

BARRHILL

Thriving in the 21st Century



Community Futures Community Action Plan 2008 - 2011

Barrhill Development Association
Barrhill Community Council
Barrhill Community Association
and the people of Barrhill

This Action Plan is a clear statement about the type of place the community wants Barrhill to be – and what needs to be done.

There are six sections:

- *An outline of our community profile*
- *A summary of our community's views*
- *A vision for the future*
- *The issues that matter most*
- *Priorities for action*
- *Action to be taken*

BARRHILL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

The Association was formed after an initiative from Barrhill Community Council in December 2006 and was given the task of preparing a plan for the future of Barrhill. The Barrhill Development Association and several other members of the community have worked together as a steering group to guide the preparation of this plan.

Many Barrhill people were involved in the work in one way or another. Community Agents, recruited from our community, carried out the work of gathering and sharing information about both our area and residents' views.

Alan Tuffs from the Small Town and Rural Development Group worked with the steering group to support the process.

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

The Plan was prepared following extensive community engagement over a six-month period.

Community engagement included:

- *A Community Futures Launch Event in November 2007*
- *Publication and distribution to every household of an information booklet about the project and some views from our partners*
- *Open and well publicised monthly meetings*
- *A series of interviews with different groups and individuals representing a wide cross-section of the community*
- *A community views survey that went to all households*
- *A community profile detailing facts and figures about the community*
- *A Community Exhibition and Open Day Event in April 2008*
- *A Launch event for the Community Action Plan*

Over 65% of all households completed the survey return form and 130 people attended the Open Day.

WINDFARM COMMUNITY BENEFIT

During the course of preparing this plan, two applications for windfarms to be built in Barrhill were considered by the Scottish Government and given approval. Consequently, significant community benefit money could become available for our community and the surrounding area.

This plan sets out what our community wants for Barrhill, regardless of windfarm community benefit, but it is also a clear statement of the priorities and objectives that benefit funding should help to achieve.

There are several sources of funding available for many of the objectives in this plan and indeed financing some of them could even be the responsibility of other agencies. This issue of funding, and all of the planning required for implementation to be successful, needs to be addressed for each project and is not dealt with here.

SUPPORT FOR THIS WORK

Sandra Osborne MP and Cathy Jamieson MSP took part in our Open Day event in April 2008, when residents, both young and old, said what they wanted for the future of Barrhill.

This Action Plan is supported by a full report on the Community Views Survey, a summary of the Stakeholder Interviews and a detailed Community Profile, each of which can be downloaded from the Barrhill website on www.barrhill.org.uk

Two earlier reports have also helped to shape the development of the Action Plan: the SCARF funded Community Appraisal undertaken by Girvan Horizons and a report on Recreation and Tourism Opportunities by Peter Scott, funded by ScottishPower Renewables.

"I would like to congratulate the Barrhill Development Association on their plans to regenerate the village. I attended a meeting with the group along with Shadow Minister for Rural Development Sarah Boyack.

The proposals brought forward by the group are imaginative and exciting. The plans will make the most of the area's local environment to attract tourists as well as improving opportunities for local residents.

I look forward to seeing the plan formally launched and put into practice. Everyone involved to date should be congratulated for their work."

Cathy Jamieson MSP



Open Day:
above, Cathy Jamieson with Nicole
and Zoe
right, more young residents with the
Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group.
Wildlife posters were kindly supplied by
Scottish Natural Heritage.



Barrhill residents kindly provided most of
the photographs and created the graphic
design for this brochure.

A remote rural area of South Ayrshire

Barrhill Community Council area was established in 1975 and was part of Kyle and Carrick District Council in Strathclyde Region. Together with our neighbouring communities of Barr, Pinwherry, Colmonell and Ballantrae, it makes up the southernmost part of what is now South Ayrshire Council.

Barrhill covers an extensive area of 200 square kilometres with a sparse population level of just 1 person for every 50 hectares. About 70% of the land is forested – including part of the extensive Galloway Forest Park - and the remainder used largely for grazing sheep and cattle. Our population resides predominantly in the valley corridor of the Duisk river.

The village is around 60m above sea level and lies 12 miles from Girvan and 18 miles from Newton Stewart, which is in the neighbouring local authority of Dumfries and Galloway. Although a remote location, Barrhill is also on a route through the Southern Uplands and, consequently, is well connected by both road (A714) and rail networks.

The combination of wind, open land and a sparse population makes SW Scotland suitable for wind powered energy generation. In Barrhill, there are plans for two windfarms – Arecleoch (60 turbines) and Mark Hill (28 turbines) – and these are due to be constructed in the near future.

Environment

Ours is predominantly a managed agricultural landscape, with land use determined by the quality of the soil. Although mostly shallow soils or areas of deep peat, there are also some alluvial valleys which were once cultivated for arable crops. Farming is predominantly sheep and cattle rearing. Annual rainfall is high at around 1500mm and lochs, burns and rivers are a dominant feature. Much of the poorer land is now forested.

Bog and moorland plants provide habitat for pipits and warblers, hen harriers, buzzards and owls. Red squirrels inhabit the deciduous, river valley woodlands, salmon and trout are to be found in the Duisk, Cree and Stinchar, and both roe and red deer are frequently seen throughout the area. A local Site of Special Scientific Interest is the Feoch meadows with several species of wild orchids.

The natural environment is of paramount importance to our community, supporting livelihoods and providing a fine quality of life for our residents and visitors alike; pollution levels are very low and ours is also a relatively crime free community.

