Kirkintilloch: Community Action Plan

We need your help!!
Imagine a Kirkintilloch where the community is at the heart. A vibrant town – where people want to shop, meet and eat.

Where the town is a focal point for the community and people can easily take part in what’s going on. A town known for its rich heritage and well-used and maintained open spaces. A town accessible and used by everyone. This is the vision we all want and is the vision developed from what you all told us in the community consultation.

In our last newsletter we wrote to you about the results of the community consultation that took place in Kirkintilloch earlier in the year. We also outlined some next steps to deliver the results, which included developing an Action Plan. In this edition you can read all about that plan and how we now need your help to deliver it.

You can read about the consultation here: www.kirkintillochcommunity.com

So how can you help? A successful consultation is one thing. Turning the desire for change within the community into results is another. We can make this vision a reality. But that’s going to take a bit of time and lots of effort by all sorts of people, groups and organisations. It’s not just down to East Dunbartonshire Council or other large bodies to deliver this. It’s down to us all. We will all have responsibility for different parts of it. We’ve tried to reflect this in the actions and the way forward, but in short we’ll need lots more support if we really are going to change things for the better.

All this presents a challenge. But the scale of the challenge should not stop a change in approach. Transparency of decision making, involvement in processes, developing a shared understanding of the future and clearly managing everyone’s expectations, should all be central to developing a new model of partnership to how we make Kirkintilloch a better place. There is a responsibility in all aspects of this which lies with all sectors if a new way of working is to be successful. And we’ve already started that process.

But much of what came out the consultation can be achieved by people giving up a little bit of time or using some of the skills they have to benefit us all. Even more simply though, some of this can be delivered by everyone trying to Love Kirky a little bit more, and thinking about how their everyday actions impact upon others.

Love Kirky is all about that idea. We’d love to achieve some common goals for people who live, work or visit Kirkintilloch. For instance, too much litter and dog fouling are things we can all change. And that’s just a start. So over the coming months we’ll be trying to challenge everyone to Love Kirky a little bit more. Meantime, please read on to find out more about the Action Plan and how you can get involved.

The Your Kirky team.

Sign up today at: info@kirkintillochcommunity.com
We will deliver the vision through developing an economic development plan to support the growth of Kirkintilloch town centre as the first choice destination for shopping, cafes, and meeting up for people who live in and around the town.

By creating an enhanced environment and increasing the number of desirable shops, cafes and public facilities, an excellent customer experience can be delivered in Kirkintilloch town centre. This should primarily be led by businesses, and a Business Improvement District, but involve a wide range of partners.

**Shopping in Kirkintilloch**

➢ Encourage shopping in Kirkintilloch by increasing the variety of shops to attract more people to the town.
➢ Policy measures to diversify, encourage and enhance the range of shops and services in the town centre.
➢ Test the market for niche shops through creating a rotating pop-up shop that offers small businesses an opportunity to sell in the town and establish a foothold.

**Environmental Improvements**

➢ Ensure all shop units in the town centre are part of creating a good first impression in the town.
➢ Create a unique atmosphere in the town centre through lighting projects.
➢ Maintain a litter free town
➢ Provision of toilet facilities to make the town more accessible to all.
➢ Other planting and ‘brightening’ improvements such as hanging baskets or improved shop fronts

**Marina Facility Hub**

➢ Develop the Marina to be a thriving part of the Kirkintilloch food and drink, and leisure offerings.
We will deliver this vision by developing events and facilities that draw people into the town centre and promote its wider use. By having a varied and cyclical programme of events in the town centre we will draw in different groups at different times to share and experience the place in new ways.

Finding a location for community activities, social enterprises, learning and care in the town centre will create a central place that the community can share and feel proud of. This should be led by the community in partnership with a range of agencies.

A Calendar of Events
➢ A varied programme of community festivals that begin to form a seasonal calendar. Some of the events can be hosted in the Town Hall or Regent Gardens e.g. Dance events, food/drink festival, family ceilidh, winter festival/market, family festival
➢ Collaboration between Your Kirky, the council and a community development trust to create, manage and deliver a programme of events. Promotion of the events is key for the success of them. Discount rates or promotion can be offered to families.

Community Cinema
➢ Start with a small trial, such as a pop-up cinema in the Town Hall, scaling as demand is proven. At the largest scale this would be a feasibility study about the viability of the Kerr Street site.

Upgrade William Patrick Library
➢ Make several small changes to the library to help it fulfil its potential such as Sunday opening times, more community space within the library and a greater selection of foreign language materials (e.g. Hindi).
We will deliver the vision by working to promote the town’s heritage and use of its natural assets to create a desirable place to visit and live, and develop an identity that the community can be proud of.

Kirkintilloch’s unique history gives the place a rich identity that its community can gather around. By promoting this locally it can develop a greater sense of connection to the place, and through promoting it more widely can attract wider audiences and users to the town centre.

The town’s open space assets create great opportunities for enjoying the outdoors and improved health and wellbeing for people who live here. Public space improvements within the town centre could create opportunities around events, gathering spaces and focal points within the town centre.

