

## Kirkmahoe Local Place Plan Submission Statement

### KIRKMAHOE LOCAL PLACE PLAN REGISTRATION SUBMISSION STATEMENT

#### INTRODUCTION

Kirkmahoe is a relatively large parish in lower Nithsdale, north of Dumfries, within the historic county of Dumfriesshire. It is a rural parish with a population of approximately 634 people residing in the villages of Kirkton and Dalswinton the hamlets of Duncow and Auchencairn and a number of other, scattered dwellings.

This Local Place Plan (LPP) has been produced by members of Kirkmahoe Community Council (KCC) and two other members of the community.

It sets out the aspirations of the community of Kirkmahoe for our area, the vision and strategic objectives required to deliver those aspirations and the associated actions we wish to take forward in the next twenty years (2025-45).

The plan includes the ways in which our community wishes to develop and both spatially and socially.

The LPP was commissioned by KCC. We are grateful to Dumfries and Galloway Council (supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund) for their financial support of this plan.

#### PURPOSE OF STATEMENT

This statement is submitted in support of our desire to register our LPP for the parish and community of Kirkmahoe. 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 Toolkit.

#### LPP CONFIRMATION

To meet statutory requirements for Local Place Planning, this statement confirms the following:  
Governance:

Kirkmahoe Community Council is the lead organisation for the coordination, production and submission of this LPP.

#### Strategic Context

The preparation of our plan has been in the context of 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. Specifically, the following documents or policies were taken into account:

National Planning Framework 4

Principles of Sustainable Development

Local Dumfries and Galloway Council Plan 2023–2028

Dumfries and Galloway Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2023-2033

Dumfries and Galloway Active Travel Strategy 2022-2032

Solway Local Plan District (LPD 14) Flood risk management plan 2022-2028

#### Community Engagement

The LPP has been progressed by community engagement, beginning with an engagement framework which was drafted to target a range of demographics, interest groups and activities. The intended process was then promoted through an initial open meeting, various media including posters and an article in the KCC magazine 'Grapevine' delivered to all properties, social media posts, emails and word of mouth.

Subsequent discussion was then framed around the Scottish Government's Place Standard Tool, a detailed list of local assets, analysis of the demographics of the area and local and regional policies. Our principal tool of engagement was a printed survey which was delivered to every household in the area together with the opportunity to complete the survey online. Some 56 individual responses were returned to this survey. Two community drop-in events were also held in Kirkton and Dalswinton. Opportunities were taken to speak with landowners and businesses which operate in the area.

The information gathered from all of these replies and discussions was used by the steering group to prepare a draft Place Plan. The main findings were publicised in the Spring 2025 edition of 'Grapevine' delivered to all households with information on how to access copies on line, and also sent by email to more than 300 people and advertised on social media (more than 400 people).

## STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In line with statutory requirements, in December 2025 a final, 28-day consultation process on the draft plan was conducted with the community, the four regional councillors for Kirkmahoe area, the neighbouring communities and community councils.

During this consultation period the draft plan was sent again by email and put on social media. Hard copies were left in the Information booth (old telephone box), the two village halls Blumen (coffee shop in Dalswinton) and were available for people to borrow. There were two drop in events where people could make comments.

A copy of the Local Place Plan was sent to local councillors and neighbouring community councils, as follows:

- Councillor Ivor Hyslop
- Councillor Linda Dorward
- Councillor Tracey Little
- Councillor Maureen Johnstone
- Ae Community Council
- Auldgirth Community Council
- Closeburn Community Council
- Heathhall Community Council
- Hollywood Hall
- Locharbriggs Community Centre
- Kirkmahoe Parish Church
- Duncow School

## DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The community of Kirkmahoe has therefore adopted the following **vision** for the next twenty years:

*We aim for Kirkmahoe to continue to be a welcoming and inclusive rural community where everyone feels safe, valued, and connected. We are committed to fostering a thriving environment where people of all ages can live, work, and flourish. Our community cherishes the natural beauty of our surroundings, prioritising biodiversity and sustainability to protect our land for future generations.*

*By working together, we will create a resilient and vibrant place that nurtures a strong sense of belonging and opportunity for all.*

Our consultation process identified ten broad themes and actions which are:

### **Theme 1 Road Safety and Traffic Management**

*Install digital speed signs at Kirkton and other key areas.*

*Work with local authorities to introduce traffic calming measures.*

*Propose local speed, weight and width limits on the roads with high traffic concerns.*

### **Theme 2 Transport Improvements**

*Liaise with Dumfries & Galloway Council to enhance existing public transport links.*

*Conduct a feasibility study on a community bus service, including potential storage locations. Identify locations for car parks in Kirkton and Duncow.*

### **Theme 3 Walking and Cycling Infrastructure**

*Install bike racks at Dalswinton, Duncow and Kirkton*

*Install reflective barriers at dangerous bends on the C11n*

*Secure funding for a dedicated active travel path from Kirkton to Duncow School to Dalswinton. This could be an integral part of a Lower Nithsdale Cycleway via Auldgirth continuing up the Nith Valley*

### **Theme 4 Improve Phone Connectivity**

*Engage with mobile network providers to address poor connectivity.*

*Investigate the feasibility of installing mobile signal/WiFi boosters in key areas.*

### **Theme 5 Flooding Issues**

*Use resources available through Scotland's National Flood Resilience Strategy.*

*Continue to press the council for community flood prevention measures including upgrading of Barrasgate bridge to allow better water flow.*

*Continue to work with local farmers and landowners to implement strategies to minimise flood risk*

*Work with other agencies and communities on a Nith catchment plan*

### **Theme 6 Housing Development**

*Identify suitable land for energy efficient housing projects to allow residents to downsize/upscale and remain in the community.*

### **Theme 7 Community Facilities and Services**

*Protect and maintain existing community assets to ensure their long term use and benefit.*

*Conduct a community survey on the feasibility of a café, shop, or market.*

*Explore potential future uses of public buildings in the event of closure, including community activities, heritage projects, or other sustainable purposes.*

*Identify potential spaces for a coworking facility for offices and meetings.*

### **Theme 8 Future Land Use & Environmental Considerations**

*Encourage habitat conservation and improvement.*

*Organise tree planting initiatives.*

*Establish birdwatching hides and a community orchard or garden.*

*Ensure we make robust suggestions for restoration and use of quarry land after extraction has finished.*

### **Theme 9 Enhancing Facilities for Young People**

*Identify suitable locations for a recreational bike track (pump track), mud kitchen, and covered outdoor stage.*

*Seek funding to create improved sports facilities and adventure playground.*

*Explore the viability of a theme park and a cycleway linking Dumfries to Kirkmahoe.*

**Theme 10 Establish a Community Trust and Development Company**

*A Community Trust will consult with community members to develop and agree measurable objectives.*

**CONCLUSION**

The place plan has been a catalyst for the community in voicing its opinions for their parish, highlighting both the negative and the positive. The document also provides the KCC with a plan for taking the community's aspirations forward by providing 'proof of need' to funding providers. It also is a planning document that can be used jointly between the KCC and Dumfries and Galloway Council for future implementation and development work within the parish.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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