Heritage – Pre-history, Covenanters and the railway

Geologically, Barrhill lies at an amazing conjunction of uplands caused by continental drift and subsequent fault lines. The social history of the area includes several important megalithic sites, Covenanter stories and martyrs from the 17th century, landowner country estates and mansions, and the arrival of the railway in 1877. Late nineteenth and early twentieth century Barrhill was a populous rural village, in many ways self-supporting with weaving mills, shops, livestock markets and trades all flourishing.

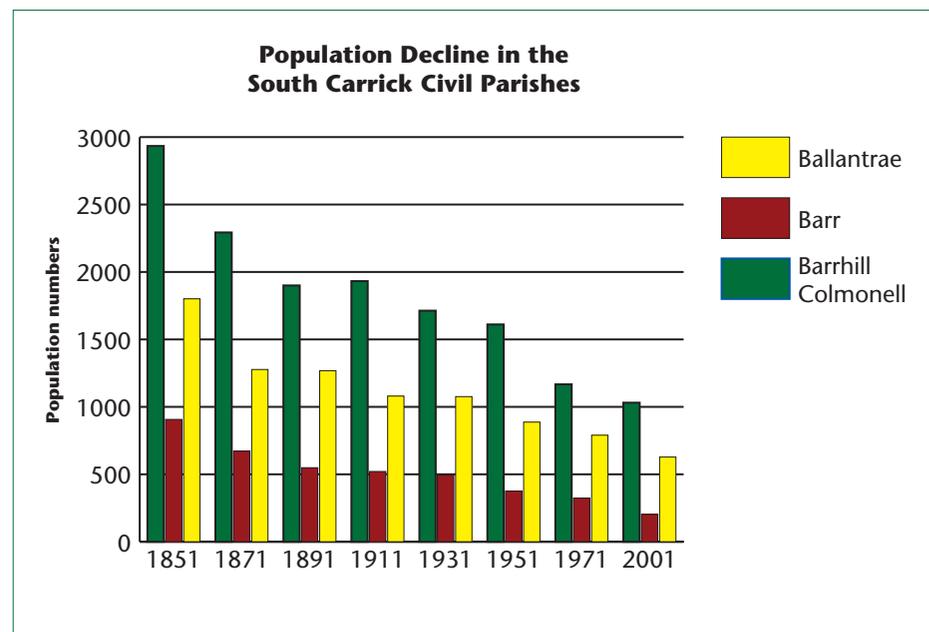
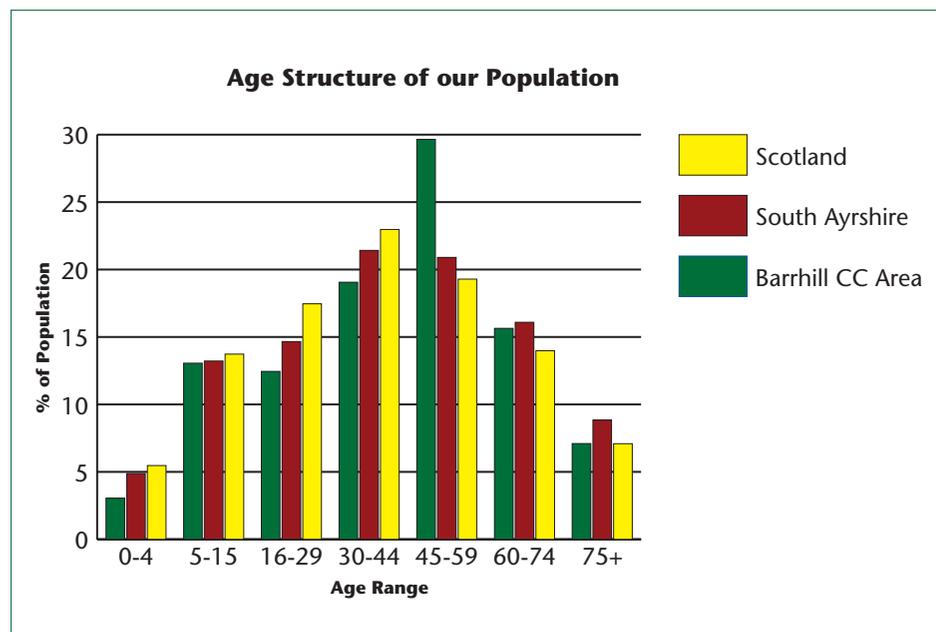


Population – falling and ageing

Figures from the 2001 Census show a population of 385, with about half of the total number of residents in the village and half more widely dispersed. In common with many other rural areas including our neighbouring communities, the population is in steady decline, and has fallen from around 1,000 at the beginning of the 20th century. Compared with either Ayrshire or Scottish averages, Barrhill has a lower proportion of young children and a very much higher proportion of people aged 45 – 59. More recent estimates than the 2001 data show that these characteristics are due to become more pronounced and pensioner numbers will further increase. The age range of the population indicates that the community is not naturally sustainable but is dependant upon in-migration. The trend of decline could continue if these concerns for future sustainability are not addressed.

