



Funded by Scottish Power Renewables



Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael

Community Action Plan 2019-2024

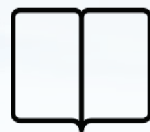


Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| What is a Community Action Plan?..... | 1 |
| Why a Community Action Plan?..... | 2 |
| Introducing Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael..... | 3 |
| Our Process..... | 4 |
| Consultation..... | 5 |
| Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael's Voices: Drop-in Sessions..... | 6 |
| Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael's Voices: Schools and Young People..... | 7 |
| The Headlines 2024..... | 9 |
| The Vision..... | 10 |
| Priorities..... | 11 |
| Actions..... | 12 |

With thanks to MOF's Camera Club and everyone else that supplied images.
Researched and compiled by:





What is a Community Action Plan?

A Community Action Plan is a road map for implementing community change by identifying and specifying **WHAT** will be done, **WHO** will do it and **HOW** it will be done.

An Action Plan describes what a community wants to accomplish, what activities are required during a specified time period and what resources (money, people and materials) are needed for it to be successful.

Why a Community Action Plan?

This Community Action Plan is drawn from the voices of the three communities of **Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael**, focusing on how they see their villages and the change they would like to see to make their village a better place to live.

The people of the three villages are **proud** of their **beautiful countryside**, their **communities**, and their **local amenities**. They would like to see more **activities and events** for **children, young people** and the community in general, as well as greater access to, and a greater utilisation of, their **natural assets** to attract people and promote **local business**.

This plan explores the **ideas** of the people of Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael more thoroughly and considers the steps that can be taken to **achieve** the communities they **want**. (Map: C, S, K Community Council Area)



Introducing...

Crosshill

Crosshill is located 3 miles (5km) south east of Maybole in South Ayrshire. The area was first settled by Irish immigrants in the late 1800s. Most came to Ayrshire as hand loom weavers. At its height, countless Crosshill women were employed as needle workers and almost all the men worked as hand loomers. They constructed many single-storey cottages, a few of which can still be found on Dalhowan Street. Crosshill has a population of approximately 480 people which has reduced by about 1% over the past 10 years.

Straiton

Straiton is a village on the River Girvan in South Ayrshire in Scotland, and dates back to 1760 when the village was laid out by Thomas, Earl of Cassillis. The village was mainly built in the 18th century, with low single-storey cottages on either side of the main road, but also has some more recent housing.

There are 170 households in Straiton including outlying farms and cottages; the primary school has approximately 16 pupils. The village has a shop, a pub / hotel, village hall and local cafe. It has a total of eleven accommodation businesses with over 100 bed spaces available and is a popular holiday destination for many visitors.

The village's public toilets were closed by South Ayrshire Council in 2008 and subsequently re-opened under the management of the village community. Donations are invited to cover the £3500 annual running costs.

Kirkmichael

The Dyrock Burn runs through the core of the village of **Kirkmichael**, which started life as the focus of a well populated rural parish served by its church. Today it is a largely white harled small village set amid the rolling hills of South Ayrshire, a ten mile drive south of central Ayr. Its origins date back to the 13th century when John de Gemmelstoun founded a church beside the Dyrock Burn here, which he dedicated to St. Michael.

Kirkmichael is centred around two intersecting streets, largely occupied by white cottages built for hand-weavers in the 1790s. A striking building is the red stone McCosh Hall on Patna Road. This serves as the village hall and in 1898 was gifted to the village by the estate of John McCosh, an army surgeon and pioneering photographer that served with the Indian Medical Service. At the junction of Patna Road and Straiton Road lies the white-painted Kirkmichael Arms, a long one-storey village inn.

The village of Kirkmichael has a community run village shop and café, a not-for-profit, community run shop that sells general groceries and household items as well as local products, and a range of eat in and takeaway

snacks including tea, coffee, home-made soup, filled rolls and home baking. The village is also home to the Kirkmichael Primary School, located in new purpose-built facilities that opened in 2014.

All are close to the Dark Sky Park at Craigengillan Estate in Dalmellington.



Our Process



North Carrick is made up of the five community council areas of Dunure; Minishant; Maybole; Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael; and Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry. It is a diverse area with an amazing history, exciting attractions, an award-winning coastline and incredible countryside.



Between February and March 2018 the five Community Councils of North Carrick, with the support of Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC), carried out a community survey. The objective of the survey was to identify the likes, dislikes and community priorities for all communities in North Carrick.



