



Funded by Scottish Power Renewables

Maybole

Community Action Plan 2019-2024

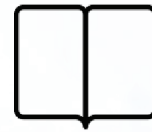


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Researched and compiled by:





What is a Community Action Plan?

A Community Action Plan is a road map for implementing community change by identifying and specifying **WHAT** will be done, **WHO** will do it and **HOW** it will be done.

An Action Plan describes what a community wants to accomplish, what activities are required during a specified timeline and what resources (money, people and materials) are needed for it to be successful.

Why a Community Action Plan?

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

This has provided an ideal opportunity for the community to think about what they would like from their town, and what they can do to achieve this. This Community Action Plan is drawn from the voices of the people of Maybole, how they see their town, and what they would like Maybole to become over the next **five years**.

Minnibolers are proud of their town and its **community spirit**, the fact that it is becoming **increasingly attractive** to newcomers and visitors, and the **leisure facilities** that are available for community use. They are keen to see their community and its attractiveness to visitors protected and promoted through more **community events** involving more people, the encouragement and support of a new range of **businesses**, the enhancement of the **leisure facilities**, and an improvement to the **play parks** and physical attractiveness of the town.

This plan explores the **ideas** of the people of Maybole more thoroughly and considers the steps that can be taken to **achieve** what the community **want**.

(Map: Maybole Community Council Area)



Introducing ...Maybole

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

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

Maybole's Historical Significance:

Maybole has huge significance as the ancient capital of Carrick. As a result of its longevity and central role as Carrick's ancient capital, the town boasts an array of historical figures who have lived or spent time there:

- Robert the Bruce would have known the area well with Maybole being located only seven miles from Turnberry Castle, his childhood home.
- For centuries it was the stronghold of the Kennedy Family, known as the Kings of Carrick who resided at Culzean Castle, only five miles from Maybole on the coast.
- It was the location for a famous debate in 1562 between John Knox and the last Abbot of Crossraguel on the doctrine of the Mass.
- Sir Gilbert Blane who discovered in the 1700s that limes helped to prevent scurvy lived in Maybole.
- John Loudon McAdam, the famous road maker, was schooled in Maybole until 1770.
- Robert Burns, whose parents met and married in Maybole, visited his life-long friend William Niven in Maybole for many years.
- Scottish artist Robert MacBryde was born in the town in 1913.
- General Dwight Eisenhower was a frequent visitor to the town which he always considered to be, "his Scottish hometown". In 1946, the Freedom of the Burgh was conferred on him by the townspeople.
- In the nineteenth century the town was a centre for boots and shoe manufacturing. At its peak the annual production by the Maybole factories was over 1 million pairs of boots and shoes with thousands employed.



Our Process



North Carrick is made up of the five community council areas of Dunure; Minishant; Maybole; Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael; and Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry. It is a diverse area with an amazing history, exciting attractions, an award-winning coastline and incredible countryside.



Between February and March 2018 the five Community Councils of North Carrick, with the support of Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC), carried out a community survey. The objective of the survey was to identify the likes, dislikes and community priorities for all communities in North Carrick.



North Carrick Community Benefit Company commissioned two consultancies, Jura Consultants and icecream architecture to speak to the community of Maybole and then develop Action Plans for each Community Council area as well as a North Carrick Business Plan.



icecream architecture met with schools and youth groups in winter 2018/2019 to understand what matters most to young people. In total almost 290 children and adults gave their views as part of a wide range of activities at ten local schools. In Maybole this included Carrick Academy and the Cairn, Gardenrose and Saint Cuthbert's Primary Schools.



Jura Consultants held drop-in events in autumn 2018 in each community to understand what the local priorities for the next five years should be. Residents were encouraged to give their ideas and opinions on what makes North Carrick unique, what is good, what needs improvement and how this can be achieved.





