

Beaully Community Trust Action Plan 2024

**Building a Brighter Tomorrow
Empowering Our Community and Supporting Those in Need**



**“Brilliant
community,
lovely village
with some
excellent
services”**

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Key



An aerial photograph of a town, likely in a rural or semi-rural area, with a green overlay. The town features a mix of residential and commercial buildings, including a large multi-story building on the left and several smaller houses and shops. The background shows rolling hills and a clear sky. The text is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**“Everything
I need is
on hand...I
can walk
everywhere”**

About Beauly

Beauly is a settlement with a population of around 1400 which lies on the banks of the River Beauly, 12 miles to the south west of Inverness.

Some see it as a small town, others as a large village. Either way, it acts as the social and commercial centre for a large hinterland which includes satellite settlements such as Kirkhill, Kiltarlity and Struy.

It grew up around the medieval Priory, the ruins of which still draw visitors into the village today, and are cared for by Historic Environment Scotland. The presence of the Lovat Estates office meant it was always a place where people did business and while the banks may have closed it has remained the commercial and administrative centre for the wider area.

It acts as a hub because of its services and facilities. Unlike many small Highland communities, it has retained a large number of shops and still has its own local butcher, baker, greengrocer, chemist, post office and filling station, as well as two small supermarkets. It has a wide range of other independently owned retail outlets catering for both local people and visitors alike.

It has two separate doctors' surgeries and now has a veterinary practice - one of the gaps previously identified in the community survey.

But aside from all the services and facilities which were highlighted in our survey, it was apparent from feedback it was the people of Beauly and their sense of community which was the most prominent feature of the village from a positive point of view.

It was also clear from the survey that the residents believe Beauly is an attractive place to live. It is undoubtedly a beautiful and charming village, as is evidenced by the number of visitors who come here for the day or for a longer visit.

For many the attraction is far more than just its physical appearance. A major contributor is clearly the abundance of local shops and services. But another important feature is the public transport links. Whilst they are far from perfect, they are significantly better than many other local communities in the Highlands. It is also liked for its walkability which, combined with the public transport links, makes it an attractive location for older people looking for somewhere to live in retirement.

The proportion of elderly people living in the Highlands is increasing and there is no doubt the village has a growing number of older residents. This is reflected in the age profile of those responding to the survey. However, it is still home to many younger people, particularly families of school age children.

Beauly Community Council

Beauly Community Council has a very tightly drawn boundary. This means the area known to people locally as “the Braes”, and considered by many to be part of the village, is largely not within Beauly’s boundaries but lies either in Kilmorack or Muir of Ord’s area. Most of the residents would see themselves as living in the Beauly area.

The community council has continued in existence since community councils were first established in 1975. This is a remarkable record when so many communities are struggling to find sufficient people willing to give up their time to form a community council.

There are 8 members of the community council and a number of Associate Members and they meet on the last Monday of the month in the Senior Citizens Room of the Phipps Institute. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

They quietly manage many things in the village, working behind the scenes and sometimes calling on volunteers to help. The floral displays are organised by the Community Council, including the watering and deadheading during the season. The Christmas lights switch on is also managed by members of the community council. They help to keep the paths open and monitor and report potholes and abandoned cars to the relevant authorities.

It was the Community Council who initially identified the need for a Community Trust. The CC had put together a proposal for a grant to take ownership of the public toilets in the village. As well as improving the toilets and discouraging vandalism, they would have been a useful source of funds for the village. However, the bid was turned down because we did not have an appropriate body which could receive the funds and we were encouraged to consider setting up a Trust which could act as a vehicle for attracting funds.

“I have lived here my whole life. I love the community spirit, the history, the fact you can get most of the things you need right on your doorstep...”

“Friendly village with good community spirit”

Welcome to our Community Open Day

Beaulieu Community Trust has been set up to benefit the community by supporting improvements in the village. But we can't do it alone.

What we need from you

We need your help to identify what needs to be done. Please give us your feedback today and think about becoming a member of the Trust.

It does not take up a lot of time and it really just says you support what the Trust is doing. You can fill in the form at the front door.

What is Beaulieu Community Trust

We have been established as a Two Tier Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. We have members who vote for the Trustees.

Our aims are to:

- Support people and community groups to identify things we can improve in the village and find ways to make that happen
- Encourage community development by working with groups to identify financial support to progress projects
- Promote, encourage and help to provide recreational facilities and activities for residents and visitors
- Support environmental protection and improvement.

