Sanquhar Local Place Plan Submission Statement

Introduction

This Local Place Plan for Sanquhar is submitted by The Royal Burgh of Sanquhar & District Community Council on behalf of the community. The plan has been prepared jointly by The Royal Burgh of Sanquhar & District Community Council and Sanquhar Enterprise Company (SEC), with technical support from Community Enterprise in Scotland (CEIS).

The plan represents the whole community and sets out how we want to see the town develop over the next ten years, from 2026 to 2036.

This submission statement and the accompanying Local Place Plan (Part 1 – A Vision for Change & Part 2 – Strategic Development Plan) have been produced by Community Enterprise in Scotland (CEIS) on behalf of both organisations.

The partnership developing the plan included:

Submitting Organisation:

The Royal Burgh of Sanquhar & District Community Council

Lead Delivery Organisation:

- Sanquhar Enterprise Company (SEC)

Partner Organisations:

- Dumfries & Galloway Council
- South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE)
- South of Scotland Community Housing (SOSCH)
- Historic Environment Scotland
- NatureScot

Community Organisations:

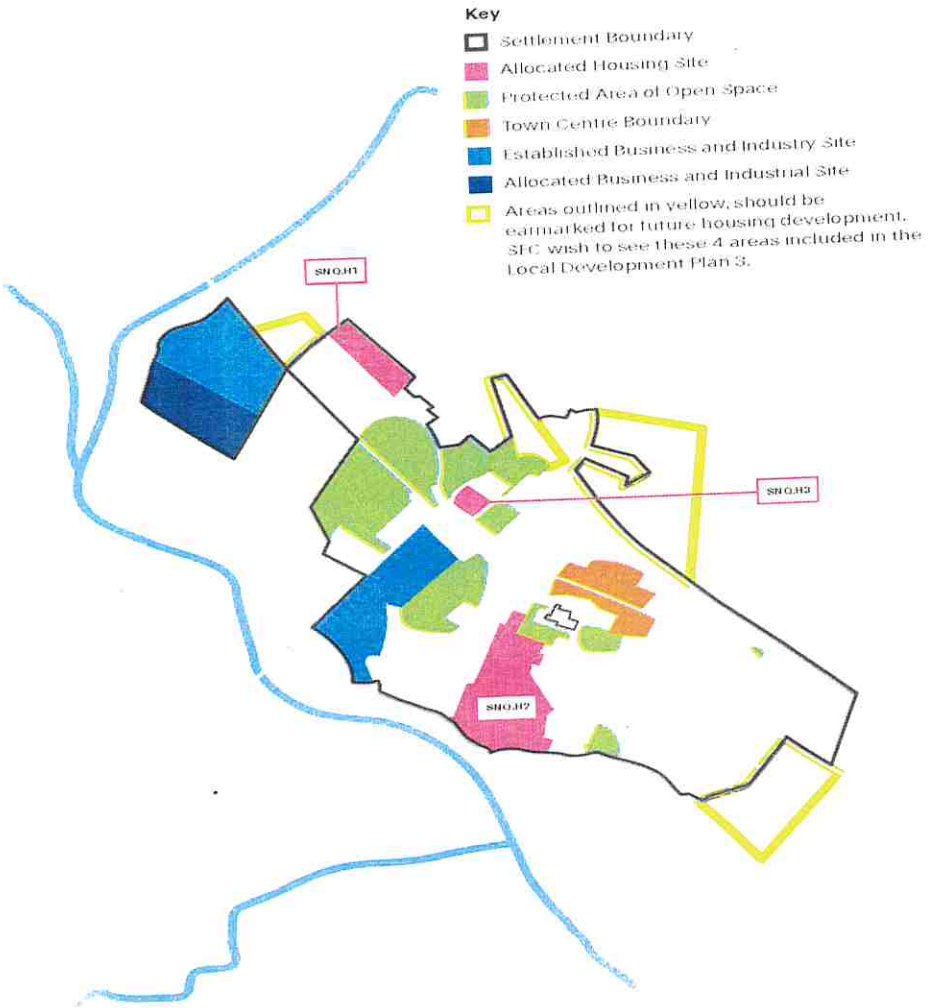
- Local community groups and heritage organisations
- Sports clubs and recreational groups
- Business networks

Local Stakeholders:

