



Funded by Scottish Power Renewables



Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry

# Community Action Plan 2019-2024

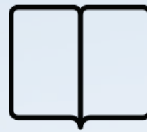


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Researched and compiled by:





## 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.

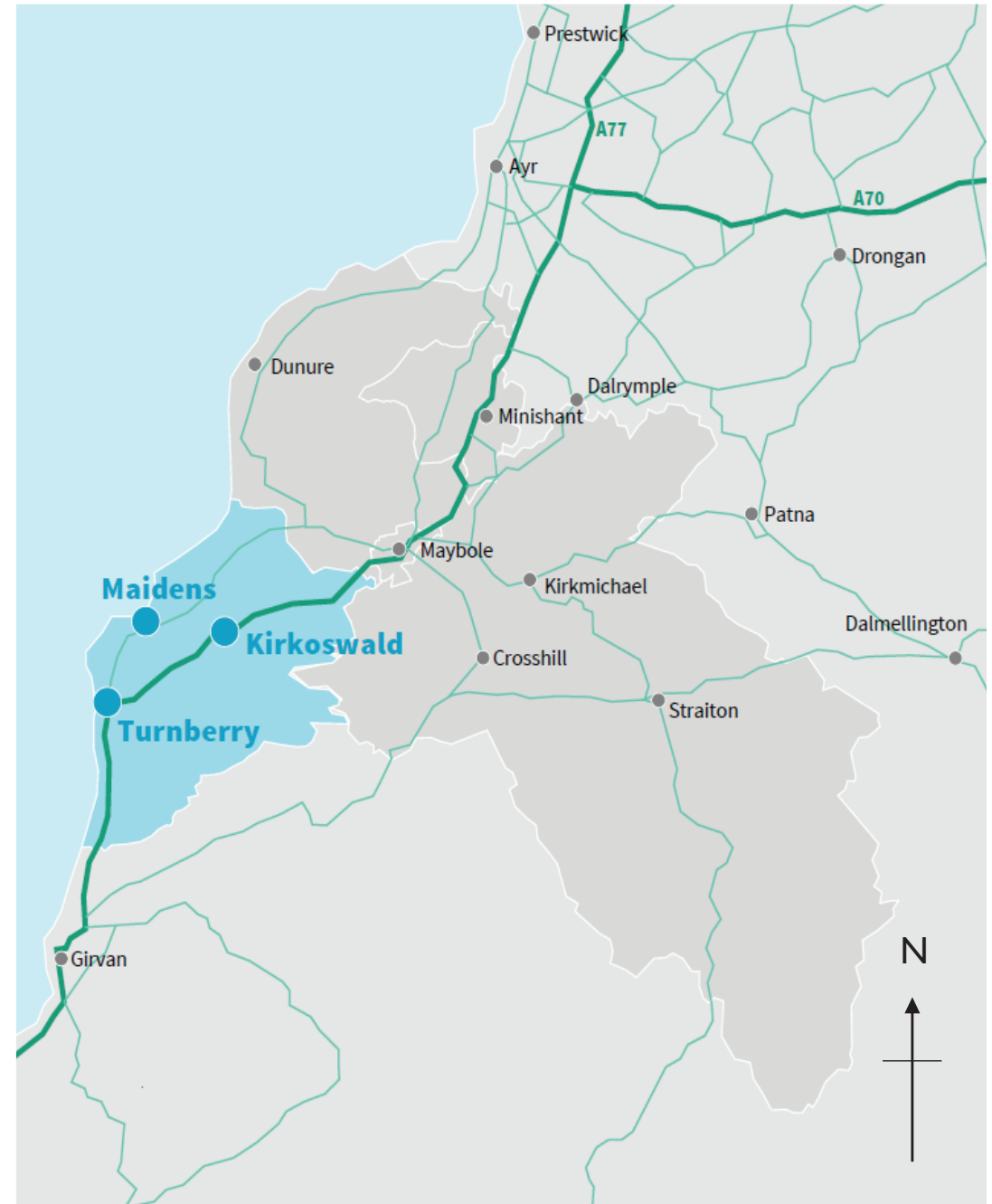
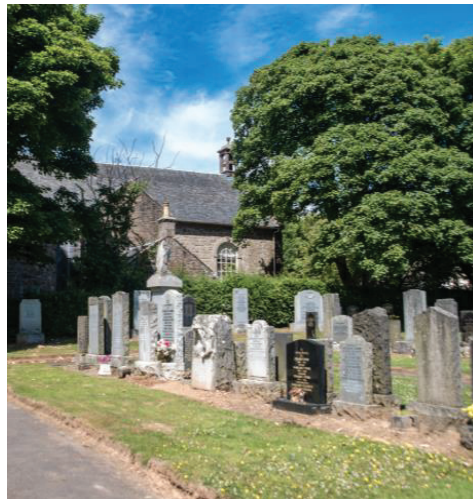
An Action Plan describes what a community wants to accomplish, what activities are required during a specified timeline and what resources (money, people and materials) are needed for it to be successful.