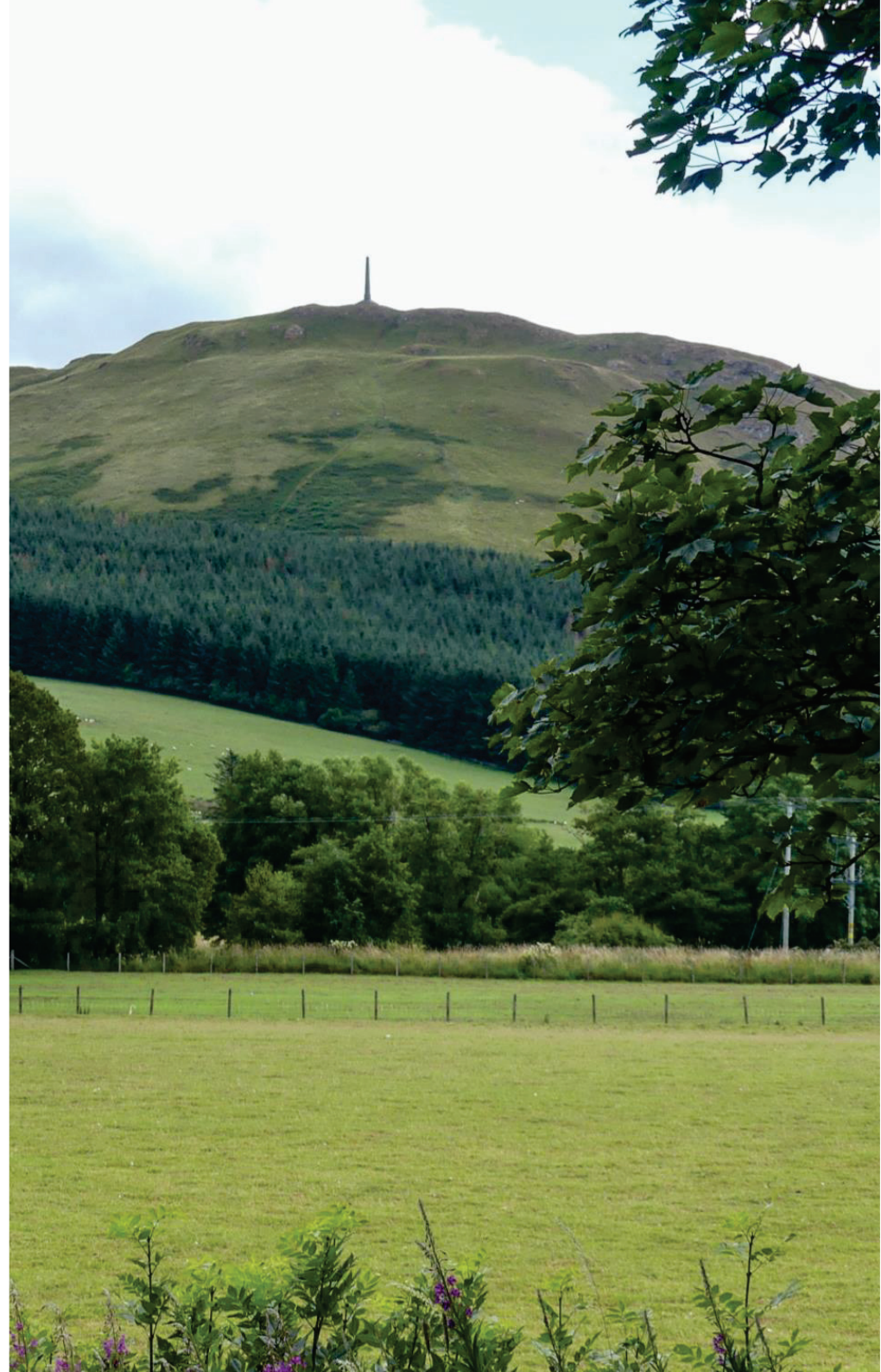
North Carrick Community Benefit Company commissioned two consultancies, Jura Consultants and icecream architecture to speak to the communities of Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael, and to develop Action Plans for each Community Council area.



icecream architecture met with schools to understand the priorities of local young people in winter 2018/2019. In total almost 290 children and adults gave their views as part of a wide range of activities at ten local schools that included Crosshill Primary, Kirkmichael Primary, Straiton Primary and Carrick Academy.