Housing – diminishing availability

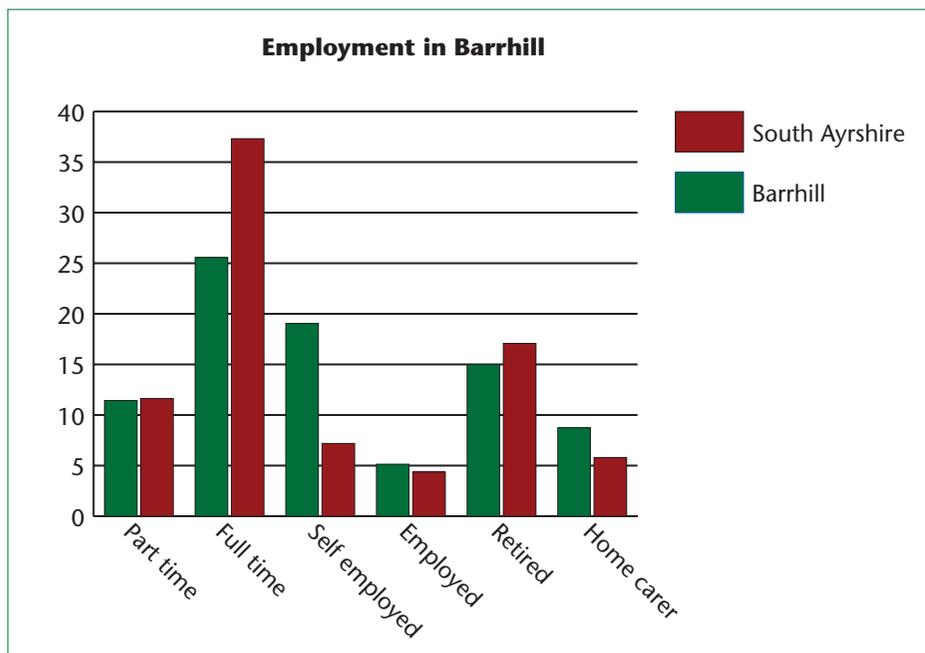
The community has just fewer than 190 houses, of which only about 150 are lived in. These 150 homes are predominantly owner-occupied (77%) with a very low proportion of them being social rented accommodation (8%) from the local authority. There are no housing association properties nor are there any properties specifically suitable for elderly or disabled people. Properties are not permanently occupied for a variety of reasons – some for short-term holiday purposes, some because they are for sale, and others because they are left to lie empty by their landowners. This lack of housing opportunity is a serious concern to the community.



Economy – an enterprising community

Self-employment in Barrhill is almost three times the regional average. Agriculture, horticulture and forestry are highly represented locally (24% as opposed to 3% for South Ayrshire and 2% for Scotland) – and there is also a strong construction sector, which includes Solway Precast with 63 employees, of whom 19 live locally. Unemployment levels are just higher than regional and national averages.

There is a small but important tourism sector, with two caravan parks, self-catering accommodation, B&Bs, a small pub/hotel and a herb nursery. Fishing and stalking also help to generate incomes in the area.



Land and development

The South Ayrshire Local Plan was adopted in 2007. It shows the Barrhill Settlement Boundary as being very tightly drawn around the

built area. There is a very restricted number of development opportunities within the boundary and this limits the potential for expansion of the village – for example, for additional housing at affordable levels or for appropriate small scale premises for economic development.

The area from the church to the top of Main Street is proposed in the Local Plan as a Conservation Area. Beyond the Settlement Boundary, the land is designated as both a “Scenic Area” and as an “Area for Rural Diversification”. The second of these applies to much of the southern part of South Ayrshire and relates to policies which recognise the need to promote the social and economic sustainability of our remote rural area.

Education

The village school has a roll of 32 pupils, with a further 10 in the nursery class. It is seen as a vital part of the community’s infrastructure – the fact that there is a school attracts new people to the village. Despite peaks and troughs in the numbers of pupils in particular classes, the trend is one of sustainable growth. The majority of secondary school-age students travel by bus to Girvan Academy.



Health and Social Services

The majority of residents are registered at the Barrhill medical facility which is open for four sessions a week – two with GPs and two with nursing staff. It is a satellite service of the practice in the neighbouring village of Ballantrae, 12 miles away.

Other key points include:

- *Compared with the regional average, the overall number of local people who are permanently sick or disabled is slightly high, and this is especially so in the village itself*
- *The medical practice considers that promoting healthy diet and exercise is an essential element of improving the health of the community*
- *The number of carers providing support for family members is higher than average*
- *The nearest ambulance services are provided from Girvan and Newton Stewart*
- *The nearest hospital with A&E is in Ayr (60 minutes)*

Local residents hope to tackle this issue of distance from services with an increased ability to respond locally to cardiac emergencies.

Community Facilities and Organisations

As well as the school and the medical centre, our community has the Memorial Hall, which is the focus for many activities, a bowling green, play park and sports field, village shop and pub, but no church, garage or post office any longer. The Memorial Hall is owned and run by the Community Association with support from South Ayrshire Council. A playgroup meets in the Memorial Hall one morning a week.

Local groups and associations include: Barrhill Community Council, Barrhill Development Association, Barrhill Community Association, Bowling Club, Gardening Club, Six-O Club, Parents' Council, Friendship Group, Fishing Club and a Darts Team.

Transport Networks

There is a train service to Glasgow, Ayr, Girvan (20 minutes) and Stranraer (30 minutes) with seven daily services each way, including evening travel. Although it is a long uphill mile away, the station has neither a scheduled bus link to the village nor a car park. Bus services connect Girvan (30 minutes) and Newton Stewart (40 minutes) five times a day.

