

TORTHORWALD LOCAL PLACE PLAN REGISTRATION

SUBMISSION STATEMENT

Introduction

Torthorwald Community Council is leading a project to deliver a Local Place Plan for the Torthorwald Community Council area.

Torthorwald Community Council (TCC) covers an area including Collin, Dargavel, Douievale, Elizafield, Greenlea, Isle of Man, Racks, Roucan and Torthorwald.

Our aim is to create a plan that represents the whole area and seeks to deliver projects which are realistic, achievable and meaningful to the community.

The participants in delivering the Place Plan were:

- the local community of around 600 households;
- a Working Group of Community Councillors supported by Dumfries and Galloway Council;
- representation and reflection from community representatives throughout the area.

Our vision is to maintain and develop a vibrant rural community that will continue to serve residents' interests well, now, and into the future. Developments in future land use and services should be assessed on what might be gained, mindful of what might also be lost.

The plan is designed to guide our community's transformation for the next decade, from 2025 - 2035. The Place Plan initiative and engagement from the local community and community partners was initiated by an invitation to apply for funding as part of Dumfries and Galloway Council's Local Development Plan.

Aim

This Statement aims to support our Expression of Interest to register our Place Plan for the Torthorwald Community Council area. The Place Plan and this statement have been prepared in accordance with:

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

LPP Confirmation

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

Governance

The submission is made by Torthorwald Community Council on behalf of local people in the community area. The submission is signed off by the Chairperson of Torthorwald Community Council

Strategic Context

Torthorwald Community Council's Place Plan pays due regard to the National Planning Framework, Local Development Plan and Locality Plan. In preparing the Place Plan the following plans were taken into account:

National

- National Performance Framework
- National Planning Framework 4
- National Strategy for Economic Transformation
- Shaping Scotland's Economy: Inward Investment Plan
- Scotland's Social Enterprise Strategy and Action Plan
- National Strategy for Economic Transformation
- UK Government Levelling Up
- Scotland: A Trading Nation
- Infrastructure Investment Plan
- National Transport Strategy
- Scotland's Vision for Trade
- Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan
- Fair Work Nation
- Net Zero and Environmental Strategies
- Community Wealth Building
- Culture Strategy for Scotland
- National Town Centre Action Plan 2
- Town Centre First Principle
- Digital Strategy

Regional

South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) Regional Economic Strategy

Regional Skills and Investment Plan

Dumfries and Galloway 5 Year Plan 2023-28

Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017-2027

Poverty and Inequalities Strategy

Regional Economic Partnership Vision 2031

10,000 Voices

Local

Community Action Plan 2020

Local Development Plan 2 2019

Engagement

Engagement and consultation drove and informed the Plan. Following the return of fact-finding questionnaires, we held conversations, meetings and awareness sessions with local people representing a broad demographic and met with local partners and regional agencies:

- Strategic partner: Dumfries and Galloway Council

- Young people / Education: Primary and secondary pupils through Collin Primary school feedback and local teachers
- Culture and Heritage: Representatives from Cruck Cottage Heritage Association
- Diversity, Equality and Equity: Membership of the Working Group included Councillors with enhanced training in these areas
- Wellbeing: Membership of the Working Group included Councillors with enhanced training in these areas

Timetable for engagement

August '23	Presentation by Dumfries and Galloway Council Place Planning team to Community Council
August '23	Agreement in principle by Community Council to proceed with Torthorwald Local Place Plan
October '23	Formation of a Local Place Working Group to take the project forward.
October '23	Working Group members attended six Place Planning national Webinars.
July '24	Final draft questionnaire agreed for circulation throughout the community.
November '24	Questionnaire distributed to all households in the community as an insert in the winter '24 Newsletter.
February '25	Returned questionnaires collated and analysed by Working Group.
April '25	Working Group relayed analysed results to full Community Council at monthly meeting.
April – October '25	Working Group drafted, and redrafted, agreed changes to final Torthorwald Local Plan, then circulated to full Community Council at monthly meeting(s).
November '25	Final draft Place Plan created and circulated full Community Council.
November '25	Working Group met with Local Ward Officer and Place Planning official to discuss final format for LPP.
December '25	Public consultation sessions in Torthorwald and Collin Halls.
December '25	Final consultation session(s) at annual Christmas lunch/dinner.

