

# Penpont Local Place Plan

2024-2034

*“A safe and caring  
place to live”*

*“A good vibrant community,  
with people doing their  
best for one another”*

*“Strong, friendly, welcoming  
and sustainable community”*





This Local Place Plan (LPP) has been produced by a partnership of the Keir, Penpont and Tynron Development Trust (KPTDT or the Trust), Penpont Community Council, a steering group of local residents and private consultants. It sets out the aspirations of the community of Penpont for our area, the vision and strategic objectives required to deliver those aspirations and the associated actions we wish to take forward in the next ten years. We expect the plan to be reviewed and refreshed from 2029 onwards.

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 complements the Community Action Plan 2018-2023 for the Keir, Penpont and Tynron area (the CAP – reviewed in 2021), which has had a positive impact on our community through the delivery of many initiatives, including:

- a central office / drop-in resource centre, with a full-time Development Officer;
- a community hydro-electric scheme, the profits from which go towards the Trust's charitable activities and, specifically, into a community benefit fund from which a range of local projects gain support;
- a community café, which includes a meeting place and art gallery which employs 12 part-time staff (2.7 full-time equivalent);
- a community garden producing fruit and vegetables with the help of volunteers;
- a bicycle-friendly infrastructure and an e-bike rental scheme with an associated events programme;
- promotion and signposting of local walks and cycling routes;
- broadband in local village halls;
- a feasibility study and business plan for a proposed affordable housing scheme for local residents;
- a website, weekly Bulletin and community sharing boxes to recycle books, toys and food; and, since March 2024,
- completion of the first phase of a 3.5-km active travel path which will eventually join the community with the town of Thornhill in a safe and sustainable way.

However, not all CAP objectives have been met, while some are still in progress. This LPP therefore captures those which remain important to the community, specifically in Penpont, while identifying many that have recently become issues.



By the very nature of creating a LPP emphasis is often placed on what can be improved and changed within the area. But it is important to note the level of pride and love that the community of Penpont feel for this place, as expressed through the consultation we have carried out, as well as the benefits of engaging in that process.

People have debated long and hard – whether together, within their families and peer groups, in age-specific ‘focus groups’ or online - their views of Penpont (good and bad), the issues arising and their ideas for what should be done in response, all in a thoughtful and detailed fashion.

As we move towards implementing the ideas put forward by the community, we must not forget to continue to celebrate and protect everything that makes our place so special. It is also our hope that this passion can now be channelled towards tangible delivery of initiatives, so that as many ideas as possible will be given life beyond the pages of this document. This will require the various bodies and organisations in the area to consider how they can work together most effectively, and for others in the wider community to step forward and be involved.

The LPP was commissioned by the KPT Development Trust, working in partnership with Penpont Community Council. A steering group, with representatives from each of these bodies as well as the wider community, was formed to work with consultants Community Enterprise to support the community engagement and report production. We are grateful to all involved in bringing it together, and specifically for the hours of voluntary effort involved in producing a plan that we believe reflects the nature of our area and the community feedback received.

Finally, we are especially grateful to Dumfries and Galloway Council (supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund) for their financial support of this plan.



**Maureen Halkett**

**Chair**

KPT Development Trust

Main Street

Penpont

DG3 4BP

Tel: 01848 331453 / 07873 320824

info@kptdevelopmenttrust.org

<https://kptdevelopmenttrust.org>

**Ian Crosbie**

**Chair**

Penpont Community Council



# CONTENTS

---

## **INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY**

• Penpont Local Place Plan (2024-34)	7
• KPT Development Trust (Lead Organisation)	8
• Partner Organisations	8
• Purpose of Plan	8
• The Process Involved	8
• Plan Structure and Broad Contents	9

## **01 CONTEXT / DESCRIPTION OF THE PENPONT AREA**

• Map of the Community	11
• Overview	12
• Specific Assets	12
• Research Findings	12
• How the Community Views Itself	15

## **02 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

• The Process	17
• Community Survey	17
• Other Engagement	17
• Coverage Achieved	20
• Feedback	21
• The Draft Plan	21
• Detailed Results	21
• Analysis	22
• Summary	23
• Projects and Initiatives	24

# CONTENTS

---

## 03 VISION, THEMES, OBJECTIVES AND PROJECT PRIORITIES

- Our Vision 26
- Investment Themes 27
- Strategic Objectives And Project Priorities 28
- Place Maps 30
- Specific Issues For Council Service Areas & Policy Development 32

## 04 STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

- Overview 34
- Action Plan 35

## 05 MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

**APPENDIX 1 – PENPONT COMMUNITY ASSETS** 42

**APPENDIX 2 – STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT** 48



Supported by

**Dumfries**

**& Galloway**



# INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

# Introduction and Summary

## THE PENPONT LOCAL PLACE PLAN (2024-34)

The Penpont Local Place Plan (LPP) sets out the needs and aspirations of the community within the Penpont parish and community council areas (see map below) for the period 2024-34, the strategic objectives required to address those needs and deliver those aspirations, and the associated actions we wish to take forward over the next ten years. We would expect the plan to be reviewed and refreshed from 2029 onwards.

The LPP will be used by Dumfries and Galloway Council to help them understand the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Penpont area, using local knowledge to inform Council policy in the review of the new Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP sets out the opportunities for development in the area and says what types of development will and will not be supported and in which locations. The scope of our plan therefore includes the ways in which our community want to see land developed and used and a spatial vision for our area.

However, place plans are not restricted to planning concerns. The plan also deals with broader social, economic and environmental objectives. The LPP is a way of identifying these, helping to deliver community projects to address them, and providing information for other organisations to adapt their activities or proposals accordingly. Indeed, some of the themes and project ideas included here will be the responsibility of the community itself, drawing on individuals and bodies representing a wide range of local interests and perspectives including community organisations and local businesses. This LPP is therefore a tool for collaborative working, within the community and with Dumfries and Galloway Council.

The resulting plan is based on a single transformative vision for the Penpont area and has been developed around five key investment themes and twenty-one 'priority projects' (broad actions) which cross refer.



Penpont Local Place Plan

Our **Vision** is that:

*“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 natural, rural 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.”*

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

Our **mission** is therefore:

*“To create an environment in which everyone can contribute positively to the development of a strong and dynamic community.”*

## KPT DEVELOPMENT TRUST (LEAD ORGANISATION)

The KPT Development Trust (hence forward KPTDT or the Trust) is the lead organisation for the coordination, production and submission of this LPP.

The Trust is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, established in 2018 to advance the social, economic and environmental development of the three rural communities of Keir, Penpont and Tynron in Nithsdale, Dumfries and Galloway. Its activities and operations are governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association and overseen by a ten-strong board of directors/trustees who are drawn from a membership of local residents by election at annual general meetings or by appointment by the directors/trustees to fill vacancies, as required.

Working with local people, community councils, Dumfries and Galloway council and other stakeholders, as appropriate, the Trust works to a Community Action Plan, reviewed in 2021, which commits us to a range of broad activities that aim to address the sustainability of the KPT area, including:

- jobs, disadvantage and conditions of life generally;
- the provision of local services and infrastructure;
- the protection, improvement and promotion of the local environment; and
- the advancement of the local, cultural heritage.

## PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

The Penpont LPP has been produced jointly by the Trust, Penpont Community Council, and local residents, represented by a joint steering group, and supported by consultants Community Enterprise. Together, they have been responsible for all key stages in the development of the plan.

Funding to meet the costs of the plan's production has come from:

- Dumfries and Galloway Council's Local Place Plan Fund (supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund);
- Penpont Community Council; and
- The KPT Community Benefit Fund.

## THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of the LPP is to identify and make clear to all organisations with a responsibility for the physical, social, economic and environmental development of Penpont the strengths, needs, wishes and aspirations of the people of this area so that they may act upon them, as appropriate. Thus the plan will inform:

- Council planners as they review and revise the Local Development Plan (LDP);
- other Council departments with relevant responsibilities for the social, economic and environmental welfare of communities within the region;

- the community council insofar as it has a responsibility for liaising with the regional council on local issues, informing the latter of local views and promoting them accordingly;
- other statutory agencies, non-statutory organisations and funding bodies with a remit for the area, to help them understand local needs and aspirations and to adapt their activities accordingly; and
- the Trust itself in the promotion and development of its own objectives for the wider area.

## THE PROCESS INVOLVED

The Trust commissioned consultants Community Enterprise to support the development of the LPP at the beginning of June 2024. Together with Penpont Community Council, we established a steering group for the project and drafted a workplan to undertake a thorough and robust programme of research into, and engagement with, the Penpont community. In summary, this involved:

- widespread communication of the project and the process involved through posters and leaflets, electronic media and face-to-face meetings;
- asset mapping of the community to inform discussion about local assets and opportunities;
- analysis of existing data, including local demographics and statistics, national and regional policy and other local documents to understand and provide the context for the area;
- engagement with a diverse range of local residents, businesses and groups through the summer of 2024 using a combination of: electronic and hard-copy surveys, community engagement events (or 'focus groups'), *ad hoc* meetings with specific individuals and groups, and 'advice' days for those requiring additional support;
- a dedicated community 'drop-in' event to discuss themes and project ideas emerging from the research and engagement and to gain feedback;
- the production of interim and baseline reports for consideration by the steering group;
- a workshop to agree the proposed vision, themes, projects/actions and to map them accordingly prior to drafting the LPP;
- discussion and agreement with Dumfries and Galloway Council's LPP Team on the alignment of the draft plan with legal requirements and arrangements for the final consultation stage; and
- statutory consultation with local councillors, community councils and other relevant agencies, including a further 'drop-in' event for residents.



## PLAN STRUCTURE AND BROAD CONTENTS

In the development and drafting of this plan we followed the guidance offered by Dumfries and Galloway Council, set out in its online LPP 'Toolkit', and in particular the 'LPP Template' in terms of its broad structure and design.

Thus the plan sets out:

- the context for and a description of the area, including:
  - » an overview of the area with a map defining the area to which the plan relates;
  - » a review and assessment of the area's assets and opportunities;
  - » a statistical analysis of the area's needs and challenges; and
  - » a summary of local residents' views of their own area.
- a summary of the engagement undertaken with the community;
- the results of this engagement, including an assessment of strengths and weaknesses and the objectives (in practice, a vision, themes and projects/actions) needed to address them;
- an asset development map to illustrate the location of those projects/actions that have a spatial dimension;
- an overview and analysis of local planning and other documents the LPP is required to 'have regard to';
- an action plan to take forward the objectives;
- a management/monitoring plan and a statement to confirm that the plan meets all statutory requirements in terms of process and content.



