

Gretna, Rigg Gretna Green and Springfield Local Place Plan

Plan Registration SUBMISSION

STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Raydale Community Partnership is leading a partnership project to deliver a Local Place Plan for Gretna, Rigg, Gretna Green and Springfield. Our aim is to create a plan that represents the whole community. It is designed to guide our town's transformation for the next decade, from 2024-2034. The Place Plan initiative and the energetic engagement from the local community and community partners was catalysed by an invitation to apply for funding as part of D&G Council's Local Development Plan.

The players in developing the Place Plan were:

- The local community: over 365 surveys return representing 900 residents of the 4000 population
- Solway Area Team consisting of locals supported by Dumfries & Galloway Council, SOSE, including Gretna and Rigg Community Council, Gretna Green and Springfield Community Council, Raydale Community Partnership, Gretna Green Group and Residents

AIM

This Statement aims to support our Expression of Interest to register our Place Plan for Gretna, Rigg, Gretna Green and Springfield. The Place Plan and this statement has been prepared in accordance with:

- Government legislation: Town & Country Planning (Local Place Plans)
- (Scotland) Regulations 2021
- Scottish Government's Planning Circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans (LPP)
- Dumfries & Galloway Council's LPP Overview of Requirements.

APPENDIX 3

LPP CONFIRMATION

To meet statutory requirements for Local Place Planning, this Statement confirms:

Governance

The submission is made by Raydale Initiative on behalf of Solway Area Team and partner organisations and local people in the towns of Gretna, Rigg, Gretna Green and Springfield. Raydale Community Partnership is Company Limited by Guarantee not having a share capital Companies Number 352225 governed by a Board of Trustees.

The submission is signed off by the Chair.

A written copy of Raydale Community Partnership memorandum and Articles of Association is attached to demonstrate that it is a community-controlled body as defined by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Strategic Context

Gretna, Rigg, Gretna Green and Springfield 's Place Plan pays due regard to the National Planning Framework, Local Development Plan and Locality Plan. In preparing the Place Plan the following plans were taken into account:

National

- National Strategy for Economic Transformation
- Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2
- October 2019
- National Planning Framework 4
- Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal
- Borderlands Place Programme

Regional

- Dumfries and Galloway Council Plan 2023-2028
- Dumfries and Galloway Housing Strategy
- South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy Delivery
- Plan 2022-2025
- Responsible Tourism Strategy for the South of Scotland
- Regional Transport Strategy - SWestrans - Dumfries and
- Galloway Council

- 10,000 voices
- Dumfries and Galloway Active Travel Strategy 2 and
- Delivery Plan 2022-2032
- Dumfries and Galloway **Local Heat and Energy Efficiency**

Engagement

Community Survey

369 individual responses were secured. When asked if these represented other family/friend members there is around an additional 900 people saying they have had some input to those surveys.

- 95% local residents
- Good spread across all communities but most (62%) from Gretna
- Stable community – 38% have lived here more than 30 years

The Place Plan has been developed using different engagement methods across the Spring of 2024, all designed to ensure the widest possible representation of views from across all four communities, all ages and all circumstances.

Open launch meetings – Burns brunches

There were around 20 attendees at Gretna and some good debate with detailed feedback. There was a lower turnout at Gretna Green but this started conversations going and fed into future meetings.

2 walking visits

We also visited the community on two separate occasions and had conversations with local people and businesses, including speaking to people in public places about their views of the community. These informal views were highly qualitative and fed into the themes and project ideas.

Community conversations and business contacts

The Community Enterprise team visited a variety of groups and places over three weeks with follow-up semi-structured telephone interviews. Group session and drop-ins took place with a variety of groups including St Andrew's Church and All Saints' Church, Gretna Football Club, Gretna Bowling Club, Stormont Hall committee, the Men's Shed and the Richard Greenhow Centre. We also spoke to 15 businesses including food and hospitality, retail and hotels.

School visits

The team spoke to around 35 children at Springfield Primary and around 300 at Gretna Primary. Detailed work was done to elucidate what the young people felt was good about their community but also what they felt was missing and could be a priority for this Plan and for Borderlands Funding.

Visual competition

Posters and extensive publicity out in the community and direct contact with schools led to a children's and an adult winner. These images helped give a feel about what the community thinks in a different way.

