

Mossblown 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 October 2021, the Council undertook a series of Community Conversations with the community in Mossblown, 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 Mossblown began in August 2021 and continued through October 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.

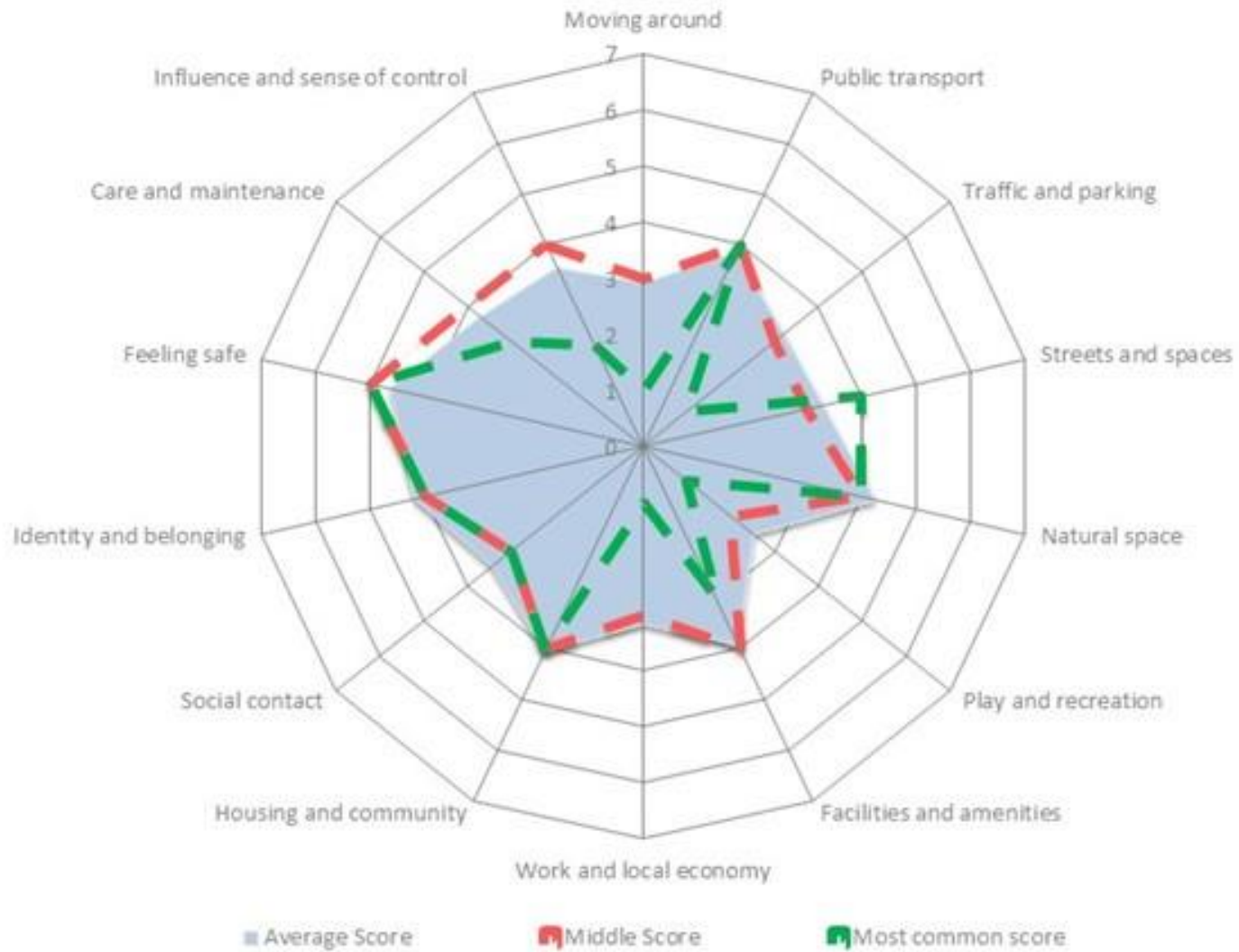
The Place Standard sees a score awarded for each of the identified topics that make up a successful place. This ranges from 1, where most improvement is needed, to 7, where no improvement is needed. The scores given by each member of the community who took part were averaged to give an indication of priorities. A total of 106 people took part in the consultation including from 3 community groups, 17 paper surveys and 71 online surveys.

The findings of the consultation are laid out in the table below, and in the diagram on the following page. There were six areas that were identified as being of particular concern, with scores below the median of 3.5. These were the topics of Play and Recreation, Moving Around, Work and Local Economy, Traffic and Parking, Streets and Spaces and Social Contact.

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

Topic	Average
Play and recreation	2.5
Moving Around	2.9
Work and local economy	3.2
Traffic and parking	3.2
Streets and spaces	3.3
Social contact	3.4
Influence and sense of control	3.5
Care and maintenance	3.7
Public transport	3.8
Facilities and amenities	3.9
Housing and community	4.1
Identity and belonging	4.2
Natural space	4.3
Feeling safe	4.6

PLACE PLANNING : MOSSBLOWN (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.

