

Muckhart Community Council

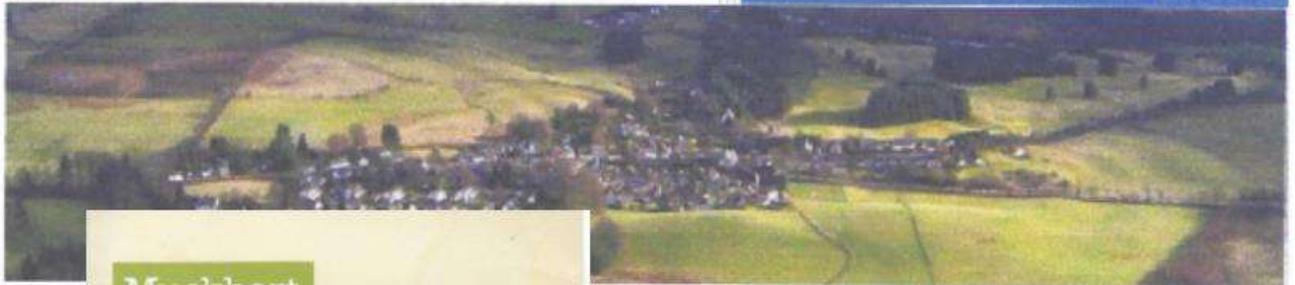
Muckhart Community Plan 2017- 2022

Annual Progress Report

September 2019

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 2019

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

Entry to Scotland in Bloom (V1)

Peter Wyatt has been leading a working group (which includes members of Amenity Society) to generate interest within the community to progress to a village entry to Scotland in Bloom where entries will be judged on the following;

- Horticultural Achievement
- Environmental Responsibility &
- Community Participation

A significant number of the community have already indicated their support and the immediate priority is to move forward with the following two initiatives to stimulate and generate active interest within the village

- A Keep village tidy day to improve the appearance of the village
- Nature Trail on school the path which will require obtaining appropriate funding

Earlier this year funding for the proposed Nature Trail was applied for through the Calor Gas Community Fund, however this application was unsuccessful, and the priority now is to apply for other local funding, to kick start this initiative.

It is also intended to liaise with the school on this initiative, especially since there may be some helpful links with the proposed external nurse, should that be established.

There are many advantages for the village in moving towards an entry into Scotland in Bloom and if you would like to be involved in this initiative to improve the attractiveness of the village, please contact Peter Wyatt or 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 supports this initiative and will take the lead on it, when a Working Group will be formed of interested persons from within the community to assess the viability of this project.

However permission from the land owners (The General Trustees of the Church of Scotland) will require to be obtained before the viability of the project can be progressed.

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

Feasibility study into Improving the area on main road and adjacent to Coronation Hall (V3)

Whilst the Coronation Hall Committee supports improvement in the area in front of the Coronation Hall (possibly a Village Square) they wished a wider approach taken to any 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”.

Therefore the feasibility study into the Village Square concept has not being taken any further (in isolation), and 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” and the viability of this initiative may depend on significant planning gain from the H49 development.

2. Housing Development

Housing policies and development (H1)

The working group (which includes 5 members of the community) has been discussing & setting up policies for dealing with planning applications, the draft is now ready to be presented to MCC in autumn for their consideration

In 2018, the group drafted a response, which was accepted by the Muckhart Community Council, and submitted to the consultation from the Scottish parliament on planning legislation in connection with development planning and management.

In connection with the new local development plan (LDP), the working group are ready to be consider the Clackmannanshire Council’s Main Issues Report (MIR) which has been delayed and not clear when it will be available

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Community Development Fund/Trust (H2)

Our thanks go to the working group, which included several members of the community who brought significant experience into the discussion, and they have now completed their deliberations on what they consider to be the most suitable arrangement for our community

A discussion paper with conclusions and a recommendation for the way forward is being finalised and will be presented to the Muckhart Community Council in the autumn for their consideration.

Our thanks also go to the Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS), have been very helpful by providing advice to the working group and who's representatives have attended two meetings within our community.

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 will be 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 probably public events, to promote awareness within the community.