## Why a Community Action Plan?

This Community Action Plan is drawn from the voices of the communities of Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry. This consultation process has provided an ideal opportunity for the communities to think about what they would like from their villages, what they would change, what they can do to achieve this and what their role should be in North Carrick.

The people of the three villages are proud of their attractive seaside, the wider landscape and wildlife, and the fact that people like to visit. They would like to see themselves become better connected and more accessible with greater community spirit, and better activities for young people and families.

This plan explores the ideas of the people of Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry more thoroughly and considers the steps that can be taken to achieve the communities they want. *(Map: Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry Community Council Area)*



## Introducing Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry

The Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry Community Council area is located midway between the towns of Maybole and Girvan. Much of the area has been influenced by the important role of Clan Kennedy.

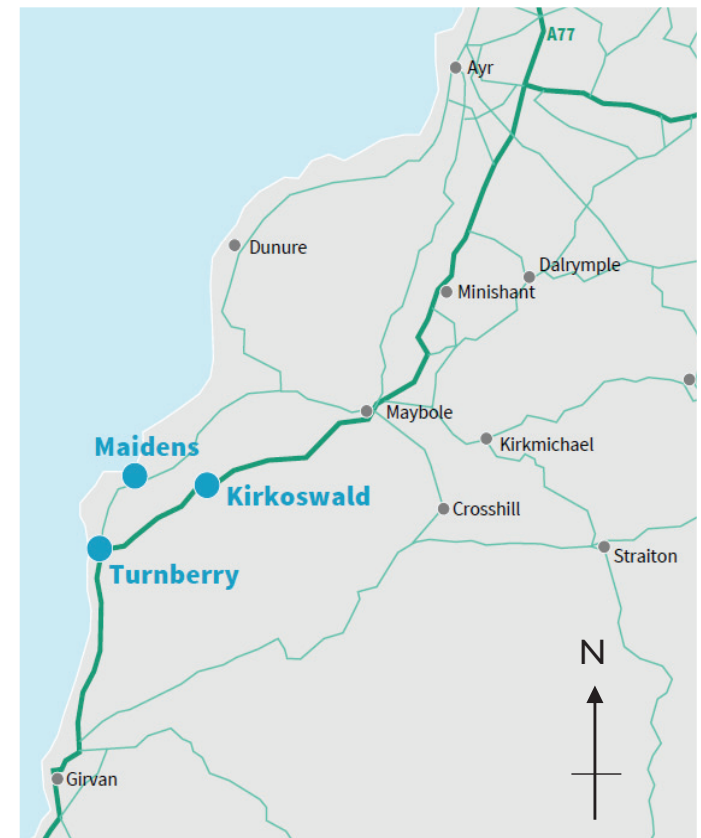
The village of **Kirkoswald** lies on the A77 some four miles southwest of Maybole and a mile inland from the coast at Maidens. As the name implies, the village started life as the home to an ancient church serving a wider rural parish dedicated to Oswald of Northumbria, who is said to have won a battle here in the 7th century. The old church, which was built in 1244 and houses the baptismal font of Robert the Bruce, is now a ruin in the grounds of the modern church, which was built in 1777 to a design by Robert Adam. Kirkoswald is also noted for its connection with Robert Burns, who attended school while staying in the village, and would later base the characters Souter Johnnie and Kirkton Jean, made famous in *Tam o' Shanter*, on village locals John Davidson, Jean Aird and Douglas Graham and whose graves can be found in the parish churchyard. Kirkoswald today has the popular free National Trust for Scotland attraction Souter Johnnie's Cottage, a Post Office, the Richmond Hall, a restaurant on the site of the old school house where Robert Burns studied, a house and garden retail offer, a glass craft studio and Whisky Experience.