- Sanquhar businesses and employers
- Schools and educational establishments
- Health and social care providers

- Local residents from across the community

The map below illustrates the current land use designations within Sanquhar's settlement boundary, including existing allocated housing sites, protected open spaces, the town centre, and established business and industrial areas. In addition to the sites already allocated within the current Local Development Plan, Sanquhar Enterprise Company is seeking to have four additional areas — SNQ.H1, SNQ.H2, and SNQ.H3, along with a further area to the eastern edge of the settlement — formally earmarked for future housing development and included within Local Development Plan 3. These sites, outlined in yellow on the map, have been identified in response to the community's clearly expressed need for more affordable and accessible housing, and their inclusion in LDP3 would provide the planning framework necessary to bring forward much-needed new homes for Sanquhar's residents over the coming decade.



Purpose of this Statement

This statement supports the application by The Royal Burgh of Sanquhar & District Community Council to register the Sanquhar Local Place Plan. It has been prepared in line with:

- Town & Country Planning (Local Place Plans) (Scotland) Regulations 2021
- Scottish Government Planning Circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans
- Dumfries & Galloway Council's Local Place Plan guidance

Meeting the Requirements

Who is submitting the plan

This Local Place Plan has been prepared by The Royal Burgh of Sanquhar & District Community Council and Sanquhar Enterprise Company and is submitted by Sanquhar & District Community Council for registration with Dumfries & Galloway Council.

The Royal Burgh of Sanquhar & District Community Council, as a constituted community body under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, is the formal submitting organisation and takes responsibility for this submission. Sanquhar Enterprise Company has been the primary driver in developing the plan, leading community engagement, shaping its vision and coordinating the wider partnership throughout.

Community Enterprise in Scotland (CEIS) has provided technical support and produced this submission statement and the Local Place Plan on behalf of both organisations.

This submission is approved and signed off by a representative of The Royal Burgh of Sanquhar & District Community Council.

What we considered

In preparing the plan, we looked at how it fits with national, regional and local policies and strategies, including:

National level:

- National Planning Framework 4
- National Performance Framework

- Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan
- Community Wealth Building
- Town Centre First Principle

Regional level:

- South of Scotland Enterprise Regional Economic Strategy
- Dumfries & Galloway 5 Year Plan 2023–28
- Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017–2027

Local level:

- Local Development Plan 2, 2019
- Nithsdale Area Partnership priorities
- Previous Sanquhar community plans

How We Engaged the Community

Getting people involved was at the heart of developing this plan. We used a range of methods to ensure as many voices as possible were heard.

Who we spoke to

- Local residents – people from across Sanquhar, including different age groups and parts of the community
- Young people – pupils from Sanquhar Academy and primary school, and youth groups
- Community groups – local organisations, sports clubs and heritage groups
- Businesses – local employers and business owners
- Public services – Council officers, health services and emergency services
- Partner organisations – SOSE, SOSCH, Historic Environment Scotland and NatureScot

How we engaged

- Community events – drop-in sessions at local venues
- Place Standard Tool – gathering views on what people think about Sanquhar
- Surveys – online and paper versions
- Focus groups – targeted sessions with specific groups
- Workshops – working sessions with stakeholders
- Youth engagement – sessions specifically for young people
- One-to-one meetings – with key organisations and businesses
- Social media – updates and opportunities to comment online

Consulting on the Draft

A formal 28-day consultation on the draft plan was carried out from 9th March to 6th April 2026, running for four weeks as required.

The following were notified:

- Neighbouring community councils
- Ward councillors and MSP
- Statutory consultees
- Dumfries & Galloway Council planning and other departments
- Community organisations and local groups

The draft was made available:

- Online
- In hard copy at the SEC Office

The consultation was advertised via Facebook, the SEC website and the local newspaper. One positive written response was made by a local councillor on the document and a small number of community members expressed support for its overall content. No other responses were received from the community.

What the Community Wants

The Sanquhar & District Local Place Plan has been developed through extensive community engagement in 2025, including a community survey, Place Standard assessment, stakeholder workshops, focus groups with young people, and one-to-one conversations with residents. The community expressed strong pride in Sanquhar's natural environment, heritage and community spirit, whilst identifying housing, employment, transport and the condition of the town centre as the key priorities for action. The plan's six themes and priorities respond directly to this input. The statutory 28-day consultation period allowed for further feedback to be gained. Verbal feedback was encouraging from community members, and a formally positive response was received from the local ward councillor.

