

Creetown and Kirkmabreck LOCAL PLACE PLAN 2025 - 2035



CONTENTS

1. FOREWORD

2. PLACE & COMMUNITY PLANNING for CREETOWN & KIRKMABRECK

3. CREETOWN & KIRKMABRECK NOW

4. CREETOWN & KIRKMABRECK - LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY

5. CREETOWN & KIRKMABRECK - PLACE PLANNING

6. CREETOWN & KIRKMABRECK - COMMUNITY ACTION

7. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE for CREETOWN & KIRKMABRECK



1. FOREWORD

This Local Place Plan is for Creetown & Kirkmabreck. It is submitted by Kirkmabreck Community Council on behalf of the community.

Developed in association with Creetown Initiative and through consultation with voluntary groups, organisations, businesses and local residents within the community, it has received funding and support from Dumfries and Galloway Council and from Foundation Scotland.

It is not a dictate. It is designed to be a guide and a map. As a forward-looking muster, it is intended to facilitate positive action and be an aid in effecting improvements here. As a guide it gives insight into the current breadth of local opinion and attitude on what is valued about life here. Where initiative is called for, it can, as a map, contribute to walking that change.

The intention is for it to provide guidance for years to come. It is an affirmation of structures and principles. Accompanying initiatives and projects, it can back action in support of them and be part of the effort to raise funds to achieve them and - as new issues and circumstances arise - it can be added to, and amended, if need be.

Creetown Initiative

Kirkmabreck Community Council



**Foundation
Scotland**



2. PLACE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING FOR CREETOWN & KIRKMABRECK

Over the years there has been change, inevitably, in Creetown & Kirkmabreck. Whether through national currents, experienced locally, or through developments distinct to the area, events have happened which have been cause for appreciation and celebration, while other changes have been a long drain on the way of life here.

This Plan started as a Community Action Plan, undertaken in response to the experience of this change and to a locally expressed need to address it. Such a plan is expected to sound out local attitudes to the quality of life in the parish and town; gather opinion on how well people feel this is being maintained; look for ways of supporting and enhancing appreciated resources; address possible initiatives to enrich community life; and build understanding on how the community may best encourage these initiatives.

In this, questions can arise around the management of buildings and land, with an accompanying requirement for understanding in planning procedures. It became clear that, for this Plan to be fully useful - locally and regionally - it should also be a Local Place Plan.

Local Place Planning is recent. It stems from the field of governmental planning and it needs explanation. The 2019 Planning (Scotland) Act encourages 'local say' in an envisaged chain that informs upwards into a national planning strategy. That overall strategy is represented in the National Planning Framework (currently NPF4). This sets out Scottish Ministers' policies for nation-wide development and use of land. This NPF, however, is based on previous 'regional spatial strategies' (RSSs) which may have been produced to aid long-term local development, as well as on present Local Development Plans. Dumfries & Galloway is currently preparing its LDP3. In its turn, while sustaining a national view through regard for the National Planning Framework, a LDP is

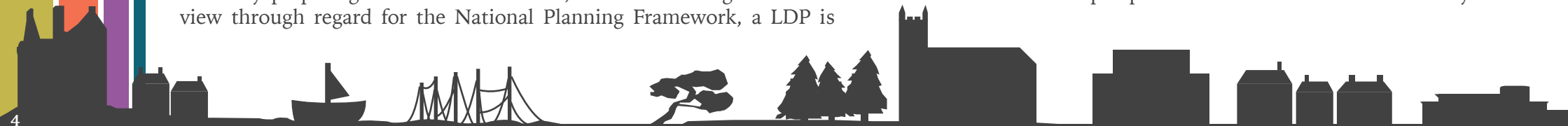
expected to maintain a local outlook by taking into account existing planned developments in its region, and through registered, community-produced improvement plans - Local Place Plans. Since 2022 Dumfries & Galloway Council has been encouraging Local Place Planning to communities in its region.

With steps outlined by the Council, LPPs must be community-led and inspired, be versed in other locally-relevant, past or current plans, contain maps to a required standard, be based on consultation.

The intention for a Local Place Plan is for it to set out local issues and conditions and to outline potential development and use of land and buildings in its area. While not having a quoted role in the national strategy, it will have direct input - along with other such plans - in forming the regional perspective. Its drift is governmental, but the opportunity is there for its community to be respected in a wider, more influential frame of reference.

The intention for a Community Action Plan is to outline and improve local enterprise and organisation in its area - to look to how its people can best sustain community well-being and action in the present climate. Its drift is local, though local government should be aware of and respect this undertaking. There is a spectrum of concerns in the community in Creetown & Kirkmabreck which are not all, by quite some way, best addressed through the prism of planning...but some concerns definitely are best addressed in that way.

Moreover, if community action is well aligned, local structures for furthering potential development are enhanced and enabled. This Plan therefore maintains two perspectives - of Place and of Community.

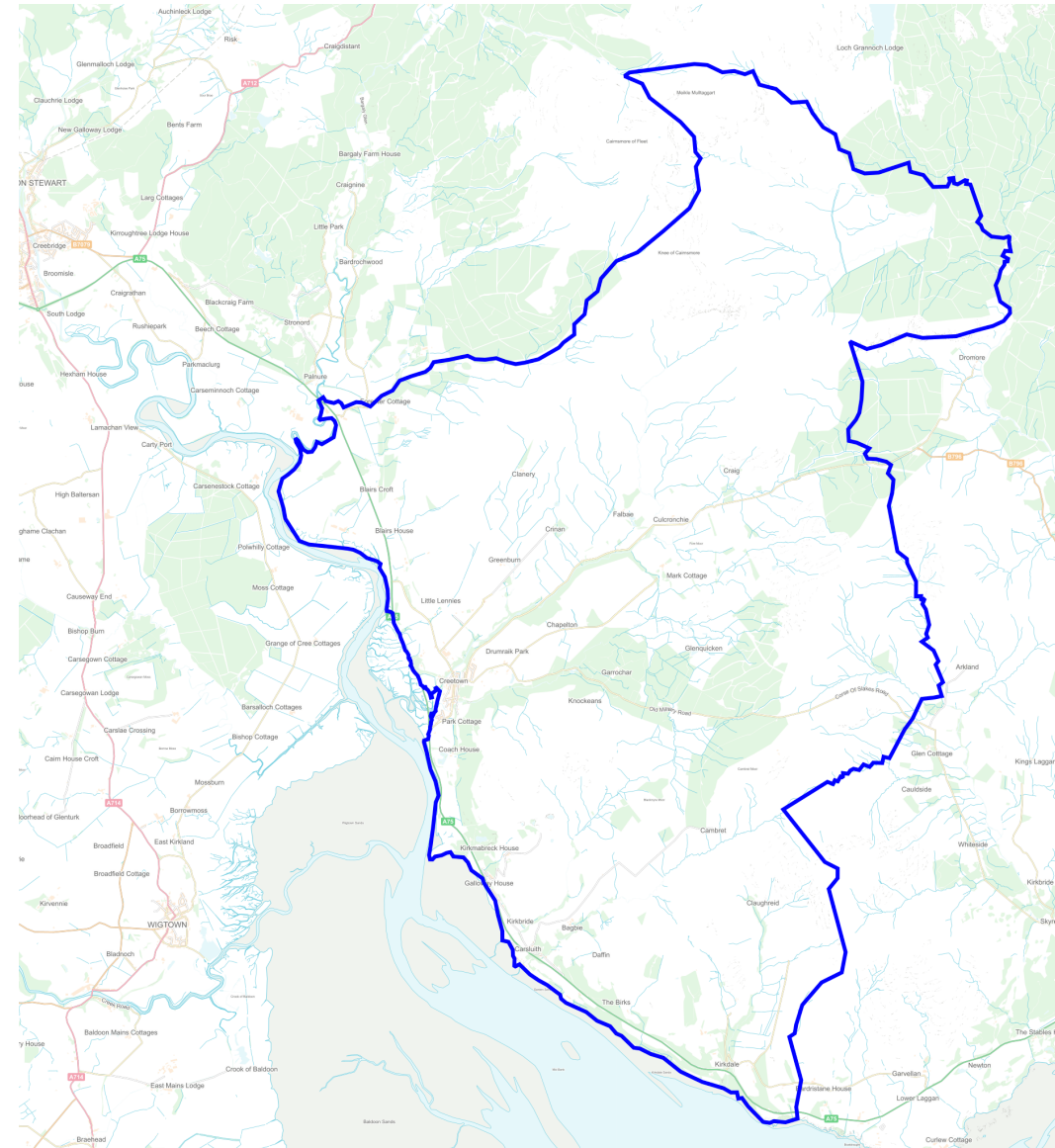


3. CREETOWN & KIRKMABRECK NOW

On the eastern shore of the Cree estuary, at the head of Wigtown Bay, Kirkmabreck Parish stretches 10 miles from Palnure, close to Newton Stewart, to just short of Auchenlarie, near Gatehouse of Fleet. The area is beautiful and varied. Rising from sea level, differing environments of tidal flat, salt marsh, pastoral farmland, deciduous woodland, commercial forestry and open moorland are arrayed through 25,000 acres around two uplands - Cairnharrow (457 metres / 1499 feet) and Cairnsmore of Fleet (610 metres / 2000 feet). Kirkmabreck's northern boundary includes a large portion of the National Nature Reserve of Cairnsmore, one of the three core areas of the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere.

