

# Kirkcolm and Parish Community Plan



Prepared and produced by Creetown Initiative Limited





# Contents

<b>1. Summary.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Kirkcolm - Now.....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Geography	
2.2 Village facilities	
2.3 A social and economic description of Kirkcolm	
2.4 Communication	
2.5 Access to services and recreation	
2.6 Demographics	
<b>3. Kirkcolm Action Plan - 2017 - 2022.....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 Theme 1 - Services	
3.2 Theme 2 - Community Facilities	
3.3 Theme 3 - Business and Tourism Support	
3.4 Theme 4 - Community Capacity	
3.5 Conclusions	
<b>4. Local Plan Plans.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. People Have Their Say.....</b>	<b>10</b>
5.1 Methodology	
5.1.1 One-to-one conversations	
5.1.2 Community survey	
5.1.3 Community drop-in	
5.2 Consultation results summary	
5.3 Kirkcolm School Pupil Questionnaire Responses	
<b>6. Kirkcolm Main Themes and Priorities.....</b>	<b>13</b>
6.1 Theme 1 - Services	
6.2 Theme 2 - Community Facilities	
6.3 Theme 3 - Community Development	
<b>7. Kirkcolm - The Future.....</b>	<b>15</b>

# 1. Summary

Kirkcolm is a quiet residential village on the northern tip of the Rhins of Galloway peninsula, south-west Scotland. The parish is bounded on the north and west by the sea, on the east by the bay of Loch Ryan and on the south by Leswalt parish.

Originally a planned village called Stewarton, Kirkcolm's economic background was rooted in fishing and is now more related to agriculture. While this is an important employer many people work from home or in the town of Stranraer.

Kirkcolm Community Trust was established in 2017 as a result of the Community Action Plan recommendations. The Trust is a Two Tier Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). The Trust supports and co-operates with Dumfries and Galloway Council and Kirkcolm Community Council but is independent of both.

In 2017 Kirkcolm Community Council commissioned a Community Action Plan to be written, following an extensive community consultation. This Plan covered the period 2017 to 2022 and identified themes and potential projects to improve life in Kirkcolm and the parish for residents.

In 2022, the Kirkcolm Community Trust commissioned Creetown Initiative to work with the Trust's Project Officer to create a new village plan going forward for the next 5 years. This plan includes assessment of the identified projects from the previous 2017 Community Action Plan and a summary of what has been achieved.

A further community consultation was carried out to feed into this plan.



# 2. Kirkcolm - Now

## 2.1 Geography

Kirkcolm lies above the shores of Loch Ryan opposite the Port of Cairnryan. The village is just over six miles from the nearest town, Stranraer where the bulk of services, facilities and shopping can be found. The nearest local shop is in Leswalt, four miles from Kirkcolm.

## 2.2 Village facilities

The Village Hall remains open but largely unused and is managed by Dumfries and Galloway Council who have previously stated it will be closed unless a community asset transfer is carried out.

The Hub, the former shop, is in the process of undergoing development to become a flexible resource with a café and either one large or two smaller meeting spaces partitioned with a concertina wall. The work will be completed in the first quarter of 2023

The village car park at the time of production of this report is in the final phase of community ownership waiting for the contract to be signed. The Trust will manage the car park for community benefit from the first quarter of 2023.

The church has an active and supportive community.

Kirkcolm Junior School educates approximately 40 children who then go on to the Stranraer Academy.

There are two caravan parks; one close to the village the other further distanced. One has a social clubhouse.

There is a pub, the Blue Peter, which offers food, but has limited opening times. It has letting bedrooms.

There is a Bowling Club which has an active community.

There are a number of village organisations such as; the Knit and Natter group, Senior Citizens Welfare Committee, WI and an interest in developing a Youth Club.

## 2.3 A social and economic description of Kirkcolm

Economically the village and parish can be described as a community of extremes. In terms of overall measurements of multiple deprivation, at first glance it looks as though it

is “middle of the road” in terms of development, poverty and income. This is misleading. The village sits in the centre of a rural community where there are pockets of wealth which skew figures. The centre of the village has significant pockets of poverty and need.