Consultation

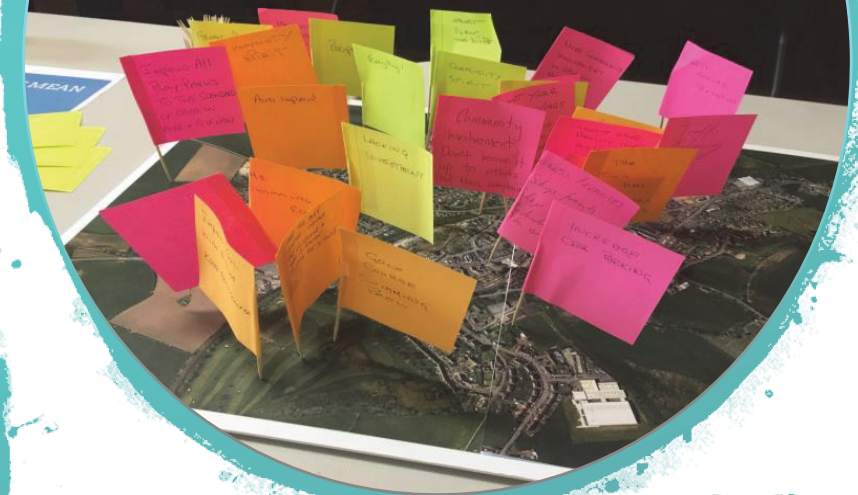
St. Cuthbert's
Primary
School

...what it should be in
5 years time....

“An attractive place for
visitors and locals to
enjoy”
“There should be less
traffic”
“More people should
be involved”

...what they would protect...

“The people”
“The community spirit”
“The Town Hall and area around it”
It being “a great place to live”
“The swimming pool”
“The golf course”
“All our leisure facilities”



...and what they
would improve.

“Add hanging baskets and planters”
“Improve the play-parks”
“The baby pool”
“We need increased parking”
“More community events”
“Traffic calming”
“Bring back a town council”
“Greenside”
“More community involvement”
“Encourage a new range of businesses
and support”
“Anti-social behaviour”



Maybole's Voices... Drop-in Sessions

The people of Maybole were all asked to give their opinions by survey and in person on **what their community is**

like today...

“A good place to live”
“It requires investment”
“It requires a destination theme”
“It's lacking investment”
“It's becoming attractive to people wanting to live here”

“Maybole can’t wait for the reduction of traffic and pollution.... the bypass is coming.”

Facebook User
2018

“What we want is the brown signage saying, last of the Kennedy castles, historical walks, cafes, the marriage place of Robert Burns’ parents the list could be endless...”

Facebook User 2018

A Vision for Maybole...

“...the idea of cafés spilling onto the street and market trading...”

Facebook User 2018



Maybole’s Voices... Online

Similar sentiments are echoed on online forums and social media platforms. Many express a **positive view of the bypass** and the chance it will bring to make Maybole **safer** and **more attractive** to visit.

Others state a concern for **attracting people into Maybole** once the bypass has been built, and offer suggestions for making this happen.





Maybole's Voices... Schools

A key consultation audience were the young people of Maybole. Workshops were held in Carrick Academy and the three primary schools to **discover what young people value** about their community, the environment, businesses and things to do.

Also, what they thought **Maybole could become...**



Environment



- Golf course
- Park
- Glebe Park
- Football pitch
- Bowling green
- Fields
- Playing in the fields
- Skipping stones in the burn

Community



- Gardenrose Primary
- St Cuthbert's Primary
- Cairn Primary
- Carrick Centre
- Town Hall
- Carrick Academy
- Church
- The lovely lollipop lady



- Swing Park
- Jumping in the stream
- Go-karting down the hill
- Swimming Pool
- Football at Carrick Academy
- Skate Park
- Academy sports facilities
- Golf Skate Park
- Football/rugby
- Basketball
- Football pitch
- Activities in the town hall
- Activities in the Carrick Centre
- Playing around the school
- Walking the dog in the park
- A tree swing we made
- Guides at the Church
- Brownies
- Youth groups and activities
- Library
- Maybole Castle

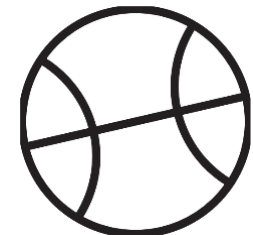


Businesses



- Train station
- Co-op
- Chippy
- Shop near the school
- Spar
- Shops and health Centre

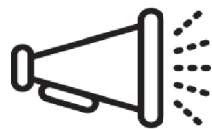
Things to do



With regard to the High Street, young people are keen to see a better variety of shops, including cafés, banks, a phone repair shop, ice cream shop, pop-ups, a youth café and places to eat and hang out.

