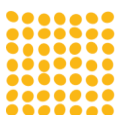


**community
enterprise**

Penpont Local Place Plan

Baseline Report

December 2024



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1. Introduction and Background

1.1 About this Local Place Plan

The Penpont Local Place Plan (LPP) sets out the aspirations of the community for the Penpont parish, the strategic objectives required to deliver those aspirations and the associated actions we wish to take forward over the next ten years.

The LPP will be used by Dumfries & Galloway Council's planners to help them understand the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Penpont area, informing the Council planners as they start work on the new Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP sets out what the opportunities are for development in the area and says what types of development will and will not be permitted and in which locations.

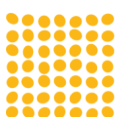
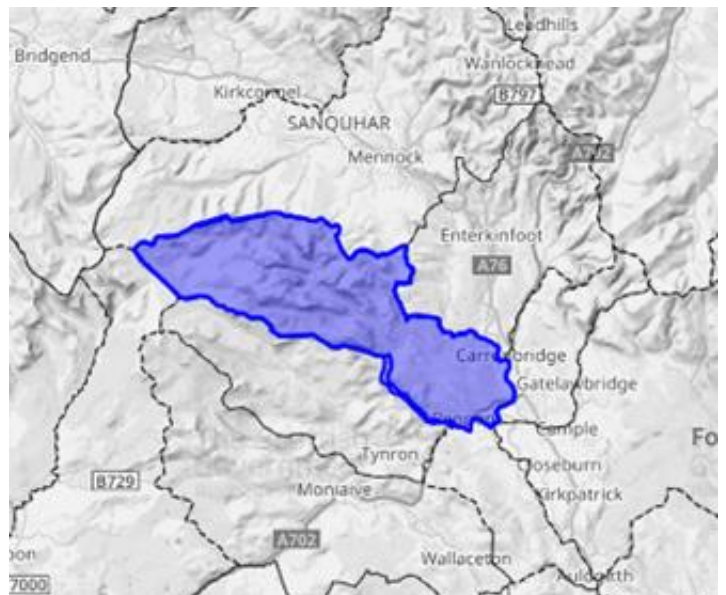
The scope of our plan includes the ways in which our community want to see land developed and used and a spatial vision for our area. However, it goes beyond this to include broader social and economic objectives. The LPP is a way of identifying and helping to deliver community projects and provides information for other organisations to adapt their activities or proposals to support delivery of the Penpont community aspirations. It is a tool for collaborative working, within the community and with Dumfries & Galloway Council. The plan has been developed around four key investment themes which cross refer and create a single transformative vision for the Penpont area.

However, the focus of a Place Plan is not restricted to Dumfries & Galloway Council's planning concerns. Some of the themes and project ideas included here will be the responsibility of the community itself, drawing on individuals representing a wide range of local interests and perspectives including the community organisations and local businesses.

With a Local Place Plan registered and verified, the people of Penpont, will be able to influence and drive developments in the area and to give a platform to the community to voice their own aspirations for the area.

1.2 Boundary Map

The Local Place Plan area is defined by the blue boundary line of the Penpont area (Penpont Parish or Community Council Boundary). The map shows the position of Penpont in Dumfries and Galloway and identifies neighbouring communities.



2. Our Challenges and Needs

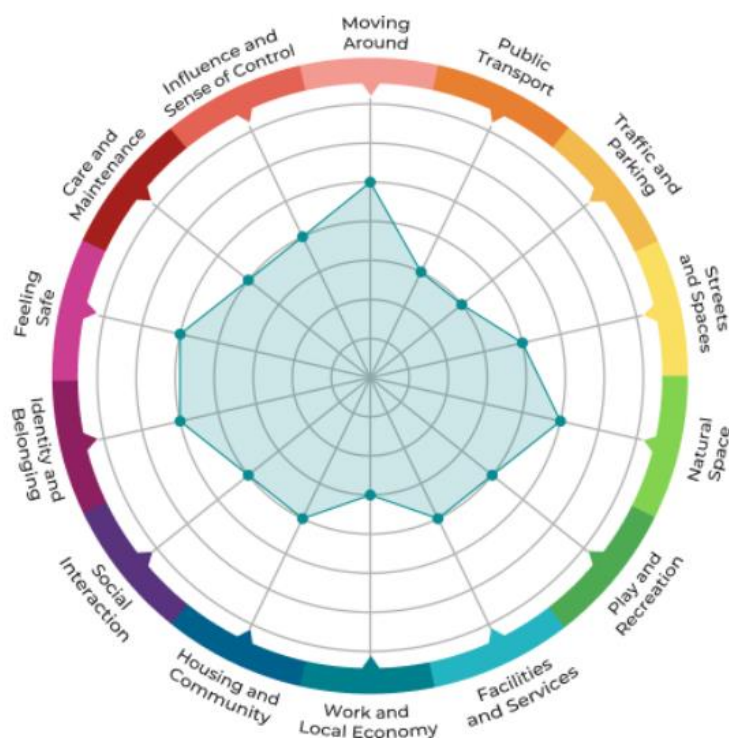
2.1 The Place Standard Assessment

The people of Penpont and the surrounding areas have engaged well with the LPP Process and have utilised it as an opportunity to change the area for the better. The first phase of the development of the LPP was to undertake robust engagement practices and consult people from across the community. This phase helped to identify positive aspects, issues, ideas, and possible solutions. The assets and challenges have been summarised below.

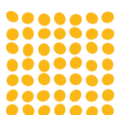
The consultation was structured using the Place Standard tool, which provides a simple framework to understand all elements of place in a methodical way and pinpoint key areas of strength and areas for improvement. The community survey and focus groups were used to assess the different categories. The image below visualises this assessment. The highest scoring areas are **natural space, identity and belonging, feeling safe and moving around**. The lowest scoring areas are **work and local economy, traffic and parking and public transport**.