## 2.4 Communication

Broadband and mobile telephone connectivity is good in the village but exceptionally poor in the rural areas.

## 2.5 Access to services and recreation

The parish figures in every measure of “access to services” and is recorded as one of the most deprived in Scotland.

It is 6 miles to the nearest GP and health facilities that is currently reliant on locum doctors. The nearest referral hospital is 76 miles away. A health consultation for an elderly person who doesn't drive will take 5-6 hours of travel on the bus.

The infrequent bus services do not coincide with work patterns and make it impossible to have a social night out in the nearby town unless relying on other forms of transport.

There are 5 separate bus stops; one in the village centre, one at the top of the village by the bowling club, outside Mahaar Farm (three times per day), Bayview Terrace, and Main Street, although it is a “hail and ride” service. There is only one bus service route with 7 buses from Kirkcolm running to Stranraer each day and 7 running from Stranraer to Kirkcolm on a week day. There are 5 buses on a Saturday. The last bus leaves Kirkcolm at 5.42pm and there are no return buses in the evenings. Similarly the last bus to leave Stranraer is at 3.20pm, which means that people who are employed in Stranraer beyond 5.20pm cannot use public transport to take them home to Kirkcolm. There are also no buses running to or from Kirkcolm on Sundays.

There are no rail links from Kirkcolm, however the nearest rail station is 7 miles south in Stranraer, which runs up to 5 times a day up to Ayr with connections to Glasgow and the central belt. There are no sporting facilities in the village other than the bowling club, but the school does have a sports area.

## 2.6 Demographics



524 people live in the village of Kirkcolm with a total of 750 in the whole parish.



The village has a significantly higher proportion of people over the age of 65 than the rest of Scotland; 31.5% against the Scottish average of 19.3%.



The village has a lower number of young people than the Scottish average; 14.1% against 16.8%



Those on unemployment benefits are higher than the Scottish average; 5.3% against 3.8%



Universal Credit claimants (in all categories) are higher than the Scottish average.



Children in relative low-income families are significantly higher than the Scottish average; 39.8% against 15.3%



The entire population is considered to be “access to services deprived”; 100% against a Scottish average of 20.4%



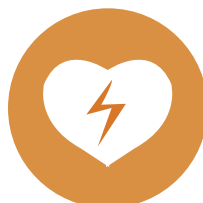
There is a higher proportion of youth unemployment than the Scottish average



Energy efficiency has been a significant issue for local housing, while social housing providers are addressing this it remains an issue for low-income people in their own homes or in privately rented accommodation



There are no birthing facilities locally and expectant mothers have to travel 76 miles when they reach labour



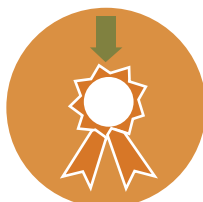
26% of people have limiting illnesses compared with the Scottish average of 20%



Hospitalisation for diseases of the digestive system and respiratory concerns is significantly higher than the Scottish average



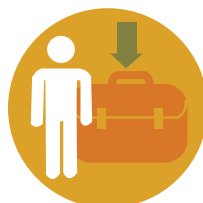
Post school education opportunities are severely limited with students required to travel to Ayr or Dumfries. There are limited courses available in Stranraer



The number of people with no qualifications is higher than the Scottish average; 34.6% against 26.8%



20% of school leavers are unemployed and seeking employment and training, the Scottish average is 7.1%



25% of people aged 16-74 are in full time employment compared with 40% across Scotland



People in self employment is significantly higher than the Scottish average; 18.8% against 7.5%  
(Source Community Insight)

# 3. Kirkcolm Action Plan - 2017 - 2022

Assessment of what has been delivered from the 2017-2022 community plan.

