



Funded by Scottish Power Renewables



Minishant

Community Action Plan 2019-2024



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Researched and compiled by:





COMMUNITY NEWS



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.

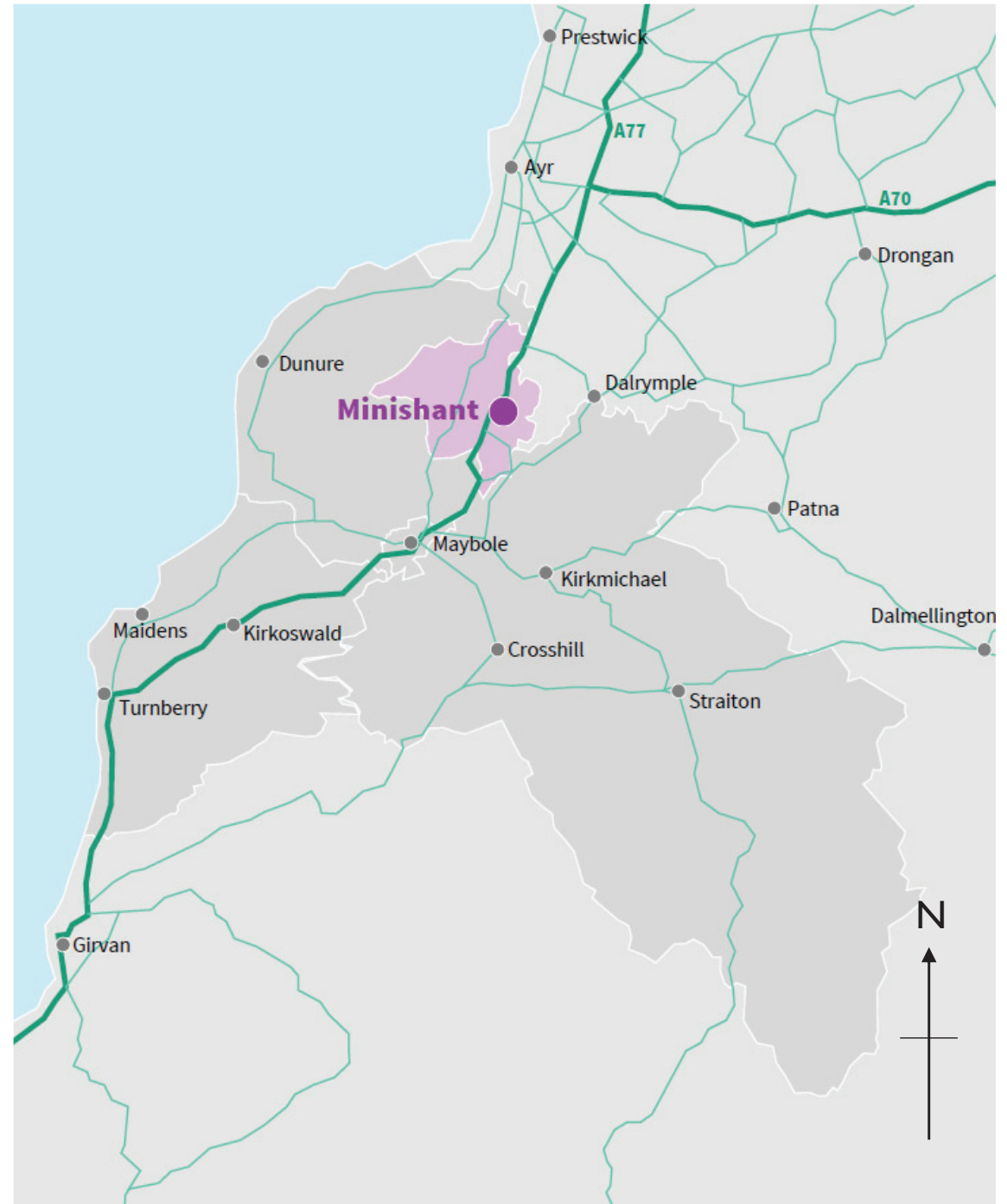
An Action Plan describes what a community wants to accomplish, what activities are required during a specified time period and what resources (money, people and materials) are needed for it to be successful.

Why a Community Action Plan?

