

Foundations For Recovery
Community Engagement Strategy



UK Government



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1. Introduction and Approach to Assignment

Paul McColgan was invited to support the development of a dynamic community engagement strategy to support the Foundations for Recovery Initiative in the delivery phase.

Paul was commissioned under the umbrella of CEIS Ayrshire for this assignment.

Approach to the Assignment

The approach taken as part of this work is to follow an Asset Based Community Development ABCD process from the outset. The main purpose of ABCD is to Identify, mobilise and connect the assets of a neighbourhood, village or town.

It is important to emphasise here the difference between an ABCD approach and traditional consultation techniques, both are required for FFR, but they have very different purposes.

ABCD seeks to build lasting relationships of trust, development, and capacity building over time to identify a shared vision for an area and support local people to realise that vision.

Consultation is usually short term and is gained to draw out ideas and opinions and generally there is no implicit expectation that the people being consulted will go on to be involved in whatever project the consultation is focused on.

Aim of the Assignment

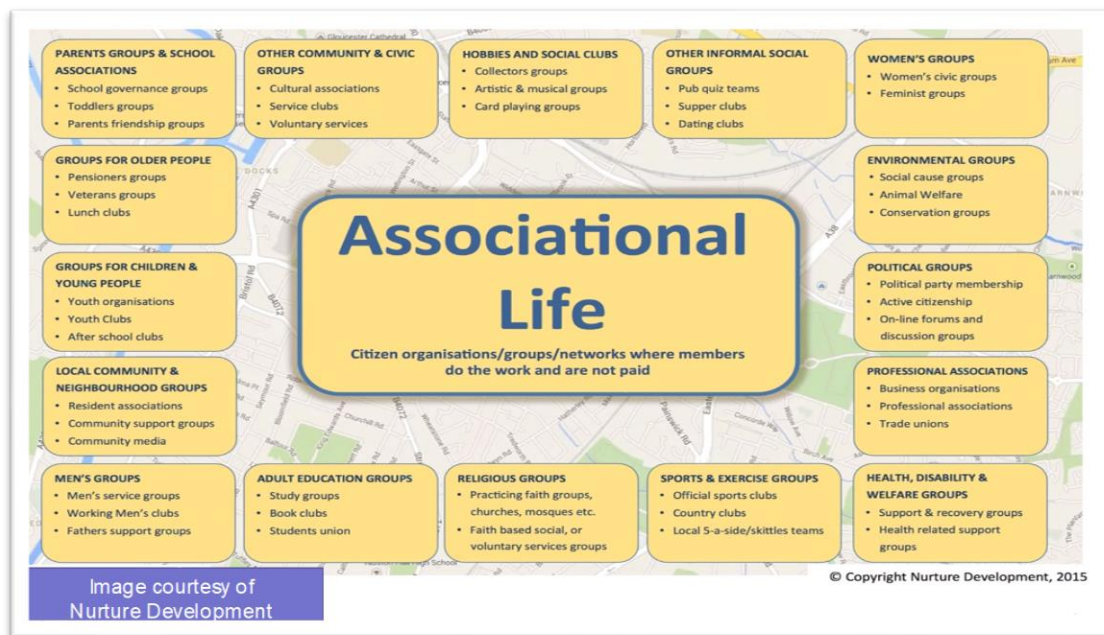
The aim of the assignment is to identify the community connectors within each village who will become the main assets in community engagement as the FFR project moves into its delivery phase. There is energy, ideas and associational life, social media groups etc. already present within each village and the purpose of this assignment is to weave that together with FFR going forward. This process can only progress at the speed of trust.

Mapping Community Assets

Through a series of Learning Journeys, Paul McColgan and Claire Bryan created a map of the assets and associational life of each village using the 6 categories of Community Assets created by Nurture Development.



Mapping the Associational Life of Each Village



Identifying Community Connectors

In ABCD there is a particular emphasis given to human assets over physical assets and one of the first tasks is to find the *community connectors* – the people who are known in their village as a trusted individual who knows many people and is often connected to the various community activities that take place. Normally community connectors are not professionals working in the space although sometimes although rarely a community connector may be a paid worker.

Learning Journeys and Roadshows

The first half of the assignment (March-June) involved a series of learning journeys and roadshows which took in each of the nine villages in North Carrick:

- Maidens
- Turnberry
- Kirkoswald
- Straiton
- Kirkmichael
- Crosshill
- Maybole
- Minishant
- Dunure

In the second half of the assignment (July-September 2022), more in-depth community workshops entitled “**Working as One**” were organised in 4 of the 9 villages – resulting in a strategy for the village.

- Straiton
- Maidens
- Minishant
- Crosshill

The next section of this draft report will start with the four villages which held the in-depth workshops entitled **Working as One**.