# CONTEXT / DESCRIPTION OF THE PENPONT AREA

01

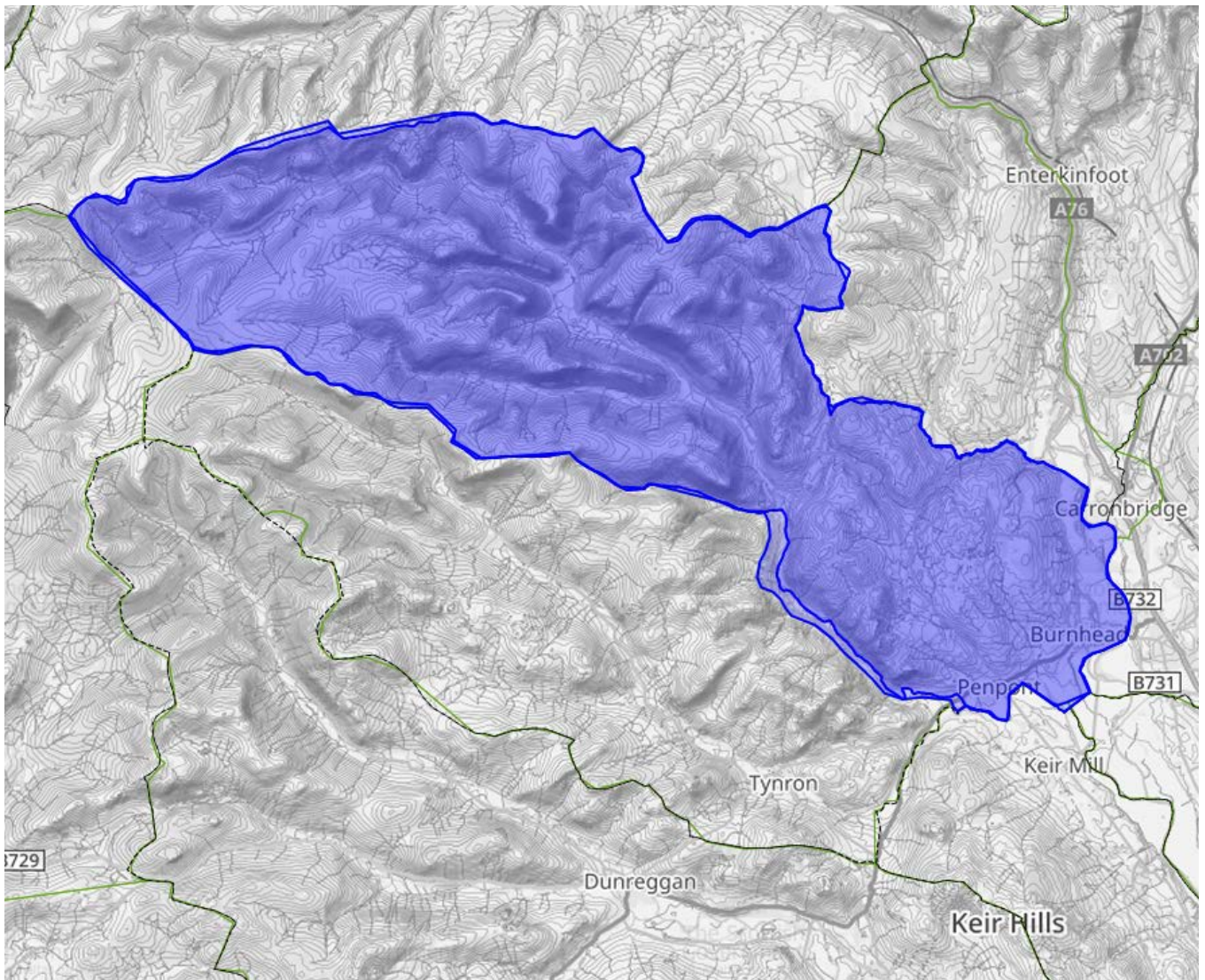
# Context / Description of The Penpont Area

## MAP OF THE COMMUNITY

The Penpont LPP area is defined by the blue lines in the map below which represent the almost overlapping boundaries of Penpont Parish and Penpont Community Council, respectively. The boundaries differ very slightly in the southwest corner of the parish where the community council area extends onto the southern bank of the Scaur Water. For the avoidance of doubt, the LPP deals with the wider area, where relevant.

The review of the community's assets also includes the community garden which is just outside the boundary, on the southern tip of the parish, and therefore within Keir parish.

The map otherwise shows the position of Penpont within Dumfries and Galloway and identifies neighbouring communities including (clockwise, from north): Sanquhar, Durisdeer, Morton (Thornhill), Closeburn, Keir, Tynron and Dalry.





## OVERVIEW

Penpont is a relatively large parish that sits to the west of Thornhill, in mid-Nithsdale, within the historic county of Dumfriesshire. It stretches along a southeast/northwest axis for roughly 25 miles, from the confluence of the Scour and Nith waters, which form the southwest and southeast boundaries of the parish, respectively, up to source of the Scour, near Polskeoch, at its northwestern tip.

This latter part of the parish, following the valley of the Scour Water, is remote and sparsely populated. The majority of the parish's population of roughly 580 people (2022 Census information) and nearly all of its non-farming businesses are in the village of Penpont, situated to the south of the parish, either side of the A702 road from Thornhill to Moniaive. It is a late 18th / early 19th century settlement, developed as a result of the displacement of the local population from farms as they were being amalgamated. The only other settlement is the hamlet of Burnhead, about 1.5 miles east along the A702, developed around a local church.

The landscape of the parish is otherwise agricultural, with grazing land (for dairy, beef and sheep) predominant and an increasing area planted for forestry. It rises from low-lying fields bordering the Scour and Nith in the south, to the uplands either side of the Scour Valley to the north, and is overlooked by the Keir Hills to the west and the Lowther Hills to the east. These green, open spaces provide plenty of opportunities for more energetic walkers to explore, while the Southern Upland Way runs along the northern boundary of the parish and nearby Drumlanrig, part of Buccleuch Estates, offers marked trails for walkers and cyclists.

Architecturally, the village consists largely of single storey cottages and dormers and two-storey sandstone villas, with a small number of notable buildings, including the mid-19th century church and steeple, with glebe fields on three sides, that forms a significant feature in the centre of the settlement.

## SPECIFIC ASSETS

Asset Mapping is the process of identifying, connecting and mobilising the strengths, resources and physical assets that exist within a community, to build upon and enhance positive outcomes. The Penpont area offers a range of assets, services, and amenities and we have produced a snapshot of some of the key assets across the community, as set out in Appendix 1.

The snapshot shows the following categories of asset:

- Buildings and Amenities
- Green Space and Play
- Heritage Assets
- Protected Land (green spaces that protect the village setting)
- Local Businesses and Community Organisations.

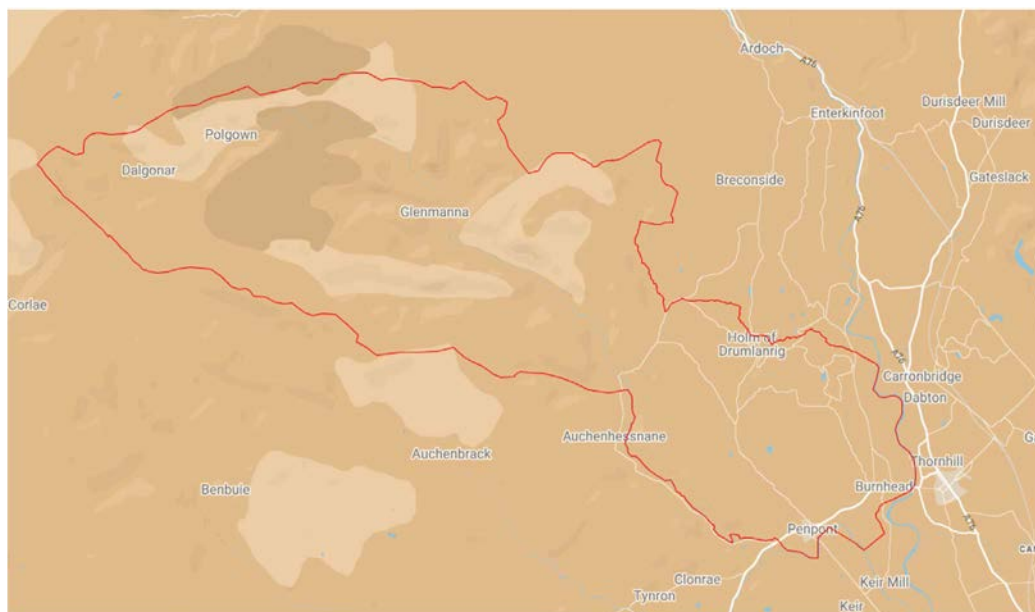
Altogether, it demonstrates that the Penpont community is relatively asset-rich although, as highlighted in the sections that follow, not all are currently suited to the community's needs. A wide range of businesses and social activities also underpin the community although, again, they do not necessarily enjoy the best facilities in which to thrive.

The maps included with the snapshot therefore highlight a selection of the things in the area which can be preserved and built on over the period of this LPP.

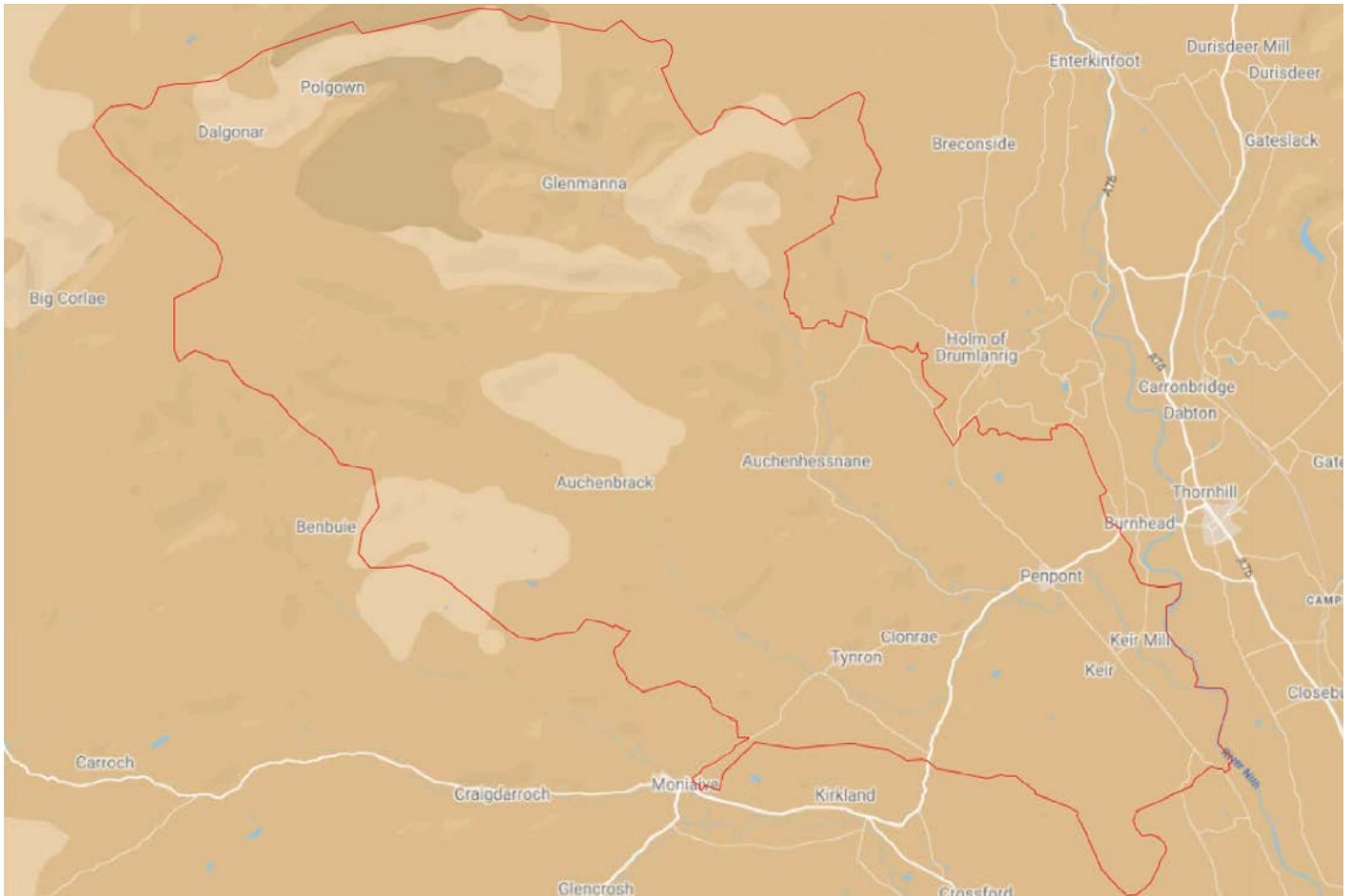
## RESEARCH FINDINGS

### Demographics And Statistics

The Penpont LPP is being developed for the benefit of those living within the Penpont Community Council boundary. However, as Census data is not published for community council areas, we have gathered data for the Penpont parish area (red) which has a close-fitting geographic boundary.



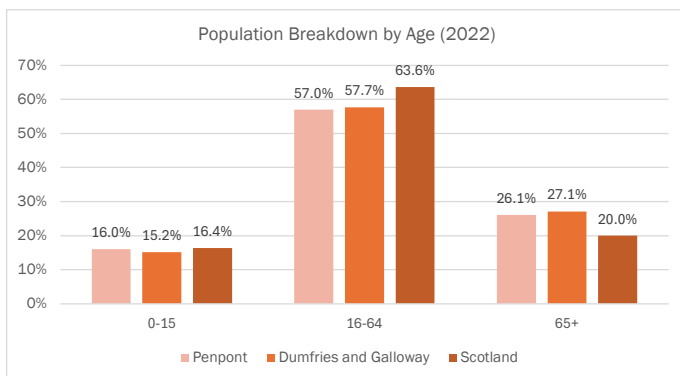
Some data is not published at parish level. Where parish data is not available, we have provided data for the larger Thornhill – 04 data zone (below), within which Penpont sits.



