comments (29/113)


 As described earlier, children feel safe in New Abbey commenting that “Walking around the village feels safe” and “I can cross the road”; “I can go to friends alone”, “It’s good to have a footway next to the school”


 The main context in which they do not feel safe is road, path and footway safety and this area received the highest number of comments. The children suggested a 20mph speed limit, a safer school crossing with traffic lights/zebra crossing and signs about school children crossing. They want fewer cars and lorries and for the roads to be repaired. Safer paths around the village featured in the comments, in particular from school to the village hall and to the shop and the children

mentioned how the path to the shop needed to be wider, better lit and with railings. They also feel that a path to Shambellie House would help them to get there for activities more safely.



Family and Activities at Home


Family and activities at home		Ranks 9th with 4.96% of comments (8/161)
		No comments (0/113)


 Family-life and activities at home are enjoyed by the children and they mentioned playing with younger siblings, pets and other animals and watching TV.

 No specific comments or wishes were made in this section.



Friends

Friends		Ranks 10th with 3.72% of comments (6/161)
		No comments (0/113)


 Getting together with friends featured in the comments more generally, but also in those about the park, village hall and New Abbey life.

 There were no specific comments in this section, although in the clubs/activities wish list, mention was made of activities where children could meet up with friends (on a Monday and Friday specifically).



Activities and Clubs


Activities/clubs		No general comments (0/161)
		Ranks 2nd with 19.47% of comments (22/113)


All comments are either in Village Hall or School: After School Clubs

 This topic ranked second in terms of the number of comments with the children identifying the following clubs/activities that they would like to take part in (in no particular order and with no preference for venue): basketball, tennis, choir, meeting friends (Monday and Friday), climbing wall, Lego club, play truck, chess, table tennis, rugby, environmental activities, football club, cubs, crazy golf, more holiday clubs and rounders.

Animals

Animals		No general comments (0/161)
		Ranks joint 8th with 4.42% of comments (5/113)

 Children mentioned enjoying being with pets and other animals in their comments about family-life.

 Children would like to see more animals in New Abbey and specifically mentioned piglets, wildlife and a dinosaur park.

c. The Business/Services Online Questionnaire Feedback

We sent a request and a link to an online questionnaire to the businesses / services in New Abbey. The questionnaire was adapted from the PST questionnaire to cover issues that we felt would be important from a village and business / service perspective:

Key Areas	Focus of questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What We Need to Live Here ● How Individuals Feel About Our Place ● Being Part of an Active Community ● Getting About Here 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How businesses/services contribute to achieving the needs of the community ● What works well now ● What could be better (and how) ● What businesses/services need to help them in the future

We had responses from the following sectors:

- Tourist attraction
- Public service e.g. doctor, school
- Farming
- Manufacturing
- Tourist accommodation

The priorities as described by our business/services within New Abbey are outlined in the next sections:

What Businesses/Services Contribute

As a result of the good mix of businesses and services in New Abbey the community benefits from leisure activities, community groups, volunteering opportunities and good mental health. Businesses and services provide employment to residents and provide housing at sensible rents.

The school provides education for local primary-aged children aiming to equip them with skills for the future. They also participate in local events.

The grounds and house at Shambellie House are run by a trust for the community and Shambellie House contribute and adds heritage value in the local area alongside the HES properties.

What Works Well Now

A good mix of businesses and services with a shop, manufacturing, tourism, primary education and health

The school contribution to and connection with the wider community: they campaign on dog fouling, litter and speeding. They make use of the local beaches, woodland and park. They help with improving the look of the village by assisting with funding for flowers and engaging in the planting up of the hanging baskets and planters around the village.

Shambellie House Trust offers open access for the community and offers volunteering and leisure opportunities

Different tourist offers including tourist attractions and tourist accommodation within the village encourage visitors and promotes New Abbey.

Employment opportunities and rental accommodation.

What Could Be Better (and How)

Tourist attractions could encourage more visitors with better B&B options and availability of evening meals.

More housing. People want to live here but there is rarely anything available. Additional housing needs to be affordable to encourage families and potential employees to move to the village.

The road through the village needs repaired, the potholes are discouraging people to travel to New Abbey for work as they can result in delays and costly damage to cars. It was felt that EV chargers in the carpark would benefit businesses/services, the New Abbey residents and visitors.

More attention to care and maintenance issues will improve the lives of those in the village and provide a good experience for visitors: the lines on the road need renewing. The wall at the football pitch needs to be repaired. The grass needs cut more often, including in the school. Residents should be encouraged to take more pride in keeping the area around their houses tidy.

Some businesses were concerned about the lack of suitable employees, whereas others would like to provide more employment. The need for ambassadors and volunteers was also highlighted by Shambellie House Trust (SHT).

Safety issues in the village also drew the attention of the businesses/services and mention was made of the need for a path between SHT and the village (now in place) and improvements to access to the sawmill to avoid the issue caused by HGVs accessing the site.

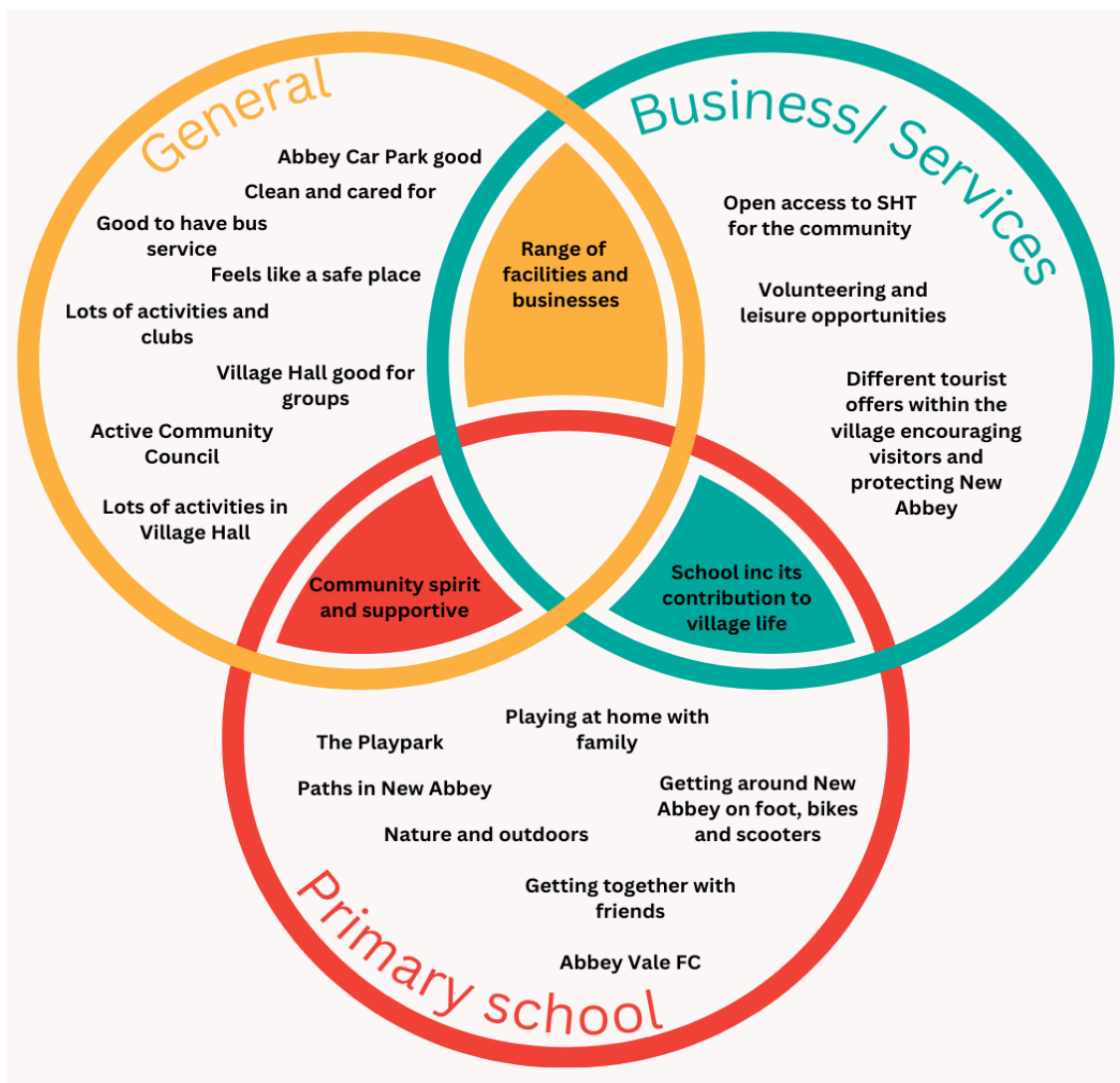
Planning consent is also a difficulty faced by businesses and this can cause delays or cancellation of some developments that could potentially benefit the wider community.