Through all our engagement, clear priorities emerged for Sanquhar's future.

Main themes

The plan is organised around key themes that came directly from community feedback:

- Heritage and Character – protecting what makes Sanquhar special
- Living and working – homes, jobs and the local economy
- Community and Wellbeing – facilities, services and quality of life

- Environment and Sustainability – green spaces and climate action
- Connections – transport, paths and digital links

Top priorities

Across these themes, the community's top priorities are:

- Protecting Sanquhar's heritage – our castle, tolbooth, post office and historic character
- Improving the town centre – making it more attractive and vibrant
- Creating jobs – more local employment opportunities
- Better housing – homes that meet local needs
- Community facilities – improving what is available for all ages
- Active travel – better walking and cycling routes
- Green spaces – protecting and enhancing parks and natural areas
- Digital connectivity – reliable broadband
- Health and wellbeing – services and activities that support healthy lives
- Tourism potential – making the most of our location and heritage

Key projects

The plan identifies specific projects and sites, including:

- Goosedubs – development opportunity
- Queens Road – housing and community use
- Whigham's Inn – restoration and reuse
- Sanquhar Castle – enhancement and access
- Bell Crescent Play Park – improvements
- Crawick Multiverse – tourism development
- Town centre public realm improvements
- Active travel routes
- Green infrastructure projects

What This Means for the Local Development Plan

We hope the ideas in our plan will be considered when Dumfries & Galloway Council prepares Local Development Plan 3 (LDP3).

How our plan supports the LDP

Our priorities align well with the current LDP's aims for Sanquhar. Both seek to:

- Support the town centre
- Provide appropriate housing

- Protect heritage and the environment
- Improve facilities and connectivity

What we are asking

When preparing LDP3, we would like the Council to:

- Consider our identified sites – we have mapped out where development and improvements could happen
- Protect key sites – ensure that land allocations do not prevent our projects from happening
- Support our priorities – recognise community aspirations in planning policy
- Work with us – as some projects develop, we may require planning designations or support

Some of our projects are still at an early stage, with feasibility studies and detailed proposals in development. If these progress before LDP3 is published, we would ask the Council to consider including them.

Specific matters for LDP3

- Heritage protection policies
- Town centre regeneration support
- Housing allocations for local needs
- Employment land
- Green infrastructure protection
- Active travel route safeguarding
- Tourism and visitor facilities
- Community facility provision

Looking Ahead

This plan sets out what the community wants to see happen in Sanquhar over the next ten years. It is aspirational but grounded in what people told us matters to them.

We recognise that some ideas will require further work – feasibility studies, funding applications and detailed design. The Royal Burgh of Sanquhar & District Community Council and Sanquhar Enterprise Company are ready to undertake that work in partnership with:

- Dumfries & Galloway Council
- South of Scotland Enterprise
- South of Scotland Community Housing
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Funding bodies
- Private sector partners

What happens next

Once the plan is registered, The Royal Burgh of Sanquhar & District Community Council and Sanquhar Enterprise Company will work together to:

- Keep the community updated on progress
- Work with partners to deliver projects
- Seek funding where needed
- Monitor progress
- Review and update the plan as required

The place planning process has already brought the community together and created momentum for change. People are ready to see Sanquhar develop and improve.

Get in Touch

Sanquhar Enterprise Company Contact: Ronnie Bradford, Community Development Officer.

Email: ronnie@sanquharenterprisecompany.co.uk

Address: Sanquhar Enterprise Company, 106 High Street, Sanquhar, DG4 6DZ

Declaration

This submission statement has been prepared by Community Enterprise in Scotland (CEIS) on behalf of The Royal Burgh of Sanquhar & District Community Council and Sanquhar Enterprise Company, to accompany the Sanquhar Local Place Plan.

We confirm that:

- The information contained here is accurate
- We have consulted fairly and inclusively
- The plan reflects what the community told us
- We have followed the regulations
- The plan has the support of the community

Signed: GBlack DR GREG BLACK, CHAIR

On behalf of The Royal Burgh of Sanquhar & District Community Council

Date: 16/04/2026

Submitted to: Dumfries & Galloway Council Date: