

Annbank Place Planning

Priorities for Action

Engagement outcomes June 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 August and November 2021, the Council undertook a series of Community Conversations with the community in Annbank, 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 Annbank began in August 2021 and continued through November 2021. 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.

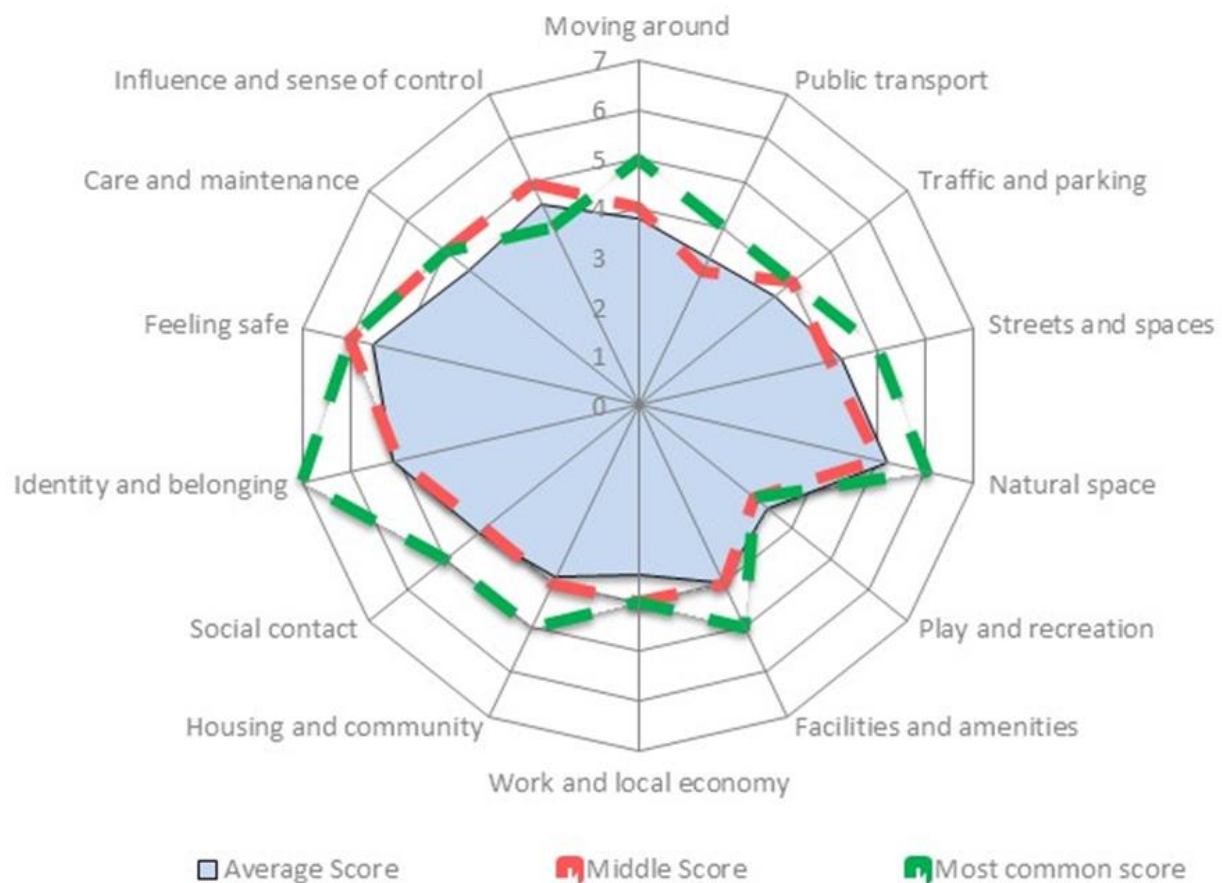
The Place Standard sees a score awarded for each of the identified topics that make up a successful place. This ranges from 1, where most improvement is needed, to 7, where no improvement is needed. The scores given by each member of the community who took part were averaged to give an indication of priorities. A total of 116 people took part in the consultation including from 3 community groups, 20 paper surveys and 77 online surveys.

The findings of the consultation are laid out in the table below, and in the diagram on the following page. There were three particular areas that were identified as being of particular concerns, with scores below the median of 3.5. These were the topics of Public Transport, Play and Recreation and Work and Local Economy.

At the other end of the scale Feeling Safe, Identity and Belonging and Natural Space scored highly.

| Topic | Average |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Public transport | 3.3 |
| Work and local economy | 3.4 |
| Play and recreation | 3.4 |
| Traffic and parking | 3.6 |
| Moving Around | 3.8 |
| Housing and community | 3.9 |
| Facilities and amenities | 4.0 |
| Social contact | 4.1 |
| Streets and spaces | 4.2 |
| Care and maintenance | 4.4 |
| Influence and sense of control | 4.5 |
| Identity and belonging | 5.1 |
| Natural space | 5.2 |
| Feeling safe | 5.5 |

PLACE PLANNING : ANNBANK (ALL)



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.

