

Barr 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 October 2021 and January 2022, the Council undertook a series of Community Conversations with the community in Barr, 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 Barr began in October 2021 and continued through January 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.

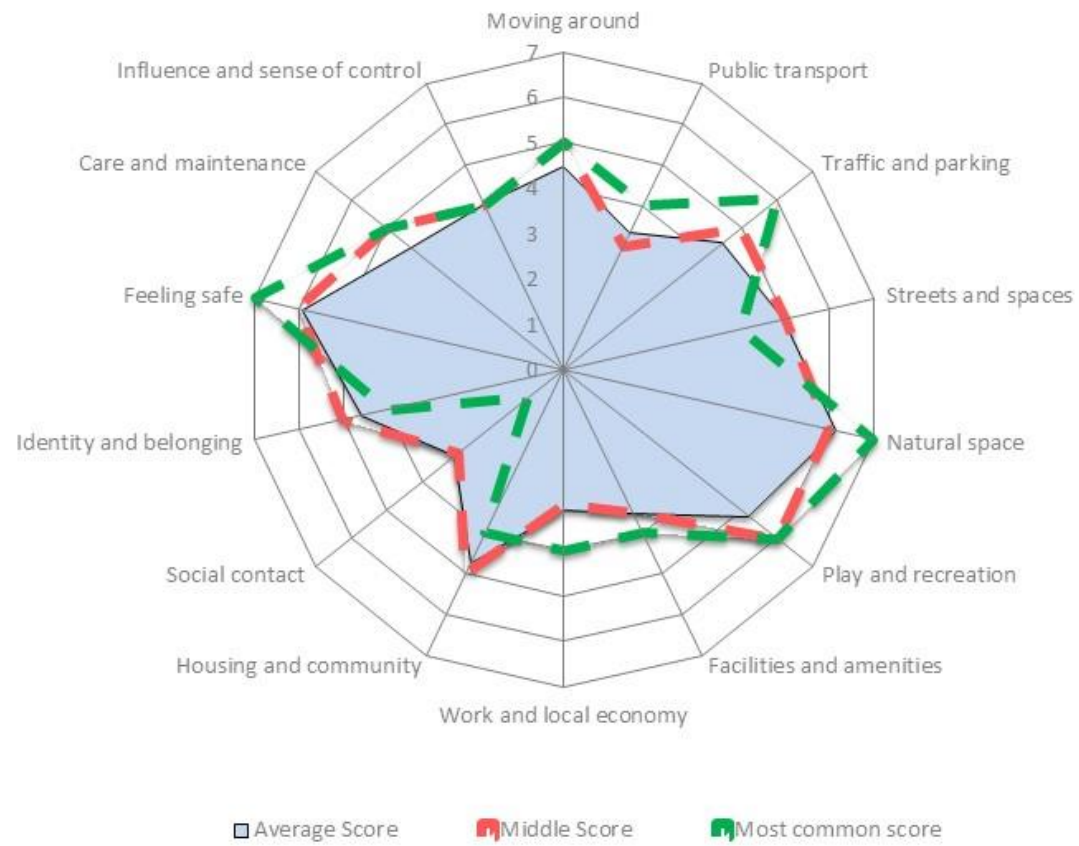
The Place Standard sees a score awarded for each of the identified topics that make up a successful place. This ranges from 1, where most improvement is needed, to 7, where no improvement is needed. The scores given by each member of the community who took part were averaged to give an indication of priorities. A total of 50 people took part in the consultation including with a community group and 33 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 areas that were identified as being of particular concern, with scores below the median of 3.5. These were the topics of Public Transport, Social Contact and Work and Local Economy.

At the other end of the scale Feeling Safe, Play and Recreation and Natural Space scored highly.

Topic	Average
Work and local economy	3.1
Social contact	3.1
Public transport	3.3
Facilities and amenities	3.5
Influence and sense of control	4.0
Care and maintenance	4.3
Traffic and parking	4.5
Moving Around	4.5
Identity and belonging	4.6
Housing and community	4.7
Streets and spaces	5.0
Play and recreation	5.2
Feeling safe	5.9
Natural space	6.1

PLACE PLANNING : BARR



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.

Work and Local Economy = 3.1	
<p><u>Positive</u></p> <p>Love my job in the shop – meets my requirements</p> <p>Easy to locate local tradesmen</p> <p>Small businesses and sole traders working in and around the village</p>	<p><u>Negative</u></p> <p>Limited employment – small village</p> <p>Need to commute – poor public transport</p> <p>Few opportunities for young people</p> <p>Childcare is an issue</p> <p>No buildings or space that offer any potential</p>
<p><u>Suggestion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve public transport • Put small businesses in the village hall • Improve WIFI and mobile phone reception 	

Social Contact = 3.1	
<p><u>Positive</u></p> <p>Lots of places to meet – bowling green ; shop ; café ; school events</p> <p>Playpark, trails, gala every year</p> <p>Local groups, activities in community centre</p>	<p><u>Negative</u></p> <p>Lack of pub as a hub</p> <p>There is only the hall and it needs improved</p> <p>Not many social opportunities</p> <p>Limited seating and opening times– café and shop</p>
<p><u>Suggestion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a multifunctional community hub • Investment to develop, expand and modernise existing facilities 	