## 3.1 Theme 1 - Services

What could be done	By whom	How it will be achieved	Benefits	Delivered
<b>Superfast Broadband</b>	Community Council and Project Worker	Investigate the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband programme. There is a new Scottish Government programme being launched shortly that will provide 100% coverage by 2021. In the meantime there is a Better Broadband Scheme which might bridge that gap but this would need to be taken forward by the whole community, so further community consultation would be required.	Satisfies both individual and business requirements.	Delivered by BT but not in rural areas of the parish.
<b>Access to healthcare</b>	Community Council and Project Worker	Investigate bringing an outreach surgery to the village - this may be by a video link- up.	Residents who are not mobile can access a doctor without going into the surgery.	Not delivered but currently in planning by Community Trust.
<b>Access to a hairdresser for elderly residents</b>	Community Council and Project Worker	Investigate organising for a mobile hairdresser to visit the village once a week	Elderly or infirm residents who are not mobile have access to a hairdresser. Improving quality of life.	Not delivered. Currently in planning by Community Trust.
<b>Access to a chiropodist for elderly residents</b>	Community Council and Project Worker	Investigate organising for a chiropodist to visit the village once a week/fortnight.	Elderly or infirm residents have access to a chiropodist.	Not delivered but currently in planning by Community Trust.
<b>Village newsletter</b>	Community Council and Project Worker	Quarterly newsletter to be distributed around the village and wider parish.	The whole community is kept informed of activities and encourages the rest of the parish to feel part of the community.	Not delivered but currently in planning by Community Trust.
<b>Install a Public Defibrillator</b>	Community Council and Project Worker	Purchase public defibrillator and fix on village hall. Provide training to residents.	Public access to emergency equipment.	Delivered by Community Council and now installed by Community Trust.
<b>Handyman Service</b>	Employed part time handyman	Elderly and disabled people are given access to a handyman to carry out small DIY jobs. A small charge may be made to help keep the service sustainable	People who might live alone and feel isolated have support to have small jobs done.	A free handyman service is available in Wigtownshire contactable through the Community Trust.
<b>Youth Club</b>	Project Worker and Youth workers	Establishment of a village youth club - junior and senior club.	Activities for children and young people of the community.	Some activities delivered by Community Trust.
<b>Friday and Saturday Evening Transport (Cinema bus)</b>	Community Council and Project Worker	Hire of bus/minibus on a Sat night to take and bring people back from Stranraer.	Those without transport have access to Stranraer on a Friday and Saturday night.	Not delivered.

### 3.2 Theme 2 - Community Facilities

What could be done	By whom	How it will be achieved	Benefits	Delivered
Upgrade of the village hall	Community Council, Project Worker, Architect	Assessment of potential improvements by architect. Look into taking over the hall from the Council. Add broadband. Purchase new equipment such as a TV.	The hall offers better usage and facilities for use by different groups.	Attempted by Community Trust but focus turned to the Hub in 2020.
An attractive village	Project Worker, Handyman	Purchase planters, plants, maintain and water. Create a flower bed in Bayview Terrace and other suitable parts of the village.	The village looks more attractive and creates a feeling of pride by the community.	Delivered through the Community Council.
An attractive village	Handyman	Grass in graveyard cut and weeds sprayed around the village. People visiting graves feel as though the graveyard is cared about.	The village looks a more attractive place.	Delivered through the Community Council.
An attractive village	Handyman	Cleaning of road signs and other signs.	The village looks more attractive and creates a feeling of pride by the community.	Delivered through the Community Council.
Play parks	Community Council and Project Worker	Upgrade both playparks with new equipment.	Children and young people are engaged with play.	The top playpark upgraded by community members.

