

Muckhart Community Council

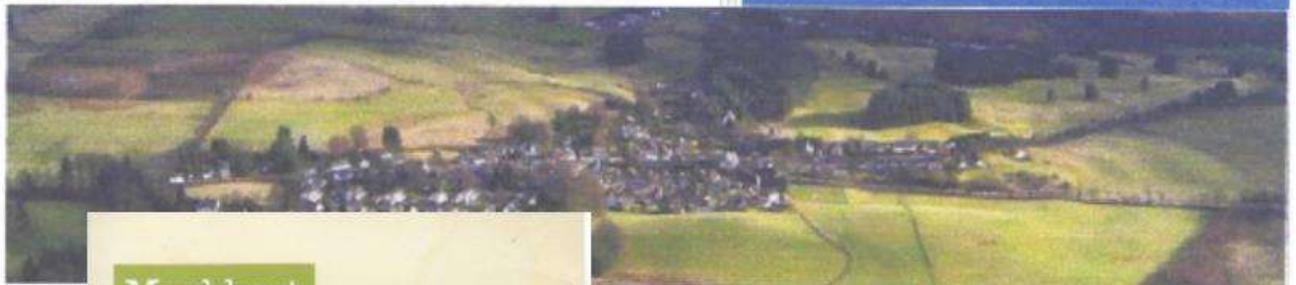
Muckhart Community Plan 2017- 2022

Annual Progress Report

September 2018

2017 - 2022

Muckhart Community Plan



Muckhart
Community Plan

Muckhart: Clackmannanshire's Gateway to the Ochils
A beautiful village, a sustainable community

September 2017



Released: June 2017 (Version 1.0)

Muckhart Community Plan 2017- 2022

Annual Progress report

September 2018

Muckhart Community Council (MCC) launched the Muckhart Community Plan in September 2017.

Its aim was to identify, promote and deliver the community's priorities throughout the following 5 years.

I am pleased to report (under the Plan's 8 headings), the progress made during the first 12 months towards achieving the Community Plan's objectives. These are being delivered through our 19 Community Council Action Plans (see Appendix 1 for an example of an Action Plan).

1. Image of the village

Scotland's Village in Bloom (V1)

Peter Wyatt has been working with members of Amenity Society to gain an understanding of what an application to Scotland in Bloom involves, and they have identified three key pillars on which applications are judged and those are as follows:

- Horticultural Achievement
- Environmental Responsibility &
- Community Participation

There are many advantages for the village in moving towards an entry into Scotland in Bloom and our Community Plan supports many of the requirements for a successful application. Also, various community initiatives (or projects) are also being considered to help deliver those requirements.

Key to a making a successful application will be active volunteers to assist and move the initiatives forward; therefore, first priority is to generate interest and commitment from within the community.

A flyer will be sent out soon raising awareness and hopefully generating interest in improving the attractiveness of our village.

If you would like to be involved in this initiative to improve the attractiveness of the village, please contact the community council via the website; www.muckhart.org.uk/contact/

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Image of the village – continued

Attractive visitor area in the vicinity of the church, including parking (V2)

Muckhart Church Kirk Session supports this initiative and will take the lead on it (however, not until next year) when a Working Group will be formed of interested persons from within the community to assess the viability of this project.

Matthew Pease (Architect) is presently drawing up some ideas for consideration.

Feasibility study into village square concept outside Coronation Hall (V3)

The Coronation Hall Committee support improvement in front of the Coronation Hall (possibly a Village Square) but would like a wider approach taken to the feasibility study.

For example, to take a strategic view of this and other potential projects, in order that they could benefit from “Planning Gain” from the H49 site. This could lead to repositioning the playpark into H49 site, providing an opportunity of introducing a car park (with landowner's permission) into the ex-playpark area, thus, requiring only limited (disabled) parking in front of Coronation Hall. This could be achieved along with a redesigned main street through the village (introducing a “street by design concept”).

As a result, the ‘focussed’ Village Square feasibility study will now not be taken any further in isolation.

It is anticipated that professional assistance will be required to deliver a more ‘strategic’ feasibility study which could also possibly benefit from a “Charrette Programme”.