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

Minishanters believe they have **a lovely village** with a small, **peaceful** and **friendly community**. Whilst seen as a safe place with a good school at its heart and with great potential, it is recognised that the population is either elderly or made up of young families and more reasons for **young people** to stay are needed. Village improvements and the **ability to socialise** and be **better connected** to each other became a common theme in any discussions, as well as the under-use of the Informal Further Education (IFE) wing at the school.

This plan explores the **ideas** of the people of Minishant more thoroughly and considers the steps that can be taken to **achieve** what the communities **want** over a five year period to 2024. (Map: Minishant Community Council Area)



Introducing Minishant

With a population of approximately 750, Minishant is located five miles south of Ayr and about three miles north of Maybole on the A77. The Culroy Burn runs through Minishant and the village is surrounded by open farmland and woodlands. History depicts Minishant as a weaving village with two factories that specialised in blankets.

The village has grown in recent years, with developments of new houses at each end of the village. The primary school has approximately 35 pupils and seven staff, including the Head Teacher which is a shared role with Crosshill Primary School. The school aims to provide a vibrant learning community around six core values. There are a small number of play areas and the war memorial dates to 1920. Many residents commute into Ayr, or Maybole for work and being on the A77, it is an accessible commute to Glasgow by car or by train from Maybole or Ayr.

Minishant businesses include The Minishant, formerly an Inn but now a restaurant open seven days per week that underwent an extensive renovation in 2012. Minishant Store provides post office facilities, newspapers and grocery supplies and there is a long-established Mower and Garden Tool Repairs and Services. The Lady Coates Memorial Church, dating to 1877 and closed in the mid-1980s, was a popular Indian restaurant for many years but has recently been converted into a five bedroom Airbnb accommodation offer.



Our Process



North Carrick is made up of the five community council areas of Dunure; Minishant; Maybole; Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmicheal; 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 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 Minishant community 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 engaged directly for this Plan were Minishant 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...

"Village size and the green
spaces"

"The school and IFE wing"

"Football pitch, Swing park,
Youth club"

"The park up the hill"

...what they would improve...

"The school playground needs updated and renovated"

"More people to become involved in community activities and
a community hall"

"Speeding traffic"

"No charge for the IFE wing"

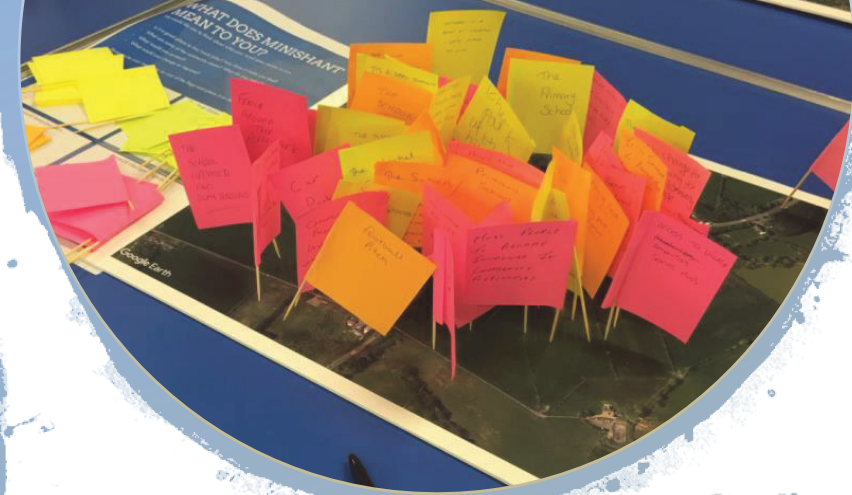
"General appearance, make it tidier, have more plants/flowers"

"Clear out the burn and fence the playpark to avoid dog mess"

"Parking improvements"

"Leisure facilities"

"A new path that connects two sections of path
near the school"



Minishant's Voices... Drop-in Sessions

The people of Minishant were all asked to give their opinions by survey and in person on **what their community is like today...**

"A quiet but friendly and safe place to live"

"Nice, quiet, safe environment. Safe for kids and safe to play out"

"A nice place to live. School at the heart, Underappreciated. Has great potential."

"Lovely village, friendly people, little crime, safe place..."

...and what it should be in 5
years time.

"More community spirit, more
village events, a pub."

"School updated, playpark fenced.
More social gathering places. The
IFE wing could be used more at the
school"

"A louder community with more
participation"

"A model village. Social for all."