The A75, the route carrying ferry traffic from Northern Ireland to and from Southern Scotland and Northern England, as well as local traffic driving round South West Scotland, runs on a narrow coastal strip following the shore. With a total population of about 1,000 (2011 census), three quarters of the people living in Kirkmabreck are gathered in the two communities of Carsluith and Creetown, both of which cluster close to the A75. The population of Carsluith, probably not counted since the 1960's, is likely to be around 90. Creetown, with an estimated population of 660, is larger and, historically and functionally, is a centre for the parish and the wider area.

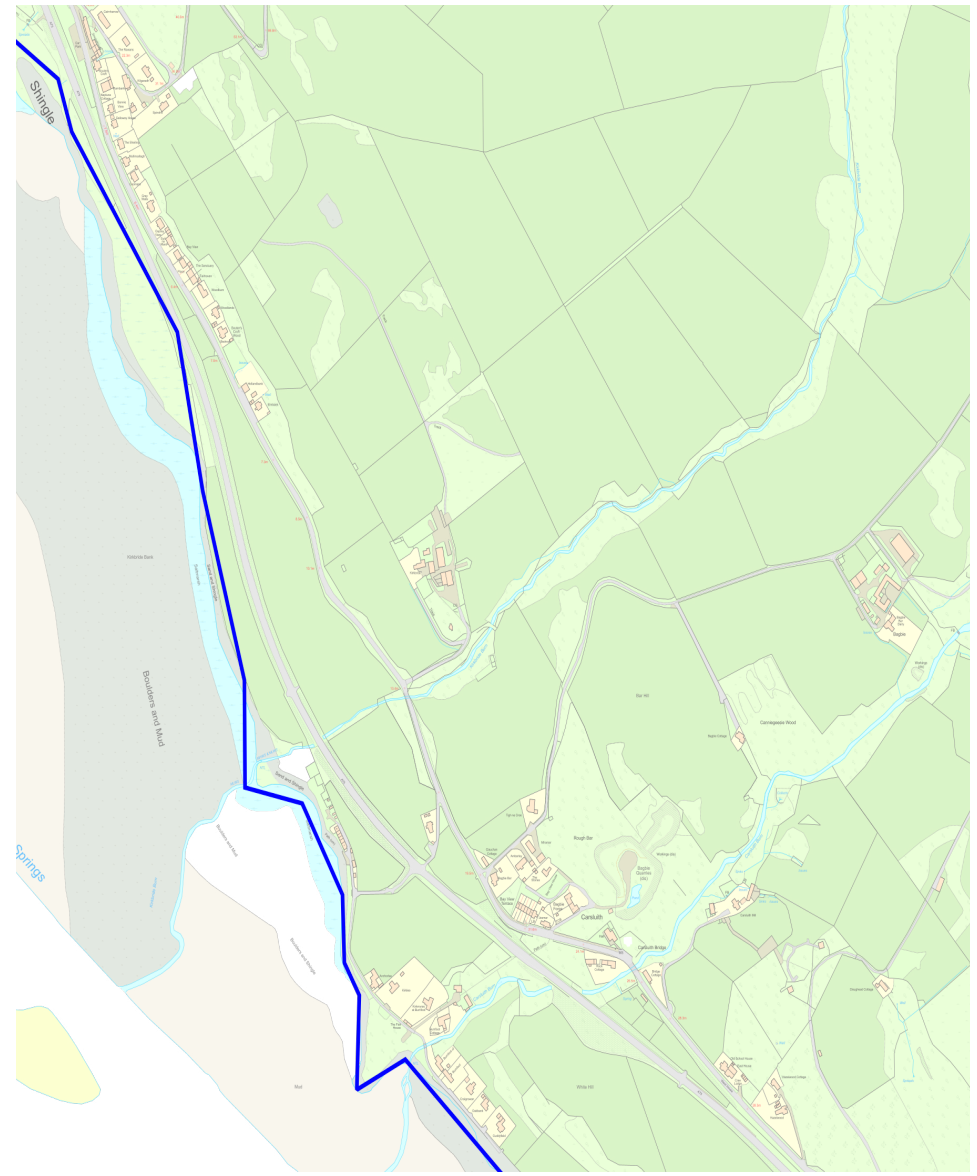
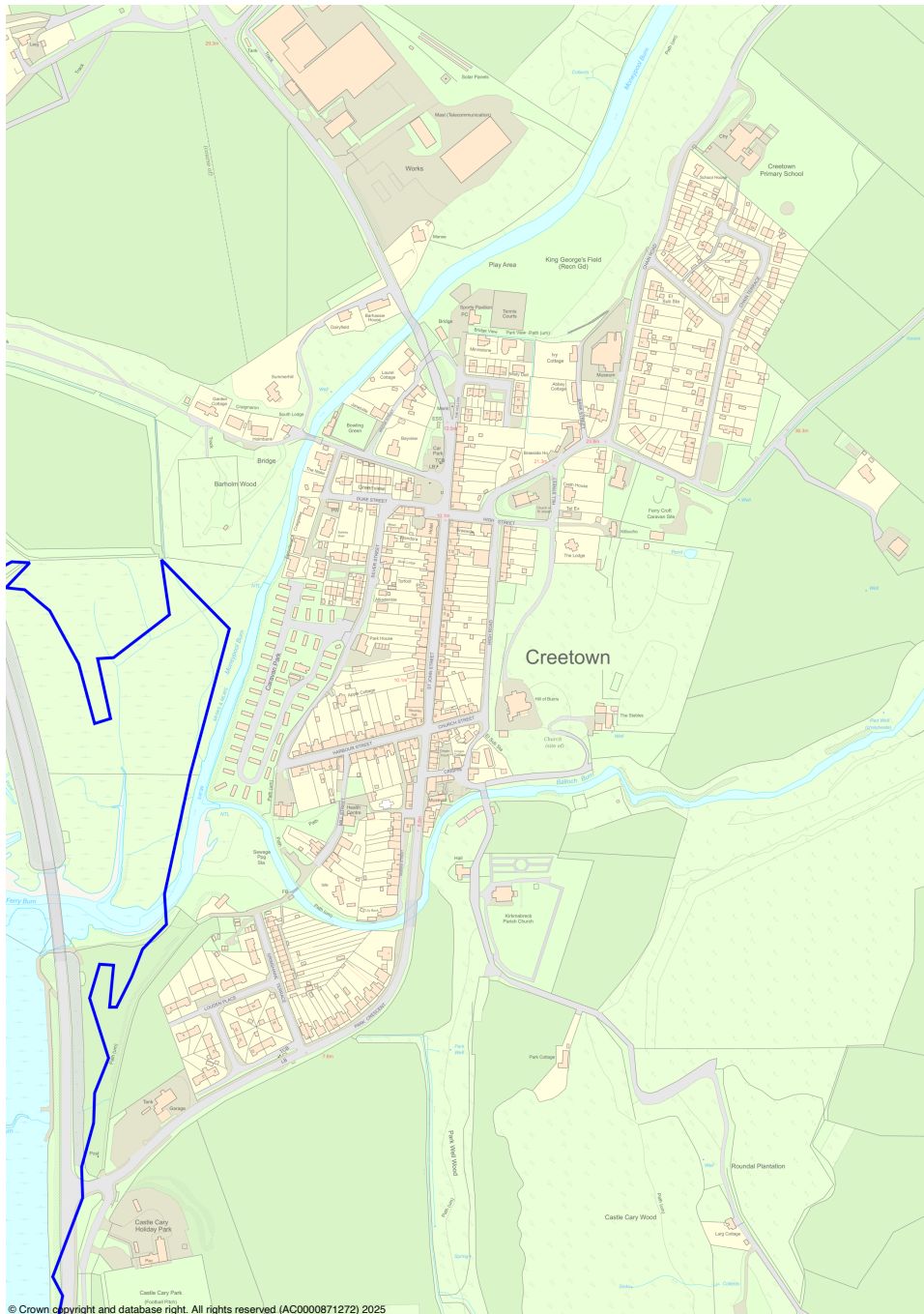
Creetown grew over 300 years from a foundation in local industries, including agricultural production and fishing, to copper and lead mining, major granite quarrying, and, well into the 1st 20th century, precast concrete production. Its flourishing included the servicing of those industries and support of workers and families working in them. Slow change happened from the mid-20th century onwards. Not obvious to a present visitor to Creetown, with the A75 bypass carrying traffic briskly past between the town and the sea, is that it was a significant harbour allowing access for commercial shipping directly to and from the town. Standing on St John Street in the 1920's, one could have counted around 35 shops.