Jura Consultants held drop-in events in autumn 2018 in each community to understand what the local priorities for the next five years should be. Residents were encouraged to give their ideas and opinions on what makes North Carrick unique, what is good, what needs improvement and how this can be achieved.





Consultation

...what they would
protect...

Community (S) (K) (C)

Countryside (S) (C)

The amenities (K) (C)

Landscape (S)(K)

Amenities (school, pub, church,
shop, playpark) (S) (K) (C)

Size of village (C)

...what they would improve...

Utilisation of the Hall (K)

Traffic control (K) (C)

Activity facilities (C)

Appearance of the villages (S) (K) (C)

Public transport (S) (K)

Number of facilities for children/youth (S) (K)



Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael's Voices... Drop-in Sessions

The people of Crosshill (C), Straiton (S) and Kirkmichael (K) were all asked to give their opinions by survey and in person on **what their community is like today...**

"It's beautiful"(S)

"A great place for visitors" (S)

"A great place to live" (K)

"Static" (C)

...what it should be in five years
time.

More accessible (wheelchair/pushchair)
(S)

Hosting thriving local businesses (S) (K)

Seeing better use of Hall (K)

Encouraging younger people to get
involved (K)

Offering more social housing for younger
people (K)

Providing more amenities (C)

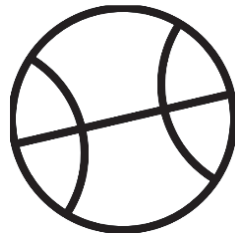


Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael's Voices... Schools

A key consultation audience were the young people of the three villages. Workshops were held in Carrick Academy and Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael's primary schools to discover what young people value about their communities, the environment, businesses, and things to do.



Things to do



- Bannan Farm (S)
- Community Garden (S)
- Playpark (S)
- Dancing in the hall (C)
- Playing in the park (C)
- Seeing friends (C)
- Swings at the playpark (K)
- Walking in the woods (K)
- Football pitch (K)
- Kirkmichael House (K)
- Horseriding (K)



Community



- Straiton Primary (S)
- McCandlish Hall (S)
- Crosshill Primary (C)
- Bowling Club (C)
- Village Hall (C)
- Kirkmichael Primary (K)
- McCosh Hall (K)



- River (S)
- Fields (S)
- Pebble beach (S)
- The woods (S)
- Curling Strip Woods (S)
- Monument Woods (S)
- Bannan Woods (S)
- Crosshill Park (C)
- Walking on the bridge (C)
- Going for walks (C)
- Gardens (C)
- Water of Girvan (C)
- Pond (K)
- The woods (K)
- Mount Woods (K)
- Park (K)
- The Burn (K)

Businesses



- The Buck Tearoom (S)
- Straiton Stores (S)
- Pub (K)
- Crosshill Shop (C)
- Kirkmichael Arms (K)
- Community Shop and Café (K)
- The Kennels (C)

Environment



In **Crosshill** they liked their village despite it being too busy with traffic, too much litter and not enough activities. They want better parks, more things to do inside and out, facilities for older people, public toilets and better connections with other schools.

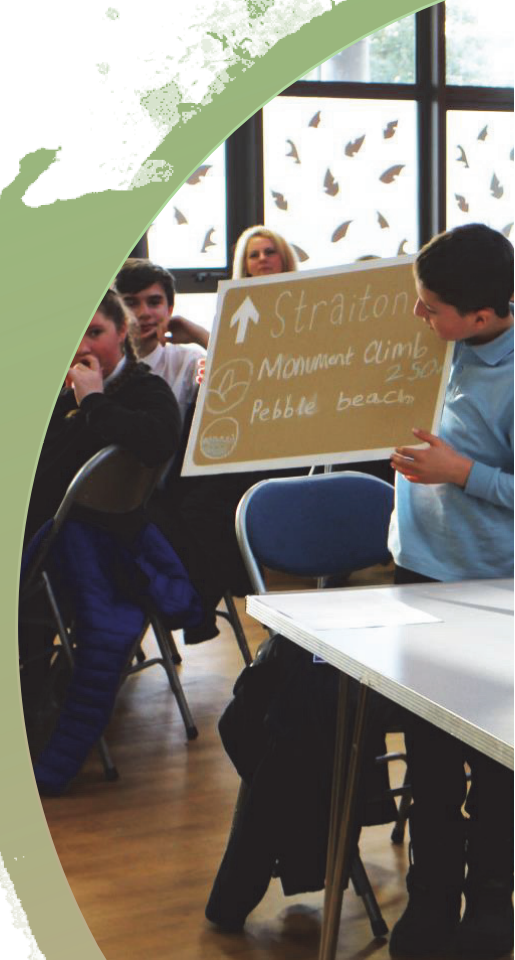
Straiton's young people felt positively about their area: "Beautiful, Community Spirit, Clean, Friendly, Special, Safe, Great for Walking" but they wanted more clubs, more things to do, more shops and services, somewhere inside to play, a wildlife garden and better roads and signage. Above all else though, more opportunities to bring other children into the village and for children from Straiton to access more easily other villages.