"A social hub in IFE with the youth
club and all clubs catered for."



Minishant's Voices... Schools

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

Community



- Minishant Primary
- Church
- Visiting friends houses



Environment



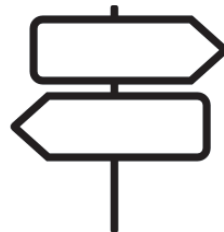
- Fields
- The burn
- River Doon



- Football Pitches
- Big Playpark
- Wee Playpark

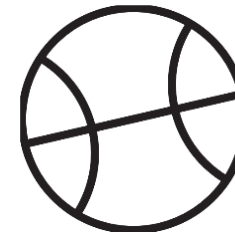


Businesses



- Post Office and Shop
- Garage
- Bed & Breakfast
- The Inn

Things to do





Young people described Minishant as fun and playful, friendly, peaceful, caring, beautiful, special, and with community spirit.

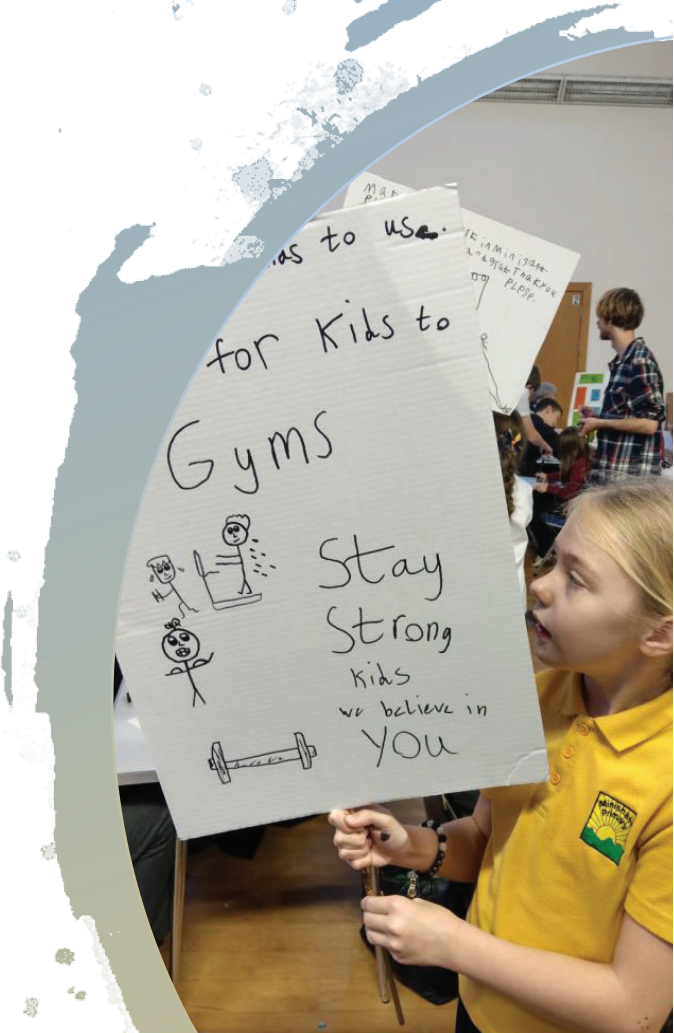
Some primary and many secondary school age children highlighted that there was nothing to do and that often the community doesn't get involved as much as it could.

Young people want to improve the parks (more parks and more play equipment, keeping them clean and tidy, and clearing up the football pitch) and improve the appearance of the town by planting more flowers. They also want more facilities to socialise such as a youth club or somewhere with Wi-Fi to hang out, somewhere to do arts and crafts with friends, a mobile library, and a free bus for under 18s to go to Maybole.



Minishant's Voices... Young People

Positively, Minishant's young people had **strong opinions** on the future of the village. 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.





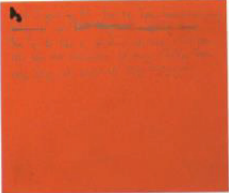
The Headlines 2024

'FAST FIT' GYM
ATTRACTS LOTS
OF CHILDREN FROM
THE MINISHANT AREA

The New 'Fast Fit' Gym
has proved very successful
for the children and adults
of Minishant.
Local child Hannah says
'I want to keep fit and
love coming to the gym. I
don't have to travel anymore.'



LASER TAG OPENS IN
MINISHANT!
Come and 'tag' along.