One of the priorities of the group is to raise awareness of Himalayan Balsam which is an invasive plant that has been identified within the local area, along the burn and around the Golf Club. Action is required to ensure that it is safely removed in accordance with current guidelines.

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 was held last 19 September where partner organisations presented various forms of renewable initiatives, applicable to the domestic homes, and Tesla demonstrated their electric cars, and members of the community had the opportunity to drive them

A further community event is taking place on 18th September to promote home energy household initiatives (along with Fire safety)

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A date for your diary:

Community Sustainability Event

Wednesday 18th 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!

For further information go to the Muckhart Community Council web site: www.muckhart.org.uk

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 primary school values the links and strong support from local community organisations and members of the community, who volunteer to provide assistance in our school.

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, which includes working closely with the MCC Infrastructure Working Group to develop and maintain Safer Routes to School,

The “Walk to school group” now involves a panel of school children, organising activities associated with ‘wellness’, for example “Cycle to school”. Local parents are encouraged to walk their children to school, however the use of the pub car park to drop children off and collect them was problematic as parents feel the zebra crossing on west approach to village is not safe! (as some cars do not stop)

There is no obvious solution to create more car parking at the school, due to financial constraints and lack of suitable land.

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.

A number of initiatives identified in 2018 are coming together;

For example there is significant community volunteering at the school, although additional volunteers have been requested on website, and some afterschool clubs have been held, e.g. After school French speaking club

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Muckhart Primary School are leading on an outdoor learning initiative, and plans are now coming together for an outdoor learning nursery , possibly for 2020

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

5. Business Development

Improvements to broadband and cellular/ mobile services (B1)

The Business Development working Group (BDWG) which includes members from local business organisations, have met on several occasions to address issues with local broadband and cellular services and to help in identifying potential alternative solutions.

For example the group worked closely with Muckhart Golf Club to help and identify ways to improve broadband connectivity and performance for their members and visitors, and a solution was found through contractual changes with their broadband provider.

A number of residents are still unable to access Superfast Fibre Broadband as the provider is not prepared to fund provision of this service to the affected properties, at least in the short term and the community council has been doing everything it can to help resolve this problem by suggesting;

- The developer of H49 development encourage the provision of a new fibre cabinet located to benefit those properties not currently connected to fibre.
- The residents investigate the alternative available solutions identified by the BDWG to address poor broadband coverage together with raising the issue with our local politicians.

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

The Community Council web platform now incorporates a Skills Register for local trades' persons, professionals and organisations in the form of a "Yellow Pages" where their details can be added by complete a simple on-line 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)

The Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) comprising of community council members and other interested persons from the community have been busy over the last 12 months driving the above Infrastructure objectives and making progress on the following initiatives;

Community Safety/Road Safety

The Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) has made significant progress in developing a set of Road Safety improvement plans which is being 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 to and from Golf Course Road

Drumburn Road (Drumburn Farm to the Golf Club)

After significant discussion with the various stakeholders, and with the agreement of the landowner, the Council installed bollards at either end of the path complete with all of the necessary agreed regulatory signage, which will restrict vehicles using this track for through access to and from Golf Course Road.

The owner of Drumburn Road, has confirmed that he would arrange for the path to be cleared and improved using Type 1 path construction material.

This will significantly improve the overall condition of the path and enable walkers golfers and visitors and visitors to walk safely and with ease between the village the Golf Club and beyond

Our thanks to Mr and Mrs Tim Allan, for their support and commitment to those improvements

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New and Improved Footpaths & Cycle paths

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 (see Drumburn Road above)

Upper Hillfoot Road

Discussions have taken place between MCC Officers and the Clackmannanshire Council's Access Officer & the Head of Planning, the Chair & Senior projects Officer of Enabling Projects in Clackmannanshire (EPIC) to Improving the walking and cycling friendly route from the new Japanese Garden entrance on the Hillfoot back road to the A91 (now impacted by increased traffic visiting the Garden) which would also be an extension of the walking/cycling friendly route to Dollar.

Agreement had been reached with the landowners of the southern side of Upper Hillfoot Road, stretching from Law Hill, at Dollar to the western boundary of the Japanese Garden, to progress with a new path. Initial costs and timescales had been discussed (EPIC) and potential sources of funding had been identified (EPIC and MCC).