Unfortunately, the bus timetables are not well co-ordinated for everyday needs: shopping or leisure. A volunteer driver service for hospital visits by elderly and infirm people is available. Girvan Travel Connections provides a subsidy for taxi services when no public transport alternative is available – initially provided for work related journeys, this service has been extended for leisure use. The Carrick Connector Ring 'n' Ride Bus Service (operated by the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport) can be used for off-scheduled-route journeys within the KA26 area.

The high cost of public transport is an increasingly important issue for the residents of remote rural areas.



THE LIKES AND THE DISLIKES

93 responses were received from the 150 inhabited houses, with both the village and the surrounding area more or less equally represented.

What We Like

Attributes	Number of times people mentioned this
Natural rural environment	60
Good community spirit	53
Peace and quiet	53
Good community facilities	22
Crime free and safe	20

- "The rural aspect and the surrounding beauty of the countryside"*
- "The feeling of being part of a community which cares about the people"*
- "Sense of community - friendly but not intrusive"*
- "The quiet village atmosphere is what brought us to the village"*
- "Nice and peaceful without any hassle"*
- "Having a local village school. This fosters a good community spirit"*
- "Doctors surgery very near which is good"*
- "Living in a small community gives you a feeling of security"*

What We Don't Like

Dislikes	Number of times people mentioned this
Lack of local amenities	53
Traffic and roads	51
Poor state of the built environment	47
Local transport situation	22
Lack of activities - especially for younger people	17

- "Lack of some facilities makes it feel isolated – no bank, no Post Office"*
- "Public toilets recently closed down by the council"*
- "The hazardous road system linking the village to Girvan. It is no better than a donkey and cart trail"*
- "Poor condition of roads and volume of heavy goods traffic"*
- "At the moment the general look of the village is drab"*
- "Vacant plot next to bridge very untidy"*
- "There is no transport service up to or down from the railway station"*
- "Poor bus service with either having to shop in 15 minutes or hang around Girvan for 2 - 3 hours"*
- "Nothing for the children to do except for the basic park at the top end of the village"*
- "Lack of children's activities - sports facilities or other clubs, especially for younger children"*

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The kind of place we want Barrhill to be

This statement summarises the main views of local people and organisations about what they want for Barrhill's future.



Barrhill Thriving in the 21st Century

We will achieve our aim by building on our strong community spirit, taking the best of the past while building a sustainable and resourceful community, well equipped to face the challenges of the future.

Our focus will be on:

- *Providing first class community facilities*
- *Establishing a lively range of activities and leisure opportunities for people of all ages*
- *Welcoming new residents, visitors and tourists*
- *Ensuring there is housing for all needs*
- *Being a healthy community*
- *Creating new opportunities for businesses, jobs and work*
- *Developing a bright and welcoming village centre*
- *Tackling positively the need to reduce energy use*

Our rural community is getting itself organised for action and we welcome residents and supporters to join us and help take Barrhill forward.

All the information that the Community Futures work brought forward – through the survey, the profile, the interviews and the Community Open Day – has helped to shape this action plan. In this section seven main development themes and priorities that the community is aiming for have been set down. We will move these forward both through our own efforts and in partnership with a range of agencies and supporters. The order in which they are set down is not significant but alphabetical; all of these are priorities!

Theme 1 – Community Facilities and Activities

With the community's ambition for Barrhill to be a thriving place once more, a great place to live and bring up a family, it is essential the existing community infrastructure is expanded and improved with more activities, for more people, and in better accommodation. This is about projects on the ground - like improvements to the the hall, park and play areas – and what is able to take place because of them, i.e a wider range of facilities and activities for people of all ages, local residents and visitors.

Main Priorities

- *Set up a refurbishing project for the Memorial Hall*
- *Improve play facilities and activities for young people of all ages*
- *Set up a community newsletter to complement the local website*



Image courtesy of Andrew Aitchison
Ashden Awards



Theme 2 – Energy conservation and generation

With rising fuel costs for homes as well as transport, the community is keen to explore both energy saving measures (especially for existing houses and public buildings) and ideas for small scale and community based energy generation from renewable sources. The surrounding forests represent a sustainable resource that is currently unexploited for local needs.

Main Priorities

- *Develop a sustainable energy generation project*
- *Develop an energy saving project for homes and businesses*
- *Develop a sustainable energy project for community buildings*

Theme 3 – Homes and housing

There is a lack of housing opportunity in and around the village – particularly for people with limited means and those not able to bring any equity from their existing housing situation. A key factor in the drive for local sustainability is the need to create more housing opportunities to both provide for local people and, attract new people and their energy to Barrhill.

Main Priorities

- *Develop affordable homes for rent and for purchase*
- *Develop accommodation appropriate for people of all abilities*



Theme 4 – Improving the Look of Barrhill

There is a generally shared view that Barrhill is looking rather run down, with neglected derelict areas, too much litter and dog mess left lying, and a lack of community pride in the village environment. Some specific sites are particularly in need of revitalisation, and clear plans are being prepared for small-scale improvements. It is not yet clear whether the village centre will be designated a Conservation Area, and some residents are wary of the implications of this should it be put in place.

Main Priorities

- *Encourage businesses to improve the appearance of their premises*
- *Improve the waste ground at the bridge in Main Street*
- *Set up a planting scheme for the village*
- *Regular roadside litter picking on approaches to village*



Theme 5 – Local Economic Development

Barrhill earns its living in a wide variety of ways: from visitors and tourists, its environment, the landscape, farming the land, construction, public services, retail, hospitality and general services; from being employed and from self employment; people commute out and some travel in. The community's objective of greater sustainability in the future, allied to the high cost of travel and the distance from major centres, has led to the conclusion that an increased level of support for local enterprise is necessary. As a consequence, the village infrastructure needs to be strengthened and developed to provide more opportunity.