### 3.3 Theme 3 - Business and Tourism Support

What could be done	By whom	How it will be achieved	Benefits	Delivered
Safe cycle and walking routes	Community Council and Project Worker	Liaise with the new Rhins footpath. Liaise with cycle hire to create cycle routes.	Attraction for visitors and encouragement of activity for residents.	Ongoing, being delivered by Community Council.
Develop circular walking route	Community Council and Project Worker	Investigate utilising the already secured core path funding of £10,300 to trigger a larger environmental scheme based around a circular 2 mile walking route and reintroduce a shingle plant community on the shore.	Will form part of the North Rhins Coastal Path and add environmental diversity.	Partly delivered by the Community Council.
Heritage and history trail	Community Council and Project Worker	Investigate and link to existing heritage points.	Attraction for visitors.	Not delivered but planned in partnership with the Community Trust, the Community Council and the Corsewall Estate.
Support for new business start ups.	Community Council and Project Worker	This could be in the form of a purpose-built low cost premises.	Encouragement of new business and potential employment opportunities.	Not delivered but part of Community Trust Business Plan 2022-2027.



### 3.4 Theme 4 - Community Capacity

What could be done	By whom	How it will be achieved	Benefits	Delivered
Development of a small electricity generating scheme	Community Council and Project Worker	This could be in the form of a wind turbine, hydro scheme or solar farm.	Sustainable form of income for the community.	Not delivered.
Employment of a part time project worker	Community Council and Development Trust	Use of Community Benefit Funds and other grant funding.	The Project Worker will make the projects happen and apply for match funding.	Delivered by the Community Trust.
Employment of part time youth workers	Development Trust and Project Worker	Use of Community Benefit funds and other grant funding.	Regular, organised youth activities.	Not delivered.
Creation of an inclusive members Development Trust	Community Council	Change the existing SCIO to a two tier.	The Community owns the organisation.	Delivered by the Community Trust.
Financial support to community groups and clubs	Community Council and Project Worker	Creation of a formal grant application and selection process.	Community organisations and clubs benefit from a fair selection process.	Delivered by the Community Council and the Community Trust.
Identify and apply to funders for fund projects to match the Community Benefit Funds.	Project Worker	Identify and apply to funders such as The Big Lottery, Holywood Trust etc.	The community benefits from additional funding and maximises the Community Benefit Funding.	Delivered partly by the Community Trust.

The Trust has also acquired the Hub, funding for the community worker that is referred to above who is employed by the Trust and also secured funding for, and has recently appointed, an Elders Support Worker.

Of the 29 deliverables, 23 are either delivered, in delivery, or in planning by both the Community Trust and Community Council.

### 3.5 Conclusions

Most of the delivery intentions of the 2017-2022 Plan have proven to be relevant to the development of the Village.

Some have been delivered by the Trust, some have been delivered by the Community Council.

The Trust and the Community Council have different but complementary skills.



# 4. Local Place Plans

Local Place Plans (LPPs) are community produced plans that express the aspirations and ambitions for their area. Dumfries and Galloway Council and its partners will provide support to groups who wish to produce LPPs with the pages below providing guidance. This is a new process and guidance will

be updated to reflect changing circumstances. There are no Local Place Plans currently in Dumfries and Galloway. Kirkcolm Community Trust would like this Community Plan to dovetail with a local place plan in the future.



# 5. People Have Their Say

## 5.1 Methodology

The Community Trust tried many ways to engage with the residents over this consultation, including the below. Posters and social media posts were used to inform the community of the different ways people could engage with the consultation process. In an ideal world it would have been good to have had a postal mailshot to each property in the parish but unfortunately the funds weren't available to deliver this.

- One-to-one Conversations
- Community Questionnaire
- Community Drop-in

### 5.1.1 One-to-one Conversations

Informal conversations were carried out with members of the Kirkcolm Community Council, WI, Church, Kirkcolm Community Trust, Bowling Club, Youth Activities, Senior Citizens Welfare Committee, Knit & Natter.

The reasoning behind the one-to-one chats was to gather a clearer understanding of life in Kirkcolm, the positive aspects, any issues and to obtain a general overview of how the community functions. Information gained from the consultations, helped to inform the content of the community-wide questionnaire, ensuring the relevancy of the questions.