Our work falls under a number of different headings. Please indicate below what topics are of most and least concern to you. Red dot is least support, Green dot is most support.



About Beaully Community Trust

Beaully Community Trust covers the Beaully Primary School Catchment Area, which is slightly larger than the Community Council area and extends along to the toll and across the Lovat Bridge.

The day to day running of the Trust is carried out by 11 Trustees. In addition, there are Members of the Trust who are local people who support the Trust's aims and who can help to ensure the Trustees are working within their remit. The Members of the Trust elect the Trustees at an Annual General Meeting held in autumn each year.

The Community Trust does not have any staff and is managed entirely by volunteers. It is not able to manage groups or projects, but its remit is to work in partnership with groups and individuals who wish to pursue activities and projects for the benefit of the village. We will be able to apply for, and receive, funds on behalf of those groups.

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- Encourage community development by working with groups to identify financial support to progress projects
- Promote, encourage and help to provide recreational facilities and activities for residents and visitors
- Support environmental protection and improvement.

Our work falls within a number of different categories.

These are outlined in our charitable purposes:

- Health and wellbeing
- Education
- Sport and recreation
- Heritage and culture
- Environmental protection
- Support for those in need

How we gathered input for the Community Plan

Community Survey

We circulated a community survey, as part of the Beauly News, which was distributed door to door within the village in February 2024. An on line version of the survey was available and was publicised through the Beauly on Line facebook page. We had 139 responses, some of which were for a household rather than an individual.

We also attended meetings of local groups, reaching an estimated 170 additional people.

These included:

- Beauly Men's Shed
- Senior Citizens Association
- Beauly Cares Lunch
- Primary 7 pupils at Beauly Primary School
- Beauly Local History Group
- Brownies
- Rainbows
- Beauly Toddlers Group

There was a good representation from different parts of the village and the surrounding area. One issue which needs to be considered in terms of future funding applications is the extent to which many groups and activities in the village cater for people in our hinterland. In some groups there are far more people attending from outside the village than from within. This is a good thing – one of the reasons the village is thriving is its position at the centre of a wider hinterland, bringing customers to all the businesses – but it is something to bear in mind in relation to accessing funds.

There was also a good spread of ages responding, with the exception of those aged 16 to 17 and 18 to 25. There were people in the 18 to 25 age group who attended the Open Day, but the 16 to 17 age group remain a difficult group to engage. The Trust will consider ways of reaching individuals within these traditionally hard to reach groups.

See appendix 1 for copy of Community Survey

**“Old rifle range
should be
renovated and
used as units.
Instead of
containers for
storage, find a
place for mens
shed, art group
etc”**





**“It goes
without saying
that beauty
desperately
needs a new
school, but a
youth club for
the kids would
be great
too...”**

How we gathered input for the Community Plan

Community Open Day

Beaulieu Community Trust compiled the results of both the community survey and the group visits into a series of exhibition boards which were displayed at a Community Open Day held on a Saturday in April. The purpose of the Open Day was to summarise the findings from the survey and discussions and seek the views of local people on whether they supported these suggestions.

The timing and location of the Open Day was designed to make it easier for younger people in the village to attend, particularly those who work during the week. Children's activities were provided to encourage participation from parents with young children – a key group we hoped to attract. The Open Day attracted around 65 people.

General aims of the Trust

At our Open Day we asked people to prioritise these different areas of activity – highlighting their highest and lowest priorities. The single most common response from people was how hard they found it to choose. The majority of people felt they were all equally important. Happily, many of the projects being proposed fall under two or three headings, which can only be a positive.

All the aims of the Trust enjoyed significant support, but the highest priorities were:

- **Education**
- **Health & Wellbeing**
- **Support for those in need**

As you will see later in the document, all the projects and activities outlined in this plan have been assessed as to what extent they meet the Objectives of the Trust.

See appendix 2 for exhibition boards

Our Community Plan

Specific Priorities

We have set out the findings by dividing them into different categories and within each category we look at what the current situation is and what could happen in the future. We then set out a list of specific projects, with a potential timescale and an assessment of the extent to which they will deliver on the Aims of the Trust.

Current Position re Community Buildings

There was a clear demand for more places to hold various indoor activities. The village does have quite a few existing venues – the Phipps Institute and the Church of Scotland Hall are probably the ones most used by existing groups. Other venues used for occasional meetings include the Bowling Club, the Shinty Club and the Masonic Hall, as well as the local hotels. There is limited space at many of these venues for anything other than a meeting.