Young people would like to have more indoor and outdoor spaces to play. Suggestions included a trampoline park, outdoor swimming pool, farm park, sports stadium, dry ski slope, more play equipment, an arcade, and a games shop. They also want to see the current pool refurbished and expanded, including the addition of diving boards and waterslides, to create a version of Girvan's Quayzone in Maybole.

Young people want investment to improve the appearance of the town by installing more bins and flowers, fixing potholes, taking better care of Maybole's buildings, making use of empty shops, updating the school buildings and having less litter and dog mess around. They also suggested widening the pavements, especially on the High Street, to provide better access.



Maybole's Voices... **Young People**

Positively, Maybole's young people had **strong opinions** on the future of the town. They developed tourist brown signs for the **most important assets** in their area, created newspapers for the year 2024 with headlines and articles after five years of Action Plan delivery and made placards detailing the **issues** that they would **campaign** for to make their 2024 vision a reality.

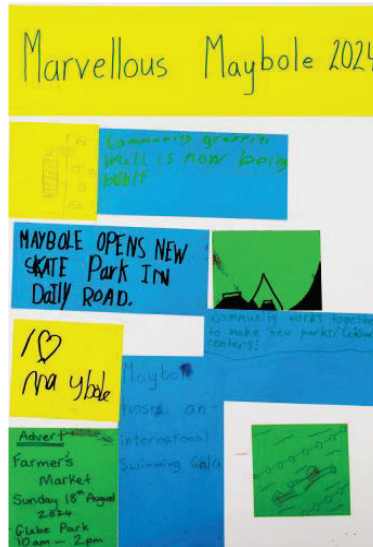




The Headlines 2024

“Maybole Train Station adds second track”

“Children are extremely excited for the new and improved skatepark”



“Earl of Carrick opens new and improved High Street”

“Community football held in new astrograss park”

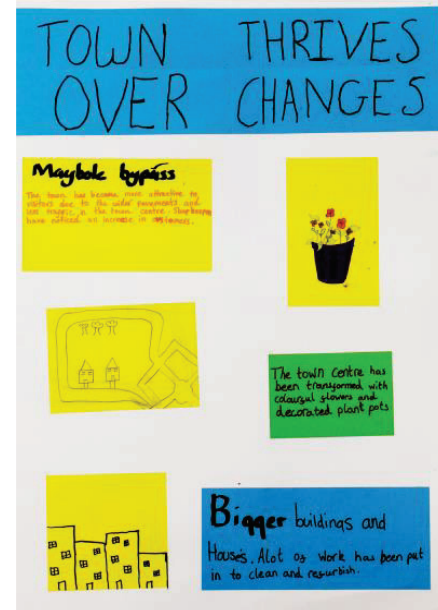
“Maybole Big Weekend – Deacon Blue to attend!”



“New wildflower garden, 300 new trees planted”



“Coming together for a big clean-up, young and old working together”



“Scottish Town of the Year 2024!”



“Town more attractive due to wider pavements and less traffic, shopkeepers have more customers”

“Don't litter...now use the new recycling shop!”



The Vision

By 2024, Maybole will be an **attractive** destination known for its **vibrant** High Street and resounding **community spirit**, its **proud heritage**, and its range of facilities with opportunities for **leisure, employment** and **young people**.

Priorities



Priority 1: More activities and community events

Both adults and young people wanted to develop a programme of events organised by and for the community, which could include fun holiday/ family events, an outdoor cinema experience, and live music events with food. Young people suggested enhancing facilities for events including activity centres, indoor and outdoor play space, a bowling alley, café, gym hall, sweet shop and arts and crafts shops.



