

Prestwick Place Planning

Priorities for Action

Engagement outcomes July 2022



THRIVING PLACES
POSITIVE • PROUD • AMBITIOUS
PLACEMAKING IN SOUTH AYRSHIRE

Introduction

South Ayrshire Council is currently undertaking Place Plans with many of the communities in South Ayrshire. These plans are at the heart of a new approach to placemaking in South Ayrshire, one that is embedded within, and driven by the Community's own concerns and aspirations. The aim is to develop plans collaboratively with the community that are a true reflection of the priorities of those who live and work in the towns and villages of South Ayrshire. The plans will provide a series of actions that the community, the Council and other partners can work together in delivering.

Between January and February 2022, the Council undertook a series of Community Conversations with the community in Prestwick, that sought to identify the main concerns facing residents. This report presents the findings from the engagements and provides the basis from which the next round of conversations can take place where actions to address priorities will be developed.

Outcome of Engagement

The Community Conversations in Prestwick began in January 2022 and continued through February 2022. The engagement consisted of a number of focused meetings with community groups as well as an online survey. The Scottish Government designed Place Standard toolkit was used to measure and assess the community's priorities.

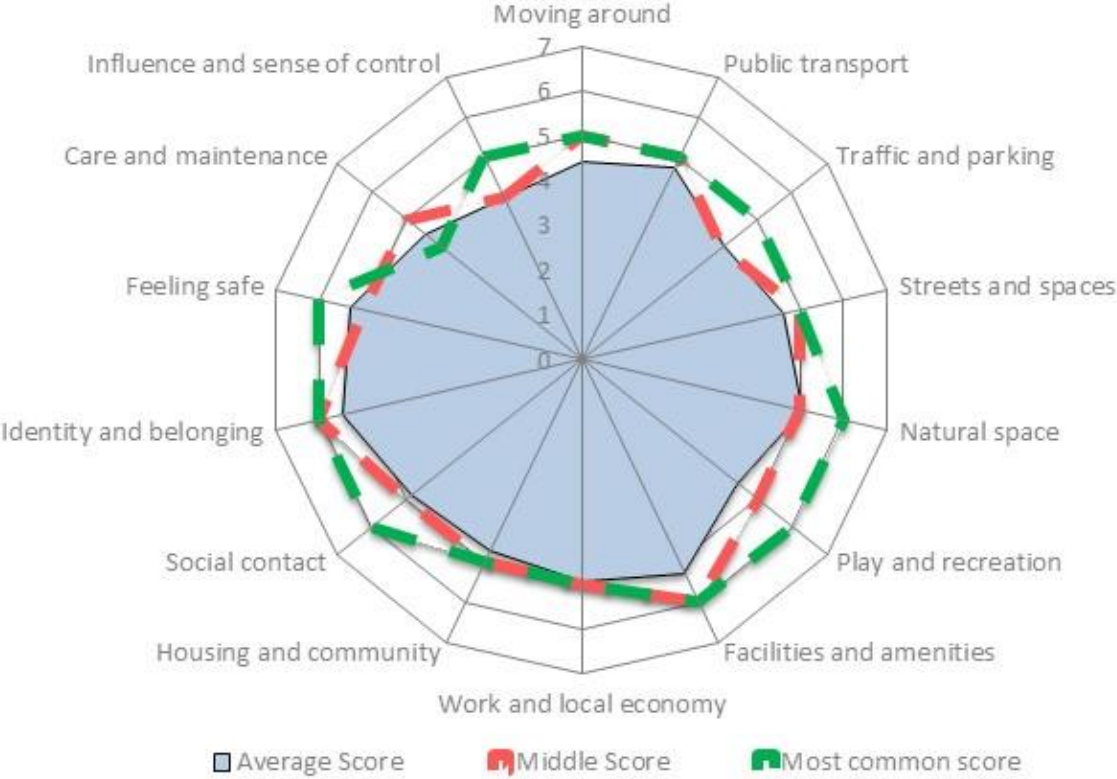
The Place Standard sees a score awarded for each of the identified topics that make up a successful place. This ranges from 1, where most improvement is needed, to 7, where no improvement is needed. The scores given by each member of the community who took part were averaged to give an indication of priorities. A total of 191 people took part in the consultation including from 4 community groups, and 168 online surveys.