### 5.1.2 Community Survey

A community survey was created and, with the content and types of questions asked, based on feedback from the initial one-to-one conversations undertaken. The survey was hand delivered to as many households as possible in the village of Kirkcolm and the surrounding parish. The surveys were returned to the posting box in the Kirkcolm Hub. The survey was also available to be completed online, with links from the relevant Kirkcolm Facebook pages and advertised both on the paper questionnaire and on posters. Two weeks were given to return the paper surveys to the drop off point in the Community Hub.

A total of 205 surveys were distributed and 46 were returned including online responses. This provides a 22% return rate.

### 5.1.3 Community Drop-in

A community drop-in event was held in Kirkcolm Community Hub on Wednesday 2nd November and was advertised widely via posters and social media. A total of 16 community members attended during the four-hour session.

## 5.2 Consultation Results Summary

A summary of the results from the three strands of consultation is provided below:

The most positive things about living in Kirkcolm:

1. Peace and quiet
2. Community and the people
3. Beautiful landscape and views
4. Good school
5. Great walks
6. Safe and low crime rate

The biggest challenges about living in Kirkcolm:

1. No shop
2. Lack of amenities
3. Transport
4. Limited activities for the elderly
5. Limited activities for young people
6. Affordable housing
7. Factions in the village don't co-operate

The projects high on the community priority list are:

- Somewhere to buy groceries
- Improved access to health facilities
- Better facilities in the bottom playpark
- More activities for the elderly
- More activities for young people
- Improve outdoor sports facilities
- Reduce speed of vehicles entering the village from Stranraer
- More recognition of local heritage and history
- Important to have a Post Office presence in the village
- A café within the village

Top three issues with the highest priority for improvement:



1. Local facilities such as a shop, café, community centre etc.



2. Improved access to healthcare



3. Support and opportunities for young people

Potential projects from the consultation:

- Obtaining a public meeting space
- Support of local community groups
- Provision of outreach services in the village such as coffee mornings, lunches, craft activities etc.
- Additional affordable social housing in the village
- Public toilets should be available
- Further development of walking/cycling trails
- Consider building a solar farm as an income generator to support local activities/facilities

Use of community wind farm benefit funds:

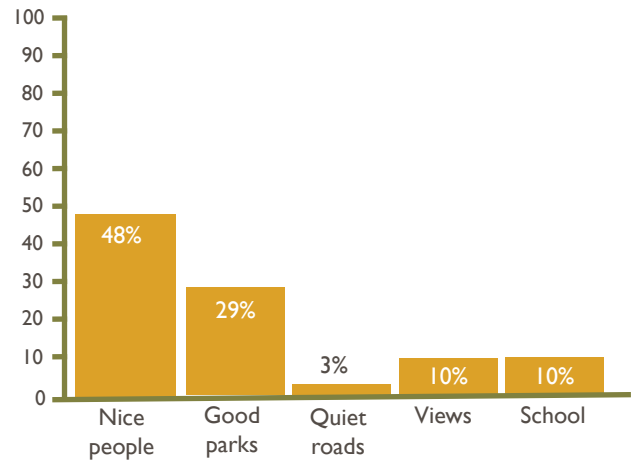
1. I think the money should be spread around to help as many people as possible **65.12%**
2. I think the money should be used strategically **60.47%**
3. I think the money should be split to support a combination of small and large projects **65.12%**

These results show that the community want to see the wind farm benefit funds split between a combination of sustainable projects as well as being spread across the community to help as many people as possible as well as supporting small and larger projects. People in the community need more clarity of what the funds can be used for.