Public Transport = 3.3	
<p><u>Positive</u></p> <p>Buses are reliable as per schedule</p> <p>Friendly bus driver</p> <p>Bus service good and affordable (to girvan)</p>	<p><u>Negative</u></p> <p>No evening bus service</p> <p>Frequency – not good for people who work</p> <p>Limited destinations</p> <p>Does not fit in with train times or connecting buses</p>
<p><u>Suggestions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with train times for better service • More flexible and better booking system (MyBus) • Review timetable and consider how to extend and improve 	

Facilities and Amenities = 3.5**Positive**

Surrounded by trails and nature
Good play area
Lots of facilities – shop, bowling green, hall, etc
Accessible
Shop is much valued and fantastic service

Negative

No community hub
No pub or restaurant
Nowhere to take visitors
Limited maintenance
Shop is too small / hall underused
No GP surgery

Suggestion

- Need café / tearoom for visitors (walkers / cyclists)
- Hall needs renovated and modernised
- Shop only open short hours
- Improve transport links to access better facilities in Girvan and Ayr

Influence and Sense of Control = 4.0**Positive**

Experience of local council/councillors is very good
Many local forums
Effective community council and association
Opportunity to get involved

Negative

Lack of services – eg. GP
Too many local groups
Too many cliques and too many prejudices
Village politics – too many people trying to get things their way

Suggestion

- Need to improve communication – access to minutes / upgrade website access

Care and Maintenance = 4.3**Positive**

Good waste collection service
Greenspaces team newly started
Playpark is good
Village always look clean, tidy and welcoming

Negative

Dog fouling and litter is an issue
No recycling facilities – poor access to skips
Village hall is in a poor condition and not maintained
Shop and some housing need tidied up

Suggestion

- More skips or recycling points
- Village hall requires investment and improvement
- Less politics and more community engagement

Moving Around = 4.5**Positive**

Cycling for leisure good
 Potential for many walks
 Plenty of benches
 Plenty of wonderful walks
 Trails are good for walking, running and biking

Negative

Pathway signs all wrong
 Lack of wheelchair access
 Road/pavement surfaces poor – lots of potholes - need maintenance
 Speeding traffic

Suggestions

- Need 20mph speed limit through village for kids cycling
- Signposting all footpaths
- Defined mountain bike routes and maps

Traffic and Parking =4.5**Positive**

Public parking is adequate
 No issues with parking
 Not aware of any traffic accidents
 Generally ok with parking along Changue
 Road for staff and visitors to school

Negative

Speeding through village
 Inconsiderate parking
 Roads needs improved – potholes, surfaces – need investment
 Parking is limited and causes problems for residents

Suggestions

- Traffic calming measures – speed bumps, new signage
- Electric charging point
- Additional parking especially during summer months for visitors

Identity and Belonging = 4.6**Positive**

Local community events
 Excellent community – positive attitudes
 Made feel very welcome – lovely village

Negative

If you aren't in a group you are ignored
 Some minority are ruining it for the rest – there is divide in the village
 Lacks a focus
 Lively village until Covid – now many moved on

Comment

- More opportunities for relationships to develop
- Signposting for trails, memorials, etc

Housing and Community = 4.7**Positive**

Good selection of houses, size and price
Range of different types of houses

Negative

Very little social housing / private rental
Council waiting lists are long
Young people can't get houses – too expensive

Suggestion

- Diversity in housing for old and young
- Social housing that's available needs work done

Streets and Spaces = 5.0**Positive**

Village is very attractive and well kept
Privileged to live in such a beautiful village and surrounding area
New school extension is lovely

Negative

The pub on the corner looks a bit rundown
Village hall and fencing in poor state of repair
Grass cuttings leave a mess
Appearance of some houses needs improved
Trees cut back as cause an obstruction for traffic

Suggestion

- Turn off street lights at night to save money
- Some pavements need improvement
- Village hall needs refurbished
- Street lights need cleaned and reset

Play and Recreation = 5.2**Positive**

Good playpark, skatepark and muga
Plenty of open space
Village hall has good facilities

Negative

Nothing suitable for teens / adults
Lack of indoor space
Can't get instructors to come to the village

Suggestion

- Need better access to facilities in Girvan – improved bus service
- Could adults use muga for adult sports
- Ask young people what they want

Feeling Safe = 5.9**Positive**

Very safe village – kids are safe
Low crime rate and strong sense of community
Feel safe in my home

Negative

Elderly scared to go out
In winter roads are dangerous (the Clachan)
Lack of mobile phone service

Comment

- Gritter needed in the winter
- Would be nice to occasionally see police visit on foot

Natural Space = 6.1**Positive**

Abundance of parks and open spaces near
seafront
Natural space is top quality
Good quality space

Negative

Increased amount and impact of forestry
planting
Too many windfarms
Paths need maintained and improved

Suggestion

- Better signage for walks
- River walk area – no paved footpaths to enjoy

Next Steps

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