Thornhill 04 Data Zone

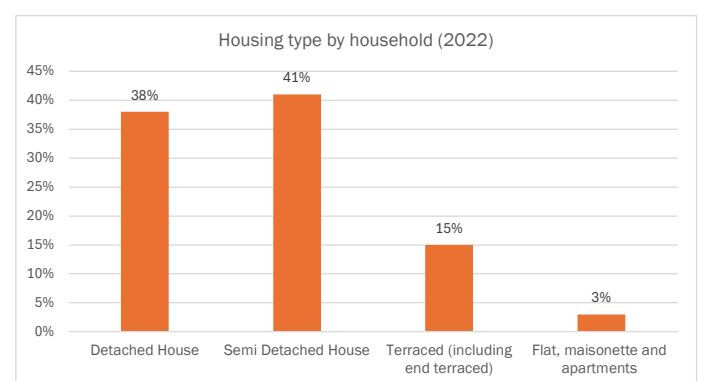
### Population

The parish area has seen a *decline in population*. At the 2011 Census there were 734 people living in the area. As of the 2022 Census there were 580 people living in the area. There has therefore been a 22% decrease in the local population between 2011 to 2022.



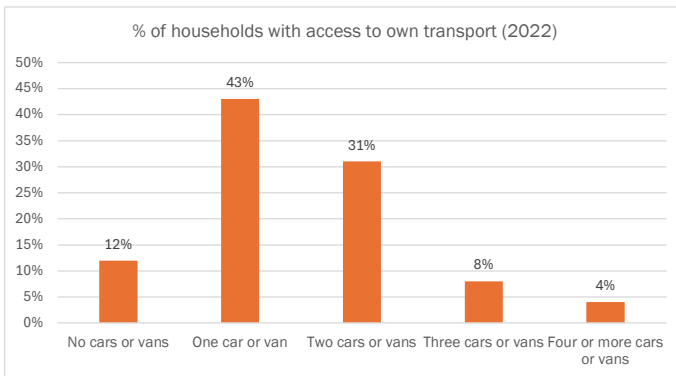
The community also has an ageing population, with lower numbers of working age people in the area than the national average. 36% of those living in the local area are aged over 65 (national average is 20%), 57% are of working age (national average is 64%) and 16% are aged 0-15 (roughly the same).

### Housing



At the 2022 Census, there were 269 households in the Penpont Parish area. Of these, 94% lived in whole houses or bungalows, 38% in detached houses, 41% in semi detached and 15% in terraced houses. Only 3% of households in Penpont live in flats or apartments.

## Transport



12% of households in Penpont do not have their own car, which is statistically significant given the rural nature of the place and limited public transport options. 86% of households have access to one car or more.

## Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) measures the level of deprivation across 6,976 data zones in Scotland. The SIMD combines data across seven domains: income, employment, education, health, geographic access to services, housing and crime. Penpont is located within the Thornhill – 04 datazone, which also encompasses the neighbouring areas of Keir and Tynron.

This datazone 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 services and fuel stations.

## Universal Credit

Universal Credit has replaced six previous benefits (including housing benefit, child tax credit and working tax credit). It can be received by people in work on low incomes and those who are unemployed.

12% of people living in the Thornhill - 04 data zone claim Universal Credit, which is slightly below the averages of 14% in Dumfries and Galloway and 13% in Scotland (DWP, March 2022).

## Local Jobs

Data on local jobs is provided by the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) at data zone level. According to BRES figures from 2022, the largest industry groups for workforce jobs based in the Thornhill – 04 data zone are:

- Information and communication (20%)
- Professional, scientific and technical (13%)
- Education (13%)
- Manufacturing (13%)
- Motor trades (13%)

For the data zone in which Penpont sits, just 9% of jobs are in the public sector. This is lower than the national average of 23%.

## Older People

Pension Credit provides financial help for people aged 60 or over whose income is below a certain level, so is an indicator for pensioners living in poverty. Fewer pensioners in the Thornhill – 04 data zone are considered to be living in poverty as 9% claim Pension Credit, compared to 12% of pensioners across Scotland as a whole.

Attendance Allowance is payable to people over the age of 66 who are so disabled, physically or mentally, that they need help with personal care or supervision. According to figures from the Department of Work and Pensions (Feb, 2022), 9% of people in the Thornhill – 04 data zone claim Attendance Allowance, which is lower than in Dumfries and Galloway (12%) and Scotland (11%).

## Education

Information on school performance is from the Scottish Government's dashboard for the year 2022/23.

Penpont Primary School currently has 56 pupils. The percentages of pupils (at P1, P4, and P7 levels) achieving the Curriculum for Excellence level relevant to their stage is: Reading: 80-90%; Writing: 70-80%; Listening and Talking: 90+%; and Numeracy: 80-90%.

Teachers at Penpont Primary School informed us that nearly 50% of the school roll are in receipt of support from the Pupil Equity Fund, having been identified as being in poverty risk categories (according to the Scottish Government's Schools Attainment Challenge). Support from the fund is provided to help with learning to try and reduce the gap between the most and least well off in the area in terms of achievement and attainment. This compares with Wallace Hall Academy, serving the Thornhill area as a whole, which has only 15% of pupils at risk of poverty.





## HOW THE COMMUNITY VIEWS ITSELF

### Place Standard Tool

The first phase of the development of the LPP involved robust engagement practices in order to consult people from across the community. As will be demonstrated in later sections, the people of Penpont and the surrounding areas engaged well with the process, seeing it as an opportunity to change the area for the better.

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 to pinpoint key areas of strength as well as areas for improvement. This image visualises the assessment.

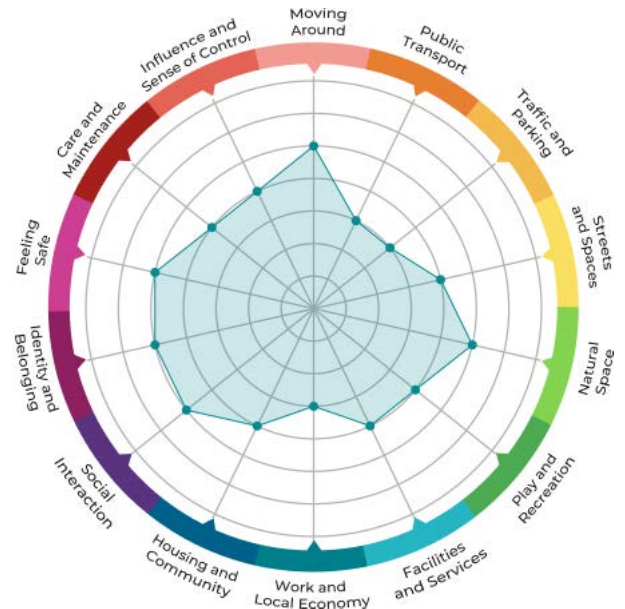
This phase therefore helped to identify issues or 'challenges' for the community, as well as fresh ideas and possible ways of addressing both.

### Results

In our survey, 81% of respondents rated the Penpont area highly as a place in which to live and 72% rated the area highly as a place to visit. Some 62% expected to be still living here in 10 years' time. In support of this overall finding, the highest scoring areas were *natural space*, *identity and belonging*, *feeling safe and moving around*.

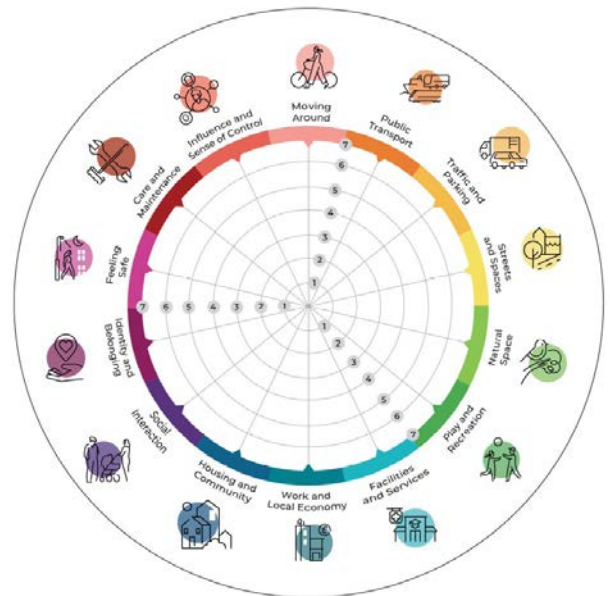
Of the others who didn't know or were not so sure about the area's merits, the reasons were related to roads and parking, community facilities, work opportunities, affordable or appropriate housing and lack of services, including public transport. Thus, the lowest scoring areas were *work and local economy*, *traffic and parking* and *public transport*.

More detailed results can be found in the next section.



Further information on the Place Standard Tool is available at:

[www.ourplace.scot/tool](http://www.ourplace.scot/tool)



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

02

# Community Engagement

---

## THE PROCESS

The consultation we undertook aimed to gain wide representation from the village and wider community, businesses and community organisations, and non-residents with an interest in the development of the community. To ensure the widest possible coverage we initially drafted an *engagement framework* which targeted residents and groups by demographic, community/activity and geographic sectors.

We then engaged with the identified groups using a variety of approaches including:

- a community survey;
- focus groups and drop-in sessions with community groups;
- direct engagement with individuals and community organisations; and
- feedback and further public consultation events, including an online option.

A range of communication channels were used to inform and engage including:

- a press release;
- the KPTDT's own weekly bulletin (emailed to over 200 subscribers) and website;
- social media (mainly a series of KPT and other community Facebook pages);
- posters, public notices through the community council and door-to-door leaflets;
- direct contact with individuals and organisations; and
- word of mouth.

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

The community survey formed part of a menu of opportunities offered to the people of the Penpont area to inform the Local Place Plan. The survey was available to local residents and people who work in or visit the area from early June to late August 2024. It was advertised through posters, social media, word of mouth, email, digital newsletter, leaflet drops and drop-in sessions. People were given the option to complete it online or by paper copy.

The survey generated 154 responses completed and returned, either online or as paper copies. Respondents were specifically asked if their returns were their own views or represented other people in their household and, based on this, we have established that the survey responses represented a total of 545 people.

Of these, analysis showed that 84% of respondents lived in the Penpont Parish area which means that *the survey generated an 80% response rate from local residents.*

A further 6% worked in the area and 8% lived outside but had an interest in the area. The remaining 3% were visitors to the area.

## OTHER ENGAGEMENT

In parallel with the community survey, a comprehensive series of community engagement events (or 'focus groups') was held with different demographic groups, ranging from primary school children, 12-18 year-olds and over 40s to retired residents. Young adults and those with families were identified and reached directly or approached through other events such as a Community Garden barbecue and a village hall party for the parents of children involved in summer activities. This ensured we reached the full spectrum of age ranges in the community.

Face-to-face meetings were held with a number of other individuals, representing businesses or community organisations, to ensure we attracted the views of specific interests, such as local landowners, tourist accommodation and the Joseph Thomson heritage centre.

Door-to-door leafleting was undertaken, not just in the village, but in outlying areas such as the hamlet of Burnhead and remote addresses up the Scaur Valley to ensure full geographic coverage.

Finally, a series of 'surgeries' was held in the KPT office to engage with people who had difficulties in completing the survey. Contact was made with community health and social services in Dumfries, and with local social housing providers, to raise awareness of the survey among these groups.

Altogether these additional approaches engaged with 52 people of different ages and backgrounds.





**KEIR PENPONT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

**Penpont Community Council**

**LOCAL PLACE PLAN FOR PENPONT  
SESSION FOR 12 - 18 YEAR OLDS**

**FREE PIZZA & MILKSHAKE EVENT**

JOIN US FOR PIZZA MAKING FUN AND GIVE US YOUR IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE OF PENPONT

**THREE VILLAGES CAFE  
THURSDAY, 11TH JULY 2024  
6.00PM - 8.00PM  
ALL 12 - 18 YEAR OLDS WELCOME**

**PENPONT LOCAL PLACE PLAN**

**YOU ARE INVITED!**

BY THE PENPONT LOCAL PLACE PLAN STEERING GROUP

TO PLEASE JOIN US

AT THE  
**GLADSTONE HALL**  
**SATURDAY 21, SEPTEMBER**  
**11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**FEEDBACK EVENT**

SEE AND HEAR ABOUT THE RESPONSES YOU GAVE TO THIS SUMMER'S LOCAL PLACE PLAN SURVEY.  
PRIORITISE THE PROJECTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN.