The research and consultation showed a community that has its challenges, but people are invested in their community and value the area as a place to live, work and visit. In our survey, 62% expect to be still living here in 10 years' time. Of the others who don't or are not sure the reasons seem to be related to roads and parking, community facilities, work opportunities, affordable, appropriate housing and lack of services, including public transport.

Assets



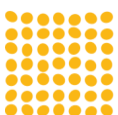
- 81% of survey respondents rated the Penpont area highly as a place to live and 72% rated the area highly as a place to visit.
- 62% of survey respondents identified the **natural environment** when asked about the positive things about the Penpont area. This theme highlights the area's rural charm, with its scenic views and the beauty of the surrounding landscape. Residents expressed their appreciation for the tranquillity of rural living, offering easy access to fresh air, nature, and the countryside for activities like walking and biking.



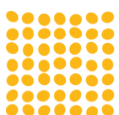
- 53% of survey respondents mentioned that the Penpont area has a **strong sense of community** and that the people who live in the area are **friendly and welcoming**.
- 28% of survey respondents mentioned the **peace and tranquillity** of the area as a positive. Tied closely to its rural setting and small population, many felt that the Penpont area provides a relaxed and calming lifestyle, far removed from the hustle and bustle of towns and cities.
- 28% of survey respondents emphasised Penpont's existing **facilities and amenities** as key assets for the community. The café, shop, and church were frequently mentioned as important resources for residents. These facilities contribute significantly to the convenience and overall quality of life in Penpont and enhance the sense of community and place.
- An asset mapping exercise revealed that Penpont is an asset rich community, relative to its size. The cafe, church and community hall (Gladstone Hall) all provide spaces where people can come together and provide opportunities for individuals to socially interact.
- Penpont Primary School and Pre-School were frequently mentioned as a key asset during consultations and local people want to ensure that it is protected for the future. Penpont Primary School has an excellent relationship with the local community, a strong Parent Council and the school acts as a vibrant social hub for families with young children. This is important to note within the context of proposed merging of rural schools with larger settlement areas by Dumfries and Galloway Council.
- The Active Travel Path which leads from Penpont towards Thornhill is a very popular walking, running, cycling and wheeling route for locals and visitors to the area. During the consultation, community members said that the active travel path is a valuable improvement for the community that it is already well utilised. Many expressed a strong desire for the path's completion, fully linking Penpont to Thornhill.
- The community Micro-hydro is another important community asset, and its profits are transferred to a community benefit fund to which residents can apply for funding for worthwhile projects.
- Penpont has a diverse mix of different greenspaces within the community including Gladstone Park (maintained by D&G Council) which has a grass pitch, multi-use games area (MUGA) and a small play area for children. Bridgend Community Garden is an important community run greenspace. The garden's produce is used in the Community Café, where surplus is available to local people. The garden is also a popular venue for children's and family activities, with a varied programme of activities provided by KPT Development Trust.

Challenges and Needs

- The parish area has seen a **decline in population**, there has been a 22% decrease in the local population between 2011 to 2022.
- The community has an **ageing population** and there are **lower numbers of working age people** in the area than the national average. 36% of those living in the local area are aged over 65 (national average is 20%), 57% are of working age (national average is 64%) and 16% are aged 0-15 (roughly the same as across Scotland). The ageing population and depopulation is generally attributed to the lack of services and job opportunities forcing younger people and families to leave. Thought needs to be given to the balance of the community which may include encouraging working aged people to the area.