However, due to resident concerns raised regarding the traffic access route approved by the Council for the Japanese Garden, it was agreed that further consultation was required with the landowner of the northern side of Upper Hillfoot Road, from the A91 to just short of the Japanese Garden boundary wall.

Following further discussions, this project has been put on hold, however, the Council were requested to monitor the volume of traffic using Upper Hillfoot Road, via a MetroCount system, to establish a traffic volume baseline, to help measure any increase in traffic volumes, moving forward, and to ensure that these volumes are within the guidelines specified in legislation for a Quiet Road. Unfortunately this request was turned down but will be re-investigated should concerns regarding traffic volumes be raised again.

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Other Issues

Fossoway Bridge repairs

Given the regular occurrence of accidents at, and damage to, the bridge, it was agreed that Perth & Kinross Council (P&KC) be contacted regarding the permanent positioning of traffic lights at the bridge to improve the control of road traffic, to improve road safety.

A response was received, from P&KC, stating that it was proposing to replace and upgrade the existing Vehicle Activated Sign on the A91, approaching Fossoway Bridge from the direction of Carnbo. This will illuminate a bend warning sign and a "Slow Down" message to drivers approaching the bridge and should lead to a reduction in speed. Further to the suggestions submitted, PK&C would also be investigating the effectiveness of rumble strips and dragons teeth.

Community Speed watch

This initiative was reported by Police Scotland to be progressing in Clackmannan and Menstrie and MCC requested to be kept in touch regarding on-going developments.

Speed Signs:

It was that Perth & Kinross Council (P&KC) were deploying more road traffic signs which measure and display a vehicle's speed and that these signs appeared to be effective at controlling speeding. MCC agreed that the Council should consider deploying these types of signs in the Muckhart area and this will be progressed, once a new Traffic Management and Road Safety Officer is appointed and will be included in any relevant representations made.

20MPH Bill:

A response to the Government consultation on the Restricted Roads (20 mph Speed Limit) (Scotland) Bill was prepared, agreed and submitted on 28th January, on behalf of MCC.

Government survey on the value of local roads

A response was prepared, circulated for approval and uploaded, on behalf of MCC.

Electric vehicle charging infrastructure

Contact with the Council's Transport Officer confirmed that potential charging points would require to be located in public areas with a reliable mobile communications signal.

MCC agreed that the Council owned parking area, opposite the Coronation Hall, would be proposed as the preferred site for an initial charging point for the village with future consideration given to the proposed visitor area at the Church.

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
- Details of other community groups (including contact details)
- Helpful advice for completing an application for funding

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

Also the community council's **Facebook** is well developed, and thanks to Marlene, However Marlene also believes we need to look at the way its managed to improve its usefulness to the community

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

Helpful advice for completing an application for funding can be found on the Muckhart Community Council website www.muckhart.org.uk

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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 various meetings hosted by Keith Brown.

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 Emphasis is now on working with partners in wider area (e.g. Kinross and Dollar) to determine a wider transport Strategy for area.

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

4th September 2019

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		SD	May 17	
2	Establish Working Group	Nov 17		May 18	Working Group established (incl. Planning Sub-Group)
3	Discuss and agree draft set of principles and policies against which planning applications, Proposal of Application Notices (PANs), Main Issues Reports, draft Local Development Plans and other planning consultations can be assessed and representations made. Report to be finalised and submitted to MCC in autumn for their consideration, discussion and agreement	Jan 19 Oct 19			Principles and policies presented to MCC for discussion and approval
4	Liaise with other MCC groups on issues relevant to them within Main Issues Report (MIR)	Jan 20		Delayed by Clacks Council!	Other MCC groups consider relevant elements of MIR
5	Study and Respond to Main Issues Report - Undertake public consultation (public meeting?) - Submit proposed response to MIR to MCC for their approval	Mar 20			MCC response to MIR submitted to Clackmannanshire Council
6	Respond to Clackmannanshire Council Local Development Plan	TBC			MCC response to Local Development Plan submitted to Clackmannanshire Council
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		Sep18	Achieve maximum influence over both Local Development Plans and Development Management decisions
Notes					