These workshops started by creating a map of the community connectors in the village, an asset map of the village and then moved on to use the Three Horizons Process.

Three Horizons Process

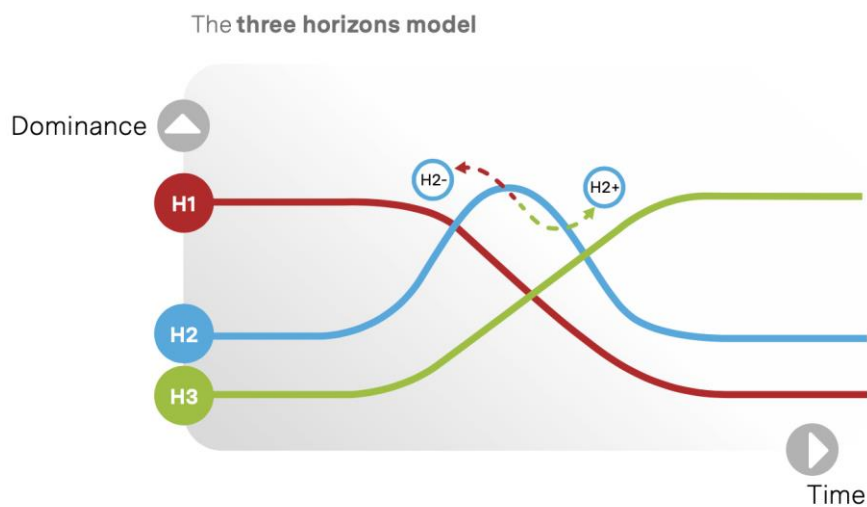
The Three Horizons Process, developed by the International Futures Forum, has been used in many settings including rural development. It is a framework that helps people to think and plan for the longer term rather than being so stuck in the here and now that they miss opportunities, don't spot risks or make decisions that don't stand the test of time.

The 3H model is particularly powerful when used in a workshop setting because it can draw together different knowledge and perspectives to build a shared vision of the future they want to work towards and the steps that are needed to get there. It

can also help people to see the role that all three horizons can play in bringing about change.

The model is essentially a graph that looks at how 'dominant' a way of working is and how that might change over time...

Horizon 1 is the current situation or "*Business as Usual*". The model assumes that this situation has elements that are cause for concern cannot last. That the cracks are showing, that things will move on and it needs to adapt, or that it is already failing. The model shows this way of working declining over time, although there may be some bits of the current situation that are worth keeping in the future.



Horizon 3 is the way we want things to be in the future.

This is the vision. It may be that pockets of this situation are already happening on the fringes. The model shows how, over time, this will become the new normal and almost everyone will be working this way. Eventually, though, it may also become the new Horizon 1 – the chances are things won't stand still and the best way of doing things will need to adapt and change.

Horizon 2 are the innovations and activities that help make the shift from Horizon 1 to Horizon 3. There are always new ideas and ways of doing things being tested out. Sometimes these are just small pilots or projects but sometimes, for a while, they can become the most common way of working.

Three Horizons Workshops

We used the 3H model in four of the North Carrick villages to reflect on:

- The current situation in the village and causes for concern – **Horizon 1**

- The aspirational future for the village – **Horizon 3 (3-5 years)**
- Innovations and activities that can help the village move forwards towards the aspirational future – **Horizon 2**

2. Village Strategies

2.1 Village Strategy Straiton



Straiton is a village on the River Girvan in South Ayrshire in Scotland, and dates 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.

Straiton is a good starting off point for walkers and ramblers and has Straiton Paths.

Workshop – Working as One in Straiton

This workshop started by creating an asset map of the village starting with the key individuals and community connectors who live and contribute to the life of Straiton.



For a village the size of Straiton there are a tremendous number of key individuals and connectors as can be seen in the table below.

Community Connectors

Margaret Logan	Bev Wood	Marguerite Hunter-Blair
David Stokes	Julie Walker	Rev. Gerald
Iain Beaton	Henry Anderson	Gordon Ferrie
Andy Sinclair	Jen Williams	Pat Hunter-Blair
Roy Morrison	Rab Armstrong	Moira Paton
Arno and Rolinke (Buck Café)	Community shop volunteers	Andrew Hyslop
James Murdoch	Tracey Armstrong	Isla (parent council)
Sam Briggs	Carol-Ann Dunlop	Henry Graham

Stories and history of Straiton

Having mapped out the key people we moved on to capture the most important stories in the history of Straiton:

Bennan Hill Urns	Bing Crosby	Covenanters	Community Shop
Family Farms	Legend of Kingshill	Moving Monument	Magnus Magnusson
Straiton Fun Day	Straiton Raffles	Storm Frank	The 100 year flood
The Match Film	The Old Black Bull	Terlaw Bridge	Viewpoint Opening
Whitefords and Kennedy's	Watsons Shops	The Hill Race	

The Associational Life of The Village

In ABCD the associational life of a place is a good marker of the foundation for community development to take place.