"Mini Golf Course for
Mini shant! Come and Swing
By"



Minishant Daily

MINI GOLF COURSE
FOR MINI SHANT!
'Come and 'swing' by'

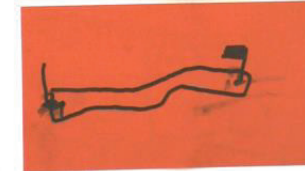
After many years Minishant
finally have a mini golf course.
Which every family can use and
have fun. It has been very busy
so far and people from the out
side community is using it.

NEW PARK
EQUIPMENT AND
SHELTER FOR
THE CHILDREN OF
MINISHANT



New Park Equipment and
Shelter for the Children of
Minishant"

"Fast Fit Gym Attracts Lots of
Children from the Minishant
Area"



One of the local people called
William said how good it all was
and it was such a big improvement
but he had one question which was
how long did it take?

as for many years Minishant
have had what they wanted Minishant have
got an amazing new canopy
great new equipment for both
kids and adults. Now that the local people
have opened their parks have been
said how busy it has

Holly, from just
outside Minishant told
us 'I love coming here,
even when it's raining.
I don't get wet.'



The Vision

By 2024 Minishant will be an **attractive village** that provides a **high standard of living** for its residents. The community will be **engaged** and **connected**, embracing the safe and peaceful rural setting whilst having **social opportunities** and access to high quality and popular **local amenities** that respect and protect the surrounding **natural heritage**.

Priorities



Priority 1: Improve the appearance of Minishant and make it more environmentally friendly

A collective view from speaking to adults and young people was that Minishant could look better and do more for the environment. Young people in particular were worried about their local environment.



Priority 2: More community events, involving more people

Minishant was felt to have many good qualities with a lot of consultees saying it was a friendly place to live with strong community spirit. However, it was felt that there could be more community events and a greater number of people should be encouraged to get involved.



Priority 3: Improved Play Parks and Play Areas

Better play parks were highlighted as a priority for Minishant. Nursery Square Park was mentioned specifically but also play areas in general that were referred to as the football play park, the swing park and the park up the hill.



Priority 4: Improve the woods for activities

Young people in particular wanted to make more use of the woods adding a range of safe and managed activities that make the most of this asset.



Priority 5: Pub, community café, or a social space for all of the community

The lack of an affordable social space for people to meet was often mentioned. Whilst supportive of the restaurant this was particularly highlighted since the conversion of the Minishant Inn from a pub to a restaurant. The Informal Further Education (IFE) wing at the school was often mentioned as a space that should be available but was under used or too expensive to hire.



Priority 6: Traffic Calming and Car Parking

Consultees discussed parking problems and the speed of traffic in Minishant with some frustration that traffic volumes will not decrease as a result of the Maybole bypass project. Practical solutions were suggested to make the village safer for children. Limited parking is a problem mentioned throughout North Carrick.



Priority 7: Better Quality and More Leisure Facilities

Linked to the lack of a social community space was a need and desire for a greater number of high quality leisure facilities. There is a realism about the size of the population and investment required, but lots of facility ideas were put forward, in particular by young people.



Actions



What Can You Do?

Priorities where the Minishant Community is LEADING

Priority	Who	How
Priority 1: Improve the appearance of Minishant and make it more environmentally friendly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minishant Community Community Organisations, supported by volunteers Community Development Officer Minishant Community Council North Carrick Community Benefit Company/ other funders Volunteers with particular skills such as gardening 	<p>The community want a tidier village with more care taken and enhancements to community spaces. They also want problems addressed such as littering and dog fouling. Ideas discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organising volunteer planting or holding community fundraising for planting projects Funding applications for new decorations for special events Requests to the council for more litter bin and dog bins Projects to provide more street furniture on the green and flower planters <p>Young people suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up a Community Eco-group Getting everyone in the village out to do clean up days - if possible! Attracting Council help to provide more litter bins Fixing the fences in certain areas Putting up signs to stop people littering because it can hurt animals or even kill
Priority 2: More community events involving more people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minishant Community Community Organisations, supported by volunteers Community Development Officer Minishant Community Council North Carrick Community Benefit Company/ other funders Maybole Regeneration Project – Activity Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form community working groups with a remit to develop events programmes. These can be based on community feedback to further survey work. Develop a range of different events that appeal to many different audiences within Minishant. These should be of a varying scale and for different interest groups. Encourage volunteer support in the development and delivery of events. Seek funding if this is required for delivery. The Community Development Officer post can support the process of making a greater number of events a reality. Make links to the Maybole Regeneration Project activities.