Main Priorities

- *Re-open the public toilets – predominantly for visitors*
- *Encourage and support businesses - both new and existing ones*
- *Encourage tourism*
- *Improve access to jobs and employment*



Theme 6 – Roads, Traffic, Transport & Village Infrastructure

The A714 runs through the heart of the village, connecting Girvan and the A77 to Newton Stewart and the A75 trunk road. The forest timber is being felled and the frequent transit of HGVs and other traffic through the village is seen as a threat to personal safety and the general environment alike. The campaign for slower traffic has already been set up and will continue until proper support is offered for measures to reclaim the village spaces for pedestrians and cyclists.

The lack of car parks affects both safety and convenience. There are two main locations where parking needs have been identified: a village centre site to serve the hall and school, and some provision at the station.

In addition, there are issues about poor co-ordination of the bus timetables and the lack of any public transport connection to the station.

Main Priorities

- *Build a car park at the station*
- *Slow traffic down through the village*
- *Create a car park between the school and Memorial Hall*
- *Campaign for public transport timetables to be better co-ordinated*
- *Provide transport connection between the station and the village*
- *Tackle the issues raised by timber transport on the roads*



Theme 7 – Paths and trails

Barrhill's potential as a fine village set in good walking and cycling country needs to be supported by developments on the ground. A good network of paths providing decent access to the countryside will serve residents, visitors and tourists alike. The focus is on two aspects of local tourism development – the need to serve existing visitors better by linking the caravan sites to the village, and the opportunity to route the proposed Carrick Way Long Distance Path through the village.

With the happy coincidence of its location in the hills and its station, Barrhill has significant potential as a hub for outdoor recreation in south west Scotland. These developments will not only bring small-scale economic benefits but will also go towards improving the health of the community.

Main Priorities

- *Create an off-road or roadside path from the caravan sites to the village*
- *Follow up the Forestry Commission and the Peter Scott Report proposals for a network of paths*
- *Make sure the Carrick Way is routed through the village*
- *Improve the path to the Martyrs' Tomb*
- *Create a path through Lennie Wood*



Action steps will be tackled over the next 12 months – some by ourselves, and others in combination with our agency partners. Some of the projects are, however, on a longer time frame and may take longer to achieve. These steps include suggestions made in the surveys, stakeholder interviews and community events.

At the time of writing this action plan, the following was already taking place ...

- *The Brake-4-Barrhill campaign is well under way and the petition presented*
- *informal surveys of path routes started*
- *a campaign to re-open the public toilets is in progress and a petition carried out*
- *an outline feasibility study into local energy generation drawn up*
- *contact made with Ayrshire Housing officials who have positively discussed support for a housing needs survey*
- *good contacts built up with partner agencies*
- *presentations made to MP and MSP*
- *good working support from the three elected members for South Ayrshire Council*



THEME 1 – COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Priority 1 Set up a refurbishing project for the Memorial Hall

- Main actions
- Lobby South Ayrshire Council to complete the repairs to the roof
 - Agree the details for an updated constitution for the Community Association
 - Explore a range of ideas for the future use of the Hall and immediate surroundings
 - Agree a brief for a Feasibility Study into the future of the Hall
 - Invite tenders from consultant teams
 - Explore sources of funding for the feasibility study and prepare applications for funding
 - Commission the feasibility study

Action By **Community Association, Barrhill Development Association**



Priority 2 Improve play facilities and activities for young people of all ages

- Main actions
- Call a meeting of young people, parents and other interested people from the community
 - Prepare an audit of what takes place at present and where it takes place – in and around the community
 - Draw up a list of community and youth facilities in the area
 - Run a fun session to develop ideas for new activities
 - Lobby South Ayrshire Council Community Learning and Development for support with this process
 - Agree what is possible for Barrhill and explore access issues for other locations and facilities.

Action By **Parents and young people, Barrhill Development Association, school staff, South Ayrshire Council Community Learning and Development Youth Workers**

Priority 3 Support a community newsletter to complement the local website

- Main actions
- Set up a Local Information Working Group
 - Contact all local organisations for updated information, contact lists, community events calendar
 - Seek funding from local organisations and others to cover production costs
 - Publish and distribute a local newsletter

Action By **Barrhill Development Association, Barrhill Community Council, key individuals from the community.**

THEME 2 – ENERGY CONSERVATION AND GENERATION

Priority 1 Develop a sustainable energy generation project

- Main actions
- Take forward the outline for a locally focused feasibility study already prepared by the Energy Working Group in association with the Energy Agency. The outline references small scale wind turbines and hydro schemes, ground source heat pumps and bio-mass (wood) boilers

Action By **Energy Working Group, Barrhill Development Association, Energy Agency and Forestry Commission Scotland**

Priority 2 Develop an energy saving project for homes and businesses

- Main actions
- Seek information and advice on community-wide energy saving measures – insulation, draught-proofing, household “habit-changing”
 - Visit other communities to gain information about other parallel local programmes
 - Set up an information promotion event and other publicity measures
 - Seek support for energy auditing tools and techniques – e.g. Smart meters, thermal imaging and questionnaires
 - Draw up a programme for installation priorities in Barrhill households
 - Seek financial support for this last item

Action By **Residents and householders, Energy Working Group, Barrhill Development Association, Energy Agency**

Priority 3 Develop a sustainable energy project for community buildings

- Main actions
- Ensure that the three public buildings in the village – school, hall, health centre – include energy generation and saving measures in any forward planning – e.g. the proposed Feasibility Study into the future of the Memorial Hall.
 - In particular, create a focus on possible joint energy generation (for heating in the main) for the neighbouring hall and school buildings.