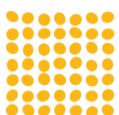
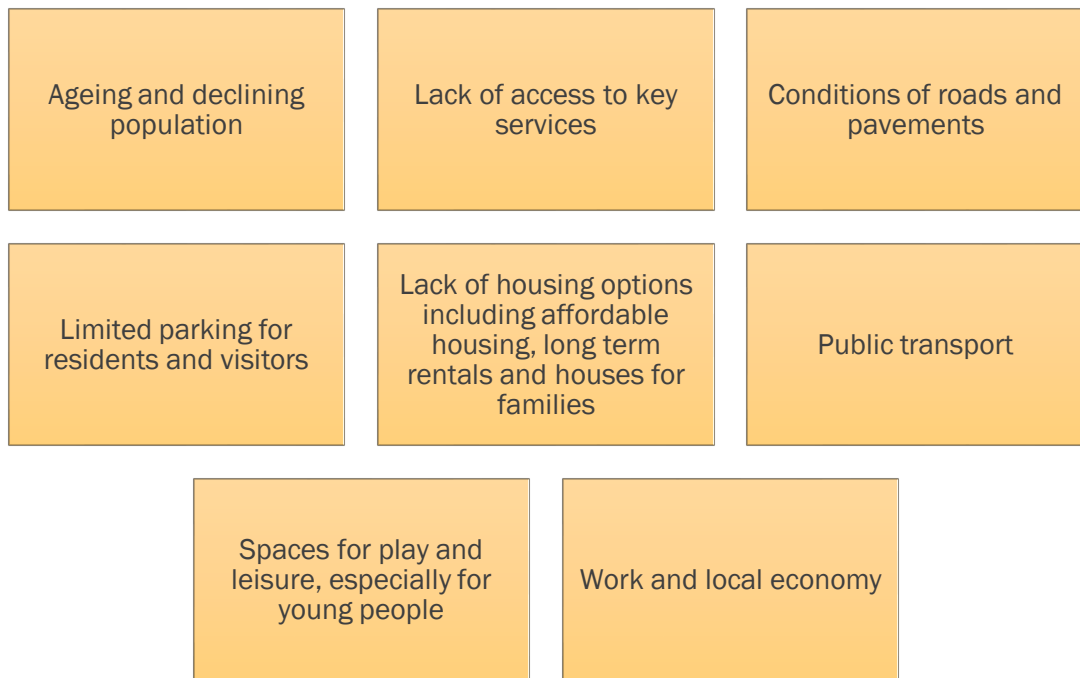
- Penpont is located within the Thornhill – 04 data zone (SIMD 2020), which also encompasses the neighboring areas of Keir and Tynron. This data zone is within the most deprived 10% of areas in Scotland in terms of **geographic access to services**. This covers travel times by car and public transport to basic services such as GPs, post offices, schools, retail and fuel stations. To access other services, facilities and the secondary school, villagers have to travel to the nearest town of Thornhill, 3 miles away, or Dumfries, 15 miles away. But using sustainable forms of transport is challenging due to the threadbare bus service and the dangers presented by the intervening A702 road.
- 39% of survey respondents referenced **roads and pavements** as a key challenge in the Penpont area, people told us about the condition of main roads including potholes and a general need for better maintenance.
- 23% of survey respondents told us that **public transport** is a challenge in the Penpont area. Respondents highlighted the need for more buses and alternative transport options including an increased availability of community transport. There is a sense that people would use public transport if there was more regular provision. To facilitate onward journeys to Dumfries and Sanquhar, bus times should link up with departures from Thornhill. It was also highlighted that timetabling needs to be clearer and better advertised.
- In the context of public transport challenges and the rural nature of the community, it is statistically significant that 12% of households in Penpont do not have access to a car.
- **Parking** for both residents and visitors is a significant issue in Penpont (mentioned by 18% of survey respondents). Cars parked along the main road cause traffic flow problems and congestion, impacting the ease of movement through the village. These parking issues also affect pedestrian access, particularly for individuals with mobility issues or those using pushchairs and mobility scooters.
- A lack of electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities was also mentioned during the consultation. Many homes in Penpont lack driveways, exacerbating roadside parking challenges and limiting residents' ability to charge electric vehicles at home.
- While facilities and services in Penpont are limited, they are generally considered adequate for the size of the village. However, the limited post office service and lack of courier pick-up points are noted concerns. Generally, Gladstone Hall is recognised as an asset, though there is a sense that it requires renovations and upgrades to become a vibrant and well-used community hub.
- Throughout the consultation, local people highlighted that there is a need for more affordable housing to allow people to stay in the area, especially first-time buyers. Lack of rental properties is also an issue, meaning that people looking to rent in the Penpont area often have to go elsewhere. The issue of holidays lets (particularly those given over to Air BnB) was raised several times throughout the community consultation, and many believe that these have caused the price of property in the village to increase and is linked to the lack of availability of rental properties. A statistic that could be linked to the lack of affordable housing to buy or let is the decline in population in the Penpont area (22% decrease) between 2011 to 2022.
- A lack of facilities and activities for young people was another frequently mentioned challenge. Young people aged 12-18 told us during a focus group session that there are limited opportunities to interact socially and 'hang out'. When asked for ideas for the future they suggested things like better sports facilities, sports clubs and after school clubs. Similarly, Primary School aged children in P4-5 said that there are not many places where they can hang out in the village. 18 children under the age of 12 completed the survey and a lack of places to meet up and socialise was mentioned as a challenge



frequently and ideas for future projects included art and sports clubs, and a new park shelter as a gathering space for young people.

- While there is a strong sense of community spirit and identity in the area, the consultation has highlighted that there is a need to boost volunteer involvement. It was generally felt that residents could be involved more as volunteers helping to deliver projects and initiatives, in particular large events like the annual Gala Week.

A summary of **main challenges** linked to key themes and investment priorities has been included below:



3. Vision

3.1 Our Vision

From the consultation responses there is a strong vision of the future of the Penpont area. This vision addresses both challenges and the values which build on the area's strengths. The vision is for everyone, regardless of personal circumstances.

When asked to describe their community in ten years' time, responses from local people included:

"A safe and caring place to live."

"Flourishing and vibrant with a mixed age and economic demographic. Opportunities for families to stay and have a good quality of life."

"A good vibrant community, with people doing their best for one another"

"Strong, friendly, welcoming and sustainable community."

"Thriving, buzzing with happy families and care for the elderly."

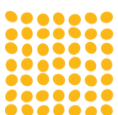
"I would like Penpont to have a thriving, active community that welcomes progress."

Our Vision:

In the next decade, Penpont will flourish as a thriving, vibrant community that attracts young families and supports people of all ages. It will be a place with local opportunities for work and active living, in a beautiful and rural natural environment. Residents will benefit from a friendly and safe environment, with access to local facilities and amenities that nurture community connection, happiness and well-being.

Our Mission:

To create a planning environment which will see our community thrive with a positive contribution from everyone creating a strong and dynamic community.



4. Interventions and Investments

4.1 Overview of Investment Themes

The Local Place Plan process has identified five core thematic areas that will underpin and support the achievement of the vision. Directly aligned to the investment themes, the strategic objectives set out what the community wants to achieve and to express where it wants to get to.

These are:

1. Infrastructure and Facilities- “A place to live”

This theme emphasises the importance of having essential services like housing, a local school, transportation, parking, and community facilities. This is linked to the local and regional challenge of population decline and an ageing population. A well-planned infrastructure and adequate community facilities ensure that residents have access to what they need for daily life, contributing to sustainable place making and 20-minute neighbourhoods.

2. Play and Leisure- “An active place”

This theme highlights the need for recreational spaces and activities that promote physical health and social interaction. Parks, sports facilities, active travel and community facilities encourage an active lifestyle and social connection.