What Can You Help Others to Do?

Priorities where the Minishant Community has a FACILITATING role in partnership with others

Priority	Who	How
Priority 3: Improve play parks and play areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Minishant Community• Community Organisations, supported by volunteers• Community Development Officer• Minishant Community Council• South Ayrshire Council• North Carrick Community Benefit Company/other funders	<p>Adults raised the issue of the poor quality of play areas on a number of occasions including the need to improve the school playground. Young people had specific needs and wants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We need bins - because a lot of people litter• Punish people because they drop litter• Installation of dog poo bins• Get builders to repair and make new things• Stepping stones - Better and more of them• Roundabout - make it safer, put a seat on it, make it faster• Concrete - so we don't get all muddy• Undercover - Den shaped cover• More swings - because there's only two• Better slide - because the ladders are too tall for the wee ones
Priority 4: Improve the woods for activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Minishant Community• Community Organisations, supported by volunteers• Community Development Officer• Minishant Community Council• South Ayrshire Council• North Carrick Community Benefit Company/other funders	<p>Young people want to make the most of the woods by adding new bike trails with ramps and mudslides. They want to introduce adventurous play such as rope swings, dens and tree houses.</p> <p>Adults reminisced about woodland walks and how the woods and the river were used so much more when they were younger. A volunteer clean-up of the river was suggested.</p>



What Can You Help Others to Do?

Priorities where the Minishant Community has a FACILITATING role in partnership with others

Priority	Who	How
Priority 5: Pub, community café, or social space for all of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Minishant Community• Community Organisations, supported by volunteers• Community Development Officer• Minishant Community Council and Minishant Primary School• South Ayrshire Council• North Carrick Community Benefit Company/other funders	<p>The lack of a shared community space was the most discussed issue in Minishant. Adults felt the loss of the pub which functioned as the space where all residents and visitors could get together. Whilst many liked the restaurant it was a different kind of social space.</p> <p>The IFE hall at the school is a space that can be booked but it isn't always available and previous fundraising events which involved any form of alcohol incurred substantial hire charges.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that building a new community space would be a large project and would be difficult to fund. There was a desire though to try to develop creative solutions to this problem. Suggestions include discussing with South Ayrshire Council and the Primary School better terms for hire of the IFE space. Investigating what other spaces can be repurposed and seeing whether a project based option exists.</p>



What Can You Ask Others to Do?

Priorities where the Minishant Community is LOBBYING

Priority	Who	How
Priority 6: Traffic calming and car parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Minishant Community• Community Development Officer• Minishant Community Council• South Ayrshire Council• Ayrshire Roads Alliance / Transport Scotland	<p>Minishant does not benefit from the Maybole bypass project and, given the proximity of the A77, traffic speed and safety was often mentioned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perform an audit of areas where traffic calming or other road safety measures are required and where parking is an issue.• Co-ordinate an approach to South Ayrshire Council / Transport Scotland regarding safer crossings and signage in the area.• A specific safety solution for children that was often mentioned was the creation of a new path inside the A77 that connects two existing sections of path near the school.
Priority 7: Better quality and more leisure facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Minishant Community• Community Development Officer• Minishant Community Council• South Ayrshire Council	<p>Whilst discussion understood the context of the size of Minishant and the level of investment needed, adults wanted to have enhanced existing or new leisure facilities. The children of Minishant had very specific requests for tennis courts, basketball courts, football pitches, a gym for kids, minigolf course and laser tag games.</p> <p>A small representative community group can consider this issue further, taking a full audit of what leisure facilities are available and what improvements can make a difference. Small projects can make a big difference, for example, the impact of the fallen fence at nursery square was mentioned by a number of people. Phased projects to enhance what is there at present can be progressed, to be followed by the development of new facilities if this is demonstrated to be needed. Alternative solutions as suggested by young people may be for better free transport for the young to be able to have increased access to leisure spaces throughout North Carrick.</p>



This plan is **your** plan.

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

Initial contact should be made through Minishant Community Council via NCCBC who will coordinate action.
Email: actionplans.nccbc@gmail.com

Help to make this happen!