Action By **Energy Working Group, Barrhill Development Association, Energy Agency, Community Association, South Ayrshire Council**



Electricity can potentially be generated wherever there is a difference in level of moving water.



Thermal image of house showing heat loss

THEME 3 – HOMES AND HOUSING

Priority 1 **Develop affordable homes for rent and for purchase**

- Main actions
- *Set up a Barrhill Housing Action Group*
 - *Arrange a meeting in the village with the Development Officer from Ayrshire Housing*
 - *Contact Rural Housing Service Scotland*
 - *Organise a Housing Needs Analysis for people in the community who might like to participate*
 - *Contact South Ayrshire Council planning officers to explore options for development sites in or around the village*

Action By *Housing Action Group, Barrhill Development Association, Barrhill Community Council, South Ayrshire Council, Ayrshire Housing, Rural Housing Service Scotland, landowners and land managers*

Priority 2 **Develop accommodation appropriate for people of all abilities**

- Main actions
- *Ensure that the Housing Needs Analysis (referred to above) extends to include older, frail residents and local people with disabilities*
 - *Subsequently, draw up proposals for appropriate housing or adaptations to meet these particular needs*

Action By *Housing Action Group, Ayrshire Housing, South Ayrshire Council (Social Work), Rural Housing Service Scotland*



New affordable housing



Why not bring houses like these up to standard?



THEME 4 – IMPROVING THE LOOK OF BARRHILL

Priority 1 Improve the waste ground at the bridge in Main Street

- Main actions
- Set up a Barrhill Environmental Improvements Working Group and volunteer team
 - Draw up proposals for improving the site – drawings, rough costings
 - Explore options for improving other sites and facilities - e.g. the bus shelters
 - Seek donations in kind – e.g. plants, landscaping materials, seats and benches
 - Seek funding for materials not likely to be donated
 - Seek support from the local authority – materials, labour, advice
 - Carry out the work
 - Set up a maintenance schedule

Action By *Barrhill Environmental Improvements Working Group and volunteer team, Gardening Club, South Ayrshire Council*

Priority 2 Encourage businesses to improve the appearance of their premises

- Main actions
- Make informal approaches to business owners to discuss what might be possible and to offer support

Action By *Barrhill Environmental Improvements Working Group, Barrhill Development Association, local business operators*

Priority 3 Set up a planting scheme for the village

- Main actions
- Call a meeting to discuss options and identify sites that could be included
 - Contact other communities where planting schemes have been successfully undertaken, for advice and information
 - Draw up proposals and prepare a schedule of capital and maintenance costs
 - Make applications for funding
 - Develop a volunteer support team

Action By *Barrhill Environmental Improvements Working Group, Gardening Club, South Ayrshire Council (Environmental Services), Scotland in Bloom*



Priority 4 Regular roadside litter picking on approaches to village

- Main actions
- Continue the “whole community” annual event already established
 - Lobby the local authority for more litter bins and regular service collection of contents

Action By *Local school children of all ages, local residents, South Ayrshire Council (Environmental Services), Keep Britain Tidy*

THEME 5 - LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Priority 1 Re-open the public toilets

- Main actions
- *Extend the petition already begun in support of this*
 - *Present the petition to the local authority – in a publicity-rich manner*
 - *Liaise with other communities similarly affected and plan joint campaign for publicity and reinstatement*
 - *Investigate the cost of repairing the existing building or replacing with a new facility*
 - *Investigate costs of ongoing servicing and maintenance*
 - *Approach SNH and other agencies about alternative facilities if South Ayrshire Council maintain their unpopular decision to not provide this service*

Action By *Barrhill Community Council and neighbouring and other community councils, local businesses, South Ayrshire councillors, MP and MSP*

Priority 2 Encourage and support businesses - both new and existing ones

- Main actions
- *Prepare a list of local businesses to include local self-employed and micro businesses as well as the more visible manufacturing, retail and hospitality operators*
 - *Undertake a survey of those businesses to include service needs relating to premises, financial expertise, marketing, communications systems and technology*
 - *Investigate good practice of other decentralised rural businesses elsewhere in the UK and further afield*
 - *Work with the local authority planning department to identify potential local sites for small scale workspace provision appropriate for a rural area*

Action By *Barrhill Development Association, South Ayrshire Council (Economic Development section), South Ayrshire Council Rural Development Officer*

Priority 3 Encourage tourism

- Main actions
- *Contact the local authority Tourism Development Officer*
 - *Contact the Carrick Way promoters and responsible officers from the local authority*
 - *Explore options for developments with public and private forestry operators*

Action By *Barrhill Development Association, local tourism and hospitality businesses, Scottish Natural Heritage, South Ayrshire Council (various departments), Forestry Commission Scotland, commercial forestry operators, Ailsa Horizons.*

Priority 4 Improve access to jobs and employment

- Main actions
- *Set up a local meeting in the village to bring together Job Centre Plus, Transport operators, Business Gateway and South Ayrshire Council (Economic Development) to explore barriers hindering access to jobs by local people*
 - *Explore solutions promoted in other remote rural communities – e.g. support for gaining driving licences in the Machars, ICT (computer) training.*