HELP US MAP WHERE THEY SHOULD GO.  
(TEA & COFFEE)

**community enterprise**

[www.kptdevelopmenttrust.org](http://www.kptdevelopmenttrust.org)









**Local Place Plan for Penpont**  
**Coffee morning**  


Join us for coffee and scones and give us your ideas for the future of Penpont  
**THREE VILLAGES COMMUNITY CAFE**  
**TUESDAY, 30th July 2024**  
**11.00am**  
 ALL OVER 40'S WELCOME

### WHAT THE COMMUNITY HAVE TOLD US SO FAR...



Through our community survey, we have gathered the responses of 154 people. Alongside household members, the survey responses represent 545 individuals.

**62%**



...of survey respondents said they expect that they will still be living in Penpont in 10 years time

**Live**



**81%**

rate Penpont as a good place to live

**Work**



**53%**

rate Penpont as a good place to work

**Visit**



**72%**

rate Penpont as a good place to visit

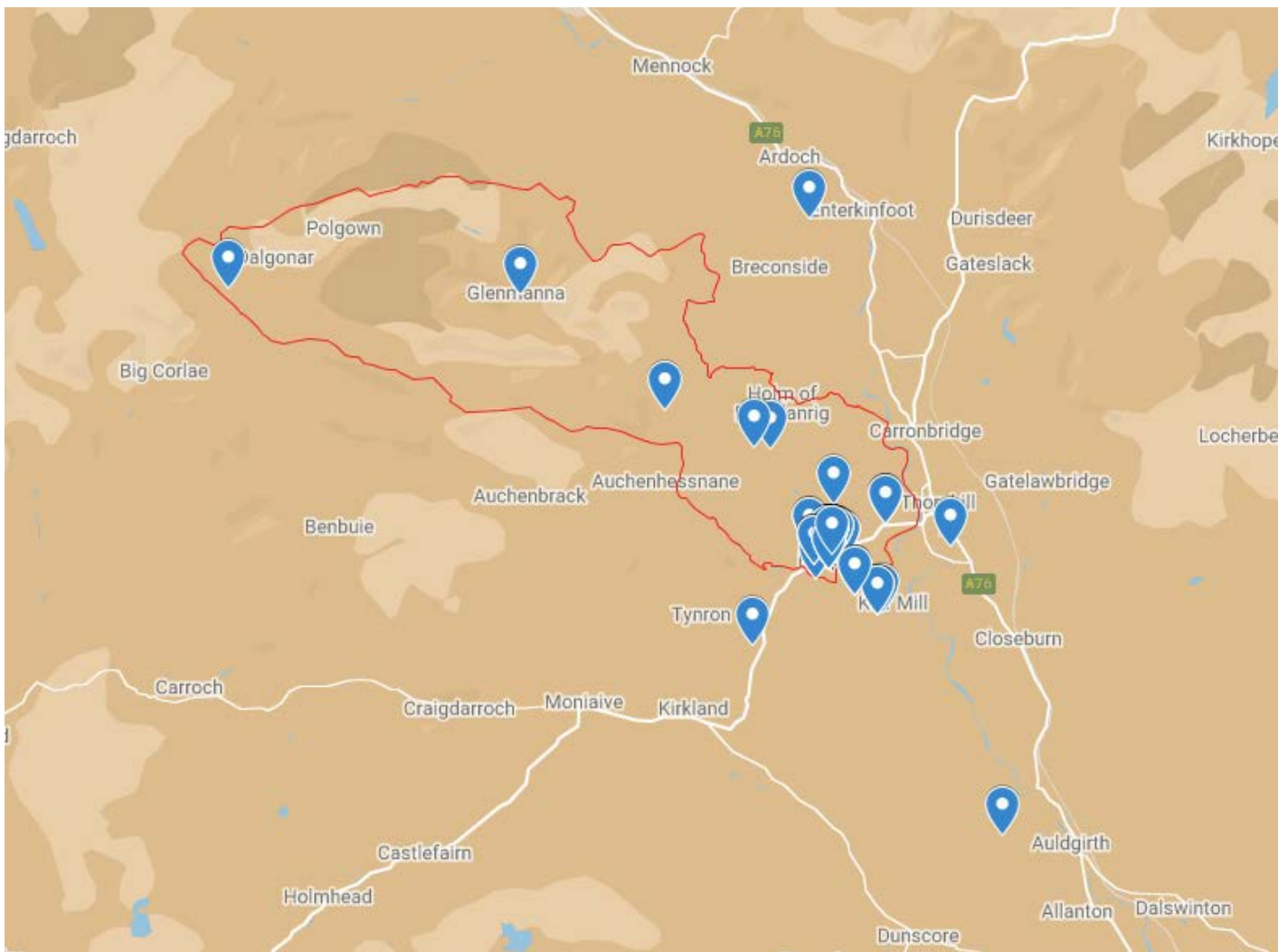
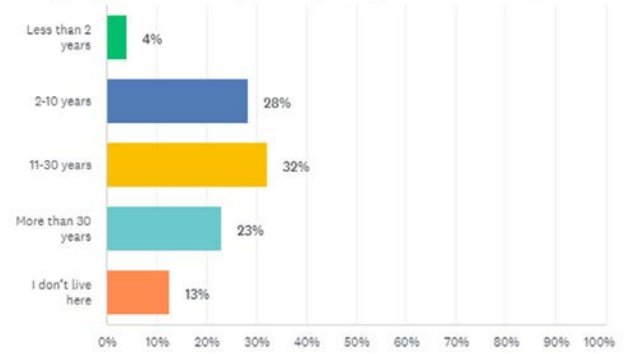


## COVERAGE ACHIEVED

There was a balanced mix of respondents, with both long-term residents and those who have lived in the community for less than 10 years. However, only 4% of respondents had lived in the village for under 2 years. This could suggest that there are very few newer residents living in the area.

We also asked survey participants to share their home postcodes, and 124 individuals chose to respond. The map below illustrates the distribution of these postcodes, with most respondents living within the village itself. However, residents from outlying areas within the Penpont Community Council boundary are also well-represented in the survey responses.

Q2. If you are a resident, how long have you lived in the Penpont





## FEEDBACK

Following the completion of the community survey, a drop in meeting was held in the Gladstone Hall on 21 September 2024 to discuss themes and project ideas emerging from the research and consultation to date. The feedback event was attended by 55 people and the information supplied was displayed in the KPT office for a further week, during which an additional 20 people dropped in to provide feedback or attended other *ad hoc* events. To capture community members who were unable to attend in person, online feedback was also made available and some 26 people took this opportunity.

The outcome of the community survey and drop-in session was an interim report which was reviewed by the steering group and posted on the KPT Development Trust website.

This led to the production of a baseline report, setting out the proposed vision and themes, along with possible actions and projects emerging from the research and consultation. This was reviewed as part of a dedicated workshop involving steering group members, representatives of the community council and directors/trustees of the KPT Development Trust and concluded with an exercise to map the actions and projects accordingly.

The agreed baseline report is available on the Trust's website and the revised vision, themes and project priorities are set out in the next section.

## THE DRAFT PLAN

A Local Place Plan for the Penpont area was subsequently drafted by members of the steering group, reviewed and revised internally and then discussed on an informal basis with members of the community council and directors of the KPTDT. It was then discussed with Dumfries and Galloway Council's LPP Team to ensure that it met relevant legal requirements and to agree arrangements for the final consultation stage.

The draft plan formed part of a statutory, 28-day consultation with the community, regional councillors for the Penpont area, the local community council, and those councils that are immediately adjacent to it.

## DETAILED RESULTS

### Strengths and Opportunities

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. Typical comments in this vein included:

*"Beautiful area to live – so many gorgeous places within walking distance from the front door."  
"Rural environment, close to nature, with fresh air."*

53% of survey respondents said that the Penpont area has a strong sense of community and that the people who live in the area are friendly and welcoming. Comments in this category included such as:

*"Friendly village with nice residents."  
"The people are generally very friendly and pleasant."*

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 safe environment in which to live and move around and thus a relaxed and calming lifestyle, far removed from the hustle and bustle of towns and cities. Comments here included:

*"Space, peace, and tranquillity of the area."  
"Safe and peaceful community."*

28% of survey respondents emphasised Penpont's existing facilities and amenities as key assets for the community. The café, shop, school 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. Typical comments included:

*"Excellent local amenities, ie., shop, KPT, café, and garage."  
"Convenient local shop."*

### Challenges and Needs

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. The following comments are typical of those received:

*"The main road often has potholes and degraded surface."  
"Condition of roads, far too many potholes, roads need properly resurfaced and maintained, better trimming of road verges."*

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, it was stated that bus times should link up better with departures from Thornhill. It was also highlighted that timetabling needs to be clearer and better advertised.

*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 (see *pavements*, above). Comments received included:

***“Improve limited car parking to free up space on the main road”***  
***“A realistic plan to satisfy Penpont’s street parking problem.”***

A lack of electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities was also mentioned during the consultation – an extension to the parking issue. 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 were generally considered adequate for the size of the village. However, there were some significant exceptions noted.

15% of respondents referred to the lack of appropriate community facilities as a key challenge. Responses under this theme generally focused on the need for improvements to public spaces such as the community hall and the creation of a vibrant community hub. Others wanted to see more social spaces for the community such as a pub, and services like a post office. Typical comments included:

***“Facilities such as a bigger hall, functions, pub.”***  
***“Improved community spaces - hall and MUGA.”***

Generally, the Gladstone Hall is recognised as an asset, though there was a sense that it requires renovations and upgrades to become a vibrant and well-used community hub while the Three Villages Café, though much appreciated as a community facility, is thought to be too small for local needs. The need for more opportunities for socialising generally within the community (regardless of age group) was a strong theme running through the consultation.

Throughout the consultation, local people highlighted the need for more affordable housing to allow people to stay in the area, especially first-time buyers or families looking for affordable leases (referenced specifically by 12%). The lack of rental properties is a particular issue, meaning that people

looking to rent in the Penpont area often have to go elsewhere – thus exacerbating the issues of depopulation and an ageing population, mentioned above.

The issue of holiday lets (particularly those given over to *AirBnB*) was raised several times throughout the community consultation – there are currently 9 such properties in the village. Many people associate the better commercial returns available from short-term lets, and therefore a lack of longer-term lets, with a rise in the costs of property generally in the parish.

A lack of facilities and activities for young people was another frequently mentioned challenge (13% of respondents mentioned). 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 play safely in the village. A lack of places to meet up and socialise was frequently mentioned as a challenge by younger age groups 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.

Other noted concerns included:

- the limited post office service in the area (just two hours a week on an outreach basis) and a lack of courier pick-up points;
- a need for remote desk/office space and/or storage space for small businesses.

## ANALYSIS

The consultation exercise showed that the people of Penpont are invested in their community and value the area as a place in which to live, to work and to visit. They particularly appreciate the local, natural environment, the area’s strong sense of community, the relatively safe environment and the peace and tranquility associated with rural living.

The asset mapping exercise which was run in parallel with the consultation appears to confirm local residents’ views that Penpont is an asset rich community, relative to its size. The café, church and community hall (Gladstone Hall) all provide spaces where people can come together and provide opportunities for individuals to socially interact. *However, there are limitations on their capacity to meet local needs.*

Penpont Primary School and Pre-School were frequently mentioned as key assets during consultations and local people emphasised that the primary school in particular should be protected for the future. The latter has an excellent relationship with the local community, a strong Parent Council and acts as a vibrant social hub for families with young children. *This is important to note within the context of the 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 general off-road 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, the profits from which 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 Dumfries and Galloway 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 and source of fresh produce.

Despite these positive views, the findings concerning depopulation and the ageing population associated with it were generally attributed to a lack of services and job opportunities. These, it was felt, force younger people to leave and discourage families from moving in. *Thought needs to be given to developing projects that improve the balance of the community, including the encouragement of working-age people to the area.*

In this respect, the finding that Penpont is located within one of the most deprived 10% of areas in Scotland in terms of geographic access to services is telling. 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 – the latter is the main reason we developed the active travel path (see Appendix 1 – Local Assets) but it is as yet unfinished and does not meet everyone's needs.*

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.

## SUMMARY

A graphic summary of the strengths, opportunities, challenges and needs presented by this analysis is set out below.