The former fishing harbour of **Maidens** on the coast of the Firth of Clyde, is some six miles west of Maybole. Rocks known as the "Maidens of Turnberry" form a natural harbour, with the present harbour built by the Marquess of Ailsa in the mid-19th century. The village lies two miles north of the ruinous Turnberry Castle, ancient seat of the Earls of Carrick and likely the birthplace of Robert the Bruce. By the time the castle was slighted, never to be rebuilt, Maidens had established itself as a viable settlement. By the end of the 1300s it was helping supply "Coif Castle", a tower house built during that century on sea cliffs two miles northeast of the village. Over time, Coif Castle became Culzean Castle, the former home of the Marquess of Ailsa, the chief of Clan Kennedy. Today the Castle and Country Park together form one of the most popular visitor attractions in southwest Scotland in the care of the National Trust for Scotland. This in turn, supports the visitor economy with Maidens becoming a popular holiday location with a number of static and touring caravan sites.

The growth of Maidens was aided still more by another local development: golf arrived on the scene with the building of a course, and subsequent village at **Turnberry** a little over a mile south of Maidens, in 1903. The following year the Glasgow and South Western Railway began building a large luxury golfing hotel at Turnberry which opened concurrently with a new railway line built between Ayr and Girvan, on which Maidens also gained a station. A second

golf course was added at Turnberry in 1912. After purchase and further investment of over £200m the Turnberry resort is now part of the Trump group of luxury hotels, winning Scottish Hotel of the Year at the 2018 Scottish Hotel Awards. The Ailsa golf course has hosted four Open Championships and with enhancements and the creation of five new holes has become one of the highest ranked golf courses in the UK and Ireland.

Other landmarks in the area include Thomaston Castle and Crossraguel Abbey.



## 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 (NCCBC) commissioned two consultancies, Jura Consultants and icecream architecture to speak to the communities of Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry and to develop an Action Plan for the Community Council area.



icecream architecture met with schools and youth groups to understand the priorities of young people in the area in winter 2018/2019. The schools that engaged directly were Maidens Primary and Carrick Academy, before a larger consultation event took place with ten schools representing all of the North Carrick area.



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

- "The people" (K)
- "Souters" (K)
- "Signage" (M/T)
- "Landscape and wildlife" (M/T)
- "Richmond Hall" (K)

### ...what they would improve...

- "Traffic calming measures" (K)
- "Promotion of Kirkoswald, local business and working out our unique selling point" (K)
- "Village maps/ noticeboard" (K)
- "cohesion in approach to the look of the village planters etc.!" (K)
- "The library, farm, trampolines, parks, and 4G football pitches" (M/T)
- "Accessibility to harbour/beach" (M/T)
- "The harbour, dredging it if needed to keep this viable" (M/T)
- "Quality of activities for young people/ families" (K)
- "Broadband"
- "Community spirit"
- "The visitor Centre" (M/T)
- "Public toilets" (M/T)



## Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry's Voices... Drop-in Sessions

The people of each Kirkoswald (K), Maidens (M) and Turnberry (T) were all asked to give their opinions by survey and in person on **what their community is like today...**

"A place to come to, before it was a place to stop at on the way to somewhere else" (K)

"Attractive seaside area" (M/T)

"Little sense of community spirit" (M/T)

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

- "Still attractive" (M/T)
- "Better connected via roads and with public toilets" (M/T)
- "Improved sense of community with a desire to improve for the greater good" (M/T) (K)
- "A place to spend time and money in providing jobs for the locals" (K)



# Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry's Voices... Schools

A key consultation audience were the young people of Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry. Workshops were held in Carrick Academy and Maidens Primary to **discover what young people value** about their communities, the environment, businesses and things to do

## Community



- Maidens Primary
- Playing with friends



## Environment



- Great Park
- Redgates Park
- The Golf Course
- The Beach
- Grassy Area
- The Sea
- Good Trees



- Playpark
- Bowling
- Rowing Club
- Swimming in the harbour
- Lighthouse
- Redgates

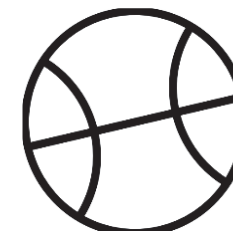


## Businesses



- Turnberry Hotel
- Wildlings Restaurant
- Malin Court
- Pete's Restaurant
- Culzean Castle and Estate

## Things to do





Young people described their area as good for families, good for kids, fun, a great place to live, friendly, special, safe, easy to get around, great for walking, peaceful, social, attractive, environmentally friendly, clean and with positive community spirit. They did also feel that the area was full of potential and a bit neglected.

Young people felt the harbour is very important and that it is a beautiful location & environment. They wanted to improve accessibility, have more outdoor activities and facilities including a community garden and gardening club and a new swimming pool and to have a much better bus service to get around.



## Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry's Voices... **Young People**

Positively, Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry's young people had **strong opinions** on the future of their villages. 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.

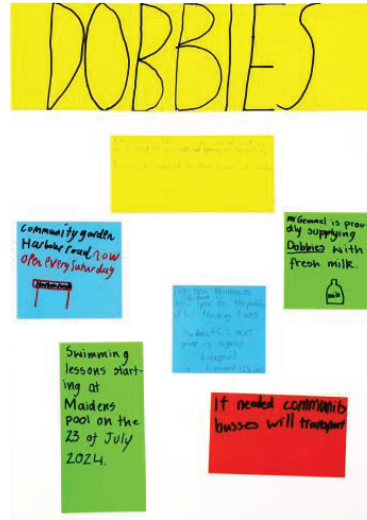




## The Headlines 2024

“Community Garden Harbour Road now open!”

“Swimming Lessons starting at Maidens Pool – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024”



“Our annual barbeque will be on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024”

“Turnberry Hotel is proudly sponsoring Maidens Bowling Club”

“The South Ayrshire Music Department are holding a concert!”



“New Maidens FC Stadium is now open”

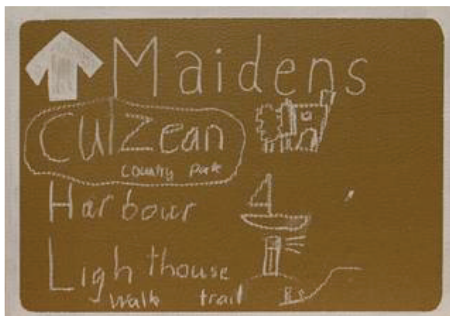


“If needed community buses will transport”

Sanctuary opening for the wildlife coming soon. Planning in progress.

New cycling trail along the coastal route to Ayr.

“New cycling trail along coastal route to Ayr”



A new Dobbies will be open on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2024”

“Sanctuary opening for wildlife coming soon”







## The Vision

By 2024 the communities of Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry will be known as a popular place to visit for its **attractive** setting, **beautiful landscape** and assets that are **accessible** for all. It will be a good place to live for its **strong community spirit** and varied things to do.

# Priorities



## **Priority 1: More activities for families and young people and more community initiatives and events**

Both adults and young people felt that there needed to be more activities for young people and families, particularly ones that gave people the opportunity to socialise with people in the area. The wide range of suggestions included the need for better transport to be provided in parallel to improve access opportunities.



## **Priority 2: Protect and enhance the natural environment with a focus on wildlife, habitats and scenic views**

Adults and young people value how attractive, environmentally friendly and generally clean the area is, but it was felt that there is the potential to do much more. There was a desire to enhance natural assets both for wildlife but also for people by making the most of important views such as the harbour area.