Our Action Plan (V3) is being amended but at this stage it is not clear if and when H49 will be developed or how a large feasibility study could be achieved. Also, MCC may not have resources to undertake it effectively, however, the objective will be amended to the following:

V3 To undertake a feasibility study to determine what can be achieved to improve areas on main road and adjacent to Coronation Hall, including a possible car park & potential relocation of playpark, and to identify potential funding, by the end of 2020

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2. Housing Development

Housing policies and development (H1)

A Working Group has been set up which includes 5 interested members of the community. The Group have been actively involved in:

- Responding to the Call for Issues for the Main Issues Report (MIR)
- Familiarising themselves with the current Local Development Plan (LDP) (in preparation for dealing with the next MIR)

It is recognised that other Working Groups (e.g. Infrastructure and Sustainability & Environment) will need to liaise with the Housing Planning Group to address issues in the MIR and LDP.

There is an ongoing process of establishing principles and policies for future planning decisions. For example, work is being undertaken on the priority of a residential care facility policy if new homes are ever built.

Community Development Fund/Trust (H2)

The background to this objective is to put in place a development fund where funds obtained for the benefit of the community (perhaps from planning gain) can be effectively managed on behalf of the community.

However, we are also taking the opportunity of investigating the options and benefits of a "Development Trust", many of which have already been set up throughout Scotland.

An open Public Meeting was held in March 18, with a speaker from Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS), to raise awareness of Development Trusts. Following this, a Working Group of MCC members and other interested persons from the community was successfully set up.

The Working Group have met several times and is working to the terms of reference agreed by MCC, in May 2018 and they will be producing a report on available options, possibly, with recommendations, later this year for the Community Council to consider.

A further meeting will be held with DTAS scheduled for 26th September

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3. Sustainability

Database of Biodiversity (S1)

Promote and raise awareness of local Biodiversity (S3)

A Biodiversity Group of interested persons has been formed (covering both objectives). Work is being undertaken to design a suitable database which may involve a risk section (for example, to identify locally growing plants that may be a risk to native species).

Future work will involve the engagement of the school, and possibly public events, to promote awareness within the community.

It is recognised that some of the above work would support an application for Scotland's Village in Bloom

Sustainable Energy and Energy Efficiency (S2)

Work has been undertaken identifying and liaising with other interested partners who can bring expertise to the community and who can offer advice on the way forward for community initiatives using renewables.

A Community Sustainability event has been organised for 19 September where partner organisations will be demonstrating electric cars and various forms of renewable initiatives, applicable to the domestic homes. Flyers will be distributed to every home in the community.

A date for your diary:

Community Sustainability Event

Wednesday 19th September at 7pm

This event is receiving strong support from organisations and partner agencies and it promises to be interesting and raise awareness for future energy efficiently initiatives.

Please come along and find out more about the opportunities for a sustainable future!

To book your place for a Tesla test drive:

- Go to the Community council web site: www.muckhart.org.uk

- click on Driving Energy Event and book your place to drive a Tesla electric car

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4. Education

Safer routes to School (E1)

Community Volunteers, After School Clubs, promoting health & well-being (E2)

Strong support for the school, and improved access to quality Education (E3)

The Community Plan recognises the vital contribution which Muckhart Primary School makes within our local community and the school values the links and strong support from local community organisations and members of the community, who volunteer to provide assistance every day in our school.

Val Whyte has discussed the Muckhart Community Plan with the Head Teacher and the Parent Council (who also contributed to the Community Plan) and it has their full support. The Parent Council are pro-actively leading on all those issues covered within the Community Plan and MCC will fully support them in their actions.

The Parent Council (through Val Whyte) are working closely with the MCC Infrastructure Working Group to develop and maintain Safer Routes to School. 'Walk to School' weeks and a 'Cycle Week' have been actioned by the school.

There is no obvious solution to create more car parking at the school, however, ways of improving parking, if possible, within village are being investigated, where parents can easily park to drop off and collect children, thus, encouraging them to walk (or cycle) from the village to the school in the morning and return in the afternoon.

The Sustainability Working Group will be in contact with the school and the Parent Council, to discuss ways where they can assist in raising awareness on local biodiversity.

There has been significant and increasing community volunteering at the school, indeed, Clackmannanshire Council are using the school as a good practice model of volunteering for other local schools to follow and have now set up a volunteer charter.

Health and well-being are being actively promoted within the school.

Councillors and MSP are regularly communicated with and involved in many issues in connection with the school which will continue.