Priority 2: Improve the appearance of the town

Almost all felt that investment was needed for the town's appearance to be improved. Ideas included more flowers/ hanging baskets, improving the Greenside area, resurfacing the roads, increasing the number of bins, widening pavements, reducing traffic, and addressing dog mess and broken glass.



Priority 3: Encourage new, local businesses

There is a need to invest in a range of better advertised businesses and provide a greater variety of shops; making use of empty spaces; encouraging cafés and pop-ups for locals, visitors and young people. Family run or community businesses were often mentioned. There could be a Maybole town theme.



Priority 4: Upgrade the play park and skate park

Improvements to the play parks were considered to be a priority by both adults and young people. The newspapers of 2024 created by the young people look forward to the opening of a new skatepark.



Priority 5: Champion safer roads for walking and cycling

Both adults and young felt that traffic should be calmed or removed and safer roads should be spread around the area to better connect communities. Sustainable transport was a key issue that needs to be prioritised. Actions suggested include more dedicated cycle paths, encouraging train use, investing in charge points for electric cars and better managed parking in town.



Priority 6: Improve leisure and sports facilities

The current leisure facilities are highly valued by adults and young people, but it was felt there was the potential to do more with these and also add to what is available at present. This could include extending the existing swimming pool or providing new facilities. Young people asked for more access to the astro-pitch at Carrick Academy and expressed a desire to create a sporting destination for the region.





Actions



What Can You Do?

Priorities where the Maybole Community is LEADING

Priority	Who	How
<p>Priority I: More activities and community events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Maybole Community • Community Organisations, supported by wider volunteering • Community Development Officer • Maybole Regeneration Project – Activity Officer • Maybole Community Council • North Carrick Community Benefit Company/ other funders 	<p>Many suggested ideas for a programme of events organised by and for the community. Events to promote and enhance the community spirit which is so valued. Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale events for the entire community • Smaller events targeted at certain sectors of the community, including families, the elderly, particular interest groups etc. • Fun holiday events/ family events, an outdoor cinema, and music events with food and live music. • Events that bring different schools together in a similar way to the consultation process for this Action Plan. • Civic events which programme activities that have a direct impact on the appearance of the town e.g. graffiti cleaning, flower planting, and the improvement of tired shops. • Encouragement to the community to engage via online forums such as Facebook, as well as in-school consultation for parents and young people, to identify what events would be most popular. • Young people were particularly focused on facilities with a range of different ideas and spaces put forward. <p>Maybole has a population of approximately 5,000. The development and delivery of events and activities must start with the community. The successful achievement of Priority I will require individual contributions with subsequent ideas generated that reflect a collective view. Once the activity and community event ideas are agreed local support, resources and organisations will be required to make them happen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are over 80 active community organisations in Maybole that with support and funding can develop and provide more activities. • The combination of the Community Development Officer post and the Maybole Regeneration Activity Officer can support the process of making a greater number of events a reality. • Restored and new fit for purpose spaces will be created as part of the Maybole Regeneration Project. The exact specification of the spaces and whether these meet the needs of young people will be determined by the regeneration project.



What Can You Help Others to Do?

Priorities where the Maybole Community has a FACILITATING role in partnership with others

Priority	Who	How
Priority 2: Improve the appearance of the town	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Maybole Community• Maybole Regeneration Project Team• Maybole Community Council• South Ayrshire Council• Local Community groups, supported by wider volunteering• North Carrick Community Benefit Company/ other funders	<p>In 2019 the Maybole Regeneration Project secured funding for a major five year restoration and redevelopment project for the High Street. With a multi million pound budget the results will be transformational. Investment will be taking place at the Town Hall, Castle, Speakers and vacant buildings. Owners will have the opportunity to secure grants to carry out work to their buildings. Once the Maybole Bypass project is complete the High Street will be re-prioritised for people and businesses.</p> <p>The community has the opportunity to engage with the Regeneration Project and use this as a catalyst for other areas of Maybole.</p> <p>Suggestions made were for flowers/ hanging baskets; improving the Greenside; resurfacing the roads; increase the number of bins, widening pavements, reducing traffic, addressing dog mess and broken glass. Keep Scotland Beautiful and 'In Bloom' are some of the other opportunities to promote an enhanced appearance and generate community pride.</p>
Priority 3: Encourage new, local businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Maybole Community• Maybole Regeneration Project Team• South Ayrshire Council• Business Associations	<p>Reflecting the Scottish Government's commitment to a wealthier Scotland, the following steps can be taken to address this priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-ordinate investment in new businesses, encouraging pop-ups in particular to fill the empty shops if finding buyers or long-lease holders is challenging. Bring vibrancy to the High Street through variety and innovation at a low-investment.• Businesses must be aimed at a range of audiences, from local teenagers to visitors to the area. Family run or community businesses were often mentioned along with a high quality food offer where young people could also learn cooking skills whilst also taking part in other activities.• The market place can be re-invigorated by encouraging the sale of local produce weekly or fortnightly to enliven areas in front of the Town Hall or the Greenside.