The Men's Shed has premises but has long outgrown them. There are a number of buildings in various stages of disrepair in between the Phipps Institute and Braeview Park.

The single biggest issue raised by the local community was the condition of the Primary School and the need for a new school, or at the very least some new buildings to replace the worst parts of the building.

Another suggestion from many people was to build a swimming pool. It is likely the running costs of a swimming pool would put it out of reach of the community.

It was felt the Phipps Institute was difficult to access – expensive, with poor access for those with disabilities and very low standard of kitchen facilities which limited its use.

The Church of Scotland Hall had issues with its heating which make it difficult to use in winter and has limited storage space for regular users.

There is a desperate need in the village for places to go and things to do for our young people, particularly young boys and those who are not keen on sports. There were various suggestions made around a Youth Club or Café and this could house various activities such as a computer club, music room, games room or a more organised Youth Club. There was specific support from adults prepared to volunteer to support such a group. It is hard to see where in the village this could be housed at the moment, particularly given the need for space to accommodate any equipment. One possibility might be the Phipps Institute.

One other building frequently mentioned in the survey and at the Open Day was the former Co-op building in the Square. Its condition is deteriorating and it has become a real eyesore, yet the owner seems unwilling to renovate or repair it. The possibility of a community buyout of the building was suggested by a number of respondees.

There was concern that many people were not aware of the various venues which were available for let in Beauly and it would be useful to find a better way of promoting them.



**“To have an
after school
club in the
village at one
of the halls
would help
many parents
in our
community”**

**“I think Beaulieu
would benefit
from all weather
facilities for
sports as there
is a number of
sports clubs in
need of better
facilities in the
winter”**













































Potential New Community Buildings

- Men's shed
- Youth club/youth café/games room/computer club/music room/activities for boys
- Breakfast Club/After school club/childcare facilities
- Indoor sports centre/gym
- Building to house canteen and gym for the school (making a new school more affordable)

In terms of suggestions for locations a popular idea was to demolish the rifle range and other old buildings at back of the Phipps Institute, next to the Men's Shed and put a new multi-use building in their place. This would incorporate both shared spaces and other single use spaces designated for a particular purpose, such as the Men's Shed.

However there may be an advantage to looking at other sites, possibly adjacent to the school. It is likely in the future The Highland Council will be keen to have shared facilities to avoid waste. Many of the activities we would like to house within a new building could co-exist happily with facilities needed for the school. A canteen, used for an hour or so a day, could become a youth café/youth club in the evening, for example.

Our first step will be to establish a Steering Group who will take forward plans to find accommodation for the users identified below. There are some projects which could potentially progress, without the need for a new building, such as finding an interim space for a youth club or similar.

Goal	Timescales	Fit with Trust Aims
Establish Facilities Steering Group	July 2024	    
Identify potential users, in addition to those already identified below	Sept 2024	    
Seek potential funders	ongoing	    
New Men's Shed	2026/27	   
Youth space	2026/27	     
Gym/sports building	2026/27	     
Childcare facilities	2026	   
Improved heating in church hall	2025	     
Create venue list with contact details	Sep 2024	  

Current Outdoor Facilities























The village is fortunate to have four playparks, a shinty park, an open field at the back of Aird Road, and a relatively small basketball court/MUGA. However they all have their issues:

- The basketball court/5 a side MUGA is in poor condition and repairs do not seem to have resolved the problems with drainage.
- Large parts of the field at the back of Aird Road are no longer cut, making the goalposts inaccessible and the area is not used by many people other than for occasional dog walking. There were a number of suggestions for improved facilities, such as tennis court/paddle tennis court or community orchard, which could potentially be located at the Aird Road field.
- Much of the existing play equipment in the playparks is in need of repair or replacement

New Outdoor Facilities

- New skate park, preferably with a cover and made from a more durable material than the previous wooden skate park
- Bouldering wall
- Tennis court/paddle tennis

Actions




































Goal	Timescales	Fit with Trust Aims
Map outdoor space	2024	    
New skate park	2026/27	 
Bouldering wall	2026	 
Tennis court / paddle tennis	2027	 
Repair or replace existing MUGA	2026/27	   
Reinstate or repurpose Aird Road field	2026	   
Repair or replace play park equipment	2026	  

**“Need something
for the older kids
to do , fix up the
MUGA for football
and replace
the skate ramp
-needs to be a
concrete one
so no one can
damage”**

“We should develop pathways for local walks and cycle routes and where possible link these to walks further afield, while ensuring they are accessible to all”

Paths and Open Spaces

There was a great deal of interest in paths and open spaces in the village with a huge amount of enthusiasm for maintaining and improving existing paths and open spaces and also to extend the network and establish new spaces. Given the interest in the topic it would make sense to establish a steering group to take this forward and identify potential funding streams.

