



THE ROYAL BURGH OF  
NEW GALLOWAY AND KELLS

# LOCAL PLACE PLAN

2026-2036

## SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Presented by New Galloway  
and Kells Community Council

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## Introduction

This Supporting Statement forms part of the Local Place Plan submission to Dumfries and Galloway Council and is accompanying the Local Place Plan for The Royal Burgh of New Galloway and Kells, dated 28/02/2026.

The Planning Act (Scotland) and National Planning Framework 4 (2023) introduced Local Place Plans (LPPs) as a new tier of planning legislation aimed at giving a statutory voice to local communities to express aspirations for spatial development and land use.

The Royal Burgh of New Galloway and Kells (hereafter New Galloway and Kells), comprising the settlements of New Galloway, Mossdale, and Dundough, is one of eight Community Council (CC) areas in the region of Dumfries and Galloway known as The Glenkens. Consultation across the area in 2017/18 identified a strong desire for communities to work together in order to maximise limited resources. Building on the existing base of community engagement developed through consultation for the Glenkens and District Community Action Plan (2020), other relevant local research and reports, the CC carried out an extensive programme of community engagement with residents of the CC area in order to inform the development of the Plan.

This Local Place Plan articulates community aspirations in order to indicate priorities for future development in the settlements and wider Community Council (CC) area, also referring to facilities and landscapes outwith the border of the CC area which are locally significant.

This plan outlines the community's wishes for development and land use within the settlement and wider rural area, having regard to local and national plans and planning legislation. The production of this Local Place Plan has been supported by a UK Shared Prosperity Fund Local Place Plan Grant. It was prepared by New Galloway and Kells Community Council with support from the Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT) and the Glenkens Community Spaces Network (GCSN).

# Overview of the Local Place Plan Actions and Proposals

Actions in the Plan have been classified into five themes, as follows:

## Theme A: life in our community

**Manage speeding**, potentially through:

- Introduction of 20mph speed limits in settlements
- Improved road signage
- Flashing speed limit signs

**Improve pedestrian safety:**

- Safe footpaths or pavements for pedestrian connectivity within and around settlements

**Manage speeding at Dundee Junction**

**Improve road safety in Mossdale**

**Identify appropriate locations for small-scale parking to help businesses and residents**

**Improve capacity to deal with health emergencies**

- Create community first responder scheme
- Review location of ambulance bases to reduce wait times

**Manage public spaces better for biodiversity**

- Stop early strimming of verges and park grassland by council
- Enhance diversity of grasslands by appropriate wildflower seeding
- Avoid the use of herbicides and insecticides in our public spaces

**Enhance park facilities**

- Improve accessibility in and around the park
- Upgrade play equipment
- Improve accessibility of play equipment
- Secure gateway
- Introduce more multi-use sport equipment
- Maintain multi-use nature of the space (eg., Scottish Alternative Games, Picnic in the Park etc)

## Theme B: Work, Skills, Enterprise and Training

**Create a plan for education in the area over the next 5-10 years, to enable families to make informed decisions over where to live**

- Support the Community Action Plan Steering Group's work with Dumfries and Galloway Council to enable families to make confident choices for their family's future education
- Support the plan for an Education Hub in the Glenkens to provide lifelong learning and retraining opportunities for residents of all ages

**Support transition from education to rewarding employment**

- Create programme of apprenticeships, early school interaction, more integration with retraining mature candidates

#### **Support local producers and retailers**

- Enhance support and publicity for the local food hub
- Gain high street outlets for local food
- Support business training activities
- Encourage local farmers/producers to sell through local shops, food hub etc

### **Theme C: Connectivity: Travel, Transport and Broadband**

#### **Improve connectivity and safety of active travel between settlements**

- New cycle and active travel route between New Galloway and Dalry
- New cycle and active travel route between New Galloway and Balmaclellan

#### **Improve footpath access and connectivity**

- Better understanding of who is responsible for maintaining core paths and other existing footpaths to ensure they are usable year round. Where appropriate, negotiate with landowners to enable maintenance by community groups
- Improved public access to forest areas, addressing issues such as locked gates and clear felling across paths
- Providing easily accessible maps for visitors showing safe routes and how they link the area's attractions

#### **Improve broadband speeds in areas with speeds below UK average**

#### **Improve public transport**

- Address the vicious circle of low use of services because they are scarce, irregular and unreliable
- Task group to develop sustainable alternatives such as dial-a-car scheme and more regular buses to Ayrshire

### **Theme D: Land use, Climate Change, Environment, Resilience**

#### **Manage water quality**

- Replace New Galloway's existing combined sewer and septic tank, which is discharging effluent into the Water of Ken, with sustainable, fit-for-purpose waste water infrastructure