What Can You Help Others to Do?

Priorities where the Maybole Community has a FACILITATING role in partnership with others

Priority	Who	How
Priority 3 continued: Encourage new, local businesses		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investment must be co-ordinated by improving the general appearance of the High Street to enhance the attractiveness to potential business-owners and to shoppers.• Support the businesses of the town by organising a collective strategy for the development of the retail and catering offer, ensuring an active marketing campaign and co-operation among business owners to maximise the potential of the High Street.• Develop a destination theme for Maybole as other towns have successfully done.• Maximise the opportunity of the Regeneration project.
Priority 4: Upgrade the play-park and skatepark	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Maybole Community• Maybole Community Council• South Ayrshire Council• Local Community groups , supported by wider volunteering• External funders• Developers and community benefit clauses	Identify and approach South Ayrshire Council or individual donors to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhance and improve existing play park, catering to a wider age range of children.• Improve disabled access and make equipment more accessible.• Provide a purposely designed graffiti area for art work, and to reduce vandalism.• Provide benches, bins and paths for bikes.• Improve and enhance the current skate park.• Install lighting and CCTV to discourage vandalism and improve safety.



What Can You Ask Others to Do?

Priorities where the Maybole Community is LOBBYING

Priority	Who	How
Priority 5: Champion Safer Roads for Walking and Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Maybole Community• Community Development Officer• South Ayrshire Council• Maybole Regeneration Project• Sustrans• Transport Scotland• Scot Rail• Visit Scotland	<p>Recommendations and community suggestions follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Regeneration Project will address the issues on the High Street with new public realm works that prioritise pedestrians and active travel.• The Regeneration Project opportunity can be maximised by developing an additional North Carrick wide active travel project with Sustrans support. This will aim to safely connect communities.• Co-ordinate an approach to South Ayrshire Council regarding safer crossings in the area.• Develop a joint campaign with ScotRail to encourage people coming into Maybole to use the train and to bring bikes. Identify peak times for oversubscribed car-parking and consider methods to alleviate this. This can include approaching South Ayrshire Council to introduce residents-only parking, or other methods.• Facilitate an approach to Pod Point who supply electric car charging points, and establish the cost, nature of a site required, and operational requirements.• Highlight to SAC the worst pothole examples and coordinate with other villages.
Priority 6: Improve leisure and sports facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Maybole Community• Local community sports groups• South Ayrshire Council• Developers• Maybole Community Council	<p>Addressing the Scottish Government strategy for a healthier Scotland, recommendations include approaching South Ayrshire Council/ private developers for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a strategy for Maybole to prioritise health in planning events and promotions.• Determine access levels to sports facilities and consider where improvements can take place.• Better understand the Carrick Community campus proposals and consider facility requirements related to the existing swimming pool, and potential for new state of the art facilities including gym, sauna etc.• A programme of sports and leisure activities.• Encourage new and existing cafés to offer and promote healthy options.• Investigate potential for project based enhancements including targeted employment and what sports facilities are available.



This plan is **your** plan.

It is about making your town **a nicer place to live** and **work** and to deliver it we need **everyone** to get involved.

Initial contact should be made through Maybole Community Council who will coordinate action.

Email: actionplans.nccbc@gmail.com

Help to make this happen!