Straiton has twenty-two associations which is remarkable for a village with only 170 households.

These associations include:

Badminton Group	Rural Committee
Carpet Bowls Group	School Parent Council
Community Council	Straiton Development Group
Curling Club	Straiton Cooperative
Environment Group	Straiton Farmers
Fishing Club	Sunday Quizzers
Guild	Save Straiton for Scotland Group
Kirk Session	Village Picnic Committee
Lego Club	Walking Footballers
Lunch Club	Whist Drive
McCandlish Hall Committee	Wee Whist

Institutions

In addition to the community associations, we also mapped the institutions in Straiton. These include Carrick Resilience, Church of Scotland, Land and Forestry Scotland, Mobile Bank, Mobile Library, Nursery, Post Van and Primary School

Physical Spaces

There are several physical assets of note in Straiton including:

- Blairquan Estate
- Community Garden
- Castle Grounds
- Church Graveyard
- Eddie's Island
- Galloway Forest
- Monument
- Named Village Walks
- Outdoor Classroom
- Playpark
- River
- Show Field
- Telephone Box
- Toilets

The Local Economy

We mapped out the organisations and activities that bring an economic benefit to the village. These were:

Air BNB	Balbeg Country Holidays	Buck Café
Castle	Car Boot Sales	Car Hire
Community Shop	Cycling Events	Farms
Forestry	Fishing	Haulage
Freedom Field Pods	Holiday cottages and camping	Milton of Blairquan
Petrol Station	Sawmill	School
The Bull	Watsons	Windfarms

Joining up and Mobilising Assets

Having created a map of the assets and community connectors the participants reflected on the following question:

How can we mobilise and join up these assets?

The group came up with the following suggestions?

- Better Village Communications
- A Community Newsletter
- Up to date noticeboard
- A village rep to liaise with utilities companies
- A paid development officer
- More community events in the hall
- An overseeing village community organisation to pull everything together

Three Horizons Process in Straiton

Having mapped the assets and made some suggestions for joining them up we moved on to refresh the vision for Straiton using the Three Horizons Process.

Horizon 1 Concerns

The model is simple and familiar. **Horizon 1** represents the current situation, and the reflective question is, "What in the current situation is a cause for concern?".

Collective concerns of the Straiton community

- Irresponsible access to land
- Littering
- No enforcement of village speed limit
- No central village contacts
- Flood management
- Broadband
- Pavements and roads
- Lack of parking
- Uncertainty over wind farms
- State of paths
- Pub – not used by community
- Shop development
- Dangerous surfaces
- Cost of living
- Lack of housing
- Too many signs

Horizon 3 Aspirations

Having listed the concerns the next reflective question was, "What is the aspirational future for Straiton if things go well in the next 5 years?"

The aspirations of the Straiton Community are captured below.

- Thriving, sustainable, viable, flourishing community
- More people living in the village
- Better housing options including passive-eco housing and sheltered housing
- Better use of status as gateway to Galloway national park
- Casino
- Create a cultural hub for artists
- Have a paid development officer

- Multi-use games space for young people with tennis and basketball
- Electric car charging hub
- Extended shop with improved facilities
- Trampoline Park
- Swimming pool
- Investment in hall for drama productions and music
- Solar panels for McCandlish Hall
- Thriving pub and good restaurant
- Pop up shop for gifts and local crafts
- Arts and Crafts Centre
- Thriving school with more children
- Path network
- Optimal use of existing social housing
- Improved parking and road surfaces
- A good path from Straiton to Kirkmichael

Horizon 2 Innovations and Actions

The third reflection question is, “What actions and innovations are required to move Straiton towards its third horizon innovations?”

The community came up with eight innovations it would like to shape its future activity.

H2 Innovations

1. Community purchase of pub
2. Local bus service to Ayr
3. Employ a paid development officer
4. Secure funding for shop improvements
5. Set up an umbrella organisation or Community Development Trust
6. Apply for a grant to upgrade the hall audio visuals and stage
7. Approach pub for use of out-buildings for arts and crafts centre
8. Create a plan for new/mixed housing tenure in the village

Next Steps

The next steps would be to work these actions up into a refreshed vision in partnership with NCCBC document for Straiton with timescales and funded proposals.

2.2 Village Strategy – 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.

The Community Association in Minishant is a more recently formed group that is trying to re-establish a vibrant community after several years of little community activity. This workshop followed the same process as the Straiton Workshop.