#### **Ensure protection of important habitat (particularly unimproved open habitats (Figure 6 of the LPP) and 'favourite places' (Figure 11 of the LPP))**

- Avoid development and land use change that affects these habitats and places in particular

#### **Enhance community capacity to engage with nature restoration**

- Develop list of sites suitable for nature restoration (through community-led or partnership projects) to be funding-ready
- Participation in 'Nature Networks'

### **Provide more meaningful community involvement in land and landscape**

- Proactive repair of damage to trust in consultation process
- Increased respect for conservation of nationally scarce grasslands and heath
- Increased respect for community input
- No locked gates impeding access to land
- Better communication around impact of felling on signed/core paths, and faster reinstatement of path usage

## **Theme E: Housing**

### **Provision of energy efficient homes**

- Apply D&G LHS 2025-2030
- Conduct energy audits of existing buildings to identify areas of improvement
- Retrofitting measures, eg better insulation, heat pumps etc. to enhance energy performance
- Encourage developers to get sustainable building certification

### **Avoid building where flood risk is high**

### **Bring estate homes back into use as affordable rented homes or live/work space**

### **Develop housing options to enable older people to stay in the area**

- Support for housing associations to create appropriate rental properties for older residents with a significant local connection, either through new build or converting existing properties.
- Use of allocated housing site NGA.H1 identified in LDP2 to meet need for sheltered housing
- Community input in design with sustainable housing standards to be applied

## **Statement of compliance**

This Statement aims to support New Galloway and Kells Community Council's Expression of Interest to register this Local Place Plan. The Place Plan and this statement have been prepared in accordance with:

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

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

## **Governance**

This Local Place Plan was developed and led by New Galloway and Kells Community Council. The Council commissioned Becca Nelson from the Glenkens Community & Art Trust to support with the development of the plan, including community engagement, analysis of data, demographic

data, document design and creation of maps. This was funded by a UK Shared Prosperity Fund Local Place Plan Grant.

## Strategic context

This Local Place Plan aligns with National Planning Framework 4, particularly with regard to priorities linked with rural revitalisation. Regard has also been paid to relevant documents of those listed below, particularly the current Local Development Plan (LDP2) and the Locality Plan.

### National

- National Planning Framework 4

### Regional

- SoSE Regional Economic Strategy Regional Skills & Investment Plan
- 2017-2027 Poverty & Inequalities Strategy
- Regional Economic Partnership Vision 2031
- South of Scotland Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy (April 2021)
- South of Scotland Regional Land Use Framework (Draft, October 2023)

### Local

- Dumfries & Galloway 5 Year Plan 2023-28 Local Outcomes Improvement Plan
- Dumfries & Galloway Local Development Plan 2 (2019)
- Glenkens and District Community Action Plan (2020)
- Dumfries and Galloway Landscape Character Assessment (2019)
- Glenkens Land Use Vision (an addendum to the Glenkens CAP, 2023)

## Community engagement

New Galloway and Kells CC residents were offered a number of opportunities and methods to express their views for the LPP, with the consultation period running from January to September 2025. This included two drop-in events at the Town Hall and a stall at the Scottish Alternative Games, as well as questionnaires (both paper versions, which were available to collect and return at the Community Shop, the Town Hall and The CatStrand, online on Google Forms).

Information about the consultation was shared online on the Glenkens Hub and LING websites, on social media, as well as on posters in New Galloway and in the Glenkens Gazette.

The initial stage of consultation offered residents the chance to express their thoughts through open questions on a variety of themes. The Place Standard Tool was also available, with volunteers from the Community Council LPP team on hand to answer questions at the Town Hall on January 18th.

102 responses were received to the first stage of community engagement, and a massive 1269 individual comments collected via questionnaires, post-it-notes and the Place Standard questionnaire.

Around 60 separate initiatives were identified from the initial information-gathering questionnaire, and the second round of community engagement asked residents to give a score of 1-5 for each initiative suggested, with 5 being 'very important' and 1 being 'unimportant'. 92 responses were received to this questionnaire.

This gave the Community Council sufficient data to create an Action Plan and Proposals for the Local Place Plan, which the Community Council believes reflects the views of the local community.

## Evidence of compliance with Regulation 4

In compliance with legislative requirements a 28-day formal consultation period was held, running from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January to Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

The plan was available to be downloaded from or viewed online on the Glenkens Hub.

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

### List of Councillors to whom the proposed Local Place Plan was sent

- Councillor Dougie Campbell
- Councillor John Denerley
- Councillor Andy McFarlane

### List of Community Councils to whom the proposed Local Place Plan was sent

- Balmaclellan Community Council
- Balmaghie Community Council
- Carsphairn Community Council
- Cree Valley Community Council
- Gatehouse of Fleet Community Council
- Parton Community Council
- St John's Town of Dalry Community Council

## Contact details

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