4. Community Objectives / Feedback

Our Community Conversations have allowed the New Abbey community to clearly show that they appreciate what New Abbey has to offer and want to protect this for the future. It also supports taking steps to make it a more viable community, with facilities for those of all ages, supporting its younger and its ageing populations, ensuring that it is a place where families will want to come to, and where young people will want to remain and flourish as adults.

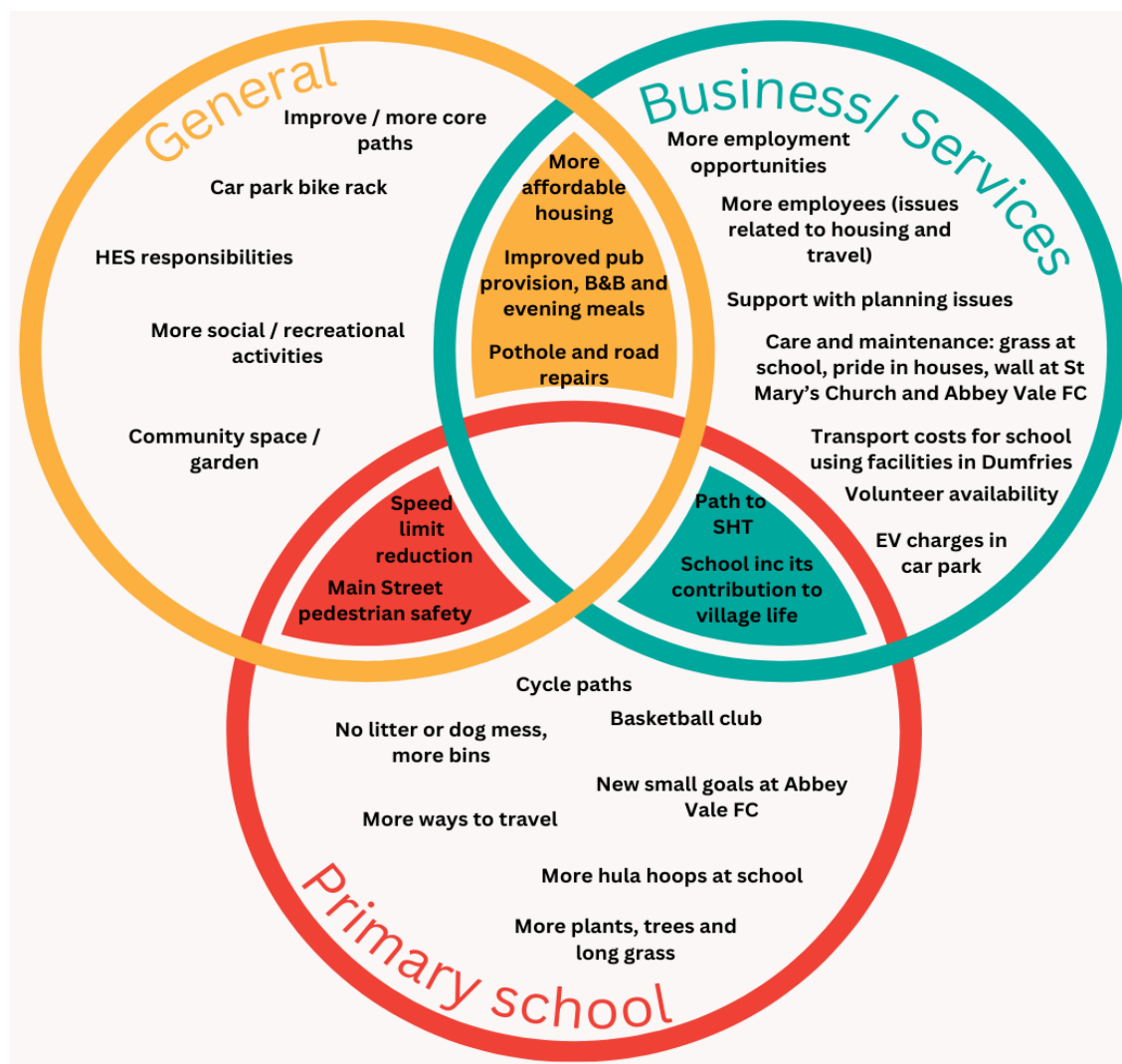
Top Ten: What Our Community Values and Wants to Retain