Asset Map of Minishant

Community Connectors

Joe Jess	Graham McCracken	Amy White	Nicole Bryden
Zoe Balfour	Betty Challis	Kim Whyte	Helen Jess
Elaine Gouldie	Gail Wardrop	Shirley Devlin	Carol
Vicky			

Minishant Stories

- Riverside Inn – was a popular place for villagers to hold family functions
- Minishant Hall – many communities events
- The old pub – was a hub of village life
- The Minishant Gala – recently revived after 22 years
- The community campaign to save the primary school

Associational Life of the Village

Present

- North East Carrick Youth Club
- Minishant Social and Leisure Group
- Minishant Football Club
- School Parent Council
- NCCBC

Past

- Minishant Church
- There used to be a community council – members still around
- The Rural

The Local Economy

- Minishant Social and Leisure Committee
- Pub
- Old Church (B&B)
- Shop
- Tom Halliday Garage and Repairs
- Minishant Inn
- 3B Construction
- Henry Harvey Roofing

- Vanessa Lawrence Artist
- The Woodland Trust
- Football Team
- New owners of the pub/restaurant

Physical Spaces

- Play Parks
- School grounds
- River
- Football Field
- Woodland area
- Woods
- Memorial Monument
- Wildflower Meadow
- Eco walk

Institutions

- Primary School
- Mobile post office
- Community Police
- Mobile Library
- South Ayrshire Council

Three Horizons for Minishant

First Horizon Concerns

- lack of Council Support
- lack of village support
- lack of activities for children and young people
- older people are isolated and disconnected
- there is no social hub to bring people together
- parks are unsafe and need upgraded
- park next to road and car park - no fence
- danger of losing the school

Third Horizon Aspirations

- a community hall or space to bring the village together
- sports facilities - to realise potential of football pitch
- improve play parks and make them safe

- improve the school
- create eco-walk
- develop clubs for kids and adults
- more affordable housing
- open a cafe
- create opportunities for people to come together - talk time
- coffee and cake
- football stand with car parking
- central community area
- buy the pub for the community

Second Horizon Innovations and Actions

- Become a constituted organisation
- Apply for charitable status
- Get started on the eco-walk
- Hold a community survey
- Explore options for a community hall/café/facility
- Find out about modular buildings
- Apply for funding to pay for meeting space to meet more regularly
- Find out what SAC plans are for Minishant

3. Village Strategy – Maidens



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 several static and touring caravan sites.

Asset Map of Maidens

Stories

- Fishing community, growing up here, men all had the boats in the harbour, women used to walk to the harbour with the prams to meet their men off the boats
- History of Robert the Bruce – landing here when the bowling green is, lots of things to capitalise on the history of the village
- Lives governed by the tide and the weather, if anyone was lost at sea there was a darkness came over, the sea was the focus
- It was a holiday village; we knew all the kids from the caravans, there was a great buzz over the summer
- Shipbuilding in Carrick, 3rd Marquis of Ailsa, two slipways, mid 1850s-1860s, started at Culzean and moved to Maidens and then ended up in Troon
- Interested in Oral history – the barker is listed, a nice heritage centre could be built there like at Portpatrick
- Marilyn Roger is very interested in local history and has lots of materials and photos
- 'The maidens mile' – local walking route

Community Connectors and Unsung Heroes of the village

- Peter – the shopkeeper
- Wendy – Maidens Community Association
- Les McFadzean
- Danny
- Jean Sommerville

Associational Life of Maidens

- Maidens Community Association
- Rowing Club
- T Club
- Craft Club
- Photography Club
- Youth Club
- Bowling Club
- Harbour Trust
- Steppingstones Class

- Games for Heroes

Physical spaces

- Beach
- Park
- The sea itself
- The harbour
- Culzean Castle and Country Park
- Walking and cycling routes
- Ayrshire Coastal Path

Local Economy

- Peter's Shop – Little K's
- Wildings
- Ropes
- Turnberry
- Walking and cycling – look and see what you can find
- New telephone box – resource for all local businesses and community groups

Three Horizons for Maidens

Horizon 1 Concerns

- Toilets
- Jet skis/overall safety in the sea, noise of them
- Speed of cars in the village in amongst children
- Campervans
- Vehicles on the beach – reportable to the police
- Lack of council investment in the general upkeep of the village, grass cutting, street sweeping etc. Nobody cleans the beach.
- If these things are not resolved, then people will not want to come here and invest in the area.
- Transport – one bus an hour, even a small bus. No buses after 6pm for kids to go anywhere.
- Accommodation - Wildings and Turnberry desperate for workers, the house prices mean that the people that work here can't afford to live here.
- Playpark, too big for the small children, too small for the big children – the park doesn't suit all primary school age kids.
- Football pitch – rabbit holes, you can lose the ball in the holes! In the winter it floods so can't be used. The kids go and use the Redgate's park.