Kirkmichael's young people felt they had a great place to live and liked the peace and community spirit, but felt there was not enough for visitors to do. They too want better play parks that include wheelchair users, more activities, better cycle paths to get to school, the chance to go to other villages cheaply, more choice in the shop and a new stage for the school to share with the Gala.



Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael's Voices... **Young People**

Positively, Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael's young people had **strong opinions** on the future of their villages. All wanted **better parks and roads** and **more things to do**. They developed tourist brown signs for the **most important assets** in their area, created newspapers for the year 2024 with headlines and articles after five years of Action Plan delivery and made placards detailing the **issues** that they would campaign for to make their 2024 vision **a reality**.

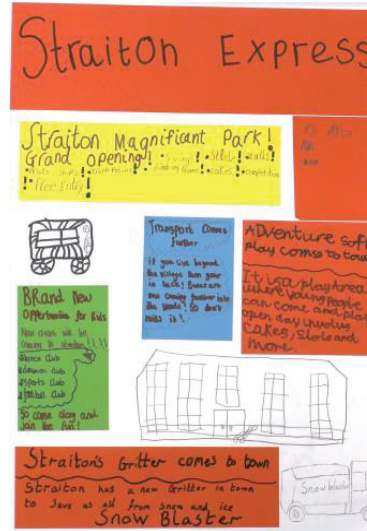




The Headlines 2024

“Straiton Magnificent Park Grand Opening”

“Cross-country Cycle Track – Maybole – Crosshill – Kirkmichael – Straiton”



Straiton's Gritter Comes to Town to save us all from snow and ice...
“Snow Blaster!”

“Come and join our Running Club”



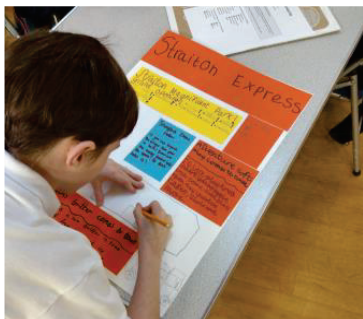
“Slide into Kirkmichael! The new play park facilities have wowed the local community!”



“Lights, Camera, ACTION! Come and see some awesome movies at movie club”

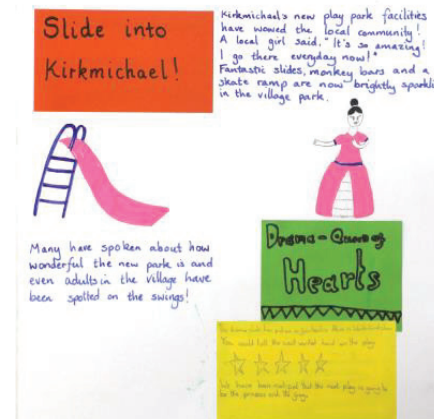


“Our Animal Friendly School”



“Brand new opportunities for kids – new clubs will be coming to Straiton!”

“Don't litter...now use the new recycling shop!”





The Vision

By 2024 the communities of Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael will be known for their **safe and connected communities** with **high quality** and **popular local amenities, social opportunities** and **attractive walks and cycling routes** that respect and protect the surrounding natural heritage.

Priorities



Priority 1: More community events utilising local facilities

Adults wanted more community events, with greater encouragement to the whole community to attend. Events that promote community spirit and fundraisers for local initiatives were particularly mentioned. This priority can be combined with some of the programming for Priority 3 to encourage the involvement of younger people.



Priority 2: Protect and enhance wildlife habitats in the villages

Adults and young people particularly value the beautiful countryside they live in and want to do more to protect and enhance wildlife habitats.



Priority 3: Opportunities for socialising between young people in different communities

Young people were concerned with the isolation of small village life, which they felt limits interactions and causes a lack of confidence. The consultation process for this Action Plan was highlighted as a rare opportunity for young people from lots of schools to get together in one place to share ideas.