Goal	Timescales	Fit with Trust Aims
Establish environmental steering group	July 2024	     
Make contact and utilise expertise of Paths officer	Sept 2024	     
Create a map of existing paths and open spaces	End 2024	  
Identify areas for improvement and maintenance	End 2024	  
Propose possible new paths	End 2024	  
Consider options for improving access	2025	  
Improve signage and interpretation	2025	   
More benches and improve existing open spaces	2025	  
Look at options for community garden and allotments including relocation or buyout and potential extension	2024	   

Our Community Plan

An issue highlighted by many in the survey and at the Open Day was the sense of community in the village and the importance of building on that. There are a number of people interested in developing various community groups and initiatives. These include everything from establishing a community market to a rowing club, from a food bank to community sports events.

At the same time there was concern that it was hard to know what groups and activities were available in the village. There is a folder with details of various community groups held in the local library which we should encourage people to access. The Community Trust will facilitate the creation of a working group to encourage ideas from the community and identify people interested in taking forward various projects.

Jobs for Others to Tackle

There were a number of concerns and issues raised which cannot be resolved by Beaulieu Community Trust as they fall within the remit of others. These will be passed on to the community council who will, in turn, raise the issues with the relevant bodies and explore potential solutions.

- Better parking – various suggestions including one way in square
- Lack of dropped kerbs
- Poor drainage causing issues on roads and pavements
- A pedestrian crossing at Old School end of the village
- Public transport improvements including late night buses to allow people to attend events at Eden Court and a late night train from Inverness
- A new Primary School



**“Improve
the public
transport
routes and
reliability...
and later than
9.30pm”**

BEAULY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Your opinions matter

Please answer the questions below. The survey is for those living within the Beauly Community Trust area which is the catchment area for Beauly Primary School. The survey is anonymous but it would be helpful if you could tell us which street you live on so we make sure we get a reasonable spread of views from across the village. If there are any questions you don't want to answer, leave them blank.

Please drop off your completed form at Morison's Ironmongers or Beauly Post Office and Bridgend Filling Station. Deadline Sunday 31st March 2024.

1. Please circle your age group below:

Under 16 16/17 18 to 25 26 to 35 36 to 45 46 to 55 56 to 66 66 to 80 80 plus

2. Please circle your sex/gender

Male Female Non Binary/Other Prefer not to say

3. Where in the village do you live – street or area _____

4. What do you like about living in Beauly?

5. What would you like to change/improve about Beauly? *You might want to consider our environment, social or leisure facilities, local economy, tackling the climate emergency.*

6. Are there new projects (large or small) you would like to see in the community. Are there any existing projects you think could be improved or should have more money spent on them?

If you would be willing to get involved in any of these projects please provide a contact e mail or phone number

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We plan to hold a community event on Saturday 20 April 2024 in the Phipps Hall. This will be a drop in event where we will put the ideas from the community on display. This will be an opportunity to see what has been suggested, gather views and start to identify priorities for inclusion in a community plan. We would hope to produce a community action plan by Autumn 2024.

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey. This is your community and your thoughts and opinions are important and very much appreciated.