¹A detailed history is given in a recent book: *Creetown's Industrial Era and Significant Persons* by Michael MacLeod (2024). See also: *The Story of Ferrytown of Cree and Kirkmabreck Parish* by John R. Cutland (Creetown Heritage Museum, 2007).

²*Creetown Shops and Small Businesses of the Past Century* (Creetown Heritage Museum, 2016).





Dumfries & Galloway uses the national system of datazone profiling to collate social statistics in the region. The system presents statistics for areas (datazones) within the region in sufficient detail to be accurate without

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identifying individuals, while the areas in question are small enough to be representative in nature. From this system arises the Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). The datazone that includes Kirkmabreck (S01007520) is larger than the parish – it includes parts of Newton Stewart and a larger rural hinterland. Its averaging for income, employment, education, housing and crime rate in ‘greater Kirkmabreck’ are all in the middle range – in national terms not particularly ‘deprived’. The exception is ‘geographic access’, which is at 1 – very low indeed. This leads to a theme that people mention about living in Creetown & Kirkmabreck which includes, tangibly, a criticism of poor public transport, but also stretches to a sense of a thinning out, even isolation, in community life.

A range of factors contribute to this:

- the combining effects of long-term austerity and centralisation,
- slimmer local employment opportunities,
- isolated and pressurised agricultural working,
- diminishment of community services,
- diminishment of local facilities – school numbers, shops, pubs,
- increased shopping away, or on-line,
- ageing population,
- and, recently and drastically, the Covid 19 pandemic.

Creetown’s reverse from being an industrial town has been in process since at least the 1980’s. The bypass of the town opened in 1987. That year the then Creetown Business Association commissioned Drew Mackie Associates to produce **A Future For Creetown**.³ The context for this publication in 1988 is clear in its introduction. Where once the town had been a major, as it says, ‘watering place’ on the A75, the report comments that while ‘the longer term effects of the by-pass have not yet been fully felt’,...there are already ‘some signs of shop closures and lack of basic provisioning’. Two ambitious proposals - of the environmental and recreational development of low lying land between bypass and town and of the quarrying and crusher sites to the east of the town - did not materialise.

Thirty seven years on, many of the Plan’s descriptions and apprehensions still seem relevant. To describe any change as ‘decline’ is not really accurate, whereas ‘thinning out’ is. For instance, the old Solway Precast buildings in Creetown

were repurposed and have been expanded successfully by Whiskybroker Ltd, which is now the biggest employer in Kirkmabreck. Other employment is to be had, but it is smaller scale, or involves traveling to reach it. Rowan Glen Dairy operates from Palnure, at the northern edge of the Parish. Now on the main street in Creetown, there is only one shop, a closely-stocked and supportive village store. To the south of the town, is Castle Cary Holiday Park, which includes the Lairds Inn Restaurant and Bar. Across the road is a petrol station, well-placed close to the A75. Nearby, marketed as a tourist park, is the Creetown Caravan Park. Away from Creetown, in the Carsluith area to the east, are two enterprises bordering the A75 convenient for passing traffic - a smokehouse and café, and a delicatessen and café .

Indicating healthy community use, Creetown Primary School has 71 pupils. There are other buildings more generally open to the public, in various capacities. Most longstanding and visited is the Gem Rock Museum. Founded in 1981, it houses - appropriate for a town whose fortunes were based in quarrying stone - one of the largest private collections of gems, crystals, minerals and fossils in the UK. Up the hill from the main street, its café is currently the only hospitality centre in the town. Opened in 1996, the volunteer-run Creetown Heritage Museum introduces the area’s history. In the last 15 years, the town’s Waverly Hall, the Barholm Enterprise Centre and Bunkhouse, and the Quarrymen’s Arts Centre have been restored and repurposed through Creetown Initiative, with enterprising offshoot projects.

The Creetown Land Management Plan of 2021 from Mind the Gap Research and Training⁴ engaged with local users of the Balloch Wood above the town, in a first step towards resuscitating a formerly appreciated community woodland and environmental project. From this, a more focused consultation was conducted, followed by the formation of a steering group. In 2026 OSCR accepted an application to form a SCIO. In its isolated location, with most enterprising action in Creetown being delivered by volunteers, the capacity - the reservoir of goodwill and available time for commitment and action - for supportive community management, particularly post-Covid, remains challenging.

³ *A Future for Creetown* (Drew Mackie Associates, Edinburgh, February 1988)

⁴ *Creetown Land Management Plan 2021* (Scott Jones, Mind the gap Research and Training, 16 May 2021) www.mind-the-gap.net



4. CREETOWN & KIRKMABRECK - LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY

Process

With a lead-in of revisiting:

- earlier consultation⁵(with community input),
- recent consultation⁶(with community input),
- experience with recent development projects⁷ (with community input),

a process of:

- one-to-one conversations and focus-group sessions - with Businesses, Voluntary Groups and Organisations in Creetown - were initiated to help establish the content for a **Community Questionnaire** and a **Young People's Questionnaire**.

The production and distribution of the Questionnaires, with drop-in sessions, and the collating of the returns, was a core part of this project.

Following-on from these Questionnaires were further steps prompted by issues raised in them and involving conversations with individuals and groups relating to:

- the operation of projects mentioned in the consultation,
- environmental initiatives in Dumfries & Galloway,
- the consultation process to establish a new community group to manage the Balloch Wood.

These follow-on steps continued into the summer of 2025. Insight from these has been integrated in the Place Planning and Community Action Sections of this Plan.

The Community Questionnaire

In mid-November 2023, 599 Questionnaires were hand-delivered by Creetown Initiative's Staff and Board to every household in Creetown & Kirkmabreck. It was also available for online completion. Two weeks were given to return the paper surveys to two local drop-off points - the Creetown Initiative Office and the Gem Rock Museum in Creetown. Two drop-in sessions were held, in Carsluith Village Hall and in the Waverley Hall, Creetown.

127 surveys were returned - 97 paper and 30 online.

The return of 127 surveys gives a rate of 22.7 %. This is a reasonable and useful rate for this kind of exercise. It emphasises, however, that it should not be seen as a vote, rather as a picture of the spectrum of opinions and attitudes in the area. 77.3 % of recipients did not return a survey. Respondents were asked to give time to fill it in. The figure shows the significant number of people who may not have had the time, nor inclination to complete the questionnaire. It is not possible to analyse non-responses, but there is at present a current of struggle and disappointment flowing within the community.

⁵. *A Future for Creetown* by Drew Mackie Associates (1988)

⁶. *Creetown Land Management Plan* by Mind the Gap (2021)

⁷. Particularly the restorations of the Waverley Hall, the Barholm Enterprise Centre and the Quarrymen's Arts Centre and the earlier Balloch Wood project, as well as other projects.

The Young People's Questionnaire

In parallel with the Community Questionnaire, the Young People's Questionnaire was distributed and returned through the School and the local Youth Group. With this, there were 70 returns. Because the young people involved will all have come from households that received a Community Questionnaire, and their questions and answers were somewhat different, this figure has not been integrated into the percentage for the Community Questionnaire. Answers are illuminating and helpful and are also presented in the Creetown & Kirkmabreck Local Place Plan Questionnaires Returns Document. This is available on request from Creetown Initiative.

Summarising the Replies to the Questionnaire

Using the sequence from the Community Questionnaire, the following gives a reasonable summary of current attitudes in Creetown & Kirkmabreck:

1. The most positive things about living in Creetown are:

The Community Spirit / The Local Environment / Groups, Clubs, Youth Activities and Play Park / Health Care / Facilities, particularly Creetown Stores / The Gem Rock Museum, Creetown Heritage Museum, The Waverley Hall and The Quarrymen's Arts Centre.

2. The biggest challenges about living in Creetown are:

The state of Public Transport / The state of the Ellangowan Hotel / Lack of: Facilities, Well-Paid Jobs, Shops / A sense of 'No Heart' / Danger of Flooding in some parts.