### Strengths and Opportunities

Natural Space

Sense of Community and Belonging

Safe Environment to Live and Move Around

Asset Rich

### Challenges and Needs

Ageing and declining population

Lack of access to key services

Conditions of roads and pavements

Limited parking for residents and visitors

Lack of housing options including affordable housing, long term rentals and houses for families

Public transport

Spaces for play and leisure, especially for young people

Work and local economy



## PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Respondents to the community survey were asked to list up to two projects or initiatives that they would like to see happening in the Penpont area to build upon the opportunities or address the challenges discussed above. As a result, a long list of around 20 projects was originally drawn up, grouped into thematic areas.

As previously mentioned, some 55 people dropped in to the consultation session throughout the day, a further 20 to view the same information in the KDPDT office and in other, face-to-face events, and another 26 responded online. The votes and feedback from this exercise resulted in a revised list which is set out in the following table, in order of preference.

This was 'played back' to local residents at the public drop-in event held in the Gladstone Hall on Saturday 21 September 2024 (see 'Feedback', above), giving participants the opportunity to review thematic areas and project ideas emerging from the research.

Voting on Project Priorities

Projects	No. of Votes	Comments
Additional Parking Provision	34	
Continue with Gala Week	34	High priority online
Community Pub	28	High priority online
Community Hub	27	High priority online
MUGA Refurbishment	27	
Regular Social Events	26	Highest priority online
Traffic Calming Measures	26	
Covered Seating Area in Gladstone Park	24	
Completion of Cycle Path	21	2nd highest priority online
Annual Arts and Music Event	20	High priority online
Youth Arts and Sports Clubs	19	
Easily Accessible Maps of Local Walking and Cycling Routes	16	High priority online
Extended Play Equipment in Gladstone Park	14	High priority online
Outdoor Gym	13	
Community Allotments	12	
Community Woodland	12	
Affordable Housing	12	High priority online
Local Library	9	
Workspaces/Workshop	5	

This list forms the basis for the investment themes and priority projects described in the next section.

# VISION, THEMES, OBJECTIVES AND PROJECT PRIORITIES

03

# Vision, Themes, Objectives and Project Priorities

---

## Our Vision

Based on the community's consultation responses there is a strong vision for 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."*

As a community we have therefore adopted the following **vision** for the next ten years:

***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 natural, rural 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.***

In order to achieve this, our **mission** is now:

***To create an environment in which everyone can contribute positively to the development of a strong and dynamic community.***



## INVESTMENT THEMES

The LPP process identified five core, thematic areas that will underpin and support the achievement of the vision, as follows.

### 01 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.

### 02 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.

### 03 Environment and Greenspace – ‘A green & sustainable place’

This theme 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 foster 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.

### 04 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, centered on good quality community facilities, can help to foster a sense of belonging and vibrancy, making the area more appealing to residents and visitors alike.

### 05 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.



## Theme 1 - A Place to Live

### Strategic Objective

Penpont will have the infrastructure and community facilities that address the needs of an ageing population and counteract 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 setting, pre-school and primary school.
5. Create additional parking spaces for residents and visitors to alleviate congestion and improve mobility within the village, review and replace pavements in light of the above.
6. Implement traffic control measures to reduce vehicle speeds through the village and improve signage to local assets.
7. Develop smart transport solutions to help people get to work, essential services, leisure activities or just to 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 most 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. Complete the 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 include 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.

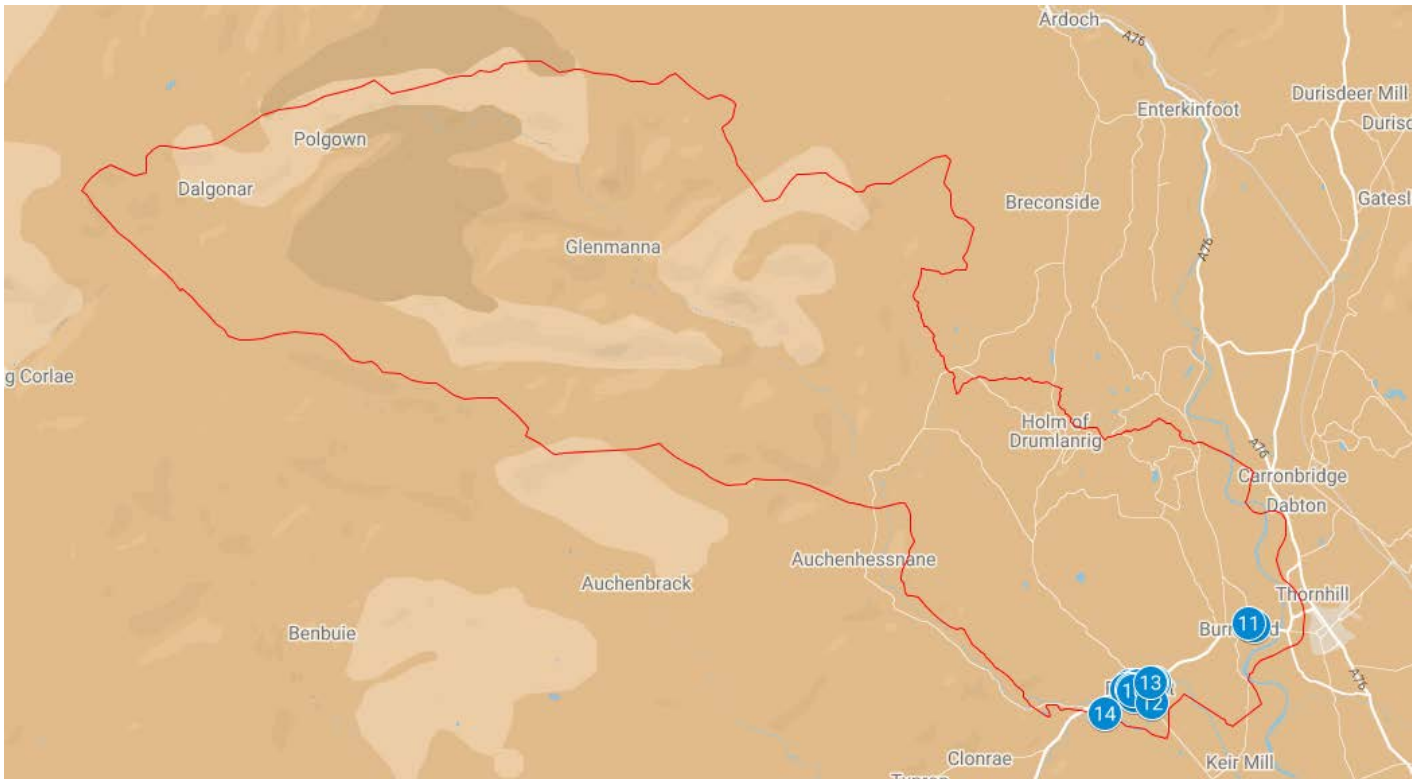
### Projects

20. Support local business owners and home-workers by investigating demand for local workspace and storage.
21. Work 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.

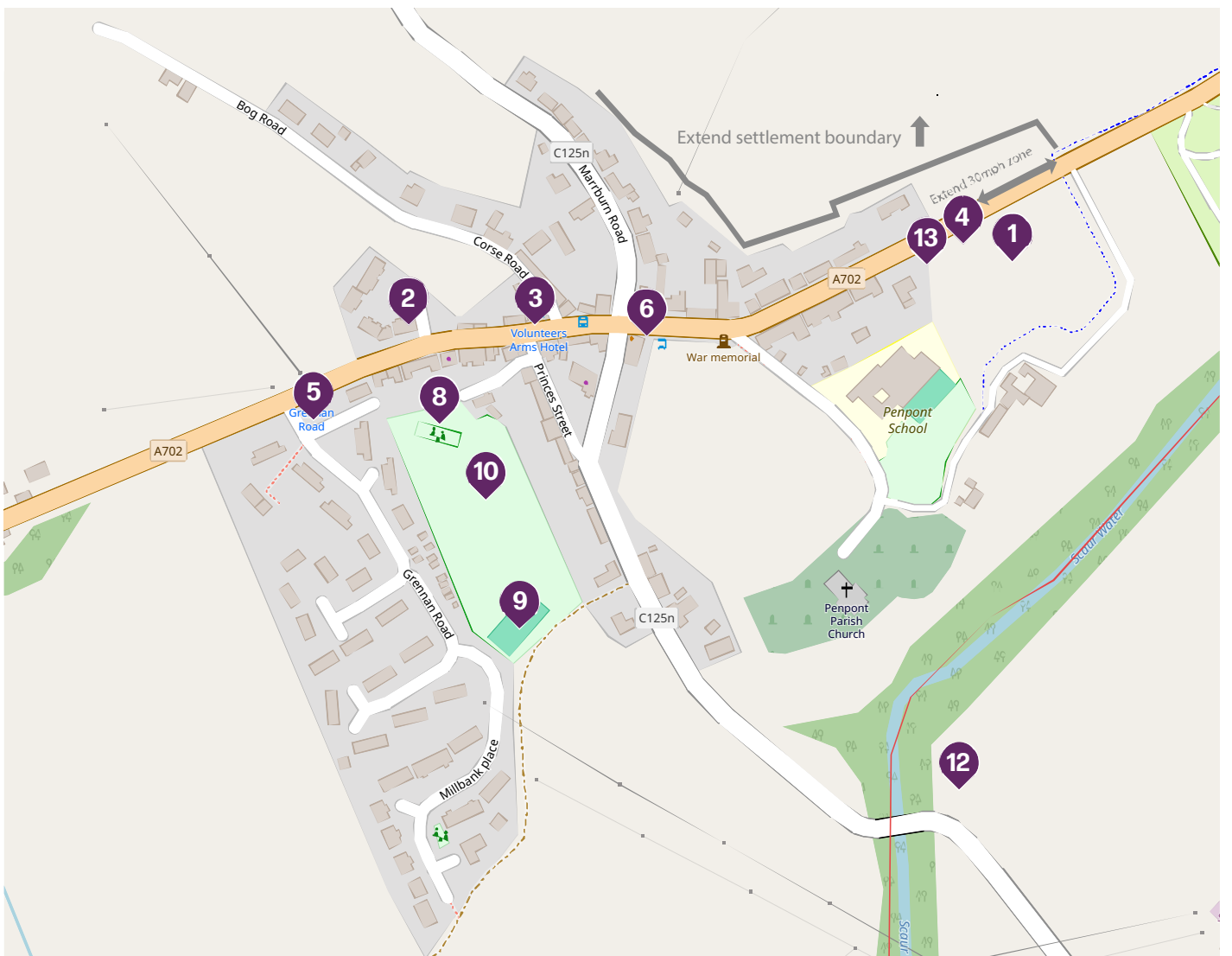
The maps below locate those proposals with a spatial dimension.



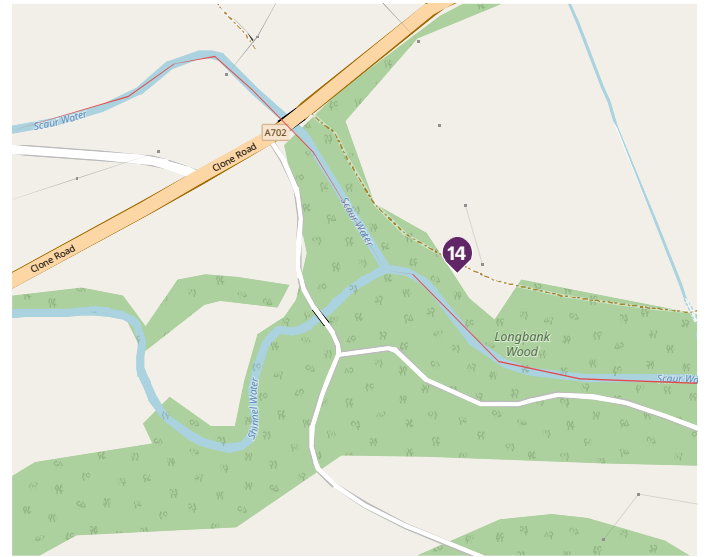
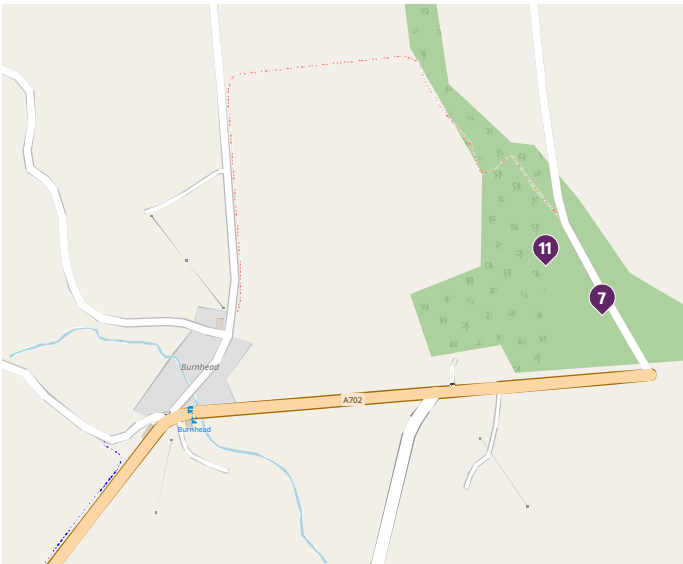




**Map 1** – Project locations in the context of the whole parish (red boundary line)



**Map 2** – Penpont village locations (see project mapping references, below)



**Map 3-** Near Burnhead

**Map 4-** Southwest of Penpont Village

**Penpont LPP 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

## SPECIFIC ISSUES FOR COUNCIL SERVICE AREAS AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

In line with the above objectives and project priorities, the Penpont community would like Dumfries and Galloway Council to consider and address the following specific issues for relevant council service areas. In addition, we make a number of proposals for the review of LDP2/planning policy generally, and with particular reference to planning objectives for the settlement of Penpont.