Appendix 2

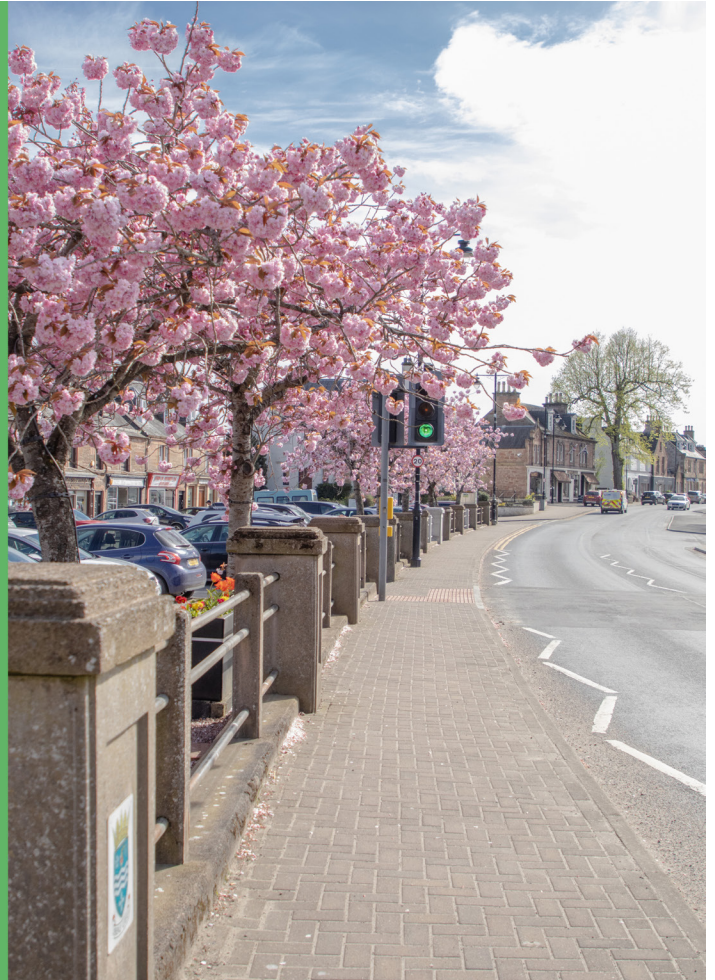
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What we need from you

We need your help to identify what needs to be done. Please give us your feedback today and think about becoming a member of the Trust.

It does not take up a lot of time or involve meetings, it really just says you support our aims and want to see the Trust succeed. You can fill in a form at the desk at the front door.



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Our aims are to:

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Our work falls under a number of different headings Please indicate below what topics are of most and least concern to you. Red dot is least support, Green dot is most support.

Health and Wellbeing

Education

Sport and Recreation

Heritage and Culture

Environmental protection

Support for those in need

Who have we heard from so far?

We circulated a community survey within the Beauly News earlier this year and we had an on line version of the survey which could be completed on line. We had 139 responses, some of which were for a household rather than an individual.

We attended meetings of local groups, reaching an additional 170 people, approximately:

- Beauly Men's Shed
- Senior Citizens Association
- Beauly Cares Lunch
- Primary 7 pupils at Beauly Primary School
- Beauly Local History Group
- Brownies
- Rainbows
- Beauly Toddlers Group



There was a good representation from different parts of the village and the surrounding area. One issue which needs to be considered in any Action Plan is the extent to which many groups and activities in the village cater for people in a much wider area than simply the village itself. In some groups there are far more people from outside the village attending than from within. This is a good thing – one of the reasons the village is thriving is its position at the centre of a wider hinterland, bringing customers to all the businesses.

There was also a good spread of ages responding, with the exception of those aged 16 to 17 and 18 to 25. The Trust will consider ways of reaching individuals within these age ranges.

Gathering more feedback

If you are part of a group within the village and would like somebody to come along to a meeting or event to gather feedback, just give your name and contact details at the door.

Appendix

What did people like?

Environment

- Beautiful
- Safe
- Easy to get around
- Good public transport
- Houses
- River
- History
- Walks for dogs
- Walks and paths
- Playparks
- Good environment
- Floral displays
- Free parking
- Central in the Highlands
- Quiet but not too quiet!



Community

- Peaceful
- Nice, friendly people
- Great community spirit
- Living close to one another
- Low crime
- Lots of groups and activities
- Fantastic staff at the school
- Community Garden
- Walking Group
- Beauly Cares Lunch Club
- Senior Citizens
- Men's Shed

Businesses and facilities

- Lots of shops, hotels and cafes
- All you need – doctors, chemist, optician, library
- Places to eat
- Takeaways
- Public toilets
- Churches
- Independently owned shops
- 2 supermarkets



What people want

Support for children and young people

- A new school
- Provision for nursery for 1 to 4 year olds
- More childcare
- Breakfast club
- After School Club
- CALA
- New gym and canteen for school (if not new school)
- Cubs and scouts
- Youth club
- More for boys who are not sporty, a boys club perhaps
- Skate Park – preferably concrete
- Repair the equipment in the playparks
- Improve the Maple Vale playpark
- Games Arcade
- Computer club
- Astro turf
- New shed for Toddler Group
- Outdoor Nursery building



Give us your thoughts

Do you agree with the list, or have particular priorities?
Fill in a post it note and stick it in the space below