3. 67 people responded positively to whether they **felt valued in the Community** 22 people responded negatively to this question. 6 were unsure.

4. 26 people living in **outlying farms and settlements responded positively to whether they felt well connected and included as part of the Creetown community.** 17 people responded negatively to this question.

5. To **support the way of life in Creetown**, generally speaking: with **Facilities and Businesses in Creetown** people want (in various degrees): the multi-use games area (MUGA) repaired and maintained / a pub and restaurant in the village again / a coffee shop on the main street / more arts activities and performances at the Quarrymen's Arts Centre / lower commercial rates for rural businesses / the public toilets opened and refurbished...

with **Community Life** people do **not** feel the public transport serving Creetown is adequate / nor that there are enough jobs, locally.

They **do** (generally speaking) want to see: the main street (St John Street) brought back to life / more affordable housing in Creetown / more clubs, events and activities for all the community / community notice boards refurbished / a (paper) directory of local information and community groups / a village website to keep people informed of what's going on....

with **Environment / Outdoor Pursuits** there is **mostly support** (with some ambivalence) for the stake nets to be refurbished and preserved. People **do** want to see: the cycle path extend from Carsluith road-end to Auchenlarie (and beyond) / more safe cycle paths in the Parish / Community-growing (food) initiatives developed / littering and dog poo to be tackled...

with **Tourism / Heritage** people want in varying degrees for tourists to be encouraged to spend time and stay here / local history to be promoted more, especially to visitors / more to be made of the various sculptures in and around the village (sculpture trail). There is ordinary (not strong) agreement (with some disagreement) that the village is clean, tidy and welcoming.

6. Among **existing services in Creetown** these are particularly valued and people would like to see them supported:

Shop / School / Garage - Petrol station / Gem Rock Museum and Café / Butchers / Quarrymen's Arts Centre / Park - Play Park / Heritage Museum / Doctor's Surgery / Youth Work - Club / Creetown Initiative / Carsluith Village Hall / Football Club / Bowling Club / Silver Band / Church / Waverley Hall / The Lairds Inn / Village Galas / Community Council / Ferry Friends / Country Music Weekend / Public Toilets.





7. Among **facilities requiring improvement**, both physically in terms of the building, and also in terms of service provision, the following were particularly mentioned:

“Ellangowan Hotel! Total eyesore, including back garden left to go derelict - it was the centre of the community”....”something needs to be done before it falls down”. (The state of the Ellangowan was repeatedly commented on, with real exasperation). / Post Office-Library-Banking Vans need much better publicising to the village. / “The Quarrymen’s Arts Centre really needs support to develop a programme that attracts audiences to make it sustainable...a paid resource, even part time, so it can be a real asset to the area”. / “The MUGA needs updating along with the pavilion.” / “Public toilets - people travel to come to our park and our kids are there for hours so toilets need to be available.” “The Waverley Hall looks very shabby”...“plain, cold, hard, floors, hard seats - nothing eye-catching in décor.” / “Adamson Square needs benches, flowers, sprucing up”...“it seems to serve no purpose. Does anything ever happen there?” / “Youth Services - it would be good to see activities, trips or workshops aimed at families...Future Life Skills are important for young people, perhaps workshops on interview skills, cv writing, basic DIY etc.” / “The Heritage Museum needs investment to update and modernise and make it more attractive and accessible” . / “Parking : don’t have a solution for this but it needs addressing if we want to bring in more visitors. The fortunately rare occasion when the A75 is closed shows how difficult it is to use the village as a through route”.

8. Are there **other facilities or services** that people want to see in Creetown or Carsluith?

Comments either reiterate what was said in sections 5,6 and 7, or give suggestions for events and services that might happen through existing facilities. The full range of comments can be read in the **Questionnaire Returns Document**. No new services and facilities, in terms of buildings or organisations, are suggested.

9. People widely lament **the lack of life on the main street**, particularly as compared to former times. How can the main street and village centre be revitalised?

Five groups of comments reply to this question, with a wide range of suggestions (summarised here) within each:

Bring the street back to being a shopping street – “With the introduction of local businesses e.g. café, pub, green grocers, bakery, chemists, hardware, dentist” / “Give people a reason to be on the main street.” / “I think we do miss Marino’s Sweet/ice cream shop/café where we could get a game of pool through the back.”

Bring more life into Adamson Square - “Need to do more with Adamson Square. Large area underutilised.” / “Restore the market but with different focus and most of it under cover. More activities in the square. Café.” / “Music on weekends in the Square” / “...put back the stage at the square, so it can be used.” / ...”a functioning pub (Ellangowan) by the Square would help a lot”.

Cars and Parking are seen as the main problem - “The main street is congested with parked cars. I do not think anything can make it better.” / “I don’t know about former times - the high street is a car park and vehicle throughfare - there is no space for ‘life’. A car park at either end (outside) of the village and ban parking on the high street.”

Scepticism at the need to revitalise the main street - “It was once a shopping street. It will never return to this.” / “Times have changed - no village has the variety of shops/businesses. Developing the Heritage Museum may be an option.” / “Hard to do as all private housing now.”...”it’s difficult to see how the main street itself can change much.”

Feeling that the main street is fine as it is - “The main street is residential. It does not require “revitalising”. The village shop is adequate.” / “Nothing. People like peace.”

10. How are vulnerable people in the village supported? How could this be improved?

A lot of respondents say they are unsure about this subject.

Others mention Ferry Friends (a community project in Creetown aimed at the elderly), but others point out that the vulnerable will not be just elderly – “Nothing for disabled. All efforts directed to support for elderly.” / “During

pandemic we always had a knock on the door to see if we needed anything and were we ok. We still get asked if we need anything.” / but also, “There seems to be very little formal support - people mainly rely on friends and neighbours.”

“This needs extra attention - community transport. More social activity clubs.” / “The local shop, Ferry Friends, the youth activities and events at Waverley Hall help awareness. There is now the Friday café at the Bowling Green. There could be a ‘befriending’ drive also.” “Ferry Friends need to be able to transport members themselves to help with hospital appointments and trips etc. Riverside day centre provide meals.”

Other proposals are: “Community message board or phone friend programme for elderly (like in Wigtown)” / “Ferry Friends for older folk. Mother and Toddler group. Food Train. Improvements = more wellbeing classes, e.g. yoga etc, better publicity of their programmes, Community Fridge for lower income groups.” / “Sheltered housing complex.”

11. What three projects do people feel should be prioritised? Summarising these into main subject areas:

Of the projects to be prioritised, the **state of the Ellangowan Hotel** is by far the most mentioned. It is also seen as an issue that impacts on **resuscitating the main street** (which is mentioned frequently) and an influence on whether there should be a **new pub and/or a restaurant** in Creetown. The nearby **Clock Tower’s repair** (ownership is problematic) is called for.

In resuscitating the main street, there is a call for **more shops**, as well as a call for them to be **Community Shops. A Café**, especially a **Community Café**, is suggested. Also suggested is for the **Post Office** to return. People saw **Parking** as a priority. **Road Surfaces** (responsibility rests with the Roads Department) are criticised. **Traffic calming** is called for.

The improvement of **the MUGA** is mentioned frequently, including it being adapted for tennis , as well as the development of a **play park for kids**. The repair and reopening of the **Public Toilets** is often mentioned.



The need for **housing - new, affordable, sheltered**, as well as **rented accommodation** is emphasised.

Improvements in **public transport** are called for as well as the provision of **community transport**.

Frequently mentioned is the **Sculpture Trail** – a potential project that was proposed, worked up and well advanced in 2019 when it had to be cancelled. This not only links to Creetown's history in the quarrying of granite, the use of that granite in sculpture, the Gem Rock Museum being housed here, but also the potential for the area for environmental development. This includes the creation of other walks and trails on the one hand and **community growing land projects, allotments** and the **Greening up** of the town. **Hydro electricity for the area** is suggested. **Cycle track along A75 connecting Creetown to other towns** including from Carsluith to Gatehouse are suggested. Support for the **Quarrymen's Arts Centre** as a new venue with much potential is called for, with the Quarrymen's marketing improved.

The **Waverley Hall** is the main Hall for Creetown. People want to see it spruced up. Some people are maybe wondering if it could be expanded into a **community hub or hall for all clubs** (citing Whithorn's new hall as an example). The improvement of **Carsluith Village Hall** is also called for.

Youth groups and projects for children / teenagers are supported, as is **Ferry Friends** and **care of the vulnerable / older people** and **support for the disabled**.

Community communication, in the form of community website notice boards, local news channels, communication of local meetings to form better community spirit and coordination and integration between community groups. A **Community Fund** set up and its administration is suggested.