Ideas and initiatives for promoting and supporting the Plan's educational objectives will be investigated further in 2018 including:

- Nursery provision in school
- After school clubs (using volunteer skills!)
- Adult classes (making more community use of school premises)
- Wider education needs of community for secondary & further education

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5. Business Development

Improvements to broadband and cellular/ mobile services (B1)

A Working Group has been established, which includes members from local business organisations, who have been meeting on a regular basis to address issues with local broadband and cellular services and to help in identifying potential alternative solutions.

Muckhart Golf Club is actively involved in the Working Group, and with the Group's support, has been working hard to improve internet connectivity and performance for their members and visitors, by working with different broadband service providers.

The Group successfully engaged with the relevant organisations and representatives (e.g. Digital Scotland) to help bring the overdue Superfast Fibre Broadband into the village. As a result, most properties across the Muckhart area now have access to this service, however, a number of properties, on the back road, near the golf club, and elsewhere, have not been able to benefit from the deployment of the fibre broadband service which remains an ongoing concern.

The Group is now looking to identify alternative broadband service technologies for those with no access to fibre broadband and the Action Plan objective will be amended for 2018 to focus on this as follows:

(B1) To drive for significant improvements to cellular/ mobile services throughout the Muckhart area and identify alternative broadband service technologies, for non-fibre properties, by the end of 2019

Creation of web based skills register of local trades people & professionals (B2)

Excellent progress has been made in developing the Community Council web-site into a community web platform, linking with other community organisations.

This now has enabled a Skills Register template for local trades persons, professionals and organisations to be established on the Community Council web platform. This allows those who wish to register, to log on to the web-site in the "Yellow Pages" section and complete the appropriate template.

Details of the service or trade those businesses offer can be found by accessing the web-site.

Local businesses are encouraged to register. The link for registering is as follows:

http://176.32.230.19/muckhart.org.uk/mcc-yellow-pages/?doing_wp_cron=1535897876.4916770458221435546875

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6. Infrastructure

To develop a strategy to improve Road Safety within community (I1)

To develop a strategy to improve & develop foot and cycle paths for all (I2)

A single Working Group has been established with MCC members and other interested persons from the community to cover both of the above objectives (I1 and I2).

The Working Group has met regularly, initially, to review the results of the Community Survey Questionnaire, to prioritise their actions to meet the community's identified needs. It has been liaising widely with partner agencies and organisations (e.g. Clackmannanshire Council Road Safety Team and Access Officer, EPIC [Enabling Projects in Clackmannanshire], ScotWays, etc.) and also local landowners, residents and other groups.

Significant progress has been made in developing a set of Road Safety improvement plans which will be discussed further and progressed with the local authority and other agencies.

The Working Group's proposals include:

- Completion of current road safety improvements to the east of the village (Clackmannanshire Council have not yet completed the work commenced over 12 months ago)
- Further safe road crossing points (pedestrian crossings?)
- Reducing some 40mph speed limits to 30mph
- Improved and safer vehicle and pedestrian access to Japanese Garden, on Dollar back road, with possible introduction of 50mph speed limit from Cowden Bends to the Pool
- Initiatives to encourage compliance with speed limits
- Improved pavements and footways, especially for children walking to school bus stops
- Consideration of Safer Routes to School Initiatives
- Restricting vehicles from using Drumburn Road for through access (e.g. No Through Access signs at either end)

Significant progress has also been made in developing plans for new and improved foot and cycle paths and integrating these with the existing local and Clacks-wide path network. This has been done with reference to land ownership records, rights of way / access legislation, etc. and with significant cooperation from landowners, the local authority and other relevant groups and organisations.

The Working Group's proposals include:

- Improving local core paths and improving integration with the existing path network
- Improved maintenance of paths
- Improving the walking and cycling friendly route from the new Japanese Garden entrance to the A91 (now impacted by increased traffic visiting the Garden)
- New footpath from Yetts to Upper Yetts
- Improve pedestrian and cycling access along Drumburn Road path (subject to landowner's permission)

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Priority 2 Paths

The Working Group has been actively engaged with the local authority and is now working successfully in partnership with EPIC (Enabling Projects In Clackmannanshire) to help address the issues of poor maintenance and condition of paths and has made good progress in addressing issues raised by members of the community.