The findings of the consultation are laid out in the table below, and in the diagram on the following page. All of the topics in Prestwick scored relatively well with no areas below to 3.5 median score, the areas with the lowest scores were traffic and parking (score of 4), influence and sense of control (score of 4) and moving around (score of 4.4).

At the other end of the scale Feeling Safe, Identity and Belonging and facilities and amenities scored highly.

| Topic | Average |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Traffic and parking | 4.0 |
| Influence and sense of control | 4.0 |
| Moving Around | 4.4 |
| Play and recreation | 4.5 |
| Care and maintenance | 4.5 |
| Streets and spaces | 4.6 |
| Housing and community | 4.7 |
| Public transport | 4.8 |
| Social contact | 4.9 |
| Work and local economy | 5.0 |
| Natural space | 5.1 |
| Feeling safe | 5.3 |
| Facilities and amenities | 5.3 |
| Identity and belonging | 5.5 |

PLACE PLANNING : PRESTWICK



As part of the conversations, participants were invited to provide comments relating to the topic areas. These provide an insight into the reason for the scores, as well as some of the possible solutions. A sample of some of the comments received are set out in the boxes below.

| Traffic and Parking = 4.0 | |
|---|---|
| <p><u>Positive</u></p> <p>Lots of safe parking available Free parking Good balance of pedestrian crossings Traffic runs smoothly – not heavy compared to other areas</p> | <p><u>Negative</u></p> <p>Inconsiderate parking – on pavements, in bus lanes, on double yellow lines Dangerous to cross roads with cars parked both sides Speeding traffic Too many roadworks</p> |
| <p><u>Comment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve traffic management around schools – eg. one way system • Make better use of space for extra parking spaces • Improve the number of electric charging points • Prevention of unsafe, illegal parking | |

| Influence and Sense of Control = 4.0 | |
|--|--|
| <p><u>Positive</u></p> <p>Community council accessible and helpful The ability to have a say in consultations Can participate in local groups and associations Surveys like this where I can share my views</p> | <p><u>Negative</u></p> <p>Lack of access to public meetings last 2 years Council influence tends to be negative Decisions made without community consultation Views and opinions not listened to</p> |
| <p><u>Suggestion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More done to inform community about ‘how to be listened to’ • Invite engagement in decision making • Provide more information and advertise public discussions and consultations | |

Moving Around = 4.4**Positive**

Variety of different places and routes to go
Excellent facilities for walking and cycling
Pavements and paths generally in good condition
Good cycle routes – into town/beach/cycle path to Troon

Negative

Not safe to cycle on roads – heavy traffic, bad surfaces, no cycle lanes
Poor condition – potholes, uneven surfaces
Some streets not accessible for wheelchair users
Speeding vehicles
Poor lighting in some areas

Suggestions

- More walking and cycling routes
- More dropped kerbs for disabled access
- Promote routes more regularly on website and social media
- Improved lighting – beach / oval / streets

Play and Recreation = 4.5**Positive**

Lots of large open spaces
Community centre with lots of different groups
Plenty of sporting areas – pool, gym, golf, tennis

Negative

Play areas (especially at beach) are a poor standard and quality
Not much in area for older children/teenagers
Limited opening hours

Suggestion

- Central source of information on what activities are available
- Upgrade and improve parks and play areas
- New play equipment including access for disabled / wheelchair users
- Invest and improve the beach/promenade area

Care and Maintenance = 4.5**Positive**

Public spaces well looked after
Recycling facilities nearby
Lots of voluntary litter pickers
Parks and seafront routinely serviced by waste collection

Negative

Litter, vandalism, graffiti an ongoing issue
Dog mess
Vacant buildings are run down and an eyesore
Roads and pavements in poor condition

Suggestion

- More litter bins
- Beach and streets cleaned more regularly
- Better sea defences
- More done with derelict properties

Streets and Spaces = 4.6

Positive

Easy to get around
Main St is clean, well cared for, flower boxes
Good mix of green space, shops, restaurants
Looks nice for tourists

Negative

Lots of litter, dog dirt
Some places look rundown and unattractive
Condition of roads and pavements poor in places
Traffic noise / pollution