3. Environment and Greenspace- “A green and sustainable place”

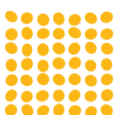
This focuses on integrating the natural environment into the Place Plan and enhancing the community’s access to these spaces. Well designed and easily accessible maps and pathways mean that local people can enjoy the outdoors, promoting outdoor activities and fostering a deeper connection with nature. This theme also covers community growing initiatives and local biodiversity projects to provide local people with a peaceful, high quality natural environment.

4. Community Activity- “A vibrant place”

This theme underscores the importance of community and cultural activities that bring people together. Events, regular activities and annual festivals can help to foster sense of belonging and vibrancy, making the area more appealing to residents and visitors alike.

5. Work and Local Economy- “An Enterprising Place”

This theme highlights the need to support local business activity and the working age population. By creating a supportive environment for local enterprises, self-employed people and remote/hybrid workers we will support the creation of community wealth and a forward thinking, entrepreneurial community.



4.2 Themes, Strategic Objectives and Project Priorities

Theme 1: A Place to Live

Strategic Objective: Our place will have the infrastructure and community facilities that address the needs of an aging population and counteracts population decline by ensuring access to essential services—such as housing, schools, transportation, and community facilities—within a 20-minute walking radius wherever possible. By doing so, we will enhance community connectivity and liveability, fostering sustainable development of our rural community and improving residents' quality of life.

Projects

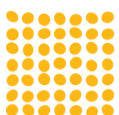
1. Develop affordable community housing options specifically designed for young people and families
2. Develop supported housing projects to promote independent living for older residents and those with support needs.
3. Conduct a feasibility study to determine whether to upgrade existing facilities or construct a new community hub which could include a pub that serves as a social and community facility.
4. Implement strategies to protect and enhance vital community and heritage assets, including the local shop, café, church, pre-school and primary school.
5. Create additional parking spaces for residents and visitors to alleviate congestion and improve mobility within the village.
6. Work with the local authority to implement traffic control measures and improve signage to reduce vehicle speeds through the village.
7. The ability to connect to smaller communities and across the region is an issue and there is a need to develop smart transport solutions to help people get to leisure activity, work and see friends.

Theme 2: An Active Place

Strategic Objective: Our place will have a range of high-quality recreational spaces and community facilities that promote physical health and social interaction, ensuring that all residents have access to parks, sports facilities, and active travel options within walking distance. Outdoor gathering spaces will help provide options for young people and support local people to live an active lifestyle.

Projects

8. Completion of Active Travel Path that connects the communities of Penpont and Thornhill.
9. Expand the existing play facilities in Gladstone Park or elsewhere in the community to include a wider variety of equipment suitable for different age groups.
10. Refurbish and upgrade the existing Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in Gladstone Park.
11. Construct a covered seating area in Gladstone Park or elsewhere in the community to provide an informal space for relaxation and socialising.



Theme 3: A Green and Sustainable Place

Strategic Objective: Our natural environment is one of our greatest assets and we will enhance the community's access to green and natural spaces and promote outdoor activities that foster a deeper connection with nature. We will increase community engagement with the natural environment and ensure that residents and visitors enjoy a peaceful, high-quality natural setting that enhances their overall well-being.

Projects

12. Ensure that high-quality, user-friendly maps of local hiking, walking and cycling routes are readily available and distributed through local community hubs, businesses and online.
13. Investigate the feasibility of creating a community woodland to enhance local biodiversity and create alternative recreational spaces for the community.
14. Investigate the potential of setting up allotments to complement existing community growing spaces within the community.
15. Investigate the potential of setting up EV charging points at key community locations and linked to any proposals for new parking areas.

Theme 4: A Vibrant Place

Strategic Objective: We will foster a vibrant community by organising a diverse range of cultural activities, events, and annual festivals that encourage participation and engagement among residents. By creating opportunities for social interaction and collaboration, we aim to enhance the sense of belonging and community pride, making our area more appealing to both residents and visitors.

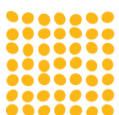
Projects:

16. Create and maintain a comprehensive ongoing recruitment strategy to attract new volunteers for the annual Gala Week, which includes outreach efforts and information sessions.
17. Create and maintain a year-round calendar that includes a variety of social events, workshops, and entertainment options tailored to different age groups and interests.
18. Explore partnerships with local artists, musicians, and cultural organisations to establish an arts and music festival that showcases local talent and attracts visitors.
19. Explore partnerships with agencies and with young people to identify their interests and develop a range of activities tailored to their needs and interests.

Theme 5: An Enterprising Place

Strategic Objective: We will support local business activity and the working-age population by creating a nurturing environment for local enterprises, self-employed individuals, and remote/hybrid workers.

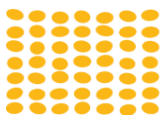
20. Support local business owners and home-workers by investigating demand for local workspace and storage.
21. Working with existing partnerships and agencies to develop and implement a strategy aimed at supporting and retaining existing businesses and jobs within the community, ensuring economic stability and growth.

