

Killlearn Community Action Plan 2015-25



Our Views

Our Vision

Our Futures



KILLEARN
COMMUNITY FUTURES COMPANY

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A company limited by guarantee established in Scotland in 2003

Company Number SC253299

Registered Charity SC035472

Registered Office: Killlearn Village Hall, Balfron Road, Killlearn, G63 9NL

Killearn Community Action Plan

2015-25

This Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of Killearn over the next ten years as determined by the community through an extensive process of community engagement carried out over a six month period in 2014.

The Plan contains:

- A summary of our community profile
- Our main likes and dislikes as identified in our Resident Survey
- Our Vision Statement for the future of Killearn
- The main priorities for action
- Information on how you can stay in touch and become involved

This Community Action Plan has been produced by a Working Group of Killearn Community Futures Company with assistance from the Communities Engagement Team of Stirling Council and updates the first Community Action Plan produced in 2003. Many of the targets of that first plan have been achieved and it was considered time to produce a new plan that reflects the opinions and aspirations of the residents of Killearn and its environs now and in the future.

Successes over the last 10 years have included:

- Village Hall fully refurbished & extended
- Playpark redesigned and installed
- Woodland Cemetery installed
- Local footpaths improved & maintained with a map of local walks produced
- Glen & Woodlands management plan put into operation
- Speed cameras & some road alterations installed
- "Colourful Killearn" supported
- Killearn Courier established
- Community Initiatives thriving: Hoolie, Country Market, 10K, annual firework display, Beer Festival, cultural and craft events
- Current development projects, including the Sports Pavilion initiative and Sustainable Killearn

We have also used the last Action Plan in making representation on behalf of the community to improve roads, housing and other service provision.

This Plan is for the whole community and is jointly owned by all the organisations and individuals that gave time to offer their views and took part in its preparation. We will be working together to ensure its implementation over the next ten years.

Evidencing

Informing

Influencing

Improving

Our Community Now



LOCATION

Killlearn is situated in Strathendrick, the western rural area of the Stirling Council area. The village is surrounded by farmland and is located 2 miles from Balfron, 5 miles from Strathblane and Blanefield and the same distance from Drymen. It is midway between Stirling and Glasgow. It is in a scenic location overlooked by the Campsie Fells and has views of Loch Lomond.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

The average health of the population of Killlearn, as declared in the 2011 census is better than the average for Scotland with significantly more persons declaring that they have good or excellent health and fewer declaring that they have disabilities than in Scotland as a whole. The village has an excellent health centre and access to hospitals in Greater Glasgow & Clyde and Forth Valley Health Board areas. Stirling Council provides and arranges a range of social care services to support people in their own homes.

EMPLOYMENT

67.2% of the population are economically active. The number of commuters to Stirling and Glasgow is high, yet there is a level of economic activity in the village itself. The census identified around 105 people employed in full-time and part-time jobs within the Killlearn area

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY

Services and facilities in the community include:

- Primary school, playgroup, nurseries, childminders
- Nearby secondary education at Balfron High
- Shops, bank, post office, hotel and pub, both with restaurants, and three cafés.
- Abbeyfield House offering "very sheltered" housing to older people
- Killlearn Health Centre
- Veterinary Clinic
- Killlearn Kirk
- Tennis courts, football pitch and multicourt
- Village Hall and Church Hall
- Killlearn Community Council
- Killlearn Community Futures Company
- Killlearn Trust
- Many local groups active in the community

POPULATION

The population of the Killlearn Village Area is 1701 (source: 2011 Census Data). The main growth in Killlearn occurred between 1971 and 1981 when the population expanded by over 60%. There has been slower but steady growth since then in accordance with the local plan. The population is comparatively unbalanced with significantly fewer in the 16 to 29 age group and significantly more in the over 60 age group compared with Scotland as a whole. The median age for both males and females is 48 in Killlearn, compared with 40 for males and 42 for females in Scotland.

TRANSPORT

63% of households have 2 or more cars, with only 6% with no car or van. 74% use their car to travel to work, with only 2% using the bus and a further 3% using park and ride facilities. There is an hourly bus service to Glasgow and Stirling during much of the day on weekdays, with a much reduced service to Glasgow and no service to Stirling on Sundays

HOUSING

The village has 671 houses (source: 2011 Census Data), with approximately another 200 in the surrounding area. The level of owner occupancy is high at approximately 91% with 5% in council-rented property. The attractiveness of the area and its proximity to Glasgow and Stirling makes Killlearn a high-cost housing area.



Community Views – Our Resident Survey

This **Community Action Plan** was prepared following consultation within the community over a period of six months during 2014.

Consultation included:

- An article in the Killearn Courier
- An 'All-Village Get-together' meeting to introduce the proposed Action Plan and to engage the community in the process, which attracted an attendance of over 120, including young people
- A "community views" survey, which was compiled and delivered to every household and to the primary and secondary schools
- Inclusion of all local businesses and local councillors in the process
- Production of a full report on the results of the survey, which was delivered to every household and proposed a set of strategic priorities for development in the Community Action Plan
- An invitation to feed back on both the survey report and the proposed strategic priorities

The Survey asked five key questions:

- What is most important to you? (selecting 6 from a possible list of 11 themes)
- What are your three favourite things about our community?
- What three things would you change in our community?
- What would make our community a better place to:
 - Live in?
 - Work in?
 - Visit?
- What special projects would you like to see developed in Killearn over the next 5 years?