Action By *Barrhill Development Association, local workers, South Ayrshire Council, Travel Connections, Ayr College South, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Business Gateway, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport*

THEME 6 - ROADS, TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT & VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority 1 Build a car park at the station

- Main actions
- Prepare a range of options for the provision of a new car park
 - Draw up technical proposals and obtain costings
 - Explore options for implementing the project

Action By **Barrhill Community Council, Network Rail, property owner of former goods yard, SAYLSA (railway support association), Scotrail**



Priority 2 Slow traffic down through the village

- Main actions
- Maintain the pressure engendered by the Brake-4-Barrhill campaign and petition
 - Continue to lobby for improvements
 - Build on the information gathered in the traffic survey already undertaken
 - Maintain momentum and cyclical maintenance of sight lines and signage

Action By **Brake-4-Barrhill, School, Parents' Council, Barrhill Community Council, South Ayrshire Council, Police, Scottish Government**

Priority 3 Create a car park between the school and the Memorial Hall

- Main actions
- Continue negotiations with site owners (SAC) to determine how best to take forward this vital public benefit project
 - Explore options for community ownership or very long (indefinite term) lease on favourable terms
 - Draw up proposals for design of car park – optimally as part of the Memorial Hall feasibility study and the energy generation and conservation project for the public buildings in the village

Action By **Community Association, Barrhill Development Association, Barrhill Community Council, School, Parents' Council, South Ayrshire Council, former land owner who sold the site for community benefit**

Priority 4 Campaign for public transport timetables to be better co-ordinated

- Main actions
- Arrange a meeting to bring together all relevant transport operators, regulatory bodies and local community representatives
 - Explore options for improvements

Action By *Barrhill Community Council, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, Scotrail, bus operators*



Priority 5 Provide transport connection between the station and the village

- Main actions
- Commission a study into options for addressing this issue

Action By *Barrhill Development Association, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, Scotrail, South Ayrshire Council, SAYLSA*



Priority 6 Tackle the issues raised by timber transport on the public roads

- Main actions
- Call a meeting to explore options for alternative transport solutions, including an update briefing on the use of the railway and terms and conditions for using forestry tracks where possible

Action By *Barrhill Community Council, Forestry Commission Scotland, RailTrack, commercial forestry operators, Timber Transport Group*



THEME 7 – PATHS AND TRAILS

Priority 1 Create an off-road or roadside path from the caravan sites to the village

- Main actions*
- Contact council officials in the departments responsible for roads and access to arrange a visit to the site to begin plotting a route for the path.
 - Request that the council includes the path in its future capital works programme
 - Find out how best the local community groups can support this project idea – e.g. volunteering assistance, raising money

Action By **Barrhill Walks and Trails Working Group, Barrhill Community Council, South Ayrshire Council**

Priority 2 Follow up the Forestry Commission and Peter Scott Report proposals for a network of paths

- Main actions*
- Investigate potential pathways and report
 - Identify and meet landowners
 - Consult with Access Officer and windfarm developers.
 - Agree and plan pathway construction

Action By **Barrhill Walks and Trails Working Group, South Ayrshire Council Access Officer, ScottishPower Renewables and Force9Energy**

Priority 3 Make sure the Carrick Way is routed through the village

- Main actions*
- Find out the current thinking about this amongst the promoters of the Carrick Way
 - Identify routes that benefit Barrhill

- Contact landowners affected
- Take next appropriate steps

Action By **Barrhill Walks and Trails Working Group, Barrhill Community Council, Barrhill Development Association, South Ayrshire Council Access Officer, Carrick Way Development Group**

Priority 4 Improve the path to the Martyrs' Tomb

- Main Actions*
- Investigate technical and economic feasibility of an easy access walk to the tomb
 - Specify and cost bridge renovation
 - Identify funding sources

Action By **Landowner, Barrhill Walks and Trails Working Group, Barrhill Development Association, South Ayrshire Council Access Officer**

Priority 5 Create a path through Lennie Wood

- Main actions*
- Contact the landowner to arrange a meeting to discuss the project
 - Agree broad principles for its development
 - Build on the survey already undertaken to develop costed proposals
 - Identify appropriate sources and make applications for funds
 - Seek support in kind to assist with implementation – machinery, labour

Action By **Landowner, Barrhill Walks and Trails Working Group, Barrhill Development Association, South Ayrshire Council Access Officer, Forestry Commission Scotland**

REVITALISING BARRHILL

Barrhill Community Futures is a community led approach to regeneration and community planning. Our work in putting together this Plan has been supported by South Ayrshire Council, Force9 Energy, Scottish Power Renewables, the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All programme and the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership.