The diagram below shows the top ten things each community group ‘Values and Wants to Retain’ and the intersection of the rings shows those things that are common between different groups; there are no top ten things common to all groups.



Top Ten: What Our Community Wants to See Improved

The diagram below shows the top ten things each community group 'Wants to See Improved' and the intersection of the rings shows those things that are common between different groups; there are no top ten things common to all groups.



5. Local Place Plan (LPP) Actions

The Local Place Plan is a 'Development and Land Usage' plan and as such requires the full involvement of Dumfries and Galloway Council as a Community Council has neither the authority nor funds to implement any of the actions within it on their own. The New Abbey Community Council will provide support and assistance to Dumfries and Galloway Council teams with those activities where community involvement / feedback is required.

The LPP is a declaration of the aspirations the community has for New Abbey village given as their feedback at community conversation events and online surveys. It represents what that the community has highlighted that they want to see enacted on their behalf and on behalf of the communities in Dumfries and the wider Dumfries and Galloway Region.

Where a group or organisation has been identified to play a part in an activity, this information has been included. We have indicated for each item what the expected timeframe would be and which of the groups involved in the Community Conversations process identified this action.

No.	<u>Timescale to Completion</u>	<u>Action Required</u>	<u>Action Owner</u>	G	P	B
1	SHORT	Reduce the legal speed limit within the village to 20mph	DGC			
2	SHORT	Extend the start of the village speed limited zone to Landis Farm turn-off on A710 & Gardiners Cottage on Beeswing Rd	DGC			
3	SHORT	DGC Roads to investigate improvements for pedestrian safety as they cross the New Abbey Pow and Sheep Burn bridges; <i>in addition to Actions 4 & 5 proposed below</i>	DGC			
4	SHORT	DGC Roads to investigate refreshing the white lines over the Pow Bridge more regularly and if similar paintwork could be added to the Sheep Burn bridge.	DGC			
5	SHORT	DGC Roads to investigate if a short section of footway, 2m or 3m long, could be provided at the Sheep Burn bridge, on the opposite side of the road from the footway from the village going to the bridge, so that pedestrians can cross the road before they then cross the bridge (or vice versa)	DGC			
6	SHORT	Provision of Bike Rack in the Abbey car park	DGC			
7	SHORT	Provision of EV Charging points in Abbey car park	DGC			
8	SHORT	Consider Lochhill Farm proposed housing site as an additional 'Allocated Housing Site' and for LDP3 inclusion.	DGC			
9	SHORT	Transfer the LDP2 Barbeth Farm 'Allocated Housing Site' into LDP3 Consider the proposed development site at Abbeybank as an 'Allocated Housing Site' and for inclusion in LDP3	DGC			
10	SHORT	Confirm that DGC will provide a white line towards the start of the new SHT path from the Beeswing Road junction.	DGC			
11	SHORT / MEDIUM	Carry out more regular road repairs, particularly pot holes are discouraging workers from travelling to New Abbey for work.	DGC			
12	MEDIUM	DGC to investigate the creation of a 'Shared-Use Street' between 6 and 18 Main Street where there is no footway.	DGC			
13	MEDIUM	DGC to investigate the implementation of safety improvements in Kindar Road where there is no footway.	DGC			
14	MEDIUM	DGC to investigate the provision of a controlled crossing point in Main Street, outside the primary school, to provide a safer means for pedestrians to cross the A710.	DGC			
15	MEDIUM	DGC to determine if any long-term actions are required to prevent / reduce flooding within the village.	DGC			
16	MEDIUM	Clarify what the definition of 'affordable housing' is for New Abbey village. Find out what the level of demand is for affordable housing within the local community, using the above definition once it has been made available.	DGC NACC			
17	MEDIUM	Support with planning where improvements will benefit businesses and the community at large	DGC NACC			
18	MEDIUM	Help identify a site for a Community Garden, provide design support, and provision of plants and materials - see CAP Action 16	DGC NACC			