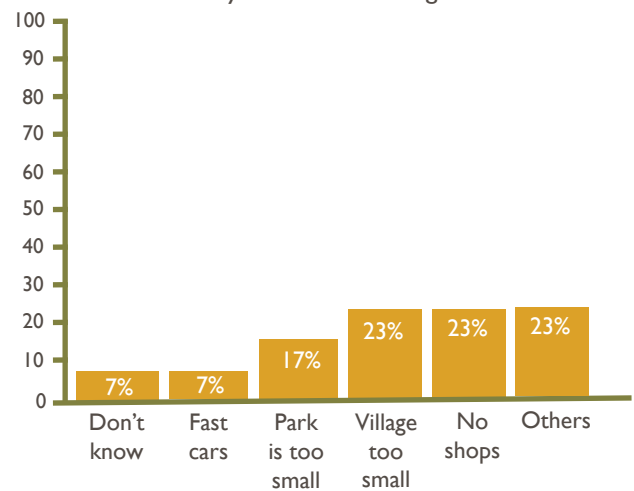
## 5.3 Kirkcolm School Pupil Questionnaire Responses

The children were asked three questions shown below with the top answers.

“What do you like about living in Kirkcolm?”



“What don't you like about living in Kirkcolm?”



Other dislikes:

- Noisy at night
- More kids in the school
- Don't like the farm next to the school
- Mess of the carpark
- A lot of rubbish around
- No activities
- Too many rocks on the beach



“If you had one wish to make Kirkcolm a better place what would it be?”

Environment – 5%

- More flowers and trees
- Park in the rose bed
- Cut down spikey bushes
- No litter
- Cleaner streets

Don't know – 6%

Creative – 10%

- Water Park
- Farm Park
- Swimming Pool

More activities – 10%

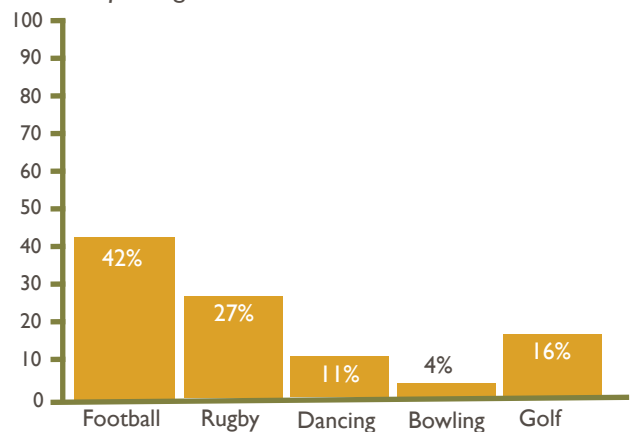
Shop – 16%

Better, bigger parks – 40%

Nothing – 2%

As well as the pupils' questionnaire, as part of this consultation the Trust's Community Worker carried out a consultation relating to sports. The results are as follows:

“Sporting Activities in Kirkcolm?”



As a result of these results a multi sports session was put on from May 2022 and ran for 14 weeks.

# 6. Kirkcolm Main Themes and Priorities

Out of the consultation process there have been three main themes and priorities identified that the community will work towards achieving over the next five years:

Theme 1 - Services

Theme 2 - Community Facilities

Theme 3 - Community Development

## 6.1 Theme 1 - Services

Project	By whom	How it will be achieved	Benefits
Improved access to healthcare	CT, Community Worker and Elder Support Worker. Under the support of the Community Trust.	Liaison with the Health Board, for distance diagnostics.	All residents, particularly the elderly residents will have local access to healthcare.
Activities for young people	Community Worker and community volunteers.	Liaison with the school, follow up on young people's survey. Liaison with activity providers.	Young people in the community are engaged with and have access to organised activities and sports.
Activities for the elderly	Elder Support Worker supported by the Community Worker and volunteers.	Activities organised at the hub. Liaison with activity providers. Liaison with Welfare Committee.	The older members of the population will have activities and social events which will ensure social inclusion and encourage their sense of value and wellbeing.
Support and outreach sessions	Elder Support Worker and Community Worker.	Liaison with services such as Police, Fire, CAB, Age Concern, Alzheimer's Scotland, Versus Arthritis etc.	The older members of the community have access to services that ordinarily they would have to go to Stranraer or even further a-field for.
Reduce the speed of vehicles entering the village from Stranraer	Community Council.	CC are raising the issue with the Police and Council.	There is a concern about speeding vehicles entering the village. Assessing the problem is the first step to addressing it.