Play and Recreation

Average Score = 2.5

Positive

- Activity centre is in use
- Plenty of playparks for kids

Negative

- Not enough recreation for all age groups
- All parks outdated and unsafe
- Poor maintenance of park areas
- Few areas for kids to play

Suggestions/Comments

- Decent play park
- Gym facilities at community centre
- Proper cycle areas and paths

Moving Around

Average Score = 2.9

Positive

- Good walking places
- Good areas to visit
- Paths well kept

Negative

- Pathways and roads in bad state
- Very narrow pavements
- No cycling routes
- No proper pathways from Mossblown to Ayr

Suggestions/Comments

- Cycling and walking routes more accessible
- Good pavement space
- Pavements on some routes

Work and Local Economy

Average Score = 3.2

Positive

- Great location for commuting
- Local businesses supporting local people
- Plenty self employed people

Negative

- Need to travel outwith village
- No work opportunities
- Public transport needs to be better

Suggestions/Comments

- Better bus stops for commuters
- Encourage small businesses
- More apprenticeships for young people

Traffic and Parking

Average Score = 3.2

Positive

- Parking appears ok in the village (non driver)
- Self explanatory for visitors

Negative

- Lots of cars parked on pavements
- Parking at school poor
- Speeding vehicles through village

Suggestions/Comments

- Traffic calming measures needed
- Lower kerbs for residents to park cars in their gardens/property

Streets and Spaces

Average Score = 3.3

Positive

- Nice area due to volunteers
- Nice walks from village
- Green space well maintained

Negative

- No attractive buildings or areas
- Dog dirt and litter
- Looks tired and run down
- No suitable play areas for kids or families

Suggestions/Comments

- Natural spaces should be utilised and planted
- Street cleaner
- More bins

Social Interaction

Average Score = 3.4

Positive

- Good community groups
- Some local facilities – library, community centre

Negative

- Lack of groups and activities since covid
- Limited spaces for meeting people
- Lack of information on how to book available space

Suggestions/comments

- Indoor spaces needed
- Advertise community events
- Start more social groups
- Run village events
- Community café to reduce social isolation

Influence and Sense of Control

Average Score = 3.5

Positive

- Member of various groups
- Good community council
- Community voices are heard and community comes together to achieve goals

Negative

- Don't know if views listened to
- Don't feel we are considered
- Council not interested in public opinion
- Community group information not well publicised

Suggestion

- Not sure of opportunities available

Care and Maintenance

Average Score = 3.7

Positive

- Spaces maintained to an acceptable level
- Most houses well looked after
- Good volunteers

Negative

- Dog fouling and litter
- Pavements and roads not looked after
- Lots of buildings look run down and falling apart

Suggestions/comments

- Repair and improve empty buildings
- Regular upkeep of grass areas
- More bins

Public Transport

Average Score = 3.8

Positive

- Regular bus service provided
- Good bus timetable
- Public transport is reasonable

Negative

- Not regular – only one every hour
- Bus shelters are old and damaged
- Expensive
- Unreliable

Suggestions/Comments

- Better links to other areas
- Brighten up bus stops
- More regular service

Facilities and Amenities

Average Score = 3.9

Positive

- Good facilities for a small village
- Meets basic needs
- Good amenities run by lovely people
- Good school and nursery

Negative

- Access issues
- No cafes – nowhere to meet friends
- Limited facilities
- Nothing open at night

Suggestions/Comments

- More dancing at hall
- Facilities for teenagers
- More promotion for empty retail units
- A cafe

Housing and Community

Average Score = 4.1

Positive

- Good warden service at sheltered housing
- Lovely neighbourhood – neighbourhood watch
- Diverse community
- Good mixture of housing

Negative

- Lack of council housing / affordable housing
- Not enough family homes
- Houses in state of decay
- Not enough sheltered housing

Suggestions/Comment

- Introduce sheltered housing so older people can remain
- More local authority / social housing

Identity and Belonging

Average Score = 4.2

Positive

- Community spirit is high
- Good online presence
- Welcoming and inclusive
- Pride

Negative

- Lack of opportunities to get to know people
- Isolated and no places to meet up
- Full of litter and run down appearance

Suggestions/Comments

- Better meeting places and activities
- Make it more attractive and welcoming
- Celebrate heritage

Natural Space

Average Score = 4.3

Positive

- Surrounded by beautiful countryside
- Lots of good walking routes
- Lot of green space around village

Negative

- Dog dirt and litter spoil areas
- Some areas inaccessible for buggies or wheelchairs
- Park spaces run down and water logged

Suggestions/Comments

- Nice outdoor area with seating
- Better signage for walks
- Make area nicer to sit – plants, benches, a

Feeling safe

Average Score = 4.6

Positive

- Good area
- Feel safe in the village
- Close community – look out for each other

Negative

- Lots of young people hanging around
- Antisocial behaviour
- Elderly residents don't feel safe

Suggestion/comment

- More lighting in dark areas
- Community police
- CCTV in trouble spots

Next Steps

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