Place Standard work

During the research, votes were taken on the place standards measures in the survey, open meetings and conversations and this is presented as a visual later in the report.

Thematic meetings

Finally, the community came together for 5 thematic sessions over two days to discuss the detail of the assets and challenges and to flesh out the project ideas that are now contained in this Plan.

Timetable for engagement

February 2024	Survey launched
March 2024	Drop ins
March 2024	Focus Sessions
March 2024	Walking Visits
March 2024	School Visits
Monthly meetings	Solway Area Team meetings
April to May 2024	Analysis of the results and collation of themes
July 2024	Thematic Sessions
August 2024	Solway Area Team finalise the draft
September 2024	28 day Community Consultation on the draft plan. Emails, social media and leaflet drops to Stakeholders, Neighbouring Communities and Residents
October 2024	Solway Are Team Agree the final draft

Consultation

In line with Planning requirements, we carried out a month-long consultation in September 2024 on our Draft Place Plan. We notified all parties by direct mail in advance and alerted the public via social media and leaflet drops to every household in the area. In addition to Ward Officers and Elected Members, we notified: Canonbie

Community Council, Kirtle Eaglesfield Community Council, Rockcliffe Parish Council, Arthuret Parish Council and key stakeholders including SOSCH, Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of Commerce, Lets get Sporty, Police Scotland, Business Gateway, DYWDG.

Development Proposals

On the basis of this engagement the Place Plan identified Six themes as follows:

Theme 1: An Enterprising Place: Strategic Objective: Our community will be a place that builds on the legacy of our unique wedding history but diversifies into an innovative modern local economy built on visitors and our unique natural environment. People will be encouraged to stay here and move here.

Theme 2: A Skilled Place: Strategic Objective: To contribute to the development of an innovative modern economy, our people will be highly trained, skilled and qualified, ready to meet the needs of an ever changing world.

Theme 3: A Beautiful and Safe Place: Strategic Objective: Our natural environment and townscape will be well looked after, accessible to all and biodiverse. People of all ages will feel safe and able to walk around.

Theme 4: An Active Place: Strategic Objective: We will be a place with great facilities where people can gather and where sustainable services can be of benefit to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. All of our communities and people will be well connected

Theme 5: A Place to Live: Strategic Objective: We will have appropriate housing for all stages of life, with energy efficiency and good design. This will increase the population and rebalance the working age element of our community. Good housing will allow people to move here to train and work.

Theme 6 : A Place to be Young: Strategic Objective: Our young people will be valued and supported to have a stronger voice and will benefit from having their own bespoke spaces Impact on the Local

Development Plan

Gretna, Rigg, Gretna Green and Springfield plan intends to encourage and support the improvements of the settlements through the six themes identified. Where possible the Place Plan has identified sites that the themes relate to, which can be seen on the maps.

Focusing business and industry development to accommodate employment opportunities fits alongside work and local economy being another priority highlighted within the Place Plan and something which would be of huge benefit to the local community.

The housing needs of our communities have been identified as an important priority, particularly in regards to providing housing for young people and families and supported housing for older residents.

Public transport and moving around were two of the top six themes to come out of the Place

An aspirational Place Plan

Within the Place Plan, we present a fresh vision for the town for the next decade. We ask the Council as the Planning Authority to take these ideas into consideration for future development of Gretna, Rigg, Gretna Green and Springfield as part of the Local Development Plan.

The Place Plan and its Appendices lay out in high level detail the issues, ideas and solutions of local people. (All background evidence to support the Plan's assertions are available.) These ideas shaped the Plan and support our desire for change that might affect the Local Development Plan. We intend to develop the ideas in more detail through feasibility studies. This work will be done in consultation with the local authority, planning authorities and appropriate government agencies. These may result in the need for land to be identified in the next LDP. If these progress prior to the publication of the LDP Proposed Plan, we would ask that the Council make any necessary changes to allow these to be delivered.

Conclusion

The Place Plan has engaged almost half of the local community. It identifies Six themes for change and outlines local people's aspirations with background detail on other outstanding issues and many ideas and solutions.

The Place Planning process has already been a catalyst for change. There is an appetite for change within the community and fresh relationships have already sprung up.

The Plan points to changes in planning for the coming decade The Place Plan will be used to apply for money from Borderlands when it is released for this area and we will use this to lever other funds. We aim to use the Place Plan to apply for funding in order to help reinvigorate the town.

Contacts

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