## **Priority 3: Better marketing of the area and its businesses**

This was considered an issue by adults and young people alike, and suggested actions included more signage giving clearer directions, and if possible more shops. There was a desire to widely share what assets are in the area, particularly by Kirkoswald.



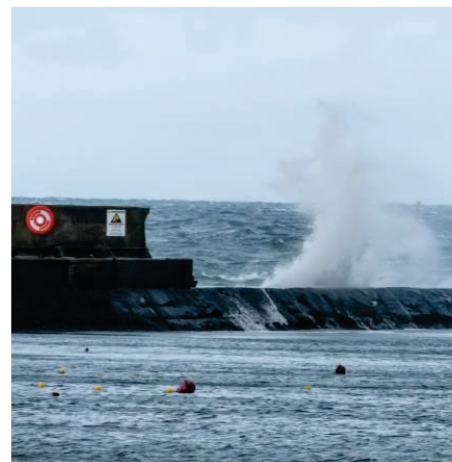
## **Priority 4: Disabled access improvements, increased traffic safety, road and public space improvements**

Adults and young people were concerned about the issues of accessibility particularly on the roads and to the beach in Maidens. The pavements need to be improved for disabled people, introduce safer crossings, different path textures, better surfaces more accessible parks, disabled toilets and parking spaces.



## **Priority 5: Making the most of local area including existing and new facilities enhancements**

The desire to make the most of the area started with small projects to clean benches and provide better paths. There was a stated need and desire to improve play areas and football pitches. Young people wanted new facilities like an adventure park with an outdoor centre and/or a swimming pool and discussed ideas for fundraising events. The important value of Richmond Hall in Kirkoswald was discussed along with plans for a community purchase.





# Actions



# What Can You Do?

*Priorities where the communities of Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry are LEADING*

Priority	Who	How
<b>Priority 1:</b> More activities for families and young people and more community initiatives and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The communities of Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry</li> <li>Community Organisations, supported by volunteers</li> <li>Community Development Officer</li> <li>Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry Community Council</li> <li>Seasonal visitors to the area</li> <li>North Carrick Community Benefit Company/ other funders</li> <li>Maybole Regeneration Project – Activity Officer</li> <li>The Harbour Trust</li> <li>Stagecoach West Scotland</li> <li>South Ayrshire Council</li> </ul>	<p>Joint working within the three communities to develop a programme of events to promote the community spirit that the communities would like to see more of. Communities can be encouraged to engage via online forums such as Facebook to identify what events would be most popular. It should be possible to develop a combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large-scale events for the three communities</li> <li>Smaller events targeted at certain sectors of the community, including families and young people</li> <li>Liaison with other communities in the area to promote inter-community socialisation through events, particularly those aimed at young people</li> <li>Explore funding for buses running between clubs to promote inter-community socialisation</li> </ul> <p>Specific suggestions included a community garden and gardening club, community centre, youth centre/ club. It was suggested that buses could be attached to clubs to improve access, as well as providing improved public transport in general.</p>
<b>Priority 2:</b> Protect and enhance the natural environment with a focus on wildlife, habitats and scenic views	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The communities of Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry</li> <li>Volunteers</li> <li>Local schools</li> <li>The Harbour Trust</li> <li>Community Development Officer</li> <li>Wildlife organisations such as Scottish Natural Heritage, RSPB and the Scottish Wildlife Trust</li> <li>Cassillis and Culzean Estate</li> <li>Local farmers</li> <li>NCCBC / other funders</li> <li>South Ayrshire Council</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>Work with organisations such as the RSPB and the Scottish Wildlife Trust to better understand what wildlife assets each area has and what is needed for existing and to establish new spaces to encourage wildlife diversity.</li> <li>Fully understand the levels of interest from local schools and community groups in becoming involved in wildlife focused projects.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Raise funds for specific projects from a range of sources. This may be from donations, fundraising events or grant funders.</li> <li>Investigate harbour development options.</li> </ul>