Horizon Three Aspirations

- Tennis courts/table tennis
- Less on tourism, but more focus on the year-round community that live here
- From the parents at the school and the youth club parents – we need a community space that is available all year round, like a more traditional town hall, large community hall multipurpose with all year-round outdoor facilities, cinema club, youth club, all for the use of the local people
- Issues with the bowling club site – priority for members, will community be kicked out for the use of the bowlers or if there is a chance to make money from a function
- You need the facilities to allow clubs to form
- Safe space for wild swimming
- Heritage centre – developed down the harbour area, focus on shipbuilding and fishing
- Harbour developed – bigger harbour, extended slipway so that people can launch safely, more buoys, swimming area, jet ski area. Dunure has banned

jet skis, so they are all coming here. There is no governing body or licences or insurances for jet skis.

- Make it safe – people felt scared in the water, the pollution is affecting the locals as well.
- Improved the general landscape of the village – all the elements are disjointed, too many different factions arguing with one another. Bollards etc are in wrong places, designed landscape doesn't work as a whole
- Complaints about the advertising of the meeting – 'no one knew about it'
- Points about how all the groups can speak to one another
- Wasteland in front of the Ropes – if it was Lerwick it would be nice for it to face the sea
- Community asset transfer of the harbour and the bay – the community would then have the jurisdiction over the water through bi-laws
- Cascade system for notifying all the community

Horizon 2 Innovations and Actions

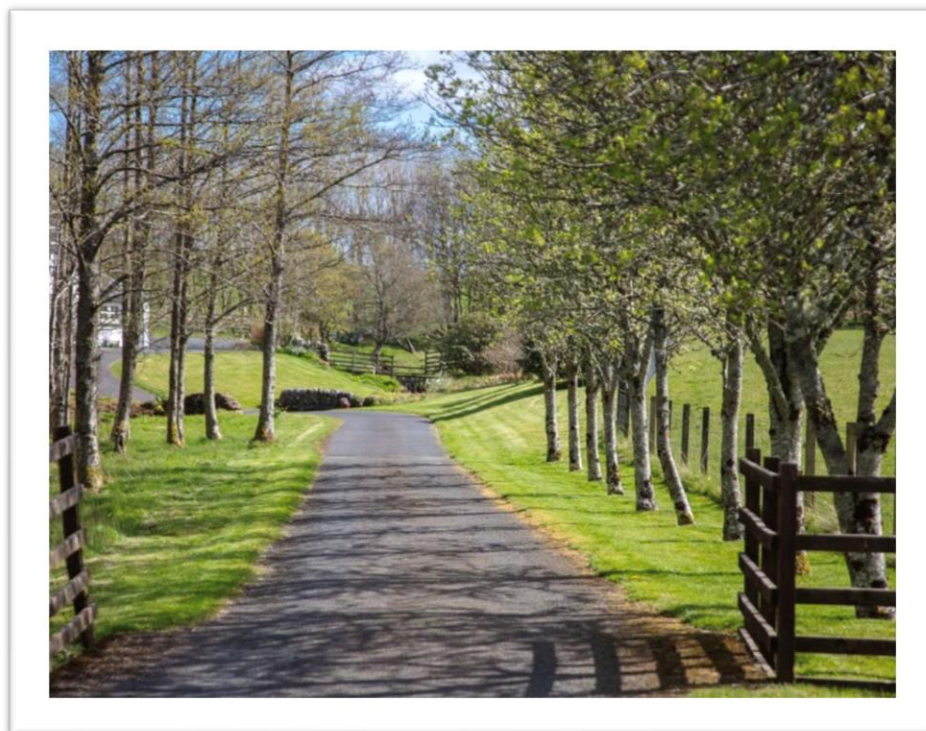
- Safety issues addressing in the water
- Communal hall which is for the village
- Encourage the police to get involved with the speeding and the parking
- Last year we wrote to the MSP about the issues and ended up with some positive responses and asked for double yellow lines, but they wouldn't do it. They were going to do a traffic management survey, but they did it in the winter.
- A way for the community could make money – something to bring money to the community together and raise funds
- Traffic calming on Ardlochan Road

Next Steps

- Call another big meeting with everyone involved.
- Do we just ask people how they want to take things forward
- Can the kit that we have be community kit and everyone use it
- Kids opinions need to be taken into consideration
- Leaders from all the different businesses in the same room
- Get police or local councillors involved – have a real clear ask before having them in
- Joined up thinking within the community – getting people together – umbrella organisation?