Each of the issues is cross-referenced to the previous themes and priority projects and their locations, in the maps above, where they have a spatial dimension.

### Service Areas

1. With reference to Theme 1 / Priority Project 4, we request that Dumfries and Galloway council takes into account the vital role of Penpont Primary School within Penpont, and the importance that the community attaches to it, in its current and future assessments of the school estate in rural areas.
2. With reference to Theme 1 / Priority Projects 5 and 6, we request that the council reviews and addresses as appropriate: parking provision, the condition of pavements, traffic control measures and signage, to alleviate congestion and improve mobility within the village, and that community safety wardens become more involved in policing such matters, including the issue of dog fouling.
3. With reference to Theme 1 / Priority Project 4 and Theme 5 / Priority Project 21, we request that the council takes into account the vital role that public transport still plays for a significant proportion of the local population in accessing employment, education, services/facilities and leisure in the provision it makes for bus routes and bus timetabling between Penpont and other local communities, including specifically the service centre of Thornhill. We also ask that it works with local residents and community bodies to develop other transport and/or active travel solutions, as appropriate.

### Planning Policy / LDP2 Generally

4. With reference to Theme 1 / Priority Project 1, we ask that the council review its policy ED9 (Tourism), regarding tourism accommodation and specifically applications for short-term lets in rural areas, given their potentially detrimental impact on affordable housing provision in the community.
5. With reference to Theme 1 / Priority Project 4 and Theme 5 / Priority Project 21, we ask that the council reviews and, if necessary, strengthens its policies ED8 (Small and Rural Shops) and CF1 (Community Facilities), to deal with applications for change of use of business premises that play a vital role in rural communities and to support their retention where possible.

### Penpont (PNT) Settlement Planning Objectives

6. With reference to Theme 1 / Priority Projects 5 and 6, we request an extension of the eastern boundary of Penpont village on its northern edge to allow for the creation of parking spaces behind the area of land that has recently (February 2024) been granted outline planning permission for housing off Pringleton (see specific text on Map 2). The community welcomes the new housing development, but on-street parking throughout the village is a significant problem and drivers stopping on this section of the A702 to open individual garden gates to the new houses, or visitors dropping in, would exacerbate the problem. Allowing a road to be built around the back of the proposed development, with individual entrances off a back lane, would be a good solution to minimise the impact on through traffic on the A702.
7. Likewise, we ask that the 30mph zone along the A702 on the eastern side of Penpont village is extended to just beyond the caravan park and that parking on the northern side of the extended section is restricted (see specific text on Map 2). The Council's own roads department has asked for these changes in its response to the same planning application for a housing development on the eastern boundary of the village / just north of the A702, although this was not included in the subsequent grant of outline planning permission. (Roads and Infrastructure Internal Memo in response to planning application for housing development on land at Pringleton, Penpont, 3 March 2023.) The effect of the changes would be to prevent roadside parking in front of the houses which have recently been approved for development and avoid exacerbating the problem of roadside parking generally along Pringleton which already forces cars entering the village to drive in single file.
8. We also ask that further, separate parking provision is identified at the top of Grennan Road, on the western side of the village centre, and elsewhere, as appropriate, with appropriate rationalisation / restriction of parking in the centre of the village.
9. With reference to Theme 1 / Priority Project 1, we ask that another housing development site for the village (or elsewhere in the community) is identified given that site PNT.H1 in the current LDP has been found to be not suitable for housing development and has recently been bought by a local resident who does not intend to develop it for housing. If necessary, we would support the identification of a suitable housing site outside the settlement boundaries, in line with LPD Policy H4 (Housing Development Immediately Outside Settlement Boundaries).
10. Similarly, we ask that the housing development site at PNT.H2 in the current LDP is retained, along with provision for separate parking for the community on the same site, but *without this being a condition of the housing development (as now)* as the additional costs make the latter unaffordable for development by the community.
11. Finally, with reference to Theme 1 / Priority Project 4, we support the retention of the protected status of the green areas within the village and specifically around the church to protect its setting within the settlement landscape.



# STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

04

# Strategic Alignment

---

## OVERVIEW

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) as well as other, current, national and regional planning objectives and a range of relevant economic, social and environmental plans and strategies.

Tables setting out how we have considered these plans and strategies, and how we believe our LPP reflects the relevant objectives within them, can be found in [Appendix 2](#).



## ACTION PLAN

This section sets out in a little more detail how the priority projects identified by the Penpont community and listed above should be carried out, by whom and (ideally) over what period. The projects are broken down by strategic objective and include proposed changes to the Local Development Plan that we believe are required based on those objectives, as well as a commentary on resources and practicalities.

Project / Policy Change	Lead Responsibility	Working with	Resources / Practicalities	Expected Timescale
<b>Theme 1 – A Place to Live</b>				
Strategic Objective - Penpont will have the infrastructure and community facilities that address the needs of an ageing population and counteract 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.				
1 Affordable Community Housing Options	KPTDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning authority</li> <li>SLF / SoSE / SoSCH</li> <li>Rural Housing Fund</li> <li>Private developers</li> <li>Community Council</li> </ul>	Designs, business plan & costings currently being reviewed. Outline planning and SLF Stage 2 acquisition funds to be applied for.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline planning, funding and acquisition 2025</li> <li>Detailed designs 2026</li> <li>Full planning &amp; contractors in place 2027</li> <li>Construction 2028</li> </ul>
See also proposed LDP policy changes re: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of policy on short lets generally in rural communities suffering from shortages of affordable housing.</li> <li>Need to identify additional site for housing in Penpont given that site PNT.H1 is no longer feasible.</li> <li>Retain housing site PNT.H2 with separate parking site but separate the parking as a condition of housing development.</li> </ul>				
2 Supported Housing Options	Social Housing Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Services</li> <li>Health &amp; Health Improvement Services</li> <li>KPTDT / PCC</li> </ul>	Providers and relevant services to become better aware of local circumstances & demand and liaise accordingly.	Ongoing Review at regular intervals
3 Community Hub	KPTDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Architects / Consultants</li> <li>SLF / SoSE &amp; Other Funders</li> <li>Planning authority</li> <li>PCC</li> </ul>	Application made to SLF for Stage 1 funding and consultants provisionally in place. Further options subject to feasibility study.	Feasibility Study & Business Plan complete by mid 2025. Stage 2 SLF application or pursuit of other options thereafter.



Project / Policy Change	Lead Responsibility	Working with	Resources / Practicalities	Expected Timescale
4 Community & Heritage Assets	KPTDT / Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D&amp;G Council Planners &amp; other departments as appropriate</li> <li>SoSE</li> <li>Church of Scotland</li> </ul>	Liaison with D&G council through PCC. Strategies developed as part of other projects, as appropriate to assets and capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Review at regular intervals</li> </ul>
<p>See also our requests that D&amp;G Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>takes into account the vital role of Penpont Primary School within Penpont, and the importance that the community attaches to it, in its current and future assessments of the school estate in rural areas.</li> <li>reviews and, if necessary, strengthens its policies ED:8 (Small and Rural Shops) and CF1 (Community Facilities), to deal with applications for change of use of business premises that play a vital role in rural communities and to support their retention where possible.</li> </ul>				
5 Parking and Pavements	D&G Council / Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCC</li> </ul>	Policy changes as part of LDP review Physical changes as resources permit	LDP Review Schedule Council to confirm
<p>See accordingly the request that D&amp;G Council reviews and addresses as appropriate: parking provision and the condition of pavements to alleviate congestion and improve mobility within the village and that community safety wardens become more involved in policing such matters, including dog fouling.</p> <p>See also proposed LDP policy changes re:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extending the eastern boundary of Penpont village on its northern edge to allow for the creation of parking spaces behind new housing proposed at Pringleton.</li> <li>Extending the 30mph zone on the eastern side of Penpont village to just beyond the caravan park / putting double yellow lines on the northern side of the extended section.</li> <li>Make further, separate parking provision at the top of Grennan Road, on the western side of the village centre (see place maps) and elsewhere, as appropriate, with appropriate rationalisation / restriction of parking in the centre of the village.</li> </ul>				
6 Traffic Control and Signage	D&G Council / Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCC</li> </ul>	As resources permit	Council to confirm
<p>See accordingly the request that D&amp;G Council reviews and addresses as appropriate: traffic control measures and signage to alleviate congestion and improve mobility within the village.</p>				
7 Smart transport solutions	KPTDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D&amp;G Council / Swestrans</li> <li>Thornhill &amp; Cairn Valley CTAs</li> <li>N76 Group of Communities</li> </ul>	KPTDT currently working with: local CTAs to extend benefits of community transport to Penpont residents; e-bikes; active travel; and local taxi service.	Ongoing Review at regular intervals
<p>See also our request that the Council takes into account the vital role that public transport still plays for a significant proportion of the local population in accessing employment, education, services/facilities and leisure in the provision it makes for bus routes and bus timetabling between Penpont and other, local communities, including specifically the service centre of Thornhill.</p>				

Project / Policy Change	Lead Responsibility	Working with	Resources / Practicalities	Expected Timescale
<b>Theme 2 – An Active Place</b>				
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.				
8 Active Travel Path	KPTDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustrans</li> <li>Swestrans / Scottish Govt</li> <li>TP&amp;E project managers</li> <li>Contractors</li> </ul>	Construction of phase 1B1 to Nith Bridge underway / bridge traffic lights, design and planning for subsequent stages in hand. Construction subject to funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>March 2025</li> <li>2025-26</li> <li>2026-27</li> </ul>
9 Play Facilities	Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landowner</li> <li>D&amp;G Council</li> <li>KPTDT</li> <li>Contractors</li> </ul>	Subject to consultation / identification of exact needs & specs plus permissions and funding (windfarm / CBF)	PCC to confirm
10 MUGA	Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landowner</li> <li>D&amp;G Council</li> <li>KPTDT</li> <li>Contractors</li> </ul>	Funding achieved / installation of new facility subject to final consultation and specs.	2025
11 Covered Seating Area	Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landowner</li> <li>D&amp;G Council</li> <li>KPTDT</li> <li>Contractors</li> </ul>	Subject to consultation / identification of exact needs & specs plus permissions and funding (windfarm / CBF)	PCC to confirm

Project / Policy Change	Lead Responsibility	Working with	Resources / Practicalities	Expected Timescale
<b>Theme 3 – A Green &amp; Sustainable Place</b>				
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.				
12 Walking & Cycling Maps	KPTDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landowners</li> <li>Walking &amp; Cycling Groups</li> <li>D&amp;GC / Paths for All &amp; other funders</li> </ul>	Maps/leaflets for the area's two core paths and 'Be Active' map/leaflet for whole area already in place. Others to be considered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 and ongoing.</li> <li>Review at regular intervals</li> </ul>
13 Community Woodland	KPTDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landowners</li> <li>SLF &amp; other appropriate funders</li> </ul>	Not previously on KPTDT radar but we will pursue, subject to capacity, through consultation	2026-27
14 Allotments	KPTDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landowner</li> <li>Local residents &amp; volunteers</li> </ul>	Already under consideration & we will pursue subject to consultation and practicalities as part of food strategy	2025-26
15 EV Charging Points	D&G Council / Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landowners if/ as necessary</li> <li>Community Council</li> <li>KPTDT / CBF</li> </ul>	Linked to proposals for new parking areas	Council to confirm
We also support the retention of the protected status of the green areas within the village and specifically around the church to protect its setting within the settlement landscape.				