Key: Identified by: G – General sessions & questionnaires; P – Primary School; B – Business & Services

Timescales: Short - within 1 year; Medium – within 3 years; Long – within 5 years

Action owner: DGC – D&G Council; NACC – New Abbey Community Council

LPP Actions Location Map



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



HOUSING

LPP1 - 20mph throughout village starts here

LPP2 - Start 30mph at Landis Farm turn-off and Gardiner's Cottage

LPP3 & LPP4 pedestrian safety at New Abbey Pow Bridge

LPP3 & LPP5 pedestrian safety at Sheep Burn Bridge

LPP10 White lines at start of SHT path

LPP12 'Shared Use Street' 6 to 18 Main Street

LPP13 Pedestrian safety on Kindar Road

LPP14 Controlled crossing point

NOT MARKED ON MAP:

LPP11 Carry out more regular road repairs, particularly pot holes

LPP8 Consider Lochhill Farm proposed site as an 'Allocated Housing Site' in LDP3

LPP9 Consider Abbeybank proposed site as an 'Allocated Housing Site' in LDP3

NOT MARKED ON MAP:

LPP16 Investigate and define what affordable housing means in New Abbey and then research the demand for affordable housing in this context. Following this, and as required, investigate further options for affordable housing; in addition to LPP8 and LPP9

OTHERS WITH NO SPECIFIC SPACIAL MARKER SO NOT ON MAP

LPP15 Investigate actions to prevent / reduce flooding in the village

LPP17 Support with planning where improvement will benefit businesses and the community at large

LPP18 Identify a site for a community garden, provide design support, and provision of plants and materials



SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

LPP6 Bike Rack

LPP7 EV Chargers

7. LDP Proposed Policy Changes

The LDP3 should reflect within it both the LPP and CAP community objectives and actions points as expressed through the community conversation and engagement events so that DGC Planning, Road Services, and any other appropriate DGC body, are encouraged to take into account the wishes as expressed during those engagement activities. In this way the community can have confidence in the LPP and LDP processes and that their expressed wishes will be considered by all DGC departments.

8. LPP Monitoring & Review

The LPP Action Plan activities, this excludes those actions within the Community Action Plan, by their nature, can only be carried out by DGC. The NACC will, with the assistance of the DGC LPP Team, raise each action with the appropriate body within DGC and where there are multiple actions for a particular group, for example DGC Roads, we would ask that a single point of contact is allocated to NACC for all activities in the first instance.

Going forward, developing the activities detailed in the LPP will require the active participation of the local community and its stakeholders with the DGC teams. This means action not only by the New Abbey Community Council but by community volunteers, local businesses, land managers, farmers and forestry work groups and owners, as appropriate. Only through this whole joint approach can we ensure that the voice of everyone is heard when solutions are designed to resolve the issues, and deliver the objectives, highlighted through our community conversation exercises.