2.4 Village Strategy – Crosshill

Crosshill is located 3 miles (5km) southeast 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.



Asset Map of Crosshill

Community Connectors

Gordon (model railway)	Aileen and Ian Hutton	Emily Pike	Margo and Steve O'Brien
Buster	Val Coulter	Jackie Bryan	Mr. Paterson
Jim McDonald	Jenna Dunlop	Susan Drynan	Sophie Thorburn
Colin (walled garden)	Pam McAlwraith		

Associational Life of Crosshill

- Bowling Club
- Church of Scotland
- Community Association
- Community Council
- Craft Group
- Crosshill Thistle FC
- Gardening Group
- Girl Guides
- Masonic Hall
- Mothers and Toddlers
- NCCBC
- Round Table
- Tai Chi
- The Rural
- Whist Group

Institutions

- Primary School and ASN School
- Mobile Library
- Early Years Centre

Physical Spaces

- Community Centre Car Park
- Bowling Green
- Playpark
- Football Pitch
- Walled Garden
- Campsite
- Milton St

Local Economy

- ID Engineering
- GAB Audio
- Motor Repair
- McKay's Property
- Vintage Gardener
- Lee's Leads

- Connor Lucas Fabricators
- Evolution Design
- Post Office
- Dalduff, Dalhowan, Kileekie, Rowanston Farms
- Bowling Club
- Amy Therapy

Stories

- Coffin walk
- The Plough
- The Royal and Heid Inn pubs
- Weaving village
- Gala Week
- Crosshill teashop

Three Horizons for Crosshill

Horizon 1 – Concerns

- Potential closure of Post Office
- Lack of enthusiasm for community participation
- Speed bumps
- Asset transfer of Community Hall
- Fragility of school roll
- Closure of church
- Losing pupils to other schools
- Older people isolated
- Dog fouling
- Lack of safe walks
- Safety of park
- Lack of affordable housing

Horizon 3 - Aspirations

- More people using the community hall
- Establish a community choir
- Stronger Community Association
- New social club
- All weather pitch at Bowling Club
- New safe walks
- Thriving community shop and post office

- More people involved
- Gala day/week re-established
- Fun Run
- Public toilets

Horizon 2 Innovations and Actions

- Find a teacher to lead a community choir
- Have new tables and chairs visible at the Bowling Club]
- New tubs and flowers
- Recruit new members for the Community Association
- Identify a property for community shop
- Send money to SAPI
- Bring together all existing associations and groups to a big community meeting
- Clean all the village signs
- Ask for help for the Gala

3 Village Profiles

3.1 Maybole



The ancient capital of Carrick, Maybole, is experiencing an exciting period of investment and regeneration, with enabling works having started in early 2019 on the long-awaited bypass, and a recent award of significant grant funding towards the regeneration of the town centre.

Maybole is a small town built on a sloping hillside overlooking the Southern Uplands. It is situated 9 miles (14 km) south of Ayr (see map) and 50 miles (80 km) southwest of Glasgow.

The town has three primary schools: Cairn Primary, Gardenrose Primary and St Cuthbert's Primary. The secondary school for Maybole is Carrick Academy.

Key Community Contacts and Connectors in Maybole

- Mark Fletcher - Chair of NCCLG– also chair of Community Council and is a director of NCCBC. Management of Goudies
- Margarite Hunter-Blair – board member of The Carrick Centre
- Andrea Hutchinson – board member of The Carrick Centre
- Wilma Milligan – Food bank and Pantry
- Simon Glendening – works in Carrick Centre and is president of Carrick History Society

- Coral McMillan, Duncan Cleland, Corrine – works in Maybole Community Regeneration Team – partnership with Community Council
- Brian Connelly – Independent Elected Member
- Max Agnew – works for HSCP and involved in active travel and e-bike developments
- Simon Glendening – works in Carrick Centre and is president of Carrick History Society
- Wilma Milligan – Food bank and Pantry
- Coral McMillan, Duncan Cleland, Corrine – works in Maybole Community Regeneration Team – partnership with Community Council
- Brian Connelly – Independent Elected Member
- Andy (runs a pop-up gym for people in recovery from substance misuse)

Institutions

- GP surgery – 6 GP practices
- Library – Community Learning and Development
- SW drop in office – Main St.
- Education – Supercampus at Carrick Academy
- Early years centre at Carrick Centre
- Cairn Primary
- St Cuthbert's Primary
- Gardenrose Primary

Associational Life of Maybole

- Carrick Rugby club
- Bowling club
- Maybole Juniors FC
- Youth club
- Quilting club
- North Carrick Community Leisure Group – based at Goudies
- Carrick Centre
- Colouring Communities (adults with additional support needs)
- Maybole Regeneration Group