Suggestion

- More could be done on promenade – more cafes, space for exercise, seating
- Vacant buildings could be used by the community
- Information boards – history, walks, landmarks, tourist information etc
- Improve parking facilities

Housing and Community = 4.7

Positive

Good quality homes
Good sense of community
Wide demographic of residents and good mixture of housing stock

Negative

Lack of affordable housing
Houses are expensive
High demand for council houses – waiting list
Family sized homes hard to come by

Comment

- More amenity and affordable housing required

Public Transport = 4.8

Positive

Good transport links at convenient places
Public transport provision is very good
Train service good and reliable, and station is nearby
Plenty of buses

Negative

Buses don't run on time / don't stop
Fewer buses make it more difficult to get about
Buses/Trains expensive to use
Lack of shelters at some bus stops

Suggestions

- Better bus service/timetable later in the evening
- More affordable
- Access to service for those less mobile
- More services to more areas

Social Contact = 4.9**Positive**

Good number of clubs and organisations for anyone to join
 Good range of spaces to meet people
 Community centre provides low cost accessible space
 Dementia Friendly Prestwick is an excellent facility

Negative

Activities not well publicised and limited
 Lack of facilities for young people
 Closure of indoor bowling green
 Difficult to book / access some facilities

Suggestion

- Information on groups and spaces available should be better advertised
- More appealing green space/parks would give people opportunity to meet outdoors
- More use of the schools as a community hub

Work and Local Economy = 5.0**Positive**

Local business work hard for the community
 Thriving business association
 Plenty of work options in the area – hospitality, retail, nhs, council, airport
 Ayrshire Growth Deal fantastic for the future

Negative

Lack of interesting, well paid jobs
 Not a lot on offer outwith hospitality sector
 Young people need to move away to meet career goals

Comments

- Promote services in the local community
- Advertise jobs better
- Airport could provide more opportunities and create more jobs

Please note

few comments indicating respondents were retired so this question did not apply to them

Natural Space = 5.1**Positive**

Lovely views and scenery
 Enjoy the wild flowers planted last year
 Plenty of greenspace, open space
 Lucky to live by the sea / beach

Negative

Beach spoiled by bricks and rubble washed up
 Spoilt by rubbish and litter
 Lack of public seating and benches
 Natural space being taken over by companies and houses

Suggestion

- Community gardening project – good for social contact
- More trees and public green space
- Improve access and develop existing open space such as bing and the oval

Facilities and Amenities = 5.3**Positive**

Good range / groups for various interests
 Everything is within easy access
 Well served with amenities – shops, restaurants, bars, library, doctors, chemists
 Thriving small business community

Negative

Local tourism opportunities ignored
 Access to GP can be challenging
 No drop in space to accommodate small groups
 Empty premises
 Lack of youth facilities

Suggestion

- More publicity on facilities available
- Community hub / sports complex (golf/ice hockey)
- Easier access for people with disabilities
- More facilities down the beach

Feeling Safe = 5.3**Positive**

Feel safe when out walking
 Sense of community brings sense of safety
 Generally feel safe when out during day

Negative

Poor lighting in areas
 Absence of police presence / police office
 Antisocial behaviour of young people
 Main Street busy and noisy at weekends

Suggest

- Derelict buildings could be improved
- More local police presence would be welcome
- Better street lighting

Identity and Belonging = 5.5**Positive**

Good history and belonging to the town
 Strong sense of community / good neighbours
 Proud to be part of the community
 People are warm and welcoming

Negative

Lack of diversity / inclusion
 No information on future plans
 Where is spire on Kirk St building ?
 Old buildings need preserved not demolished

Suggestion

- Local history and heritage should be better celebrated
- Walking tourist route with signage
- Prestwick is known as home of golf – this needs to be promoted more

Next Steps

The community conversations undertaken to date have established the strengths and weaknesses and priority issues facing Prestwick. This information will be used as the baseline for developing actions that will form the final Place Plan in due course. A number of workshops will now be held with community groups to further investigate the issues and possible actions that could be undertaken to address these. Following these workshops a draft Place Plan will be prepared and published online for comment and further input from the wider community.