Other priorities are seen as: the **Heritage Museum / a Community Fridge / the current condition of the School / the Football pitch / the Church / Convert the old telephone box to a book exchange** and move it to a central place.



5. CREETOWN & KIRKMABRECK - PLACE PLANNING

We need to make the village a destination rather than a place to pass through or pass by on the A75. Using and improving existing assets, heritage/sculpture trail, walking trails, provision of and signage to parking, improving the play park and pitches. Provision of visible services local people will use but that can also serve holidaymakers and visitors such as a cafe and arts with clear signposting especially for parking.

~ A comment from a respondent to the Questionnaire

An expectation in Local Place Planning is that short, medium and long term aims are suggested in a structure of projects that can then be aimed for and undertaken into the future. A broad shape for development like this has actually been followed for some years in Creetown & Kirkmabreck.

Wherever and whenever opportunities have arisen, successful results have been achieved - and, sometimes, disappointments experienced. Success has come through a confluence of capacity to organise; alertness in the recognition of an opportunity for a project; taking it on, managing it, finding funding, delivering it; seeing it through teething problems; and continuing to manage it into full operation. The restorations of the Waverley Hall, the Barholm Enterprise Centre and Bunkhouse, the Quarrymen's Arts Centre and the earlier Balloch Wood project - as well as other projects - have all happened this way and are part of the direction of travel for Creetown & Kirkmabreck *now*.

Disappointments have come with stumbling blocks. It very recently came into new ownership, but the previous slow, relentless and serious decay of the Ellangowan Hotel, over years, confounded practical efforts to find a solution -

and affected community morale. Recently in new ownership, it is not clear how much its restoration will respond to local hopes. The calls for developments on St John Street (the main street) are unlikely to be answered unless private ownership, then financial backing, somehow fall into step with the hopes which are aimed at the street. This is unlikely to be straightforward. The earlier incarnation of the Balloch Wood project foundered through lack of capacity - the continuing community ability to manage it. That it has revived after several years is due to sensitivity to conditions in the community, consultation and perseverance.

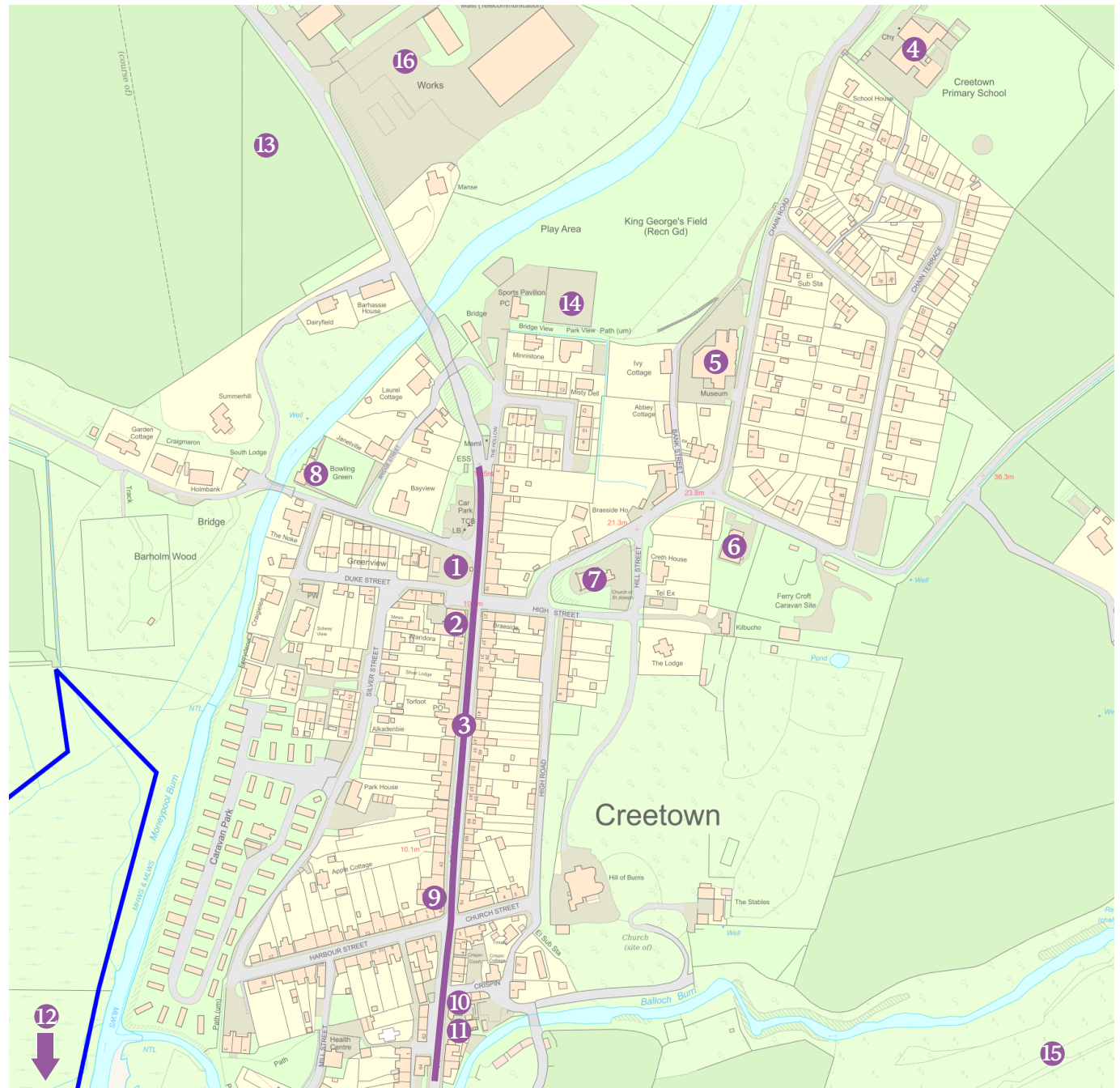
The National Planning Framework proceeds from general **Priorities** - to deliver **Sustainable, Liveable and Productive** Places. Outlining specifics, it then aims, for the Qualities that such places should have. They should be **Healthy, Pleasant, Connected, Distinctive, Sustainable and Adaptable**.

With responses to the Community Questionnaire to hand, and with those priorities and qualities in mind, **Subjects for Planning** emerge.



Subjects for Planning Map Key

- ① Adamson Square
- ② The Ellangowan Hotel
- ③ St John Street
- ④ Creetown Primary School
- ⑤ Gem Rock Museum
- ⑥ Youth Club Hall
- ⑦ Quarrymen's Arts Centre
- ⑧ Creetown Bowling Club
- ⑨ Waverley Hall
- ⑩ Barholm Enterprise Centre
- ⑪ Creetown Heritage Museum
- ⑫ Carsluith Village Hall
- ⑬ Housing
- ⑭ The Pavilion and MUGA
- ⑮ Balloch Wood
- ⑯ Ronald Rae Sculptures



Subjects for Planning

These Subjects establish locations for *focus* - or themes to be encouraged - in Creetown & Kirkmabreck. Under each there may be a single project, or several. There may be existing functions to be sustained, potential to be achieved that is clearly visible, or aims in an aspiration which will have hurdles to cross. However diverse the aims within them, these Subjects encourage attention on particular locations and provide structure for place planning in Creetown & Kirkmabreck. It is suggested that the **Subjects for Planning** should be:



Adamson Square and the Ellangowan



St John Street:
Creetown's Main Street



Buildings Serving the Community



Housing



Amenities



The Environment



Stone & Elements:
Heritage & Culture



Aspiration & Investment

Adamson Square and the Ellangowan

Adamson Square is of great importance to the community. It provides a focal point for events and generates a sense of community and pride in Creetown. In 2005 internationally renowned artist, Hideo Furuta - who sculpted with Creetown granite and was a respected resident of the village - was commissioned to work with Solway Heritage's landscape architect to remodel the square. This was a substantial undertaking, but follow-through work in the light of how the square 'bedded in' as a congenial community space has largely been missing. The square is also closely adjacent to the **Clock Tower** and the **Ellangowan Hotel**. These are at the top end of St John's Street (the main street). Both are also significant presences in the Square's layout and a focus of attention in themselves.

Overlap with Other Themes: Creetown's Main Street; the Environment; Stone & Elements: Heritage & Culture;

Comments in the Questionnaire show a need for more usability and more heart in the Square and give ideas and qualities for how this might happen: "Need to do more with Adamson Square. Large area underutilised." / "Restore the market but with different focus and most of it under cover. More activities in the square. Café." / "Music on weekends in the Square" / "...put back the stage at the square, so it can be used." / "...a functioning pub (Ellangowan) by the Square would help a lot". Comments in the Young People's Questionnaire similarly show an appreciation for the Square and call for its improvement.