Project / Policy Change	Lead Responsibility	Working with	Resources / Practicalities	Expected Timescale
<b>Theme 4 – A Vibrant Place</b>				
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.				
16 Volunteers / Gala Week	Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KPTDT</li> <li>Third Sector D&amp;G</li> </ul>	Recruitment strategy underway and plans in place for Penpont Gala Week 2025. Wider strategy for volunteers, outreach and information sessions to be considered.	2025
17 Social Events Calendar	KPTDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCC, Keir and Tynron village and church hall committees</li> <li>Local creatives</li> </ul>	There is already a good calendar of social events in the KPT area but it needs coordination. A new, dedicated village hall / social committee might be considered for Penpont.	2025-26
18 Arts & Music Festival	New Arts/Music Festival Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KPTDT / PCC</li> <li>Local creatives</li> </ul>	This is linked to 17, above, as it would require a new, dedicated committee to organise	2026
19 Activities for Young People	KPTDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCC</li> <li>Local young people</li> <li>D&amp;G Council Youth Services</li> </ul>	This should be linked to 10 & 11, above and might benefit from the establishment of a new group of young people to advise and organise.	2025-26

Project / Policy Change	Lead Responsibility	Working with	Resources / Practicalities	Expected Timescale
<b>Theme 5 – An Enterprising Place</b>				
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 Local Workspace & Storage	KPTDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SoSE / regional business advice services and agencies</li> <li>Third Sector D&amp;G</li> <li>Local businesses</li> </ul>	Consultation to be undertaken with local businesses with reference to two existing potential sites & others if/as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025-26</li> <li>Further work subject to results</li> </ul>
21 Business & Jobs Strategy	KPTDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SoSE / regional business advice services and agencies</li> <li>Third Sector D&amp;G</li> <li>Local businesses</li> </ul>	Linked to 20, above. KPTDT could act as coordinator / facilitator for a new service signposting local businesses to regional & national support & advice.	2026-27

#### ABBREVIATIONS USED

KPTDT	KPT Development Trust	SoSCH	South of Scotland Community Housing
CBF	Community Benefit Fund	CTAs	Community Transport Associations
PCC	Penpont Community Council	Sustrans	Scottish Government agency promoting active travel
SoSE	South of Scotland Enterprise	Swestrans	SW Scotland regional roads agency
SLF	Scottish Land Fund		



# MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

05

# MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Our LPP has been driven by the KPT Development Trust, Penpont Community Council and a steering group of local residents. The steering group have worked with consultants, Community Enterprise, who co-ordinated and directed the community and stakeholder consultations and produced the various reports on which the Local Place Plan is based. However, the plan itself has been drafted, reviewed/ revised and made ready for statutory consultation and final submission by local residents.

KPTDT will oversee and monitor progress as the projects are developed and delivered and, indeed, has responsibility itself for a number of the proposed projects. 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 are not able to envisage right now.

We want the plan to be clear and agreed and therefore to be consensus-driven, but there will be opportunities that emerge that may require the leadership of existing – and new – local community groups, encouraging on-going community involvement, volunteering and activism.

KPTDT will:

- Keep the plan up to date and amend it where required.
- Liaise with Dumfries and Galloway Council about planning related implementation.
- Stimulate /support organisations to take on the actions identified in the plan.
- Promote the plan.
- Review progress.
- Monitor the impact of the Local Place Plan, potentially by 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.

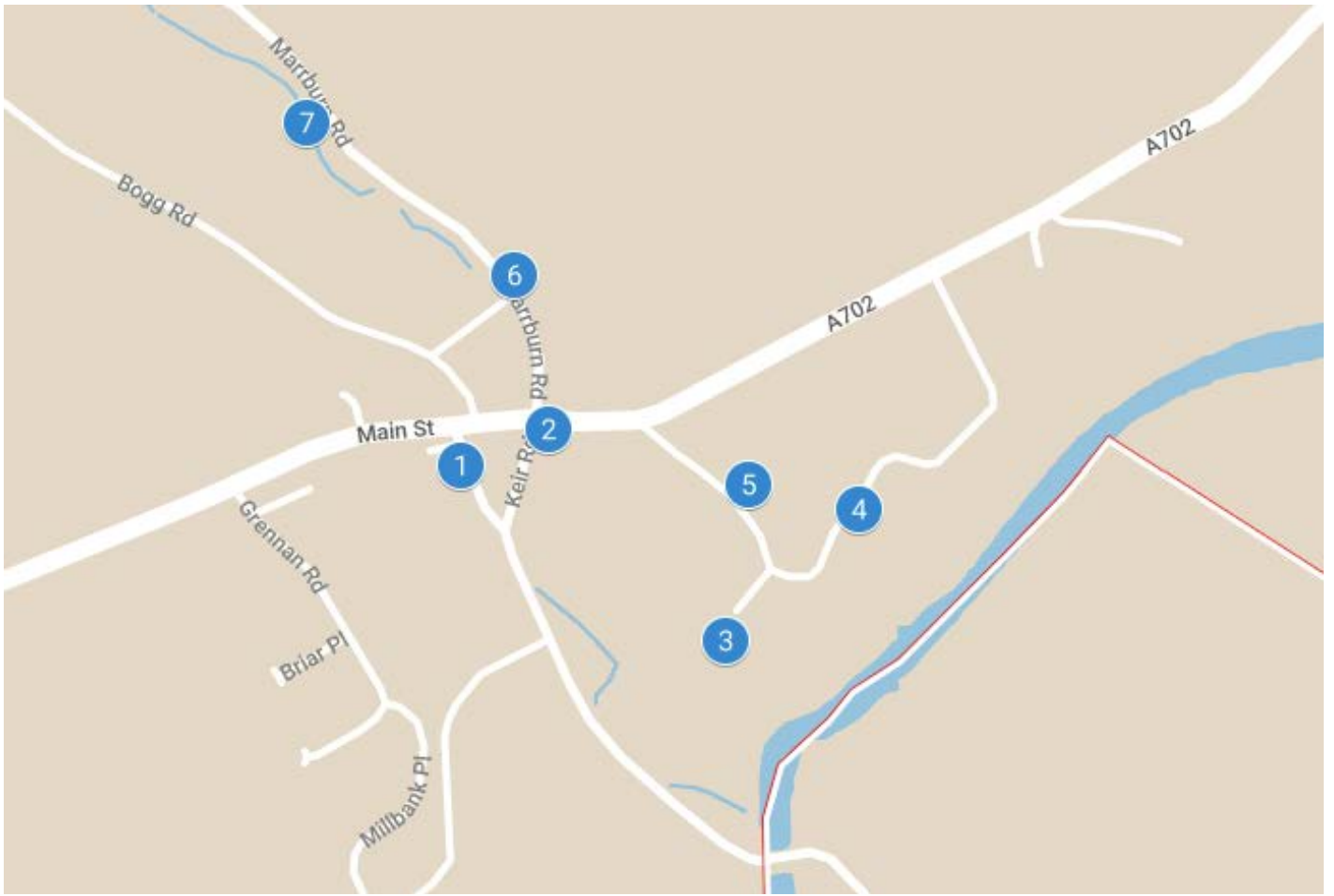


# APPENDICES



# APPENDIX 1 – PENPONT COMMUNITY ASSETS

## BUILDINGS AND AMENITIES



## 01 Gladstone Hall



The hall was built in 1861 and is situated in the midst of a row of residential houses, on Princes Street. It was transferred from Sir Hugh Gladstone to Penpont Rural Council in 1949 and is now run and maintained by Penpont Community Council who use it for their own meetings, to present films for children and as a base during Penpont Gala week. It is also used regularly by the local Friendship Club, for yoga and chair yoga classes, and as changing facilities for Scaur football team. It has a capacity of approximately 40-50 seated and can be hired for events, parties and classes, with a kitchen to facilitate such functions, as well as storage and toilets.

## 02 Three Villages Community Café



The Three Villages Café is a community enterprise cafe serving Keir, Penpont and Tynron. This social enterprise was set up by KPTDT and employs twelve part-time staff (equivalent to 2.7 full-time staff) plus a number of volunteers. The café is situated on Main Street and is open 5 days a week including weekends. It hosts a Friday night Tea Club, themed evening dinners on Saturdays once a month, and offers a warm space with discounted meals in the winter as well as regular musical and other cultural events through the year.

## 03 Penpont Parish Church



Penpont's Church of Scotland parish church is a Gothic Revival building completed in 1867 and now Category B listed. It became the parish church for Penpont, Keir and Tynron on the closure of Keir and Tynron Churches and shares services with Thornhill and Durisdeer. The Church of Scotland Presbytery Plan proposes further mergers which will see one building being used for worship across Penpont, Thornhill, Closeburn and Durisdeer and the other three sold.

Penpont Church holds fortnightly Sunday services (alternating with Thornhill), weekly community coffee mornings in the church hall and fortnightly Bible Studies classes. Board Buddies and Messy Church are monthly in Thornhill and there is a weekly holiday club for children during the summer, with close links between Penpont and Wallace Hall Primary schools. The church holds regular Songs of Praise events and concerts in the church and has a very successful Church Fete in the Gladstone Park in the summer.

## 04 Penpont Church Hall



Penpont Church Hall is a small hall used for the coffee mornings, Bible study, church meetings and social events. It has capacity for approximately 20-30 seated, a kitchen and toilets.



## 05 Penpont Primary School and Pre-school



Penpont, Keir and Tynron Pre-School is a voluntary organisation operated by a parent-led management committee who oversee its funding and finances. The pre-school adjoins Penpont Primary School and employs three Early Years Practitioners, including a full-time manager. It works in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council, taking up to twenty children aged 2½ to 5 years during school term-time, Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm. It offers flexible opportunities to support working parents. The pre-school has a strong relationship with Penpont Primary School, especially for children approaching the age of five.

Penpont Primary School currently (2024-25 terms) has 54 pupils in composite classes p1-3, p4-5 and p6-7. It attracts a number of pupils from outwith the catchment area and has an excellent relationship with the local community. There is a strong Parent Council and the school acts as a vibrant social hub for families with young children. The school building and adjacent former schoolhouse are 'B' listed and part of the village's social and cultural assets.

## 06 Penpont Heritage Centre (The Joseph Thomson Local Heritage Centre)



The Centre was developed by the Joseph Thomson Group (Charity No SCO29176) with help from the community to commemorate the life of Joseph Thomson, a Victorian explorer of Africa, who was born in the cottage in 1858. One room is dedicated to Joseph Thomson and the rest of the Centre contains items associated with the culture and history of the local communities represented. There are also other points of interest such as a stone cantilever staircase, a unique architectural feature in such a small cottage, and a building formerly used as an Armoury for the Penpont Rifle Volunteers in the 1800s. The Centre, which is run by volunteers, is open on Saturdays in July and at other times by appointment.

After a visit by a Maasai elder, organised by the Centre, the descendants of Joseph Thomson set up the Joseph Thomson Maasai Trust in 2016 which raises funds for the education of girls in Africa. The Centre is also used as an outreach Post Office on Wednesdays between 2-3pm.