## 6.2 Theme 2 - Community Facilities

Project	By whom	How it will be achieved	Benefits
Public meeting space	Community Trust	Community Hub. The hub is operational but being further developed.	The community will have access to a fit for purpose meeting space which will be warm, welcoming and available for large or small meetings.
Facility for grocery shopping	Community Council and Community Trust working together	Explore the option of a portacabin shop. Will explore with providers about a delivery service. A transport service to get shopping in Stranraer. Investigate use of the Food Train.	This is a recurring issue for some of the population. If a solution could be found it would give residents the opportunity to buy staple items within the village.
Village café	Community Trust	Franchisee provision and management.	The café will offer hostelry to residents and visitors ensuring that those enjoying the walks around the village and surrounds are able to purchase refreshments.
Further development of walking/ cycling trails	Partnership work with interested partners such as CC, CT, Council and landowners	Liaison across the different parties, agreement of signage and interpretation boards.	The current network of walking trails are very popular and extending them will attract more local residents to exercise and also visitors to the village. Visitors will help to sustain services such as the café.
Availability of public toilets	CT, CC and Council will work together to resolve	Liaison with Dumfries and Galloway Council to establish an opportunity for public toilets in the hall to be opened, maintained and cleaned.	It is important for the village to offer access to public toilets, particularly as more visitors are coming to the area to make use of the walking and cycling trails.
Improvement of bottom playpark	CC with support from CT and Community Officer liaising with DGC	Liaison between parties, public meetings to be held to establish support.	The equipment in the park is currently sparse and would benefit young people living at the lower end of the village to have improvements.
Car park	CT	Ownership of carpark to be finalised early 2023. Feasibility Study on carpark. Community consultation about what people want to see on the carpark. Consultation with the garage owners. The plan is to install electric car charge points.	The car park will be an asset to the community and can be used for a number of important uses that will come out in the community consultation and consultation with the garage owners.
Village hall	DGC	A full consultation will be carried by DGC on the future of the Hall.	



## 6.3 Theme 3 - Community Development

Project	By whom	How it will be achieved	Benefits
Support to local community groups	CT and CC	CT Community Worker, fundraising advice and guidance and partnership and joint project work. Networking and developing of additional groups.	Local groups build capacity and confidence. More projects and activities will take place in the community.
More affordable social housing in the village	CT	Possible purchase of a property for development of affordable homes. Partnership with South of Scotland Community Housing and other possible providers.	More affordable housing available in the village to encourage young people and young families to stay living in the village which ultimately supports the school and other facilities.
Renewable energy project such as a solar to support activity in the community	CT	Liaison with CC and landowners and local community.	The potential for funds from such a project to be ploughed directly into the community, perhaps in the form of support towards energy costs.
Support to developing Kirkcolm as a tourism venue	CT	Liaison with local interest groups around wildlife, ornithology, seashore exploration. Development of history tours. Signage and interpretation boards. Liaison with walking groups and natural history groups. Liaison with Solway Firth Partnership.	Additional visitors to the area helps to support all aspects of village life such as the café, the pub and other assets as they develop.
Support to established and new businesses	CT, Community Worker	Support crafters and artists. Develop facilities to support new business as they may emerge.	New business to the community will add vibrancy and diversity, which in turn will support the assets of the village.

# 7. Kirkcolm - The Future

Kirkcolm now has two organisations, the Kirkcolm Community Council and the Kirkcolm Community Trust who are well placed to focus on improving different elements of community life and working together to achieve this.

Kirkcolm has a substantial advantage over many other communities due to the Community Benefit Funding and used wisely could be used to attract match funds and could create lasting legacy projects for the future.



For more information please contact:  
Kirkeolm Community Trust  
The Hub  
Church Road  
Kirkeolm  
Stranraer  
DG9 ONW

Telephone: 01776 853234

Email: [info@kirkeolmct.org](mailto:info@kirkeolmct.org)