Physical Spaces

- Golf course
- Swimming pool
- Glebe Park
- Maybole memorial park
- Skate Park

Local Economy

- Construction of super-campus bringing Secondary school and primary schools onto one location
- Refurbishment of Town Hall
- High street improvement grants
- Restoration of Castle and gardens
- Maybole Castle as a heritage Hub – Feasibility Study as part of Foundations for Recovery
- Redevelopment of swimming pool and golf course
- Regeneration group (Coral)
- Active travel scheme
- Artist in Residence – need to contact her and get her involved
- 20-minute neighbourhoods
- Walking and cycle routes feasibility study

Community Engagement Strategic Objectives

There is a lot going on in Maybole including:

- Building a new super campus school
- Refurbishment of Maybole Castle and gardens
- 20-minute neighbourhoods
- High St. facelift
- Potential redevelopment of swimming pool and golf course

These activities are all potentially great for the town but there needs to be cohesion bringing all these strands into a coordinated strategy, particularly around the economic potential of the various strands highlighted above. A key community engagement objective in some ways is bigger than FFR and would be for the key strategic stakeholders to prepare an overarching document outlining the ambition for Maybole and for this to be tested with the residents through a series of surveys and interactive public events.

Next Steps

To discuss this strategic objective with NCCBC and the Maybole representatives on the NCCBC board, together with South Ayrshire Council and the local elected members.

3.2 Village Profile – Dunure



Dunure is a small fishing village in South Ayrshire, located on the coast of the Firth of Clyde approximately five miles from Ayr. The first buildings in the lower Dunure village were erected in the early nineteenth century.

Dunure Harbour is a square basin with a breakwater quay that was improved by the Earl of Cassillis in 1811 at a cost of £50,000. It is topped off by a locally common cylindrical stone harbour light. Kennedy Hall within the village dates from 1881 and Dunure House from 1800. With Limekilns being a common feature throughout the harbour and Dunure.

Dunure Castle today stands in ruins on the Carrick coast, overseeing and once protecting Dunure Harbour. The site dates to the 13th century when the Kennedy family was granted lands in 1357 and built the castle. However, the remains are 15th and 16th century. When in use, the castle consisted of two distinct parts: a keep and a lower building. It is reputed that Mary Queen of Scots stayed at Dunure Castle for three days in 1563.

Today the castle is surrounded by the Kennedy Park, a play area and picnic spot with parking for the many cars that visit Dunure during the summer months.

Key community connectors in Dunure

- Mhairi Eaglesham
- Janey McGrath
- Bonnie McLean
- Greg Patterson
- Callum Kerr
- John Eaglesham
- Angus and Tracey Craig
- Mary Anderson

Associational Life of Dunure

- Dynamic Dunure – an umbrella organisation for the various smaller organisations with a shared vision for the future developments in Dunure.
- Dynamic Dunure is a role model for the other 8 villages in what can be achieved when bringing all the individual activities into cohesive group
- Annual festival of the Sea – 19th August – excellent opportunity for community consultation
- Mother and toddler group
- Rowing club
- Community Council
- Church of Scotland
- Harbour committee
- Youth club
- Facebook group with 1k members

FFR Projects in Dunure

- Heritage Centre in Kennedy Park
- Harbour upgrade

Community Engagement Strategic Objectives in Dunure

- Involving community in design of heritage centre
- Volunteer recruitment to support manning of centre

Third Sector Training Opportunities in Dunure

- Financial management
- Employing staff
- Marketing

- Volunteer recruitment and management
- Tourism management

Next Steps

Scoping out a training and support plan for Dynamic Dunure in collaboration with CEIS.

3.3 Village Profile – Kirkoswald



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 schoolhouse where Robert Burns studied, a house and garden retail offer, a glass craft studio and Whisky Experience.

Community Connectors

- Chris Savage - on the local Community Council and NCCBC Board as well as the Turnberry, Maidens and Kirkoswald Community Development Trust
- Elizabeth Veitch – church elder – organises many activities in Kirkoswald church

Local Economy

Richmond Hall

A former school, Richmond Hall was bought by local entrepreneur Lindsay Guidi who has restored the hall and converted it into a cookery school and venue. Lindsay is on the board of the South Ayrshire Biosphere and Richmond is one of the named businesses in the Unesco Biosphere.

Green Dolphins Glass

This artisan glass making company is run by a local artists Gordon?

AD Rattray Whisky Experience

A popular tourist destination for those on their way to Turnberry – this has a distillery, whisky shop and tasting facility.