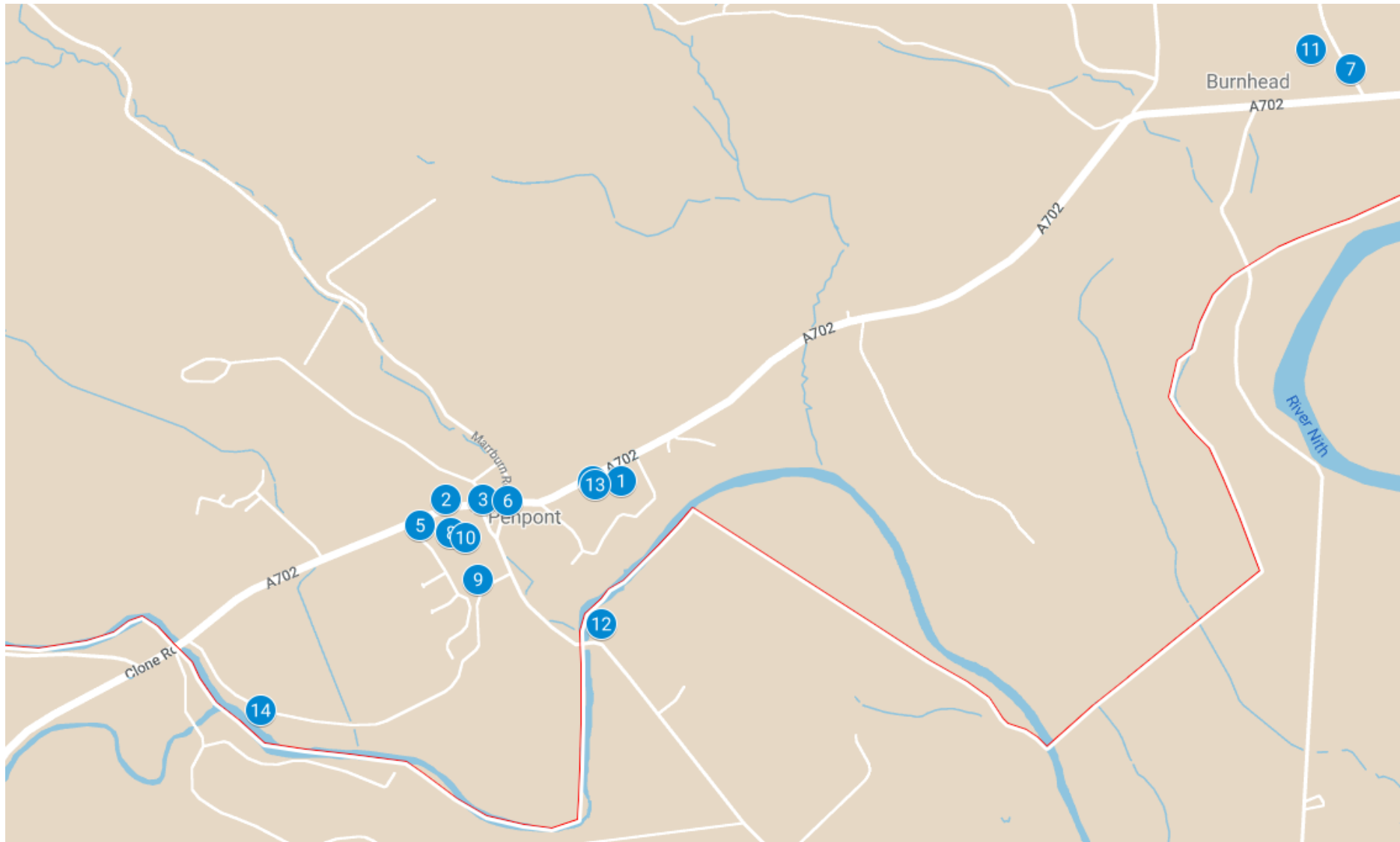


5. Place Map

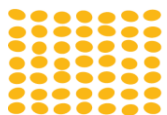


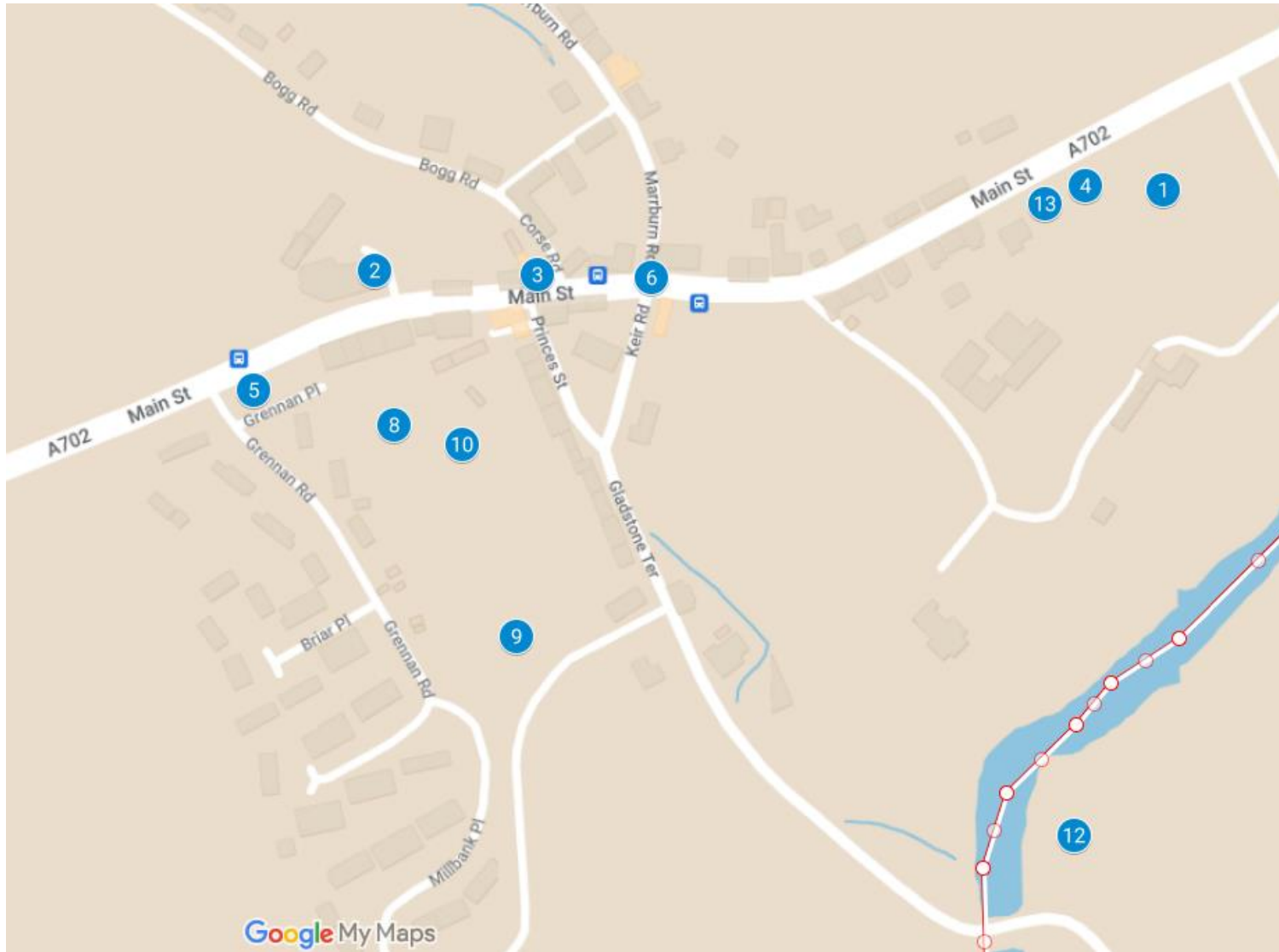
Map 1 – Project locations in the context of the whole parish (red boundary line)