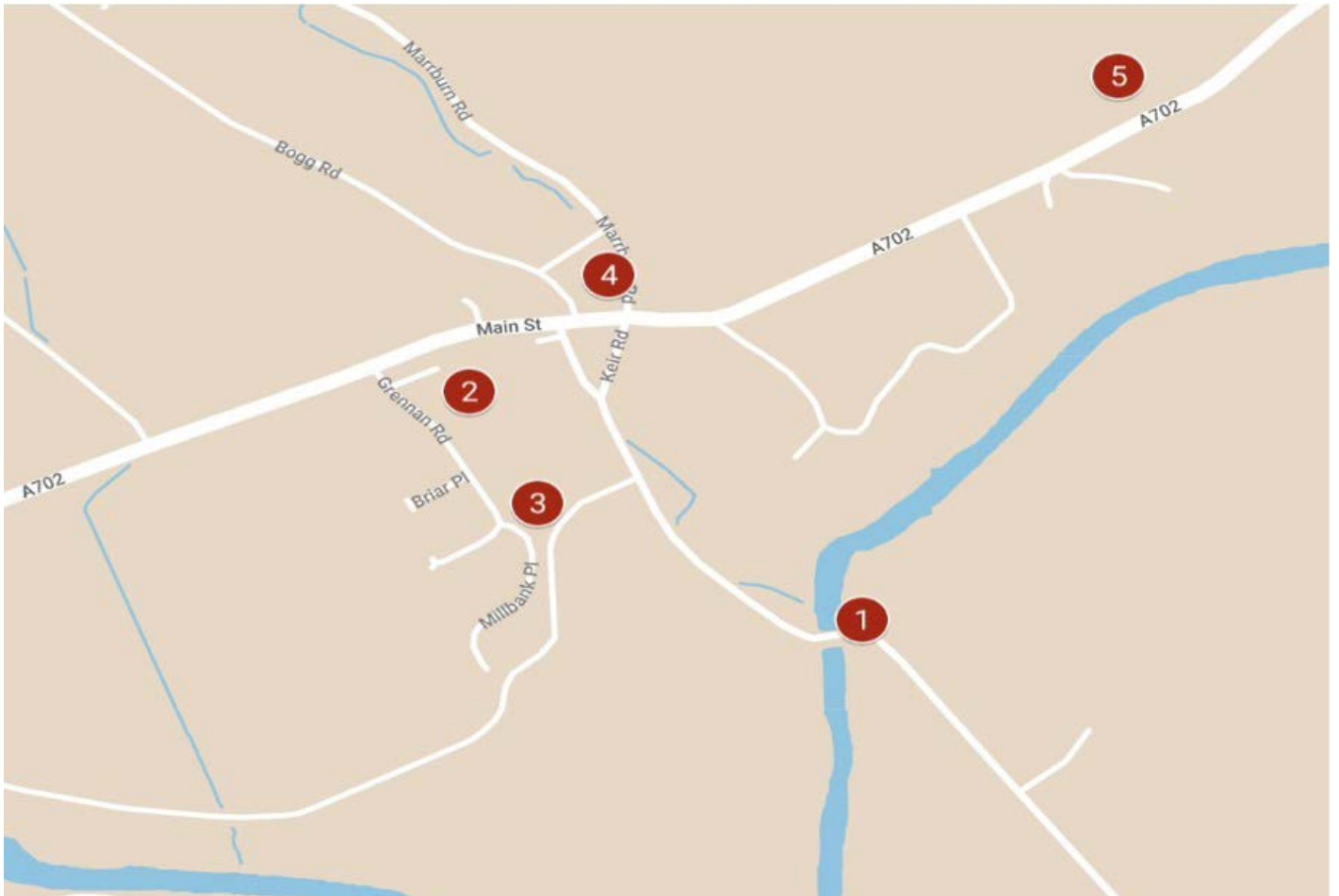
## 07 Community Hydro



The micro community hydro sits just to the north of the village, on Marrburn Road. It was developed by the KPTDT and funded through the Green Energy fund from Scottish Power Energy Networks. It started producing electricity, for supply to the National Grid, in October 2021. In June 2022 a separate company – KPT CEEL (Community Energy and Efficiency Ltd) - was set up to run the hydro, with annual profits being transferred to the Trust which has established a community benefit fund to which residents can apply for worthwhile projects.



## GREEN SPACE AND PLAY AREAS



## 01 Bridgend Community Garden



Bridgend Community Garden provides fresh fruit and vegetables and an outdoor space for community activities. The garden was developed and is maintained by a part-time gardener and a team of volunteers, while its surplus produce is used in the Community Café and made 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 the KPT Development Trust.

## 02 Gladstone Park



This local park is maintained by Dumfries and Galloway Council and has a large open green space which is marked for a full-sized football pitch which is regularly used for adult football training and matches. There is also a small play area for young children. The play equipment was replaced by Penpont Community Council in 2018.

## 03 Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in Gladstone Park



The MUGA is situated within Gladstone Park and was installed by the community council with a Sports Scotland grant in 2009. The fence and lighting are in good condition but the council was recently awarded a grant to replace the surface which has deteriorated over the years.

## 04 Cameronian Gardens



This is a small green space in the centre of the village that was once the site of the Cameronian Church. When it ceased to be a place of worship, conditions required it to be demolished and no other building put on the site. The small park has been preserved as such and is maintained by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

## 05 Active Travel Path

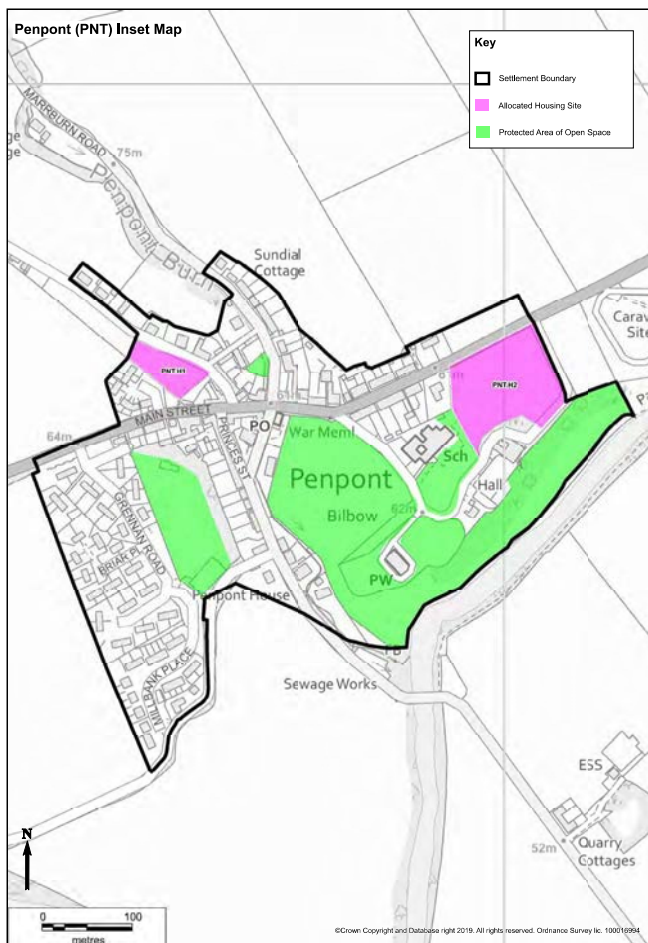


Running roughly parallel with the A702 between Penpont and Thornhill, and designed as a safe alternative route, the new Active Travel Path offers gentle gradients and is a very popular route for walking, running, cycling, horse riding and similar off-road activities for local residents and visitors to the area. Phase 1a was officially opened in March 2024 and passes the Millenium Cairn by internationally renowned artist, Andy Goldsworthy. The Trust are in the planning stages for the remaining phases which will take the path into Thornhill.

### PROTECTED LAND

There are also some areas of protected land (shaded on the map in green) around the church and church hall and school playground, as well as Gladstone Park, as per the current Dumfries and Galloway LDP.

The church fields include a separate area along the riverside. They are rented out to a local farmer for grazing sheep and are well used by locals for dog walking. Penpont Primary School playground is well-used by pupils during school hours.



### Local Businesses

- Local Newsagents and General Store
- Business Micros Software Solutions
- Penpont Garage (vehicle repair shop)
- Rabbie's Cabs; taxis and private hire vehicles
- Penpont Holiday Park: open all year round, offering 29 holiday homes in total;
- Chesneys K9 Pet Care - Rose Cottage, Marrburn Road.

### Community Activity (Groups)

- Penpont Community Council
- KPT Development Trust
- Penpont Primary School Parent Council
- Scaur Football Club
- Scottish Dancing Club (for children)
- Photography Club
- Penpont Friendship Club
- Community Yoga Classes



# APPENDIX 2 – STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

## CORE STRATEGIC FIT

Key strategies	How we Have Considered these Plans and Strategies	
<p><b>Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan October 2019</b></p>	<p><b>Regional Vision</b></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. 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><i>Please note, however, the specific changes we are requesting to the LDP2 planning objectives for Penpont (PNT)</i></p>
<p><b>National Planning Framework 4</b></p> <p>There are six overarching spatial principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Just transition. We will empower people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>3. Local living. We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>6. Rural revitalisation. We will encourage sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together.</li> </ol>	<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 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 repopulation and sustainable development of Penpont and the surrounding rural area.</p>	

Key strategies	How we Have Considered these Plans and Strategies	
<p data-bbox="98 138 671 170"><b>Dumfries and Galloway Council Plan 2023–2028</b></p> <p data-bbox="98 185 991 277">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 data-bbox="98 293 991 351">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 data-bbox="98 367 991 815" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="98 367 991 459">1. <b>Economy:</b> 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.</li> <li data-bbox="98 474 991 566">2. <b>Travel, connectivity and infrastructure:</b> 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.</li> <li data-bbox="98 582 991 674">3. <b>Education and learning:</b> 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.</li> <li data-bbox="98 689 991 815">4. <b>Health and wellbeing:</b> 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 and the rising cost of living, people have access to high quality and affordable housing.</li> </ol>	<p data-bbox="1007 138 1410 264">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>	

Key strategies	How we Have Considered these Plans and Strategies
<p data-bbox="98 138 922 170"><b>Dumfries and Galloway Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2023-2033</b></p> <p data-bbox="98 176 564 210"><b>(D&amp;G Community Planning Partnership)</b></p> <p data-bbox="98 226 991 318">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 data-bbox="98 331 991 392"><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 data-bbox="98 405 256 434"><b>Our Priorities</b></p> <p data-bbox="98 454 228 517"><b>Health and Wellbeing</b></p> <p data-bbox="300 454 922 517">Community Planning Partners will target their resources on tackling poverty and improving the health and wellbeing of our communities by:</p> <ul data-bbox="300 526 770 678" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigating the impact of rising cost of living</li> <li>• Reducing health inequalities</li> <li>• Improve health through targeted approaches</li> <li>• Working with partners to eliminate child poverty</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="98 763 165 792"><b>Work</b></p> <p data-bbox="300 730 868 824">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 data-bbox="300 837 807 1055" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve employability by maximising the potential of the working age population</li> <li>• Address skills gaps and recruitment shortages</li> <li>• Increase volunteering opportunities</li> <li>• Work with local communities to develop an inclusive and thriving economy with a focus on fair work.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="98 1171 276 1200"><b>Where We Live</b></p> <p data-bbox="300 1111 900 1171">Community Planning Partners will focus on place; listen to our local communities; improve connectivity; and help tackle key local issues:</p> <ul data-bbox="300 1180 908 1397" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase digital collaboration and reduce digital exclusion</li> <li>• Improve transport connectivity</li> <li>• Reduce carbon emissions and positively impact climate change through education, behavioural change and supporting initiatives which will make a positive difference</li> <li>• Develop high quality, affordable homes to meet demand.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="1007 138 1469 333">The thematic areas and projects proposed in this plan 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 data-bbox="1007 347 1410 441">The completion of the cycle path will improve our connectivity, linking residents up to local assets, services and public transport links.</p> <p data-bbox="1007 454 1477 548">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>
<p data-bbox="98 1422 647 1453"><b>South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy</b></p> <p data-bbox="98 1462 991 1523">The Regional Economic Strategy sets out an ambition that by 2031, the South of Scotland region will be</p> <p data-bbox="98 1536 991 1664"><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 data-bbox="98 1677 505 1706">The vision is underpinned by four key themes:</p> <ul data-bbox="98 1720 991 1966" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing prosperity and ensuring that the benefits of growth are shared fairly, and that no one is left behind.</li> <li>• Making the most of the region’s potential by supporting the area to enhance and promote its reputation.</li> <li>• Thinking differently by promoting creativity, innovation and challenge.</li> <li>• Pioneering environmental responsibility and using natural capital to transform the visitor experience.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="1007 1422 1431 1547">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>



Key strategies	How we Have Considered these Plans and Strategies
<p><b>Dumfries and Galloway Active Travel Strategy 2022-2032</b></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><b>Fit with Sustainable Development</b></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><b>Fit with Inclusive Growth</b></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><b>Just Transition to Net Zero</b></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>