## What Can You Help Others to Do?

*Priorities where the communities of Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry have a FACILITATING role in partnership with others*

Priority	Who	How
<b>Priority 3:</b> Better marketing of the area and its businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The communities of Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry</li><li>• Business owners and operators of attractions including Costley and Costley, National Trust for Scotland, Trump Turnberry</li><li>• Business Associations</li><li>• South Ayrshire Council</li><li>• Visit Scotland</li></ul>	<p>Given the high quality of the assets there is a stated need to “get the area on the map”. Tourism Development and Promotion also featured in the previous Action Plan with priorities to develop the harbour area, for businesses to work together, to provide information boards and public toilets in all three villages.</p> <p>For this consultation process the following solutions were offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Form a cross villages working group of business owners and operators.</li><li>• Facilitate the businesses of the communities to organise a mutual strategy for the development of the retail and catering offer, ensuring an active marketing campaign and co-operation among business owners to maximise their potential.</li><li>• Seek funding to promote the area with South Ayrshire Council / Visit Scotland support.</li><li>• Develop a unique selling point for the area maximising Burns connections, Culzean Castle, the harbour and views.</li><li>• Young people felt that simple ideas such as better signage and better directions would make a big difference.</li></ul> <p>Young people also wanted different shops mentioning a restaurant, pharmacy, bakery, Specsavers, pet shop, ice cream shop and sweet shop.</p>



# What Can You Ask Others to Do?

*Priorities where communities of Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry are LOBBYING*

Priority	Who	How
<b>Priority 4:</b> Disabled access improvements, increased traffic safety road and public space improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The communities of Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry</li> <li>Community Development Officer</li> <li>South Ayrshire Council</li> <li>SUSTRANS</li> <li>Ayrshire Roads Alliance / Transport Scotland</li> <li>Disabled Access Specialists</li> <li>Visit Scotland</li> <li>Maybole Regeneration Project</li> </ul>	<p>Access improvements and in particular disabled access improvements featured strongly along with traffic safety and potholes. The communities stated that they can approach South Ayrshire Council / Ayrshire Roads Alliance / Transport Scotland to address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic calming measures</li> <li>Safer crossings</li> <li>Different path textures</li> <li>Less potholes</li> <li>More accessible parks</li> <li>Disabled public toilets</li> <li>Disabled parking spaces</li> <li>Joining the walkway at the sea front (Maidens and Turnberry)</li> <li>Addressing main road safety issues (Maidens and Turnberry)</li> </ul> <p>The context of the Maybole Regeneration project will provide important context with major improvements taking place on the High Street and an area wide strategy to improve accessibility to active travel options.</p>
<b>Priority 5:</b> Making the most of local area including existing and new facilities enhancements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The communities of Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry</li> <li>South Ayrshire Council</li> <li>Volunteers</li> <li>Local Schools</li> <li>Local Community Organisations</li> <li>Community Development Officer</li> <li>Funding Organisations</li> </ul>	<p>In common with all of the action plans for North Carrick the communities of Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry wanted to enhance the facilities that are already there and investigate the development of new options.</p> <p>Community solutions were to identify and approach South Ayrshire Council or individual donors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance and improve existing play park, catering to a wider age range of children</li> <li>Improve disabled access and make equipment more accessible</li> <li>Purposely designed graffiti area for art work, and to reduce vandalism</li> <li>Benches, bins, paths for bikes added</li> <li>Improve and enhance current skate area</li> <li>Lighting and CCTV fitted to discourage vandalism and improve safety</li> <li>Keep and improve Richmond Hall (Kirkoswald)</li> <li>Young people wanted new facilities but in particular a new swimming pool and games arcade.</li> </ul>



## This plan is **your** plan.

It is about making your village/town **a nicer place** to **live** and **work** and to deliver it we need **everyone** to get involved.

Initial contact should be made through Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry Community Council who via NCCBC who will coordinate action.

Email: [actionplans.nccbc@gmail.com](mailto:actionplans.nccbc@gmail.com)

**Help to make this happen!**