Priority 4: Improved Local Retail Offer

Adults and young people in all three villages wanted an improved retail offer, with suggestions including incorporating a post-office, and pop-up or visiting shops. It was also felt that the local businesses including the community shops should be supported more by residents.



Priority 5: Improve the playparks in each village

All consultees prioritised better playparks in each village, with many suggestions for a range of new equipment and features. Improvements were expressed most strongly by Straiton.



Priority 6: Better cycling and walking infrastructure

Understanding and developing the cycling and walking infrastructure is needed to enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors to the area to deliver health outcomes and economic benefit.



Priority 7: Increased traffic safety and road improvements

A shared priority to highlight and request action to fix poor quality roads and improve safety levels.



Priority 8: Improve public transport

Enhancements to the frequency and options available for public transport to facilitate better connected communities, in particular for young people.





Actions



What Can You Do?

Priorities where Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael's Communities are LEADING

| Priority | Who | How |
|--|--|--|
| Priority 1: More community events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The communities of Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael Community Organisations, supported by volunteers Community Development Officer North Carrick Community Benefit Company/other funders | <p>An events programme can be developed by each of the communities of Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael, or by working collectively towards joint aims and using shared resources. There should be a village and region view of event priorities, but consultation in particular showed that the promotion of community spirit which is already so valued should be a focus. Actions for this priority should include a combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage communities to engage via public and/or online forums to identify what events would be most popular Produce a shared events diary that provides an overview and strategic approach to the area Develop events designed to appeal to the majority of the communities Organise events aimed at attracting younger people from a wider area, providing opportunities for young people to socialise. This could include sporting or music events. |
| Priority 2: Protect and enhance wildlife habitats in the villages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The communities of Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael Volunteers Local schools Community Development Officer Wildlife organisations such as Scottish Natural Heritage, RSPB and the Scottish Wildlife Trust North Carrick Community Benefit Company/ other funders | <p>Members of the community or working groups can consult and form groups particularly involving young people, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with organisations such as the RSPB and the Scottish Wildlife Trust to better understand what wildlife assets each area already has and what is needed to enhance existing and establish new safe spaces to encourage wildlife diversity. Fully understand the levels of interest from local schools and community groups in becoming involved in wildlife focused projects. Approach the council to discuss areas of the villages and the surrounding area which could be given over to preserving and encouraging the wildlife of the area. Raise funds for specific projects from a range of sources. This may be from donations, fundraising events or grant funders. Volunteer actions could include building shelters for animals such as a wildlife garden including hedgehog boxes. The Straiton communities noted this could be designed as a place to teach people about wildlife. |



What Can You Help Others to Do?

Priorities where Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael's Communities have a FACILITATING role in partnership with others

| Priority | Who | How |
|---|---|---|
| Priority 3: Opportunities for Socialising for Young People in Different Communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The communities of Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael Volunteers Local schools Local Community Organisations Community Development Officer SUSTRANS North Carrick Community Benefit Company/ other funders Stagecoach West Scotland | <p>Enhancing existing and providing new opportunities for young people to socialise across the North Carrick villages was mentioned by all communities. Improving connections, organising events and improving facilities were a focus for discussion. To combat feelings of isolation it was suggested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research in more detail with young people of the area what would interest them and help to combat the isolation of living in a small rural settlement Organise more inter-community events and opportunities for socialising Work with the Council and schools to promote more after-school/ weekend clubs and activities, both outdoor and indoor Work with organisations that organise pop-up events e.g. cinema showings, in conjunction with local landowners and owners of buildings that could serve as potential venues Investigate ways of bringing other young people to the villages through cycle trails or safer paths or improve opportunities for young people to access activities in other villages through transport provision. Other ideas included more clubs (dance, drama, music, gymnastics, debating, movies, sports) and things to do (skate park, climbing frame, trim trail, library, pump track for bikes, horseriding trails, family football, gala/ fun days, farm show, drive-in cinema). It was recognised that all the ideas suggested could not be implemented but considering options and what might work best in a five year period would be beneficial. |
| Priority 4: Improved Local Retail Offer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The communities of Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael Community shops Business owners and operators Business Associations South Ayrshire Council | <p>Reflecting the Scottish Government's commitment to a wealthier Scotland, the following steps can be taken to address this priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct market research into what stock and other initiatives would encourage locals to utilise the retail facilities. Explore and establish links with potential pop-up / market retail partners and develop a strategy for North Carrick to rotate offers across multiple communities. Continued on next page... |



What Can You Help Others to Do?