Consultation

In line with Planning requirements, we carried out a 28-day consultation in January 2026 on our Draft Place Plan. We notified the public in advance via Community noticeboards and social media. In addition to Ward Officers and Elected Members, we notified:

Lochar Ward Councillors:

Linda.Dorward@dumgal.gov.uk

Ivor.Hyslop@dumgal.gov.uk

Maureen.Johnstone2@dumgal.gov.uk

Tracey.Little@dumgal.gov.uk

Community Councils:

Loreburn: Margaret Lockerbie - icc.LoreburnCommunityCouncil@gmail.com

Kingholm Quay: Heather Carnochan - KQCCEnquiries@outlook.com

Ruthwell and Clarencefield: Susan Gilbert - j156gilbert@btinternet.com

Mouswald: Linda Goldie - linda@goldietownfoot.co.uk

Royal 4 Towns: Cathy Robinson - cathjrob.cr@gmail.com

Lochmaben and District: Carys Mainprize - secretary@lochmaben.org.uk

Heathhall: Judith Sauberlich - heathhall@live.co.uk

Tinwald: Linda Williamson - wlbailywilliamson@gmail.com

Hollywood Hall Committee and Locharbriggs Community Centre Association

Ward members and adjoining Community Councils were sent six separate inclusions:

- Local Place Plan
- Appendix 1 – Individual Household Questionnaire
- Appendix 2 – Questionnaire Results
- Appendix 3 – Individual Respondent Comments
- Appendix 4 – Collin Community Feedback (Children)
- Draft Submission Statement, which has since only been amended to incorporate the completion timelines of the 28-day process.

The 28-day consultation period concluded on 2 February 2026. Two neighbouring Community Councils responded. Both Mouswald and Lochmaben and District were extremely complimentary of our Local Place Plan, recognising both the content and effort made by our community in devising the document. We are grateful for their support.

Development Proposals

Through engagement we identified issues and ideas for improvements to our locality, narrowing these down to eight priorities for change. These have been highlighted in no particular order, as follows:

1. Digital communications
2. Play and recreation
3. Streets and infrastructure
4. Safety

5. Community resilience
6. Energy conservation
7. Developing existing facilities
8. Travel and access to transport

Impact on the Local Development Plan

Current planning objectives aim to consolidate the natural rural environment enjoyed by our local community. Our heritage coupled with a safe and tranquil setting are important aspects of living in our Community area. Landscape, environmental considerations and rural impact are essential when looking at future development.

Within the community, projects to deliver more efficient digital systems and energy conservation, will require a comprehensive review and public engagement.

Looking ahead, future-proofing our community infrastructure and resilience could be improved as well as travel options, active travel-ways and recreation.

Public transport and the condition of roads and streets were also themes to come out of the Place Plan.

An aspirational Place Plan

Within the Place Plan, we present a review and vision for our villages for the next decade. We ask the Council as the Planning Authority to take these ideas into consideration for future development of Torthorwald, and surrounding catchment areas, as part of the Local Development Plan.

The Place Plan and its Appendices lay out in more detail the issues, ideas and solutions of local people. These ideas shaped the Plan and support our desire for change that might affect the Local Development Plan. We intend to develop the ideas in more detail through further feasibility studies. This work will be done in consultation with the local authority, planning authorities and appropriate government agencies.

Conclusion

The Place Plan process has engaged significantly with the local community. The Plan identifies eight key priorities for change and outlines local people's concerns and aspirations with background detail on outstanding issues, ideas and solutions.

The Place Planning process has already been a catalyst for change. There is an appetite for change within the community, and fresh relationships and engagement have already taken place.

The Plan points to changes in planning consideration for the coming decade and looks to deliver on three key aspects:

- Realistic aspirations
- Achievable outcomes
- Projects which are meaningful to the community

Where appropriate, we aim to use the Place Plan to apply for funding to help reinvigorate and develop our local community “for the benefit of the whole community”.

Contacts

Tom Riddet, Chairperson, Torthorwald Community Council, tom@donneers.co.uk

Brian Winter, Treasurer, Torthorwald Community Council, brianbandit@gmx.co.uk