Over 430 completed surveys were returned – some using an online form and others using paper copies. From these forms, we received over 4000 individual comments that we have sorted, categorised and analysed. The findings are set out in detail in the separate survey report, which was sent to all households in the village and can be found at www.kcfc.co.uk.

The most highly prized asset of Killearn is its people; the friendliness of those who live here, the sense of community and the energy and commitment that people give to community events ranked top in the responses.

Also important for people is the locality – where Killearn is situated - within easy reach of cities and urban amenities whilst enjoying close proximity to a beautiful rural environment. People valued the setting of the village, the physical attractiveness of the village itself, the green spaces within the village and the nearness to the hills and felt a bond with these aspects. There was also general appreciation of the amenities of the village – the health centre, the school, the village hall and the shops.

These views and the aspects that people wanted to improve and develop have been used to inform the *Vision* for this Action Plan and the *Priorities* that will take this Vision forward.

The Vision and the Priorities



The Survey Report has provided a great deal of information to help us focus on the things that matter most to the people living in the parish of Killearn. It was evident that they fall into three broad categories:

- to **preserve** what is valued;
- to **improve** what is not meeting aspirations; and
- to **introduce** new things to the community.

This then informed the Vision for our Killearn Community Action Plan:

“Preserving and protecting what people value in Killearn, while making improvements that meet the needs and aspirations of our community”

After analysing the survey results, the following subjects appear to matter most to people and support the delivery of the Vision:



On the next page, the Plan will set out what Action the community will take forward in these eight priority areas.



The Action Plan

Roads, traffic and transport

- Lobby Stirling Council for improved road surfaces
- Work with Stirling Council to consider suitable traffic calming measures
- Lobby transport providers to improve frequency, condition and cost of buses
- Work with community to improve parking options, maintenance and habits

Paths and Pavements

- Lobby Stirling Council for improved pavements
- Work with owners of unadopted pavements to improve surfaces and accessibility
- Continue to support development and maintenance of walking and cycling paths
- Explore ways to improve off-road connections to villages and walking routes (e.g. West Highland Way)

Youth Issues

- Explore ways to maximise use of the Village Hall youth facilities
- Encourage adult volunteering to lead, organise and sustain youth clubs, groups and activities
- Develop a wider range of sports facilities and opportunities

Environment and Heritage

- Protect, maintain and improve green spaces
- Protect and preserve areas of historical significance

Community Involvement and Development

- Encourage sustainability of community clubs and groups
- Develop more community volunteering by wider sectors of the community
- Encourage increased business development
- Encourage tourism and associated services
- Development of a central information hub for residents and visitors

Housing Strategy

- Explore and encourage development of Killearn Hospital Site for housing, business and leisure
- Bring influence to future housing development to ensure they are both sensitive and affordable

Digital Connectivity

- Work with providers to improve broadband speed, better mobile phone coverage and digital radio signals
- Harmonise access to village websites

Health and Wellbeing

- Work with partners to maintain and improve leisure facilities in the village
- Support the development of sports facilities and opportunities
- Work with Police Scotland to maximise safety and security
- Work with NHS Boards to keep hospital referral routes flexible to meet people's needs

2015-25

Action Plan

Killearn Community



Making It Happen

The priorities in this Community Action Plan will be taken forward by a range of public, private and voluntary sector partners, including: Killearn Community Futures Company, Killearn Community Council, and other local community groups.

Has this plan given you ideas?

We hope this plan will encourage you to think of ways for improving the village, and then to use your enthusiasm and experience to gather a group of like-minded people to make it happen.

Will your project need money?

Killearn Community Futures Company can help by sharing its expertise in group management and fund-raising. If you have an idea that you would like to develop further, advice can be found at www.kcfc.co.uk and then by selecting the "Groups" tab. If you don't have access to the internet, you can write to: *KCFC Company Secretary, Killearn Village Hall, Killearn G63 9NL*.

Could you volunteer?

KCFC needs volunteers to take forward the work already in progress, as well as to support the implementation of this Action Plan. It can be a hugely rewarding way of becoming involved in the community. No previous experience is necessary.

Are you a member?

Everyone should join Killearn Community Futures Company. The more members, the more successful funding applications are likely to be. Membership costs only £1 a year.

Visit www.kcfc.co.uk for information on how to join and to find out about existing groups.

Thank You

This Community Action Plan has been produced by a Working Group of Killearn Community Futures Company with assistance from the Communities Engagement Team of Stirling Council. Members of the Community Action Plan Working Group were Alan Cairns, Joanna Donaldson, Brenda Pell, Stephanie Stevenson and Peter Wilks.

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CREATIVE
OWNERSHIP
MEMBERSHIP
MOTIVATION
UNIFIED
NETWORKS
INTERACTION
TEAMWORK
YOUTH

INTERESTS
NCESSARY
VOLUNTEERING
OPPORTUNITIES
LEADERSHIP
VISION
ENVIRONMENT
MIXING
ENTHUSIASM
NEIGHBOURLY
TOGETHER

Can you play a part ?