Appendix

What people want

Environment and paths

- Maintain/improve existing paths
- Better sign posting of paths
- Map ancient rights of way and other forgotten paths to ensure they don't get lost
- Improvements and repairs to Cnoc na Rath path
- More litter bins and dog bins
- Time limited security lighting
- Tackle litter problem
- Create car parking for walks around the village
- More benches at Riverside Drive and Aberforn Terrace and Braeview Park
- Create river walks to Muir of Ord and Lovat Bridge
- Paths to Kiltarlity and Redcastle
- Reduce light pollution
- Discourage plastic
- Encourage recycling
- Better sign posting around the village
- Improve drainage particularly at bottom end
- Employ village officers to keep the place tidy and collect litter
- Reduce light pollution
- Preserve community garden – potential community buy out?
- Community orchard in the field at back of Aird Road
- Do something with land next to public toilets
- Better access to playpark at Braeview



Give us your thoughts

Do you agree with the list, or have particular priorities?
Fill in a post it note and stick it in the space below

What people want

Sports and recreational facilities

- Gym
- Sports and fitness facilities
- Improve the basketball area/MUGA
- Make it easier for water based activities on the river
- Swimming pool
- Establish a rowing club
- Establish a Beaulieu Football Club



Give us your thoughts

Do you agree with the list, or have particular priorities?
Fill in a post it note and stick it in the space below



Appendix

What people want

Buildings

- Try to find new tenants for empty buildings – old banks
- Phipps Hall into community ownership
- Public toilets into community ownership
- New heating/improve insulation for the Church Hall
- Demolish old rifle range and attached buildings and replace with new building
- Old Co-op to be used for pop up shops
- New building for the Men's Shed
- Multi purpose building which could house a gym for the school but also youth café, childcare facility, cinema, men's shed workshop, meeting rooms.
- Make more use of downstairs room in Masonic Hall
- More housing for rent
- Build a health centre to include a dentist.



Give us your thoughts

Do you agree with the list, or have particular priorities?
Fill in a post it note and stick it in the space below



What people want

Community and Culture

- More social gatherings
- More clubs and better promotion of existing clubs
- Events with music
- Gala Dance
- Gala Floats
- New Years Day Ceilidh
- Community Markets
- Market Days
- More community events
- More cross generational activities
- Find a better home for the Men's Shed
- Promotion of Gaelic language
- Heritage signage
- Dog park
- History booklet
- Community Fridge
- Museum of Beauty
- More restaurants open in the evening
- Ask shops and other businesses to tidy up round their area



Give us your thoughts

Do you agree with the list, or have particular priorities?
Fill in a post it note and stick it in the space below



Appendix

What people want

Transport and Roads

- Reduce HGVs speeding through the village
- More dropped kerbs
- Pavements in poor condition in various places
- Roads in poor condition
- Potholes
- Drains neglected/weeds along roadside
- Better traffic flow in the Square
- Sort out parking in the Square, particularly with buses
- More disabled parking
- White lines on parking spaces in the square/introduce parking restrictions with limit
- Increase train and bus times – can no longer get to Eden Court, want half hourly bus service and more late night trains and buses.
- White lines in Braeview Park
- Introduce a community bus service
- Take away the speed bumps
- More street cleaning
- Enforce 20 mph signs (and increase the size of the signs and improve signage)
- Pavements not gritted
- Better illuminated corner at the Toll and improve whitelining
- Zebra crossing or traffic lights between Orchard Park and Old School



Give us your thoughts

Do you agree with the list, or have particular priorities?
Fill in a post it note and stick it in the space below



Is there anything we've missed?

Make sure to let one of us know if you think there is something we have missed. Or write it on a post it note and hand it in.

What happens next?

Thanks for taking the time to give us your feedback. We will use the information we've gathered to draft a Community Action Plan. We'll then go back out to the community for a final round of consultation before we finalise it.

We hope to have a Community Action Plan in place before the Autumn.



Playing a part

We need your support in making projects and activities happen. That might be forming a small group to take forward a specific idea, such as a youth club, or volunteering to help with activities, for example a community litter pick. You might be interested in helping with a community buy out. We are lucky to have so many people in the village who help out – watering the flowers, putting up the Christmas lights, litter picking, reporting potholes. But we could achieve even more! If everybody who was able did a little bit of volunteering – even a few hours each year can make a difference. If you'd like to help, please fill in your details on the form at the door and hand it in.