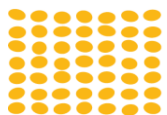


Map 2 – All project locations (see project mapping references, below)



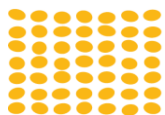


Map 3 – Penpont village locations (see project mapping references, below)



Penpont Project Mapping References

Map Ref	Project	Project Reference
1	Affordable Housing	1
2	Supported Housing	2
3	Community Hub	3
4	Additional Parking (1)	5
5	Additional Parking (2)	5
6	Traffic Control Measures	6
7	Completion of Active Travel Path	8
8	Extend Play Facilities	9
9	MUGA Refurbishment	10
10	Covered Seating Area	11
11	Community Woodland	13
12	Allotments	14
13	EV Charging	15
14	Workspace and Storage	20



6. Development of the Plan

6.1 Keir, Penpont and Tynron Development Trust (KPTDT) and Penpont Community Council

The Community Council for the area and KPT Development Trust recognised the need for the LPP to give residents more control over what is happening locally, with the hope that an agreed community led vision will ensure planning decisions take cognisance of the community's wishes.

This Place Plan has been steered and developed by the Penpont Local Place Plan Steering Group (with representatives from KPTDT and Penpont Community Council) collaborating with Community Enterprise Ltd (the consultants).

The Steering Group has met monthly to steer the process forward and ensure it is supported by specialists but entirely under community control. The group has had sight of and influenced everything from posters to the survey, events to the analysis. In addition, group representatives have attended all of the consultation meetings and helped distribute posters and surveys. The Steering Group have guided the consultants with local knowledge to ensure the Penpont community has led and driven this process from the start.

The Development Trust was established in 2018 following the previous Community Action Plan's recommendation, as a mechanism to bring about rural, economic and environmental regeneration of the three linked villages of Keir, Penpont and Tynron.

The Trust has delivered on a range of projects aimed at improving the lives of all local residents through sustainable development. They arise from a Community Action Plan adopted in 2018 (and revised in 2021). Key projects include: establishing and maintaining a central office / drop-in resource centre, with a part-time Development Officer; setting up a community hydro-electric scheme which generates green energy and raises funds for other projects; opening a community café, meeting place and art gallery which employs 10 part-time staff (3 FTE); creating a community garden producing fruit and vegetables which employs a part-time gardener, providing broadband in local village halls; supporting many local residents during the recent cost of living crisis; undertaking a feasibility study and public consultation for a proposed affordable housing scheme for local residents

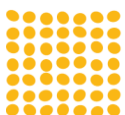
The Community Action Plan also contains specific objectives for the improvement of the local path and cycle network connecting area villages so that local residents can travel safely between them and enjoy the natural environment while more walkers and cyclists will come into the area, benefiting our local economy.

The Trust operates through a board of directors/trustees who delegate the development and management of projects to specific activity groups, such as for the community garden or affordable housing. The Project Development Officer coordinates the work of the activity groups along with other projects and promotes and communicates them to the local community and other stakeholders.

Over the next three years the Trust will continue to maximise income streams from existing and potential new enterprises, such as the community café, the garden (with its potential for growing produce for sale), the e-bike rental scheme, affordable housing and maintenance of amenity areas.

6.2 Methodology

A workplan to develop the LPP was developed with responsibilities for KPTDT, Penpont Community Council and the consultants. A thorough and robust programme of research and engagement took place which involved several strands and activities including:



Site Orientation Visit

In initial visits hosted by KPTDT, Community Enterprise had a full drive around and walk about which helpfully gave a detailed indication of all the assets, issues and spaces in the community.

Analysis of Existing data

The team read and analysed various documents including a combination of local, regional and national documents to understand area context. This has fed into some of the thinking about thematic areas.

Engagement Framework

An engagement framework was developed to show KPTDT and Community Enterprise target groups and activities as part of the LPP research and consultation.

Communication

The process of developing a LPP and the associated engagement was promoted in several ways including posters, social media posts, word of mouth, KPTDT Bulletin, presentations at meetings, press releases and public notices.

Asset Mapping

Site orientation led to a detailed asset map being pulled together that informed discussion about assets and opportunities during the research.

Demographics and Statistics

An analysis of the demographics of the area using a bespoke piece of data analysis software combining over 30 different datasets including the census and SIMD and stats was undertaken.

Policy Fit

LPP compliant policy plus national and regional policy fit. What was important was to see how the LPP in this area fitted with the National Planning Framework 4 and how it related to the previous Local Development Plan.