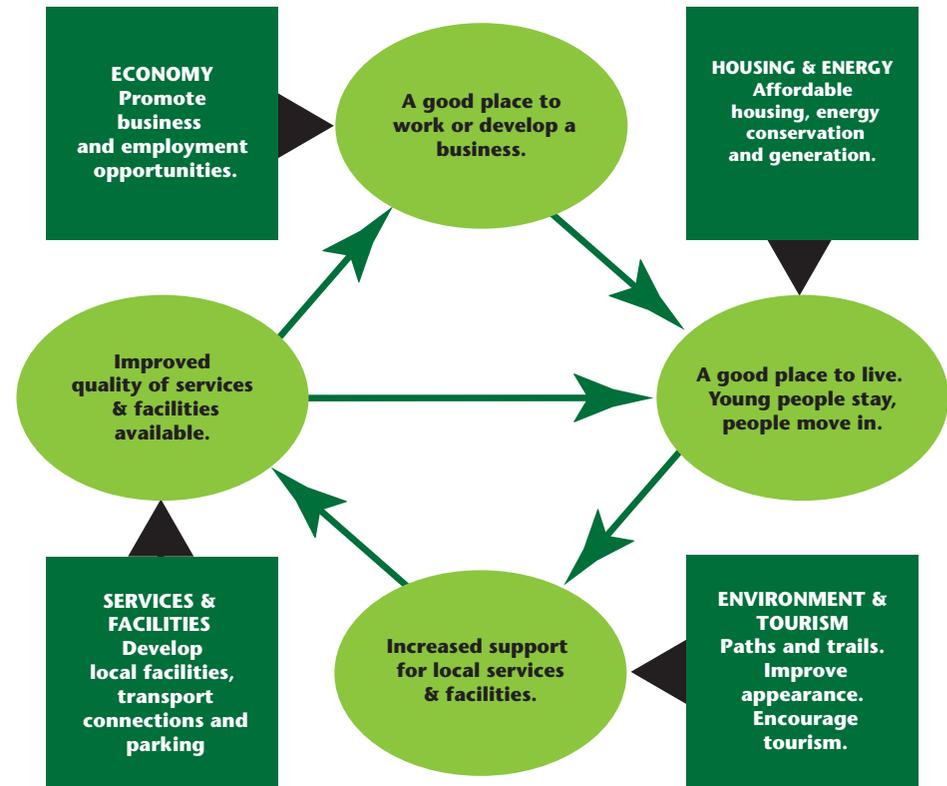
Throughout the work we have constantly connected with our partners - both individuals and organisations - South Ayrshire Council, Forestry Commission Scotland, Ailsa Horizons, the Energy Agency at Auchincruive, our councillors, MSP and MP, ScottishPower Renewables, and our neighbouring village communities in South Carrick. We are grateful to all of them for their continuing interest and involvement.

As we move to turn our Plan into Action we will continue to work with a range of agency partners who share our aims and aspirations.

It is therefore encouraging to see how our own "bottom-up" plan fits closely with the regeneration aims of South Ayrshire Council and the Scottish Government.

There is a regeneration cycle which will lead to us being a more thriving place, but it needs to be driven by our wide range of development strategies.

We will review our action plan at least once every two years to evaluate what we have achieved and if necessary, we can revise our goals for the future.



BARRHILL COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN THEMES	SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF ITS COMMUNITIES	SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL'S LOCAL PLAN OBJECTIVES	SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NATIONAL PRIORITIES
<p>Improving the Look of Barrhill</p> <p>Roads, Traffic, Transport and the Village Infrastructure</p> <p>Energy Conservation and Generation</p>	<p>Clean, Attractive and Sustainable</p>	<p>Maintaining and enhancing, through a sustainable approach, the high environmental quality of the area</p>	<p>Building Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities</p>
<p>Local Economic Development</p>	<p>Prosperous, Learning and Achieving</p>	<p>A strong and diverse local economy</p>	<p>Getting People Back into Work</p> <p>Raising Educational Achievement</p>
<p>Paths and Trails</p> <p>Homes and Housing</p>	<p>Ambitious, Forward-Looking and Responsive</p>	<p>Meeting the needs and aspirations of South Ayrshire for housing, jobs, education and leisure</p>	<p>Improving Health</p> <p>Engaging Young People</p>
<p>Community Facilities and Activities</p>	<p>Healthy, Safe and Caring</p>		

MAKING IT HAPPEN

BARRHILL COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan has been prepared by Barrhill Community. It is intended that the Plan should continue to be owned by a partnership of local organisations working together. A great deal is under way already, through either existing community organisations or new Working Groups:

<i>Energy Working Group</i>	<i>energy@barrhill.org.uk</i>
<i>Paths and Trails Working Group</i>	<i>paths@barrhill.org.uk</i>
<i>Housing Opportunities Working Group</i>	<i>housing@barrhill.org.uk</i>
<i>Traffic Speeding Action Group Brake-4-Barrhill</i>	<i>brake@barrhill.org.uk</i>
<i>Memorial Hall Development Group</i>	<i>hall@barrhill.org.uk</i>
<i>News information Group</i>	<i>news@barrhill.org.uk</i>

It is expected that existing organisations such as the Community Council and the Community Association take a lead role in areas where they are already active.

A successor body to Barrhill Development Association is now required, able to raise funds for the projects identified and to cement the partnership work within an incorporated organisation. This is likely to be a company limited by guarantee for the benefit of the community - able to apply for and hold funds, employ people, own property – all on behalf of the community as a whole.

For more information about the Barrhill Community Futures project, please contact the Secretary of the Barrhill Development Association – Dave.Holtom@barrhill.org.uk , 01465 821338

To put this plan into action requires continued and widespread support from residents and from our partner agencies. If you wish to help, please contact any of Barrhill's community organisations or working groups.



Barrhill Development Association is pleased to acknowledge the STAR Development Group's important guidance of this work. Community Futures Programmes of local community planning and community engagement are designed and supported by them.

For further information contact Alan Tuffs – alan.tuffs@btinternet.com or www.stardevelopmentgroup.org

We are very grateful for funding from Awards for All, ScottishPower Renewables, Catamount Energy, Force9 Energy and South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership, which has enabled this programme of work to take place.