There is a potential project in the improvement and enrichment of Adamson Square. A larger undertaking than it might at first seem, it will involve research into ownerships, some redesign with possibly more sculpture and greenery, and an eye for opportunities to encourage human congregation. Done well it could have a major impact on the character of the middle of Creetown.

Who undertakes this project? It will involve input and collaboration from Creetown's community bodies, major fundraising and consistent project management.



Timeline: Apart from building restoration work on the Ellangowan Hotel - reportedly aiming at accommodation and some hospitality provision - the project is not in process. The timeline is medium to long-term.

St John Street: Creetown's Main Street

St John Street stretches most of the way, north/south, through Creetown. Nearly all of the 35 shops in Creetown a few decades ago will have been on it. The 2 shops that are there now are at the bottom end. The main street can feel empty, long and lonely at any time of the year (especially on a cold February day). In contrast it can clog up with traffic, strangely without seeming to be busy with people. The desire to see more community, more business on it, is completely understandable. The street was designed as Creetown's thoroughfare. Dissent towards the need for more life on the street, however, is also expressed.

Overlap with Other Themes: Adamson Square and the Ellangowan; Buildings Serving the Community; Housing.

Comments in the Questionnaire show a wide range of opinion:

Bring the street back to being a shopping street - "With the introduction of local businesses e.g. café, pub, green grocers, bakery, chemists, hardware, dentist" / "Give people a reason to be on the main street." / "I think we do miss Marino's Sweet/ice cream shop/café where we could get a game of pool through the back."

Cars and Parking are seen as the main problem - "The main street is congested with parked cars. I do not think anything can make it better." / "I don't know about former times - the high street is a car park and vehicle throughfare - there is no space for 'life'. A car park at either end (outside) of the village and ban parking on the high street."

Scepticism at the need to revitalise the main street - "It was once a shopping street. It will never return to this." / "Times have changed - no village has the variety of shops/businesses. Developing the Heritage Museum may be an option." / "Hard to do as all private housing now."..."it's difficult to see how the main street itself can change much."

Feeling that the main street is fine as it is - "The main street is residential. It does not require "revitalising". The village shop is adequate." / "Nothing. People like peace."

With these responses in mind, actually formulating a satisfactory plan for the revitalisation of St John Street will be hard. Nearly all buildings on it are not just privately owned, they are also residential. Exceptions are the two shops, the Heritage Museum, the Barholm Enterprise Centre and Bunkhouse, the Waverley Hall all of which are at the south end of the street. Some people have made the claim that there is an amount of empty space upstairs in some of the buildings on St John Street which could be turned into flats to provide more accommodation. This is an interesting idea but there is a dearth of evidence for it.

A potential project for the resuscitation of St John Street shows little sign of emerging fully. Nor, however, is it an issue that is likely to go away. What might be a revitalising step is to bring more life to the Adamson Square. With the south end of St John Street also sustained, these would thereby be busier 'poles' to what could remain a residential street in between.

Who undertakes this project? Any turnaround within the street is most likely to be one step at a time, and through an individual deciding to take the plunge to convert a house back into a shop, or a pub, or a café, or a restaurant. Then conceivably another one, and so on. (There is sometimes a suggestion for a 'community shop'). Required will be the availability of the right property, business planning, assessment of need and ensuring there is no conflict with existing shops.

Timeline: The project is not in process. Long-term.

Buildings Serving the Community

These are buildings which have been developed, are currently being used, have a community function and are open - in various ways - to the community and its visitors. Their distinct, various and continuing uses



are at the heart of community life, hosting most of its initiatives and activities:

Creetown Primary School (<https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/schools-learning/schools/primary-schools/find-primary-school/creetown-primary-school>) is at the northern edge of the town and is listed as having 71 pupils. Its buildings are in need of significant redevelopment, and have been rated as condition D. Dumfries and Galloway Council is currently reviewing options for a long-term solution, which may include refurbishment or other options, to “future-proof” the school. Due to its high enrolment and catchment, the school is considered sustainable, and less at risk of closure compared to other rural schools.

Founded in 1981, **The Gem Rock Museum and Café** (<https://www.gemrock.net/>) houses - appropriate for a town whose fortunes were based in quarrying stone - one of the largest private collections of gems, crystals, minerals and fossils in the UK. Up the hill from the main street, its spacious café is currently the only one in the middle of the town.

Creetown Youth Club Hall (<https://www.facebook.com/p/Creetown-youth-club-hall-61579362561824/>) About sixty years old, the building went through a major, volunteer-led refurbishment in 2020-1.

The Quarrymen’s Arts Centre (<https://www.quarrymensartscentre.co.uk/>) A historic, community owned building used as a practice space for the Creetown Silver Band, it recently underwent refurbishment to transform it, as well, into contemporary performing arts venue, with a 80-seat raked retractable seating system in the main auditorium and attendant facilities to enable wider hire.

The Pavilion, KGV Park (<https://www.facebook.com/creetowncommunitycouncil>) Opened in 2013 after regeneration initiatives in the Park, the Pavilion was gradually less used. Recently it has become the base for the enterprising Creetown Alliance for Food (CAFF).

Creetown Bowling Club (<https://www.facebook.com/p/Creetown-Bowling-Club-100079125746226/>) has a fine green which serves its members well. Used for meetings and functions the clubhouse sometimes fulfils a wider community function in the town.

The Waverley Hall (<https://creetowninitiative.co.uk/waverleyhall/>) Formerly the town hall for Creetown, closed by Dumfries & Galloway Council in 2013, and acquired by Creetown Initiative who secured funding for refurbishment and reopened it in 2016. It is available for hire to community groups, businesses, organisations and private hire and has a badminton sized court, a stage, toilets, disabled toilets, chairs and tables, kitchen and full access throughout.

The Barholm Enterprise Centre and Bunkhouse (<https://creetowninitiative.co.uk/> and <https://barholm-centre.co.uk/>) Formerly the Barholm Arms, Creetown Initiative acquired the building and secured funding for its refurbishment as an enterprise centre and bunkhouse. Currently the building services the successful bunkhouse operation, houses Creetown Initiative’s own office and provides meeting and desk space for small businesses.

Founded in 1996 the volunteer-run **Creetown Heritage Museum** (<http://creetown-heritage-museum.com/>) covers 150 years of Creetown history with several hundred photographs and artefacts on permanent display, along with audio visual presentations, and activities for children.





Carlsruith Village Hall (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/206422428090086/about>) is a 19th century school building on the old road up the hill and parallel to the A75 and is a valued meeting space for the village.

Overlap with Other Themes: Creetown's Main Street; Stone & Elements: Heritage & Culture; The Environment.

Comments in the Questionnaire are various and supportive for nearly all of these buildings. **The Waverley Hall**, the Community Hall for Creetown, is sometimes criticised as beginning to be shabby. People want to see its condition and utility maintained. Some wonder if it could be expanded into a **community hub or hall for all clubs** (citing Whithorn's new hall as an example). **Carlsruith Village Hall** is a smaller hall in a 19th century school building, positioned towards the southern end of Kirkmabreck. Its maintenance and development are described as requiring attention.

Who undertakes this project? Various management committees are already working with these buildings. Community Halls (such as the Waverley and Carlsruith) will once have been the property of Dumfries & Galloway Council. Transition to community ownership is sometimes not fully effected and this ambiguity can hamper efforts to raise funds for maintenance and improvement. It is understood that this is the case with Waverley Hall.

Additional Comment: Whiskybroker Ltd. expects to open a Visitor Centre at its site at the north end of the town in 2026 -7.

Timeline: Ongoing, so immediate, medium-term and long-term.

Housing

Dumfries and Galloway Council's Local Development Plan (LDP2) showed an area in the northern part of the town which was earmarked for housing, but it is understood that no agencies were then, at that time, actually active in its development.

While there is scarcity of housing throughout the UK, and therefore an openness to possible new build projects, new housing initiatives in Creetown are likely to be on small sites and will be developed by individual owners.

Overlap with Other Themes: Creetown's Main Street; The Environment.

Comments in the Questionnaire: They call for various kinds of housing and accommodation - **new, affordable, sheltered**, as well as **rented**.

Who undertakes this project? Housing on a larger scale will involve input and collaboration from Creetown's community bodies, but it will also - mostly - be *effected* through either the Council or private development and will require major investment. New, particularly affordable housing is still a necessary development for Creetown.

Timeline: The project is not in process, so medium to long-term.