Community Survey

154 individual responses were secured. When asked if these represented other family members and friends there were around 545 in total saying they have had some input to those surveys.

Joint Steering Group and Community Council Meetings

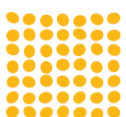
The consultants continue to attend joint Steering Group and Community Council Meetings to cooperatively appraise the approach and make timely presentations on progress.

Community Engagement Meetings and Discussion

A comprehensive range of engagement events took place in the Penpont community, in the form of focus groups from June to September 2024 engaging with 52 people.

A community drop in meeting was held in September 2024 to discuss themes and project ideas emerging from the research- 55 people attended this event. Information from this event was displayed at the KPT office for the next two weeks and an additional 20 people dropped in to provide their feedback.

To capture community members who were unable to attend in person, we also offered the opportunity to feedback on the research online. 26 people took part in the online feedback.



7. Strategic Alignment

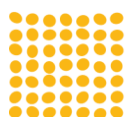
We aim to have our local place plan registered by Dumfries and Galloway Council so that it will be taken into consideration during the preparation of Local Development Plan 3. The preparation of our plan has been in the context of Local Development Plan 2 (Adopted) and reflects current planning objectives.

Core Strategic Fit

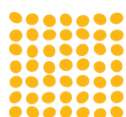
Key strategies	How we Have Considered these Plans and Strategies	
<p>Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan October 2019</p>	<p>Regional Vision</p> <p>“Dumfries and Galloway...will be a thriving region with a sustainable economy built on sustainable principles, which recognises the importance of its landscape, natural and historic environments and the need to maintain and enhance its distinctive landscape character while facilitating positive change, promoting growth, maximising the use of existing infrastructure and enhancing connectivity. It will have maximised its location to attract investment to create employment and investment opportunities which will in turn attract people of working age to the region. There will be opportunities in the rural area for economic development, housing and recreation. There will also be more opportunities for people to access affordable housing.”</p>	<p>The Penpont Local Place Plan fits well with this broad vision for the region.</p> <p>The key thematic areas will ensure that there is a focus on creating a sustainable economy that builds on the area’s existing assets, the skills of its people and its natural environment.</p> <p>We believe that the vision and key thematic areas of the LPP should help to attract both visitors and new residents to the area. The LPP will ensure the Penpont area is a vibrant, resilient and living community where people can work, bring up their children and grow old in a place that is caring and has the services people need, either available locally or with easy transport solutions.</p> <p>Housing is key to this and there is an aspiration to develop housing in or near the village centre.</p>
<p>National Planning Framework 4</p> <p>There are six overarching spatial principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Just transition. We will empower people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive. 2. Conserving and recycling assets. We will make productive use of existing buildings, places, infrastructure and services, locking in carbon, minimising waste, and building a circular economy. 3. Local living. We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring 	<p>One of the key themes emerging from the community consultation is the use of existing assets to provide a vibrant and well-used hub for the community. This aligns with the NFP4 focus on conserving and making productive use of existing buildings.</p> <p>The range of projects put forward by the community will enhance the ‘liveability’ of the Penpont area by enhancing</p>	



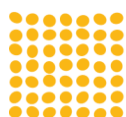
<p>people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Compact urban growth. We will limit urban expansion so we can optimise the use of land to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity. 5. Rebalanced development. We will target development to create opportunities for communities and investment in areas of past decline and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand. 6. Rural revitalisation. We will encourage sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together. 	<p>access to services, improving the quality of local greenspaces and ensuring there are leisure opportunities for all ages locally.</p> <p>The thematic areas of focus and mix of different projects all make a positive contribution to the sustainable development of Penpont and the surrounding rural area.</p>
<p>Dumfries and Galloway Council Plan 2023–2028</p> <p>The Council Plan sets out the vision for 2028 which is “to be a successful region with a growing economy, based on fairness, opportunity and quality public services, where all citizens prosper. Working in partnership, with connected, healthy and sustainable communities.”</p> <p>The plan has four main themes, each with strategic outcomes which set out what the council aims to achieve between 2023 and 2028:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economy: a diversified and growing local economy that benefits all, a growing workforce and skills base, <u>vibrant and thriving rural communities</u>, supporting businesses to start and grow and ensuring that natural capital and investment in the region benefit local communities. 2. Travel, connectivity and infrastructure: improving road, path and cycling networks in the region, protecting communities from the impact of flooding, promotion of sustainable travel, improving access to modern and efficient services, and digital connectivity to support thriving rural communities. 3. Education and learning: inclusive and sustainable places of learning that meet the needs of local communities, successful transition of children, young people and adults through all stages of life, providing opportunities for people to build their skills and confidence. 4. Health and wellbeing: prevention and early intervention to allow people to live independent lives, access to support and personal care, people are active healthy and resilient, providing support to tackle the causes and effects of poverty, inequality 	<p>The proposed projects and thematic areas fit well with the vision set out in this document and will help to ensure our community is healthy, connected and sustainable.</p>