Where a solution to an action point is proposed by DGC then NACC will seek community views as to the suitability of the solution before any work is carried out to deliver the solution. Where the proposed solution is not agreed by the community then NACC will liaise with the DGC body to help resolve the community concerns with the proposal so that a solution acceptable to all parties is arrived at.

NACC will monitor the progress, or otherwise, of each action point; keeping a record of contacts, discussion outcomes, and activities carried out to progress the actions to completion. Updates on each activity will be reported to the community at the NACC Ordinary meetings.

Where it becomes clear that, either by direct refusal or by inaction, an action point will not be progressed to completion then the NACC will raise this within the broader DGC to gain support.

9. Community Action Plan Actions

The Community Action Plan (CAP) is the responsibility of New Abbey Community Council or other groups, as agreed by NACC, who volunteer to own and be responsible for completion of an activity.

To reiterate, where a group or organisation has been identified to lead on a project, this information has been included in the plan. Some projects have been included but do not have an identified lead organisation at this time, but it is hoped that an appropriate lead organisation will be identified during the decade-long plan period to allow them to be progressed.

We have indicated for each item what the expected timeframe would be and which of the groups involved in the Community Conversations process identified this action.

	<u>Timescale to Completion</u>	<u>Action Required</u>	<u>Action Owner</u>	G	P	B
1	SHORT	Maintain contact with HES so that that repair timetables are monitored and any timetable deviations or additional work are communicated to the community.	NACC			
2	SHORT	The NACC to explore how to support the Flower Show being re-started and restored as an annual event.	NACC			
3	SHORT	The Garden Safari did not restart after Covid due to the need to have liability insurance for each property participating. DGC Insurance cover recommends extra insurance cover for activities not covered by the "blanket" policy such as gala days etc 1. NACC to explore the cost of extra insurance cover. 2. Establish if there is a group willing to run the Garden Safaris if extra insurance is an option.	NACC			
4	SHORT	Explore the possibility of special events, such as film shows or music events with organisations within the village. Also, explore the following additional clubs/activities: basketball, tennis, choir, meeting friends (Monday and Friday), climbing wall, Lego club, play truck, chess, table tennis, rugby, environmental activities, football club, cubs, crazy golf, more holiday clubs and rounders.	VHT SHT NAPS			
5	SHORT	Explore the demand and need for drop-in sessions at the Village Hall for help with Social Services, Benefits; by organisations such as Citizen Advice or DGC providers.	NACC CA VHT			
6	SHORT	Local set tidy-up days by restarting a "Best Kept Garden" competition, or the like, within the community.	NACC			
7	SHORT	Vacant properties to be brought back into use and better maintained – DGC Strategic Housing Team to advise.	DGC			
8	SHORT	Confirm who is responsible for grass cutting in the old part of the Abbey graveyard and press to ensure it is carried out there.	NACC			
9	SHORT	Seek people to create a Core Path volunteer group that the DGC Rangers could call upon help address issues identified or improvement required.	DGC			
10	SHORT	Identify if there is a grant available to fund a Taxi service for people unable to manage the bus journeys to D&G Infirmary. Check if there is a DGC / NHS solution in place.	NACC			
11	SHORT	NACC to have a volunteer drive to create a list of those willing to be called on from time to time to help with different NACC tasks, such as repairing hanging basket poles, watering flower planter beds, fixing benches etc.	NACC			
12	SHORT	Reduce litter and dog-fouling by providing more bins and signage where a need is identified to NACC.	NACC DGC			
13	SHORT	Consider play park improvements: secret compartments, more equipment including a see saw and a better trampoline. A bigger park and a second park.	NAPP			
14	SHORT	Improve facilities at Abbey Vale FC: repair small goals, add more seats and pursue repair to the boundary wall.	AVFC			
15	SHORT	Consider ideas suggested for the Village Hall: a social event each month and more car boots. A bigger stage, a show at Xmas so that they can volunteer or watch. A roller-skating party and a cinema.	VHT			