Amenities

A multi-use games area (MUGA) in the KGV Park has been well-used for many years but it is showing its age, and is a maintenance headache. Reviving its services and ensuring continuing good condition will be a substantial undertaking. It would, however, help improve Creetown's attractiveness for residents and visitors alike.

Overlap with Other Themes: The Environment

Comments in the Questionnaire: Improving the **MUGA** and adjacent facilities is mentioned frequently. Maintaining availability of the **Public Toilets** is also mentioned. The Young People's Questionnaire similarly shows an appreciation for these facilities and calls for their improvement.

Who undertakes this project? A project of redesign and re-specification would be one aspect, but building in a system of ongoing maintenance will also be necessary. Probably best undertaken by a guiding group of people with knowledge of these amenities, it should involve young people. Collaboration will be needed with Creetown's community bodies.

Timeline: This project involves renovation, improvement and maintenance. Depending on the identification of a guiding, experienced group as well as a route to funding, it could be commenced relatively quickly. The longer view is medium-term.

The Environment

Local people and visitors alike appreciate the environment around Creetown & Kirkmabreck - for its beauty, and for the paths and trails that wind through it. How the community relates to these surroundings, whether they be 'tidal flats, salt marsh, pastoral farmland, deciduous woodland, commercial forestry or open moorland' is part of the experience of living in the area.

There are many potential ways to enhance this experience, either through local initiative or in partnership with environmental bodies with a wider remit. Locally there is, however, always a question of capacity – how much a small community can find within itself the enterprise and staying power to sustain its involvement with projects that it cares for. About 20 years ago an energetic project was launched in agreement with Forestry Enterprise to maintain and develop paths, features and subsidiary projects in the Balloch Wood. This was a success on several fronts. Over time, however, the capacity to keep the project going faltered.

Currently - in a complete and careful remodelling - the most direct and enterprising initiative involving the community and the environment in Kirkmabreck involves approaching the same woodland, now in agreement with Forestry Land Scotland. Several open meetings were held in Creetown last year, regarding recent forestry developments in the Balloch Wood. A number of residents volunteered to form a small group to negotiate with FLS and reach a new community management agreement to continue the care of the paths and other community areas in the Balloch Wood. The steering group are now moving towards SCIO registration for the Balloch Wood Community Woodland Project. (<https://www.ballochwood.info/>)



Other ideas are mentioned in the Community Questionnaire. The issue will be how they can move from a good idea, to who initiates them, to who sustains them. In 2025 the Solway Coast and Marine Project (SCAMP) was launched. This is (quoting from the organisation) ‘an ambitious coastal and marine nature restoration project that seeks to restore the coastal and shallow sea habitats of the Solway, covering the entire 210 miles of the Dumfries and Galloway Coastline from Gretna to the Rhins of Galloway. SCAMP plans to explore community-driven initiatives to enhance and restore biodiversity, both underwater and along the coast, supporting coastal and marine habitats and communities to adapt to the effects of climate change, be more resilient to predicted sea level rise, and gain sustainable economic and social benefits’. (There are other potential partnership organisations).

Overlap with Other Themes: Amenities; Stone & Elements: Heritage & Culture.

Comments in the Questionnaire are in general appreciation of the Environment: Frequently mentioned is the **Sculpture Trail** – a potential project that was proposed, worked up and well advanced in 2019 when it had to be cancelled. This not only links to Creetown’s history in the quarrying of granite, the use of that granite in sculpture, the Gem Rock Museum being housed here, but also the potential for the area for environmental development. Included in this is the creation of other walks and trails on the one hand and **community growing land projects, allotments** and the **greening up** of the town. **Hydro electricity for the area** is suggested. **Cycle track along A75 connecting Creetown to other towns** including from **Carlsruith to Gatehouse** are suggested.

Consultation specific to the Balloch Wood occurred subsequent to the Community Questionnaire. Responses are expressed in the successful actions that have ensued.

Who undertakes this project? The Balloch Wood Community Woodland Group (SCIO) is now registered and current. Initiatives relating to the environment (as suggested above) could be built up through liaison between Creetown’s community bodies and environmental groups. Environmental in part of its remit, the Creetown Alliance for Food (CAFF) works with local supermarkets in Newton Stewart and Kirkcudbright to prevent food wastage and is part of the Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Food Partnership.

Timeline: Immediate, medium-term and long-term.

Stone & Elements: Heritage & Culture

This Subject is concerned with Heritage and Arts; how and where they are represented and expressed in Creetown; and how they might continue to be expressed in the future.

Historically, a major industry in Creetown was the quarrying of granite. It was shipped directly from Creetown across the sea to distant places - such as Liverpool, where much of the Albert Dock was constructed using Creetown granite. This way of life might have subsided into the past, but present-day Creetown has built - deliberately, fortuitously, and sometimes impressively - a cumulative cultural character based in this heritage.



There's a linking chain in this. Founded in 1981, and recognising the area's association with stone, the Gem Rock Museum is regarded as one of the finest private collections of gemstones, crystals, minerals, rocks and fossils in Great Britain. The Creetown Heritage Museum presents Creetown's industrial past, including its granite quarrying. On its exterior wall is a granite sculpture by Hideo Furuta, a Japanese sculptor and artist in different media who settled in Creetown in 1990. The white granite in the quarries gave him raw materials to create 'his huge but whisperingly delicate works' (a quote from Edinburgh Printmakers' website). He produced work for various sites in Britain and his Adamson Square sphere (2005) is one of his most impressive achievements. Placing other art in the environment was carried through in the earlier Balloch Wood project and in 2013 the Ferry Bell sculpture was installed at the southern entrance to the town in celebration of Creetown as the ferry town which connected with Wigtown on the other side of the Cree estuary. One of Scotland's most vigorous large scale sculptors, Ronald Rae, had produced a sundial for Creetown Primary School in 2011. Some years later, in 2019, it was proposed that 12 of his sculptures (on long term loan) be positioned in a trail around the town. The project had been worked up and advanced, when the artist decided that he preferred them to all be in one location on open land near the Whiskybroker Ltd., at the northern edge of Creetown. The site is isolated, but it is due to become more accessible and visitable and an important part of the wider picture in 2026-7 when a new Visitor Centre is to be opened there. Meanwhile, in another development, the restored Quarrymen's Arts Centre has been expanded and refurbished. This remains a building in which the impressive Silver Band can practice and perform, but is now also able to put on other arts performances and events.

Overlap with Other Themes: The Environment; Adamson Square and the Ellangowan; Buildings Serving the Community.

Comments in the Questionnaire: The Quarrymen's Arts Centre and the Heritage Centre are mentioned with appreciation, with calls for their development. The Sculpture Trail is frequently mentioned, even though the trail fell by the wayside. From this it can be inferred that people feel there is potential in at least extending the idea, maybe with other artists.

Who undertakes this project? Aside from what is already in process, it will

involve input and collaboration from all of Creetown's community bodies, major fundraising and consistent project management.

Timeline: Immediate, medium-term and long-term.

Aspiration & Investment

This Subject is not directly referred to in the Questionnaire responses, but it does underpin the fact that much of community life was founded on the development of industry, enterprise and services and mixed with the spirit of the people living here. Community didn't 'just happen'. All community bodies look to keep, or bring back, or introduce energy that enhances and enlivens the local way of life. It is part of their task to look for ways to encourage aspiration and investment to be part of the mindset in Creetown & Kirkmabreck. Investment might come 'out of the blue' from elsewhere, but when it is encouraged from within and with what is valued within the community in mind, it is much stronger. This is not an easy theme, but should always be held in mind.

With Kirkmabreck linked closely to the National Nature Reserve of Cairnsmore - and consequently the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere - there is potential in articulating the area's small scale tourism operations, many linked to farm diversification, as well as the surprising number of art and artisan practitioners within the parish boundary. This could be a way for development activity, particularly if the practitioners are encouraged to support it as a body.

Overlap with Other Themes: All of them: Adamson Square and the Ellangowan, St John Street: Creetown's Main Street, Buildings Serving the Community, Housing, Amenities, The Environment, Stone & Elements: Heritage & Culture.

Who undertakes this project? It will involve input and collaboration from all of Creetown's community bodies, and could, in some circumstances, involve major fundraising and consistent project management.

Timeline: Immediate, medium-term and long-term.



6. CREETOWN & KIRKMABRECK - COMMUNITY ACTION

Volunteer Groups and Community Action

Wherever a group of people come together for a shared aim, some measure of 'community forming' happens. Creetown & Kirkmabreck has an impressive number of 'community groups' - about 50 in number. Some of these are small businesses, but 30 or so are primarily volunteer organisations.