These include:

- Mary Queen of Scots Way (between Dollar and Glendevon)
- Improved styles on Seamab
- Resolve safety concerns due to frozen path to school (leaking water main renewed)
- Resolve safety / condition of path to the school from A91 to school (New Broadmeadows path - see below)



New Broadmeadows path – Before...



... and - After

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7 Active Community

Establish an integrated community Electronic Infrastructure on MCC web platform (A1)

Jonathan Bacon has made excellent progress in developing the Community Council's web-site into a community web platform which links with other community organisation's web-sites or provides a web page for them to promote their organisation.

The Web Platform now includes;

- A community diary for local events
- A "Yellow Pages" section for businesses to promote their trade or services
- A Welcome Pack for those new to the village
- Latest community news and events
- List of latest road closures or roadworks

Please view the updated web-site via the following link: www.muckhart.org.uk

Establish a list of volunteers (and their skills) to be accessed through web platform (A2)

No work has been undertaken on establishing a list of volunteers to date and our (community council) Action Plan indicates that this initiative is not expected to be in place until 2019.

If anyone in the community wishes to assist in developing this please contact Jonathan Bacon via the web-site: www.muckhart.org.uk

Establish a database of funding expertise and suitable funders to benefit community (A3)

CTSi (Clackmannanshire Third Sector interface) have been identified as the best local organisation within Clackmannanshire who can assist in supporting local organisations seeking funding advice. They will:

- Consider proposed initiatives which require funding and provide advice on suitable funders
- Provide a live and up-to-date database of funding organisations, which can be accessed by the public, via a computer terminal in CTSi office, Burgh Mews, Alloa, FK10 1HS
- Provide support and advice on completing funding applications

CTSi web site www.ctsi.org.uk

Email admin@ctsi.org.uk

Telephone 01259 213 840

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8 Public Service

Develop a strategy aimed at improving Public Transport for the local community (P1)

Philip Lord has been liaising with Clackmannanshire Community Transport Association and has attended a meeting hosted by Keith Brown and Hamza Yousef on improving public transport services.

It is acknowledged that it is difficult for a small community to have much influence on bus services travelling to and from locations out with Clackmannanshire, however, efforts will concentrate on improvements to the DRT system and, possibly, school transport.

Acknowledgements

Significant progress has been made towards delivering the Muckhart Community Plan throughout the last 12 months and thanks must go to the Leaders of each of the Actions Plans for their commitment and diligence in moving forward the various initiatives.

In particular, we would also like to thank all organisations and the many members of the community who have become involved in moving the Muckhart Community Plan forward. Without their support very little progress could have been made.

If you would like to comment on the Community Plan or would like to be involved or assist in helping the community achieve its objectives, please contact MCC via the web-site: www.muckhart.org.uk or contact the Mr Mike Wilson, MCC Secretary via Email: sec.muckhart@gmail.com or Telephone: 01259 781 546.

John Anderson
Chair
Muckhart Community Council

5th September 2018

Muckhart Community Council

Appendix 1

A sample of one of the Muckhart Community Council Action Plans is detailed below for information

Muckhart Community Council

Action Plan 2017 - 2022

Objective No H - 1

Aim: **To encourage the gradual and incremental growth of a balanced range of new homes, to sustain a dynamic community, in keeping with existing housing in the area**

Objective: **To establish a clear set of policies against which all future housing developments and alterations will be measured, by the end of 2019**

Ref	Key tasks & milestones	Time scale	Led by	Completed	Expected Outcomes
1	Lead: Stuart Dean			May 17	
2	Establish Working Group	Nov 17		May 18	Working Group established (incl Planning Sub-Group)
3	Liaise with other MCC groups on issues relevant to them within Main Issues Report (MIR)	Dec 18			Other MCC groups considering relevant elements of MIR
4	Study and Respond to Main Issues Report - Undertake public consultation (public meeting?) - Submit proposed response to MIR to MCC for their approval	Jan 19			MCC Response to MIR submitted to Clacks Council
5	Respond to Clackmannanshire Council Local Development Plan	TBC			MCC response to Local Development Plan submitted to Clackmannanshire Council
6	Discuss & agree draft set of principles and policies for future MCC consideration and decisions on planning consent applications	TBC			MCC planning policies available (supplementary to local authority policies)
7	Consider MCC's response to new planning legislation at present before the Scottish Parliament in relation to both Development Planning and Development Management	TBC			Achieve maximum influence over both Local Development Plans and Development Management decisions.
Notes					