16	SHORT	To ensure forestry and land development plans made known to the Community Council are raised with the local community.				
17	SHORT / MEDIUM	Explore the range of issues that may impact on the future of the primary school in New Abbey and plan to take steps to mitigate where possible.	NAPS			
18	MEDIUM	Organise an engagement event with youngsters in the 13 to 18 years grouping. As they currently have no separate social provision, to find out what would be of interest, the likely demand, and to explore how it could be put in place.	VHT SHT NAPS			
19	MEDIUM	Explore what is required to have service timetable changes implemented by Houston Coaches, from simple rearrangements of bus times to additional services to the existing service.	NACC DGC			
20	MEDIUM	Explore the viability, through a limited trial, of an additional Friday & Saturday late bus to determine the likely demand for such a service.	DGC			
21	MEDIUM	Carry out a paper review of Dumfries bus and rail services to determine if simple changes to the current Houston Coaches service to Dumfries could make an appreciable difference to travellers and complete a community engagement to determine what changes would bring the greatest benefit.				
22	MEDIUM	Seek volunteers and if numbers are sufficient, support the creation of a New Abbey Community Garden Charity or other responsible body, to identify potential grant opportunities for the community garden and manage the garden creation and ongoing maintenance. See LPP18	NACC			
23	MEDIUM	Encourage the owner of the old antique emporium to advertise the property to potential business to attract local employment; consider sub-dividing the interior into smaller units suitable for small businesses.	NACC			
24	MEDIUM	Review ideas for additional facilities in the village: shops, small library, petrol station, learning spaces.				
25	MEDIUM	Explore ways to encourage more wildlife in and around New Abbey.				
26	MEDIUM	Consider ways in which more plants/trees/long grass can be planted and available for the community to enjoy.				
27	MEDIUM	Explore options for after school childcare.				
28	MEDIUM	Explore options for more B&B accommodation and evening meal provision in the village.				
29	MEDIUM / LONG	Explore the practicalities of trackers on buses linked to an online bus punctuality service.				
30	MEDIUM / LONG	Explore ways to ensure that new trees are planted when any trees fall.				
31	MEDIUM / LONG	Explore ways to provide more employment opportunities.				
32	MEDIUM / LONG	Encourage closer working between the Community Council and local businesses/services.	NACC			
33	LONG	Seek volunteers to lead, and co-ordinate working with national, regional, local bodies, individuals and organisations, to develop a fuller understanding of the nature of the land in and around New Abbey. In addition, to develop a plan reflecting related Climate Change issues and ways in which land use change enhances biodiversity.				

Key: Identified by: G – General sessions and questionnaires; P – Primary School; B – Business and Services.

Timescales: Short - within 1 year; Medium – within 3 years; Long – within 5 years

Action owner: DGC – D&G Council; NACC – New Abbey Community Council; VHT – Village Hall Trustees; SHT – Shambellie House Trust; CA – Citizens Advice; NAPS – New Abbey Primary School; AVFC – Abbey Vale FC; HES – Historic Environment Scotland

10. Community Action Plan (CAP) Monitoring & Review

The overall Community Action Plan will be owned by the New Abbey Community Council with Action progress / activity reported at each Ordinary Community Council meeting.

Any parts being ‘owned’ by different groups, as agreed by NACC, will be required to provide updates to the NACC Secretary, or other designated responsible person, in time for each NACC Ordinary meeting. Any questions or clarification required by the NACC meeting will be fed back to the group that provided the update for action / response before the next NACC meeting, or before if requested.

Going forward, developing the activities detailed in the Community Action Plan will require the collective participation of the local community and its stakeholders. This means action not only by the New Abbey Community Council but community volunteers, community event and activity providers, local businesses, land managers and farmers, forestry work groups and owners, and the Dumfries and Galloway Council. Only through this whole community approach can we ensure that the voice of everyone is heard when solutions are designed to resolve the issues and deliver the objectives highlighted through our community conversation exercises. In this way we will ensure that New Abbey, as a place to be, continues to develop and that the lives of the community that is New Abbey are enhanced in a direction supported by them.