Priorities where Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael's Communities have a FACILITATING role in partnership with others

| Priority | Who | How |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Priority 4:</p> <p>(Continued)</p> <p>Improved Local Retail Offer</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordinate investment in new businesses, encouraging pop-ups in particular to fill the empty shops if finding buyers or long-lease holders is challenging. Respond to other business opportunities by co-ordinating with local businesses and initiatives such as enhancing the areas attractiveness to cyclists and walkers as part of a cohesive strategy for attracting people to the area. |
| <p>Priority 5: Improve the playparks in each village</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The communities of Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael South Ayrshire Council Volunteers Local Schools Local Community Organisations Community Development Officer Funding Organisations | <p>With all adults and young people stating that they felt that the play areas in the villages should be improved a staged process of audit, partner identification and project interventions should take place using the following strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete an audit of playparks that demonstrates level of need and priorities, both for Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael and within the wider North Carrick area. Prioritise the sites most in need and plan for the level of intervention and costs required to improve to an agreed standard. Carry out enhancement and improvement projects to existing play parks, catering to a wider age range of children, e.g. outdoor gym for older children, jungle gym etc. Consider disabled access improvements and make equipment more accessible, including installing more accessible play equipment such as thick slide, safety lift etc. Specific equipment suggestions included adding new play equipment such as: rope swings, trampoline, fireman's pole, spider web, balancing swings, sandpit, pump track and more things to climb on, like a climbing wall. Making the park and pathways to and in it more accessible for wheelchairs. This could extend to installing accessible play equipment (thick slide, safety lift, a box zip line, a racing track with smooth concrete, a spring car) and installing a 'wheelchair friendly' sign. <p>For area specific consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crosshill want to improve the playpark as a whole and add a skate park and a trampoline area. Kirkmichael suggested adding AstroTurf to the football pitch so it is more accessible all year around whilst introducing more activities and things to do at the park such as extending the trim trails and willow dome. Straiton expressed this element with monkey bars, climbing frames, swings, trampolines, and adventure play mentioned. |



What Can You Ask Others to Do?

Priorities where Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael's Communities are LOBBYING

| Priority | Who | How |
|---|--|--|
| Priority 6: Better cycling and walking infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The communities of Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael Community Development Officer South Ayrshire Council SUSTRANS Ayrshire Roads Alliance / Transport Scotland VisitScotland Maybole Regeneration Project | <p>Acknowledging the reported demand for more cycling and walking trails and lighting a series of projects should be developed for delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a strategy for the North Carrick area as an active travel project that complements the Maybole Regeneration Project and apply for SUSTRANS funding for development and delivery. Assist the local community councils in establishing links with the Council, and local and regional organisations to collaborate to extend and enhance trails currently around Straiton to take in the three villages and surrounding areas, providing opportunities for cyclists, mountain bikers and walkers. Link to the Ayrshire Alps initiative in South Carrick (which includes Straiton), and the community group South Ayrshire Paths (which again also features Straiton) Work with the local community council to support in developing a marketing strategy with local businesses and events promoting the area's attractiveness to recreational cyclists, mountain bikers and walkers. |
| Priority 7: Increased traffic safety and road improvements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The communities of Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael Community Development Officer South Ayrshire Council Ayrshire Roads Alliance / Transport Scotland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform an audit of areas where roads need repaired, and where traffic calming or other road safety measures are required Co-ordinate an approach to South Ayrshire Council / Transport Scotland regarding potholes, safer crossings and signage in the area. The road to Maybole received many mentions with suggestions to fix the potholes, add reflectors and signs to show there is a sharp bend and to go slow. Build speed bumps and ramps to slow people down on the Kirkmichael road at the corner next to the graveyard. |
| Priority 8: Improve public transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The communities of Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael Community Development Officer South Ayrshire Council Stagecoach West Scotland | <p>Develop a strategy and work with the community to help them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise further consultation with communities to identify level and impact of public transport issues. Consult with Stagecoach West Scotland to identify whether key issues can be addressed Seek alternative public transport solutions such as community transport initiatives and consider within the context of Priority 3 to help young people socialise more easily. |



This plan is **your** plan.

It is about making your villages **nicer places** to **live** and **work** and to deliver it we need **everyone** to get involved.

Initial contact should be made through Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael Community Council via NCCBC who will coordinate action.

Email: actionplans.nccbc@gmail.com

Help to make this happen!