Saxon Hart

An upmarket homeware shop

Souter Johnnie's Inn

Pub and Restaurant

Souter Johnnie's Cottage

A National Trust for Scotland Visitor Experience on the Burns trail

Kirkoswald Cemetery

- Covenanters grave

Whithorn Way

- Pilgrimage route

Kirkland House and gardens – Garden Centre

- Upmarket garden centre

Associational Life

Working Mens' Club

- Closed but 40 community members attended a meeting talking about potential purposes

Next Steps in Community Engagement

- Arrange village meeting to discuss potential purposes and feasibility study for Working Men's Club

3.4 Village Profile – 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.

Community Connectors

- Andrew Thorne
- Calum – Paralympian
- Patrick and Caroline Lorimer (renaissance group)
- Davie Parker – farming family
- Kirkmichael History Group

Local Economy

- Village Renaissance Committee – have taken over McCosh hall
- Kirkmichael Kids and Community Group – runs village gala day
- Kirchemichael Church of Scotland
- Kirkmichael History Society
- Talisker bay – food production
- Scotmin – animal feed for sheep and cattle
- Merkland Farm
- Kirkmichael Arms – An award-winning Restaurant

Next Steps In Community Engagement

Invite all local groups and connectors to a development Working as One in Kirkmichael workshop.

3.5 Village Profile Turnberry



In 1904 Glasgow and Southwestern 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.

Community Development Objectives

Re-engaging with Trump Turnberry

There is merit in engaging with the management of Trump Turnberry as a partner in Foundations for Recovery and as a major employer in North Carrick.

Lion of Alba Statue

One of the proposed sites for the lion of Alba statue is Turnberry and it may be worthwhile organising a public meeting to gauge support.

4. Historical Assets

North Carrick has a rich array of historical monuments and a vibrant amateur history community.



Key Community Connectors with an interest in History and Heritage

- Simon Glendenning – President Carrick History Society
- Sarah Anderson
- Louis Simpson
- Henry Anderson and Margaret Logan – Straiton Community
- Noreen and Veronica – Kirkmichael History Group
- David Quinn

FFR Initiatives linking to history

- Historical trail
- Maybole castle
- Better links with Culzean Castle
- Crossraguel Abbey
- Lion of Alba ststue
- Robert The Bruce 750 anniversary
- Dunure Heritage Centre

Additional Heritage Ideas

- New history book of Carrick area

- North Carrick Museum (History society and Kirkmichael history group have thousands of artifacts but nowhere to display them)
- Pop-up museums opportunities for community engagement
- Develop a history campus for North Carrick
- Historical education service
- Reinstating the fountain at the Thomas Dykes memorial
- Kirkmichael church and cemetery

Community Engagement Objectives

It may be worthwhile bringing all the local history contacts into an overarching history and heritage group for North Carrick to support the development and delivery of the heritage and tourism plan.

5. Common Developments and Actions from Foundations for Recovery

Although each village has its unique assets and aspirations there are also some common development themes where it may be possible to bring villages together to learn together and from each other.

Community purchase of buildings for use as social venues

In several villages the idea of leasing or purchasing a building for use as a community hub came up.

In Kirkmichael the community has already taken control of a council building via a lease agreement and could share knowledge on the process.

In Straiton and Minishant an aspiration of the community is to purchase an existing pub/restaurant to turn it into a community venue.

Community Shops

Straiton already has a well-established community shop and Crosshill would like to explore expanding the current post office to create a larger community owned shop. These groups could be supported to learn from each other and potentially share costs in future.

Community Asset Transfers

There are opportunities for community asset transfers in Maybole (primary school) and Crosshill (Community Centre). One of the issues with community asset transfers is the capacity of community associations to take on and manage assets and the responsibility that comes with maintaining old buildings. NCCBC could explore the possibility of creating a development trust that could purchase and manage buildings on behalf of the community.

New buildings and people management

In Dunure and Maidens new community buildings are planned which will be staffed by a combination of paid staff and volunteers. There is an opportunity to develop training in how to recruit and manage staff which would apply to both these community buildings as well as Straiton Cooperative and Kirkmichael Community Hub.

Development of umbrella groups for each village

In Maidens, Straiton and Crosshill there was a need identified during the workshops to bring disparate groups into an umbrella group for the village. This would also be possible in Maybole and Kirkmichael.

NCCBC could organise a session looking at different types of umbrella group from un-constituted informal groups through to Community Development Trusts.

Funding Applications and Fundraising

In both the roadshows and workshops the issue of writing funding applications and fundraising came up as a development need.

NCCBC could arrange for training to be carried out centrally where representatives of each village could attend.

Asset Based Community Development

Some of the villages such as Minishant and Crosshill expressed interest in learning about community engagement techniques.

There are a large group of community connectors that have been identified across the nine villages and offering **Asset Based Community Development** training could be an excellent way to build on the capacity and enthusiasm of these connectors.