11. Appendix

#1 Extracts from the proposed New Abbey Conservation Area Character Assessment. **Author:** Martin Robertson.

#2 *Evaluating the citywide Edinburgh 20mph speed limit intervention effects on traffic speed and volume: A pre-post observational evaluation. Publication 31/12/2021. **Authors:** Nightingale, Glenna; Williams, Andrew; Hunter, Ruth F.; Woodcock, James; Turner, Kieran; Cleland, Claire; Baker, Graham; Kelly, Michael; Cope, Andy; Kee, Frank; Milton, Karen; Foster, Charlie; Jepson, Ruth; Kelly, Paul*
Conclusions: *The implementation of the city-wide 20mph speed limit intervention was associated with meaningful reductions in traffic speeds but not volume. The reduction observed in road traffic speed may act as a mechanism to lessen the frequency and severity of collisions and casualties, increase road safety, and improve liveability.*

#3 Section 3.6.9 & 3.6.10 of ‘SHARED SURFACE OR SHARED SPACE STREETS AND SQUARES’ by Nottingham County Council. [36-shared-surfaces-guidance.pdf](#)

#4 Dumfries and Galloway Citizen Advice Service 2024 Cost of Living report.

#5 <https://sup.org.uk/projects/south-west-scotland-coastal-trail/>

12. Draft LPP Version Amendments

- a) Small proof-reading fixes
- b) Insertion of 28-day Community Consultation Activities – page 5, para 4 into page 6
- c) The ‘Moving Around’ and ‘Natural Space’ Theme sections, Pages 28-30, were further separated to match the format of the earlier Theme sections, and to enable missing WWWN feedback to be added to ‘Natural Space’, specifically;
‘In terms of What Works Well Now (WWWN) the village of New Abbey received several positive comments about an enhanced of life quality experienced from its immediate physical environment, with HES properties, an interesting variety of older buildings, the Abbey grounds, and the fields around the church. The surrounding landscape of woods, pasture and hills along with the views coming into the village through an avenue of ancient woodlands were also commended, as were the many excellent walking opportunities. Many commented about the importance of maintaining / retaining these natural spaces going forward.’
- d) Addition to Page 5 para 2 – the following sentences were added to strengthen how to deal with topics which were not raised to any significant extent during the Community Conversations; specifically, climate change and biodiversity.
‘During the consultation period it was identified that exploring some topics that required more in-depth expertise and resources would be outside the scope of the New Abbey Local Place Plan. These areas are included within the action plans with the potential for members of the community to lead, develop and explore.’
- e) Addition to Page 15 Car Park section para 1 – the following was added to the last sentence to highlight potential car park congestion issues.
‘which may become a larger problem over time and will therefore need ongoing monitoring’.
- f) Barbeth Farm Development Option Page 21 - changes to reflect the owners change of the Barbeth Farm status from ‘withdrawn’ to ‘potential withdrawn’ (until the Abbeybank development is accepted by the Council). Replacement of the Abbeybank site map with a screen shot from the owners Development Proposal brochure. Inclusion of comments on feedback on the Abbeybank site from the village hall 28-day community review events.
- g) LPP Action Plan, page 42, Action 9 – change the text asking for Barbeth Farm LDP2 site to be withdrawn following owners update (point ‘f’) above.
From: *‘Remove the Barbeth Farm development site identified in LDP2 as the owner has withdrawn it’*
To: *‘Transfer the LDP2 Barbeth Farm ‘Allocated Housing Site’ into LDP3’*
- h) LPP Action Plan, page 42, Action 16 – additional text added to strengthen Affordable Housing understanding and requirements.
‘Investigate and define what affordable housing means in New Abbey and then research the demand for affordable housing in this context. Following this, and as required,’
- i) Community Action Plan, Page 46, Action 33 – additional text added to include the need to seek volunteers to lead this action.
‘Seek volunteers to lead, and co-ordinate working with’
- j) LPP Actions Map, page 43 – updated to reflect changes above.