Public Transport

Average Score = 3.3

Positive

- Bus service ok
- Never had issue when need to use it
- Public transport is reasonable

Negative

- Buses only run one an hour
- Poor evening service
- Expensive
- Not frequent enough to get to work

Suggestions/Comments

- More routes
- More frequent
- Improve rail network

Work and Local Economy

Average Score = 3.4

Positive

- Plenty of volunteers
- Reasonable local economy
- Local businesses employ local people

Suggestions/Comments

- Improve transport links

Negative

- Not many employment opportunities
- Lack of professional job opportunities
- Public transport needs to be better

Play and Recreation

Average Score = 3.4

Positive

- New playpark in pipeline
- Some groups have restarted
- Good outdoor space
- Bowling club / Angling club

Negative

- Facilities need upgraded / resurfaced
- No benches/toilets in park areas
- Play park is dated and boring
- Nothing for young people/children

Suggestions/Comments

- More sports facilities
- Better pitches and courts
- Significant investment to encourage active play

Traffic and Parking

Average Score = 3.6

Positive

- Mostly parking is fine
- Parking is adequate
- Parking in some areas acts as traffic calming

Negative

- Lots of cars parked on pavements
- Parking at turning point
- Speeding vehicles through village

Suggestions/Comments

- More traffic calming measures needed
- Speed bumps/ speed monitoring

Moving Around

Average Score = 3.8

Positive

- Walking paths through the woods
- Great country walks
- Plenty of opportunities for walks and cycling

Negative

- Some paths are overgrown – need maintenance
- Very busy, speeding roads
- Not accessible all year around
- Little seating or signage

Suggestions/Comments

- Safe cycling routes for children
- More seating
- Wider improved paths

Housing and Community

Average Score = 3.9

Positive

- Adequate housing
- Various houses and well kept

Negative

- No sheltered housing / housing for elderly
- Small supply of council housing for families
- Not enough houses for locals
- Lack of affordable / social housing

Suggestions/Comment

- Significant requirement for renewables
- More housing opportunities
- Building more 1-bedroom would free up larger homes

Facilities and Amenities

Average Score = 4.0

Positive

- Love our local shop and baker
- Small village – ok with what we have
- Recently opened café in community hall

Negative

- No post office / library
- Most things in next village
- No amenities in village
- Nothing open at night

Suggestions/Comments

- More support / investment at hall
- Better facilities within community centre
- More fitness related activities
- Internet café / games room

Social Interaction

Average Score = 4.1

Positive

- Good areas to meet – bowling green, pub, community centre
- Have a great village hall
- Have local park

Negative

- Notice board not fit for purpose – wrong location
- Small amounts of community events and socialisation
- Lack of informal options
- Lack of community togetherness

Suggestions/comments

- Indoor spaces needed
- Park area should have benches so people can sit and chat

Streets and Spaces

Average Score = 4.2

Positive

- New cladding has improved houses
- Places kept by community are ok
- Village lovely and community proud of it

Negative

- New street lighting makes it appear darker
- Pavements poor for mobility
- Some buildings look poor and run down
- Poor road surfaces

Suggestions/Comments

- Hanging baskets and planters
- Somewhere for community events
- Public seating

Care and Maintenance

Average Score = 4.4

Positive

- Recycling facility for bottles / card
- Lots of work done to houses – look good
- Community take pride in what they have

Negative

- Dog mess is a problem
- Poor appearance – looks run down
- Paths and roads in poor condition

Suggestions/comments

- More dog bins
- Paths/walks maintained and roads resurfaced

Influence and Sense of Control

Average Score = 4.5

Positive

- New association being set up
- Yes I can stand up and be counted
- Community council keen on residents views
- Opportunities to take part in decision making

Negative

- Council don't listen or act in timely manner
- Residents told very little
- Communication needs improved

Suggestion

- Better for villages to have their separate identities
- Weekly newsletter

Identity and Belonging

Average Score = 5.1

Positive

- Everyone says hello and chats to you
- Feel welcomed and good place to live
- Brilliant village where I feel safe
- Great community spirit

Negative

- No historic signage of past structures
- Nobody is fighting for Annbank

Suggestions/Comments

- Bring back gala day
- Events to promote learning its history
- Intergenerational gatherings to share knowledge

Natural Space

Average Score = 5.2

Positive

- Surrounded by beautiful countryside
- No shortage of open space
- Plenty of country walks
- Scenic village with lovely walks

Negative

- Paths are overgrown
- Road and pavement surfaces not suitable for those with mobility issues
- Marred by litter and dog mess

Suggestions/Comments

- More volunteers to highlight problem areas
- Seating for the elderly
- More dog bins
- Utilise/modernise the quality natural space in village

Feeling safe

Average Score = 5.5

Positive

- Yes, feel very safe
- People look out for each other
- Little or no crime

Negative

- Feel safer with better lighting
- Speeding vehicles
- Lots of asb from teenagers

Suggestion/comment

- CCTV at the park
- Neighbourhood Watch

Next Steps

The community conversations undertaken to date have established the strengths and weaknesses and priority issues facing Annbank. 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.