

## Isle of Whithorn Local Place Plan 2025-2035

### Submission Statement for Local Place Plan Registration

#### Introduction

The Isle of Whithorn Community Council ward comprises the Isle of Whithorn village, 3 miles south of the town of Whithorn, harbour, Isle of Whithorn Bay, farms on the Whithorn, Garlieston, and Tonderghie Roads, and Burrowhead holiday village. There are approximately 270 residents.

This, our first Local Place Plan (LPP), has been produced by The Isle of Whithorn Community Council. It sets out the wishes of residents and businesses of the Isle of Whithorn Community Council ward for 2025-35, highlighting planning, transport, facilities and connectivity matters that the residents identify as most important for the community to bring to the attention of Dumfries and Galloway Council. It also identifies buildings and projects that local people have identified as important for the community to focus on in the next ten years.

Our Local Place Plan has been produced by volunteers with financial support from Dumfries and Galloway Council (UKSPF), for which we are very grateful.

#### Purpose of the Statement

This statement is submitted in support of our desire to register our LPP for The Isle of Whithorn Community Council. The LPP and this statement have been prepared in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- Town and Country Planning (Local Place Plans) (Scotland) Regulations 2021
- Scottish Government Planning Circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans (LPPs)
- Dumfries and Galloway Council's LPP Overview of Requirements.

#### Local Place Plan confirmation

To meet statutory requirements for local place planning, this statement confirms

#### Governance

The Isle of Whithorn Community Council is the lead organisation for the coordination, consultation for, production, and submission of this Local Place Plan.

#### Strategic Context

Our Local Place Plan is produced having regard to Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 3 currently under development, and the themes it has identified under the National Planning Framework, Sustainable Places, Liveable Places and Productive Places. Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2 (adopted) as well

as other, current, national and regional planning objectives and a range of relevant economic, social and environmental plans and strategies.

The following were considered:

- National Planning Framework 4 (2023)
- Inclusive Growth: What Does it look like? – Scot Gov (30.3.22)
- Climate Change Just Transition – Scot Gov
- A Blue Economy Vision for Scotland – Scot Gov (31.3.22)
- SEPA Potentially Vulnerable Areas 2022-28 and 2028-34 from the National Flood Risk Assessment
- South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy 2021-31
- South of Scotland Responsible Tourism Strategy 2024-34
- Dumfries and Galloway Council Plan 2023–2028
- Dumfries and Galloway Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2023-2033
- Dumfries and Galloway Active Travel Strategy 2022-2032
- Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 3 evidence report – D&G Council 12.12.24

**Community Engagement**

Appointed by the Isle of Whithorn Community Council as associate members, volunteers Andrea Deschamps, and Vikki Reay-Martin referenced the Dumfries and Galloway LPP toolkit creating a consultation framework tailored to the needs and wishes of residents. Initial consultation meetings were held in February 2024. These were followed by a consultation questionnaire delivered to all local properties, and further consultation meetings in May 2024. A village audit was completed. We promoted the Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan Roadshow held in Whithorn. Additional questionnaires focussed on the Isle of Whithorn Bay and harbour area were distributed. The Isle of Whithorn Youth Group were consulted, to seek to capture the views of the youngest residents. A final draft of the Local Place Plan was pulled together and delivered in hard copy to all homes and businesses in the ward, with questionnaire, envelope and stamp provided to encourage responses. Forty-four residents attended consultation meetings, twenty people responded to an initial questionnaire, in addition ten harbour users responded to a harbour specific questionnaire, and eighty-nine people responded to a questionnaire accompanying a draft copy of the LPP.

**Consultation timetable**

Period	Activity	Group Consulted
23.1.24 – 7.2.24	Leaflet delivered explaining what a Local Place Plan is, and containing an invitation to public meetings on 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 at St Ninians Hall Isle of Whithorn. A4 poster displayed in village notice board. Advertised in local press.	Community wide leafletting of every household and business.