Promote the Towns Heritage to Local and Wider Audiences
- Develop heritage walking and scenic trails
- Better promotion of the town’s heritage
- Tourist information points
- Identify core areas of heritage and develop a strategy for heritage interpretation, promotion etc.

Canal Improvements
- Better communication between the Council and Scottish Canals for the maintenance of the Canal.
- Utilise canal towpaths for leisure, but also as access routes to different parts of the town.
- Access to the water for water-based activities should be improved to make more of the town.

Park and Public Space Improvement Strategy
- Develop a strategy that allows people to make more use of parks and public space that are accessible, high quality and have the necessary amenities to make spending time in them a good experience.
- Have a strategy in place and enforcement to reduce littering problems, vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the parks.
- Link the park strategy to the event strategy and the heritage and culture strategy.

Culture and Heritage

“Kirkintilloch is known for its rich heritage and has well-used and well-loved open spaces that people from the town use, and others come to see.”

www.kirkintillochcommunity.com
An Accessible Town for All

“Kirkintilloch has the safest, most accessible town centre in Scotland for all modes of travel and for people of all ages and abilities.”

We will deliver the vision of an accessible town by working with partners to plan and deliver a programme of improvements that work together to make the place more accessible, safer and attractive to people of all ages and abilities.

We will work to promote all modes of sustainable transport to make the town a place with multiple good options for access to the centre and good links to nearby areas.

Accessibility of Town Centre
➢ Improvement to make Kirkintilloch the most accessible town for everyone in Scotland: e.g. autism, dementia friendly etc
➢ Pedestrianise Cowgate - explore the possibility through a series of steps that allow this to be tested before taking the step towards making this a permanent part of the town, should it prove to be desirable.
➢ Mobility Scooter Pool. Feasibility, viability and implementation of scheme either through an existing provider or developing a local scheme

Town Streetscape Improvements
➢ Create quality public space across the town centre, that ties in to the rest of the strategy.

Bus Service Improvements
➢ Have better bus services, more frequent (day, night and weekend) and connect the town centre more to its periphery and to nearby towns and to Glasgow. Work with providers in a forum.

Strategic Cycle Routes and Improvements
➢ Improvements to cycle and cycling provision. Connected to Safe Routes to School and links to long distance routes.
➢ Other improvements to encourage more cycle use around the town, including secure facilities for residents, and for visitors to the town for storing bicycles and luggage.

Parking Regime Improvements
➢ Create a parking regime in the town centre that strikes a balance between a town that is accessible by car, with a town centre that is pleasant and easy to visit on foot, bicycle or other means.
➢ Parking should facilitate town centre trade with spaces turning over frequently and restrictions should be easily understood.
Community and Identity

“A town where people can easily take part in what is going on and be part of changing the place.”

We will deliver the vision through working to make Kirkintilloch a place where people want to use the town centre as the social and civic heart of Kirkintilloch. By developing a wider range of community activities for groups and individuals to participate in, we can create a place that is for the people of the town and that they feel like they have ownership over. This might even include ownership of community buildings in the town centre.

**Develop better Play Facilities**
- Develop, upgrade and maintain play facilities both indoor and outdoor

**Develop a place that can have multiple community run endeavours co-located in the Town Centre – a Community Hub**
- The aim is to have a space for community groups to meet and have classes in them. It should cater to all age groups. This hub could host classes, support groups, concerts, dances, etc. Also it can host a community shop where members can sell their local produce. Feasibility studies to be taken forward on sites and uses as they are identified.

**Youth Cafe**
- Community initiative for the youth, creates a place they can spend time without being ejected, be employed by the cafe and learn new skills.

**Community Cafe**
- Community-run project – providing a cafe, but also employment and training, and a potential source of community income.

**Space for Social Care Services**
- There are many organisations providing excellent social care services in Kirkintilloch. With more space these organisations could provide extended services to more people.

**Communicating it all**
- Set up and use a variety of community-led methods to keep everyone in touch with what is going on: Your Kirky Facebook Page; Community Newspaper; Youth Radio; Your Kirky App are all ways suggested to keep everyone in the loop.
Call to Action!!

In the next few months we’ll be trying to find novel ways to talk about what we are trying to do and how people can get involved. It’s important everyone hears the message. But that’s not all we’ve been doing...we’re about to launch our Business Improvement District with local businesses, this year the gala delivered a community day for over 5,000 people...to name a couple, but...

We really need your help to do more.

If you like what you’ve read and want to help deliver that future vision of our town, then we would really love to hear from you.

Delivering this action plan will take all sorts of people. Our plan is to get like-minded people with diverse skills together in groups to deliver the actions in the plan.

We’d particularly like to hear from you if you have experience or skills in any of the following areas:

- Community involvement
- Project management
- Funding
- Communications
- Marketing
- IT/Social Media
- Experience related to any of the project ideas

Or even that you just Love Kirky and want to help make it a better place

Please sign up today info@kirkintillochcommunity.com