A few are informal. There's a group that meets - no constitution, just coming together for the pleasure of it - to play table tennis in Carsluith Village Hall. This still builds community. Other groups have more formality about them. Their purpose - whether it be Sports, Events, Services, Fundraising or a mixture of these - is strengthened and perpetuated through some kind of constitution. Their aims may be devoted to a single purpose but can also include wider activities. The Creetown Bowling Club concentrates on bowling but its clubhouse is also used for other community-enhancing events.

Some groups have wider aims than a single purpose. Their aims lead naturally into a range of activities. **Ferry Friends** is a project for older members of the Creetown & Kirkmabreck community. It offers a spread of activities that looks to improve wellbeing and reduce loneliness and isolation. With premises in The Pavilion at King George V Playing Fields facilitated by Kirkmabreck Community Council, **Creetown Alliance for Food (CAFF)** works with local supermarkets in Newton Stewart and Kirkcudbright to prevent good food from going to landfill. The **Balloch Wood Community Woodland Project** aims to enhance pride in the wood through activities that will improve environmental awareness, land management and footpath creation skills, and maintain or install features which enhance the enjoyment of the wood. While the objects

of the **Creetown Buildings Preservation Trust** are the advancement of heritage through preserving for public benefit the historical, architectural and constructional heritage around Creetown, its primary concern concentrates on maintaining the Quarrymen's Arts Centre as a venue for arts events and as a home for Creetown's Silver Band.

Looking at the Subjects in the previous Section, it will be apparent that, from the community perspective, how and who can work them up - and maintains them - is as important to the community as the structured process of planning them. What groups will be in a position to shape, encourage and implement projects is a central issue. Otherwise the community may be left with just the frustration of vain hopes.

The volunteer groups in the community are to be profoundly appreciated. They are an intangible wealth that makes all the difference to well-being in Creetown & Kirkmabreck.

Representing Bodies and Community Action

Communities across Scotland have representing organisations which either report on issues in the chain of local government, or which help to initiate, develop and maintain projects and services. Kirkmabreck Community Council and Creetown Initiative are longstanding organisations. While they follow familiar models and roles in community organisation, these may be misunderstood. With time and succession, reassessment is sometimes necessary. These bodies are likely to be involved most often - in varying support capacities - with the Subjects which are outlined in Section 5.



Kirkmabreck Community Council

(https://www.facebook.com/creetowncommunitycouncil/?locale=en_GB)
(<https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/CommunityCouncils/Home/Detail/92>)

The Community Council is a representing and advocating organisation and, as such, is an essential part of Dumfries and Galloway Council's local government network. Constitutionally, community councils are not supported in owning property, nor in employing people. Kirkmabreck CC is no exception. Its cardinal purpose is to represent the community to the Council. In this it plays a vital part in the chain of keeping local government informed and functioning, and in enabling the Council to inform back to the community. Thus, in any Community Council meeting there will be reports from various local government services and, in turn, representations made to local councillors and government departments on behalf of the community.

The introduction to the Scottish Government's website: <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/community-councils/> gives a succinct description of what community councils are:

'Community councils are the most local tier of statutory representation in Scotland. They bridge the gap between local authorities and communities and help to make public bodies aware of the opinions and needs of the communities they represent. There are around 1,200 active community councils in Scotland...'

'Local authorities have statutory oversight of community councils and are required by statute to consult community councils about planning applications and licencing matters.' The statutory purposes of community councils established under the Model Scheme are set out in Section 51 (2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as follows: -

'In addition to any other purpose which a community council may pursue, the general purpose of a community council shall be to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the local authorities for its area, and to public authorities, the views of the community which it represents, in relation to matters for which those authorities are responsible, and to take such action in the interests of that community as appears to it to be expedient and practicable'.

The general purpose of community councils is seen as being 'to act as a voice for their local area. This will involve them articulating the views and concerns of local people in their area on a wide range of issues of public concern and make representations to their local authority, other public sector bodies and private agencies on matters within their sphere of interest'.

It is added that *'it is essential that these views be demonstrated to be accurately representative of the community. Accordingly, the community council will have in place, in consultation with the local authority, recognised consultative mechanisms to validate their views and devise strategies to secure greater involvement by all sectors of the community'...*

A Code of Conduct, Good Practice Guidance, Model for Establishment, Model Constitution and Model Standing Orders can all be downloaded. As well as this is a link: <http://www.communitycouncils.scot/> which covers community council activity in Scotland.

As with other community councils, there are three basic factors which are of central significance to the activity of Kirkmabreck Community Council:

- It is made up entirely of volunteers,
- Apart from a small discretionary yearly grant from the regional Council for basic administration, it does not receive government funding to support actions,
- It is not constituted to be readily pro-active, however supportive it may be, in initiating projects within its area.

The Community Council is therefore not well set up to take in hand, nor have direct responsibility for, actual projects. As a 'voice for the local area' it must make efforts, and be seen to make efforts, to be transparent and representative in its advocacy. This role alone, however, is very important for achieving the aims of projects as they emerge.

Kirkmabreck Community Council works well to this brief.





Creetown Initiative Ltd

(<https://creetowninitiative.co.uk/>)

Extending the Community Council model, communities of all sizes establish their own proactive, development enterprises. Their intention is to strengthen, in parallel with the Community Council's representing role, a community's ability to act for itself.

Various terms can describe such organisations. 'Development Trust' is a common one. With 340-plus members, Development Trusts Association Scotland (www.dtascot.org.uk/) acts as an umbrella, support and advisory organisation. Some of its enterprises are associated with large population areas, and some are founded to handle the needs of small rural communities. Membership of the Trust widens horizons, makes advice available, and provides inspiration for action and mutual support.

Creetown Initiative Ltd - a member of DTAS - was initially formed in 2002 by local residents and has been a company limited by guarantee, reporting yearly to both Companies House and OSCR (the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) since 2004.

Its **aims and objectives** are currently:

- The advancement of community development (including the advancement of rural regeneration) primarily within the parish of Kirkmabreck (the Community); and
- The advancement of environmental protection and improvement, primarily within the Community; and
- The provision of recreational facilities, and the organisation of recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the residents of the Community and also the wider area of Dumfries & Galloway through, in particular but not limited to, the running of youth clubs.

After a couple of years of finding its feet, Creetown Initiative grew a business model which, as well as delivering projects in Creetown and Kirkmabreck, provided a consultancy service for communities and organisations across Scotland. These wings informed each other, with extensive experience accumulating in community issues as it progressed. In recent years the spread of Creetown Initiative's activity has diminished somewhat, but it maintains and supports a wide range of projects, all of which it was instrumental in establishing. It manages the Barholm Enterprise Centre and Bunkhouse, the Waverley Hall, the Ferry Friends community-support organisation as well as various Youth Projects, and has a support role with the Quarrymen's Arts Centre. It employs 12 mostly part-time staff.

In the context of this Plan, those Subjects or Themes which are developed locally will be - as said in Section 5 - 'through a confluence of capacity to organise; alertness in the recognition of an opportunity for a project; taking it on, managing it, finding funding, delivering it; seeing it through teething problems; and continuing to manage it into full operation'. Creetown's project management capability may need to be enhanced, possibly through the engagement of specific workers, but experience in employing such roles within Creetown Initiative is certainly there.



7. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE FOR CREETOWN & KIRKMABRECK

This Plan has perspectives of Planning Place, and of Community Action.

WITH PLANNING PLACE: themes, or subjects are:

- Adamson Square and the Ellangowan
- St John Street: Creetown's Main Street
- Buildings Serving the Community
- Housing
- Amenities
- The Environment
- Stone & Elements: Heritage & Culture
- Aspiration & Investment

These are subjects in Creetown & Kirkmabreck for focus, encouragements to how they may be advanced. This does not mean that all of these 'should' be developed and sustained, nor all at once. All of them are substantial undertakings, with all sorts of hurdles to cross. Concentrating on their development, however, will contribute to Creetown & Kirkmabreck being a living, developing, caring community.

WITH COMMUNITY ACTION, Creetown & Kirkmabreck is an area of many active and committed voluntary groups addressing so many aspects of life. A further subject is recommended:

- **Enhancing Creetown's Project Management Capability**

Living in a community that cares is essential to quality of life. For the community to have effective, joined-up development ability - linking various organisations - helps practically with so much of this.

Behind all of the projects in this Plan is a commitment to, and hope for, aspiration and investment in Creetown & Kirkmabreck. Presenting these, and showing what is valued within this community, a more hopeful society is possible.







Presented by Kirkmabreck Community Council and
developed in association with Creetown Initiative.

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