## Isle of Whithorn Local Place Plan Submission Statement for Registration Public

	Comment box for LPP installed in St Ninians Hall.	
7.2.24 2-3pm 7.2.24 7-8pm	Open initial consultation meetings held in St Ninians Hall	Open to the community. 24 people attended.
March 2024	Isle of Whithorn local place plan questionnaire devised and distributed.	Community wide, delivered to every household and business. 20 responses
April 2024	Isle of Whithorn Newsletter first published. LPP article promoting questionnaire and further consultation meetings on 23.5.24. A4 posters on display.	Community wide, delivered to every household
23.5.24 2-3pm 23.5.24 7-8pm	Open Consultation meetings held in St Ninians Hall	Community wide invitation. 20 residents attend.
July 2024	Housing audit completed by volunteers– identifying the proportion of second homes, and holiday homes.	Isle of Whithorn village.
July 2024	Isle of Whithorn Summer Newsletter. LPP article update on consultation process, and providing contact name and phone number to encourage engagement	Community wide, delivered to every household.
Sept 2024	Isle of Whithorn LPP Harbour questionnaire devised and distributed. Hard copies available in high footfall location St Ninians tearoom; electronic copies distributed via email distribution lists for all the community groups that use Isle of Whithorn Bay and harbour. These groups and individuals had also received the original questionnaire.	Harbour users, Harbour master, Newton Stewart Sub Aqua Club, Wigtown Bay Coastal Rowing Club, Wigtown Bay Sailing Club, over 220 members. 10 responses.
Jan 2025	Isle of Whithorn Newsletter Local Place Plan article update, advertising that draft copies, and questionnaires, with return envelopes will be delivered to each home and premise and asking for responses by 11.5.25	Community wide delivered to every household.
25.2.25	Village audit completed by volunteers.	Isle of Whithorn village.
10.4.25-11.5.25	Draft Local Place Plans, questionnaires, return addressed envelopes, and stamps delivered by volunteers. LPP Comments box remains in St Ninians Hall. IoWCC comments box St Ninians Hall. Email response address. Returns invited to meet response deadline 11.5.25	Community wide, all households, businesses, farms. 82 responses.
June 2025	Isle of Whithorn Youth Group consultation questions.	Isle of Whithorn Youth Group
29.7.25- 17.8.25	Hard copies of final draft local place plan printed and delivered. Electronic copies shared via social media. Copy placed on Isle Futures website.	Community wide.

## Consultation

In compliance with legislative requirements, we carried out a month-long public consultation on our draft LPP from July 29th to August 30th, 2025.

A draft copy of the LPP was sent to the following Wigtownshire Ward 2 elected members and adjacent Community Councils registered on Dumfries and Galloway Council website as still operational at that time.

Elected councillors David Inglis, Katie Hagmann, Jackie McCamon, Richard Marsh, and Port William Community Council. Borderlands consultant coordinator for Whithorn.

In the absence of a community council at Whithorn our Local Place Plan was shared on the ‘What’s on Whithorn’ Facebook page and shared to and by community groups including Isle Futures and Isle of Whithorn Heritage Group.

The Local Place Plan has been a rolling agenda item for the Isle of Whithorn Community Council. Updates on progress, content and future plans were discussed at monthly meetings, and minutes published and displayed at St Ninians Hall.

In 2025 Isle Futures created a website. A copy of the Local Place Plan is available to view on the website, posted during the formal consultation period. [Isle of Whithorn Local Place Plan 2025-35 – St Ninians Community Hall, Tea Room & Shop](#)

### **Development Proposals**

Our consultation process resulted in five projects that local people put forward as important to ensure the character of the Isle of Whithorn was retained, whilst maximising opportunities for tourism and retention of families. Prioritised according to level of support.

1. The retention of the Isle of Whithorn Church, Main St, for community use, should it no longer be used for services. 71%
2. The development of a public garden and small boat park on the land of the former MacWilliams Store, adjacent to the Isle of Whithorn Church, Main St. 56%
3. Further development of Boyach Play Park, Boyach Crescent. 28%
4. Retention and long-term sustainability of St Ninians Hall and tearoom. 26%
5. Creating an accessible pontoon and widening a slipway for improved harbour access. 18%

The Community Action Plan shows the priority development proposals that have already been adopted and are being progressed. The Isle of Whithorn Community Council supports the Community Action Plan calling on the strong volunteering ethic within the community to drive forward the separate proposals through the life of this Local Place Plan.

### **Impact on the Local Development Plan**

Clear focus areas were identified by residents within the local place plan with a request that specific issues were brought to the attention of the council for consideration in the Local Development Plan (LDP3).

The plan asks for general planning considerations for LDP3 in relation to broad themes of conservation, the energy crisis and quality homes. Isle residents wish to retain the

unique character of the Isle of Whithorn, maximising facilities to seek to retain young families in the Isle and promote healthy living and wellbeing for all residents.

The plan also requests policy considerations for relevant council service areas for example public transport, schools, roads, harbours, and public safety. Retaining emergency services, education and health provision in the local area, and ensure effective transport provision for the very young and elderly in this rural remote location, with infrastructure sufficient to meet tourism demand, and promote the need for affordable owner occupier housing in the vicinity of the Isle. All these are supported by research and popular demand and accompanied by maps which show the area to which the LPP relates and locate relevant proposals with spatial dimension.

### **Conclusion**

This is the first time Isle of Whithorn Community Council ward residents and businesses have taken the opportunity to debate as a community what we hold dear for the Isle of Whithorn and surrounding area and engage with Dumfries and Galloway Council. Initial reticence to participate in consultation stemmed from a perception that the Isle, being so small, would not be heard. Consultation in person, leafletting, hard copy questionnaire, direct email, word of mouth, and tireless work of a group of volunteers delivering to homes and businesses meant that over two thirds of the ward residents contributed to the plan. Our Local Place Plan is supported by most residents and businesses. People now understand that a Local Place Plan is part of an ongoing dialogue with the Council that Isle of Whithorn residents can engage in.

What has become apparent and celebrated throughout the consultation process is the huge positivity, energy, community spirit, and cohesion within the Isle of Whithorn, and the love of local people for the village and surrounds. It is hoped that this LPP is the catalyst for the completion of the five projects identified, and that the Isle of Whithorn continues to thrive for the next ten years and beyond.

### **Contact Details**

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