<p>and the rising cost of living, people have access to high quality and affordable housing.</p>	
<p>Dumfries and Galloway Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2023-2033</p> <p>(D&G Community Planning Partnership)</p> <p>Connecting across three high level themes of “Health and Wellbeing”; “Work”; and “Where We Live” the LOIP identifies 12 Outcome areas and a set of four underpinning principles set within the context of the plan’s vision:</p> <p><i>“Working in partnership to ensure a confident, ambitious, healthy and fairer Dumfries and Galloway for everyone who lives and works here.”</i></p> <p>Our Priorities</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Community Planning Partners will target their resources on tackling poverty and improving the health and wellbeing of our communities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mitigating the impact of rising cost of living - Reducing health inequalities - Improve health through targeted approaches - Working with partners to eliminate child poverty <p>Work Community Planning Partners will help to build a sustainable and skilled workforce to deliver a wellbeing economy and promote Dumfries and Galloway as an attractive visitor destination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve employability by maximising the potential of the working age population - Address skills gaps and recruitment shortages - Increase volunteering opportunities - Work with local communities to develop an inclusive and thriving economy with a focus on fair work. <p>Where We Live Community Planning Partners will focus on place; listen to our local communities; improve connectivity; and help tackle key local issues:</p>	<p>The thematic areas and projects proposed in this report align with the LOIP focus on improving health and wellbeing. They will ensure that high quality community facilities, both indoor and outdoor, are provided and utilised to promote social connection and overall health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The completion of the cycle path will improve our connectivity, linking residents up to local assets, services and public transport links.</p> <p>We also strive to improve the availability of housing in our community to meet growing demand for a range of different housing types within the village itself.</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase digital collaboration and reduce digital exclusion - Improve transport connectivity - Reduce carbon emissions and positively impact climate change through education, behavioural change and supporting initiatives which will make a positive difference - Develop high quality, affordable homes to meet demand. 	
<p>South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy</p> <p>The Regional Economic Strategy sets out an ambition that by 2031, the South of Scotland region will be</p> <p><i>“...a region of opportunity and innovation – where natural capital drives green growth, ambition and quality of life rivals the best in the UK, communities are empowered and cultural identity is cherished, enabling those already here to thrive and attracting a new generation to live, work, visit, learn and invest in the South of Scotland.”</i></p> <p>The vision is underpinned by four key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing prosperity and ensuring that the benefits of growth are shared fairly, and that no one is left behind. - Making the most of the region’s potential by supporting the area to enhance and promote its reputation. - Thinking differently by promoting creativity, innovation and challenge. - Pioneering environmental responsibility and using natural capital to transform the visitor experience. 	<p>Throughout the process of developing this LPP, with the community shaping its key themes and projects based on local knowledge, we have empowered the people who live in our area.</p>
<p>Dumfries and Galloway Active Travel Strategy 2022-2032</p> <p>This strategy was developed to provide a combined approach to active travel infrastructure and culture within Dumfries and Galloway, and better respond to sustainability challenges as part of Dumfries and Galloway Council’s Climate Emergency Declaration, carbon reduction targets and wider priorities.</p> <p>The long-term vision for active travel in the region is:</p> <p><i>“Dumfries and Galloway will be an active region with accessible, reliable, and safe routes that connect communities, and will embrace a culture that promotes active and sustainable travel for both urban and rural areas.”</i></p>	<p>KPT have already taken significant steps to improving the active travel infrastructure in the area, and one of the key projects emerging from the community led research is to complete the existing active travel path to Thornhill. The Active Travel Path provides an accessible and safe route which connects communities in a rural area.</p>



Crosscutting Strategic Fit

<p>Fit with Sustainable Development</p> <p>Sustainable development can be defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. For example, the UN sustainable development goals are to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognise that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.</p>	<p>The Penpont Local Place Plan will be developed in the context of net zero and sustainability.</p> <p>Delivering outcomes such as sustainable population growth and increasing visitor numbers will be developed in a sustainable way, considering financial viability, net zero and service development which will be able to meet the needs of the population as it changes.</p>
<p>Fit with Inclusive Growth</p> <p>The Scottish Government defines inclusive growth as “growth that combines increased prosperity with greater equality, creates opportunities for all, and distributes the benefits of increased prosperity fairly”. The inclusive growth approach places less emphasis on the supply side of the economy—for example the reduction of trade barriers and making labour markets more flexible are the key to sustaining growth - in favour of a more interventionist approach which recognises and values the role of education, training and welfare as positive contributors to a healthy society.</p>	<p>We will develop the Local Place Plan based on the Wellbeing economy approach to ensure that developments to make our place more prosperous go hand in hand with equality of opportunity for all, including those on a low income and young people who are often left behind.</p>
<p>Just Transition to Net Zero</p> <p>Environmentally sustainable growth means fostering economic growth and development, while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies. It meets human development goals while simultaneously sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services on which the economy and society depend.</p>	<p>The drive to net zero is also a cross-cutting theme across all thematic areas and projects. Net Zero will be closely considered when planning each project.</p>



8. Management and Governance

Our LPP has been driven by the KPT Development Trust, Penpont Community Council and a Penpont LPP Steering Group. The Steering Group have worked with Community Enterprise who co-ordinated and directed the community and stakeholder consultations and produced the Local Place Plan.

KPTDT will oversee and monitor progress as the projects are developed and begin to be delivered. It will oversee the success of the plan but will also be responsible for reviewing it periodically to respond to changes in the local environment, many of which we will not be able to envisage just now. We want the plan to be clear and agreed but there may be opportunities that emerge that will require the leadership of local community groups, encouraging on-going community involvement, volunteering and activism.

KPTDT will:

- 1 Keep the plan up to date and amend it where required.
- 2 Liaise with Dumfries and Galloway Council about planning related implementation.
- 3 Stimulate /support organisations to take on the actions identified in the Plan.
- 4 Promote the Plan.
- 5 Review progress.
- 6 Monitor the impact of the Local Place Plan potentially through (commissioning) external impact assessors.

Delivery of the LPP priorities is complex and challenging, which means that local resources, skills, and capacity will need to be bolstered and enhanced. Funding will be required to commission various kinds of external technical and consultancy support to scope out and accelerate the development and delivery of projects across the Plan.

Equal Opportunities

Equality, equity, diversity and inclusion is important to us. Though not a hugely diverse community compared to other places in Scotland, ensuring everyone is welcome, regardless of background is a founding value in our plan.

