

Port William Local Place Plan 2024-2034

Submission Statement for Local Place Plan Registration

INTRODUCTION

Port William is a small, working, fishing village situated on the South West coast of Scotland. The village lies within the Parish of Mochrum. The Parish includes several other smaller villages and hamlets. The total estimated population of the geographical area is 866. Port William is the largest village with the most residents (estimated 523) within this geographical area. It contains a number of services those living in other villages and hamlets included in this geographical area will use. As a result, it was decided to focus on the village of Port William to develop a Local Place Plan.

Port William and District Community Council have taken the lead on behalf of the area on Port William's Local Place Plan (LPP) project. One of the main reasons for this is, Port William has numerous groups within the community, all working with the aim of serving the community and effecting change for the better. However, historically, these groups have worked independently of each other with minimal communication and collaboration. This is something the community want to see change, (LPP Appendix 2) with hopefully more collaboration and communication between groups in the future. The Community Council taking the lead on the LPP initiative would hopefully be the catalyst for change. All of those serving on the Community Council have the benefit of living in and around Port William.

Contributors to the Local Place Plan were:

Local residents

Local businesses

Local community groups

Port William Primary School

Visitors to the area

Second home owners in the Parish of Mochrum

AIM

The aim of this statement is to support our expression of interest to register Port William's LPP. Both the LPP and this statement have been developed in accordance with:

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

LOCAL PLACE PLAN CONFIRMATION

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

GOVERNANCE

This statement is submitted by Port William and District Community Council on behalf of the residents of Port William. The submission is agreed and signed off by the Chair of this Community Council.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Port William's LPP was developed having considered The National Planning Framework 4 (2023), The Local Development Plan (2019) and The Locality Plan. The documents and publications below were also taken into consideration during development of our LPP. These cover the national, regional and local landscape.

- Levelling up the United Kingdom (2022) www.gov.uk
- Dumfries and Galloway Council Plan 2023-2025
- Dumfries and Galloway Housing Strategy
- National Planning Framework 4. (2023) www.gov.scot.uk
- Wigtownshire Locality Plan 2016-2019 (2016) www.dghscp.co.uk
- Dumfries & Galloway 5 Year Plan 2023-28 Local Outcomes Improvement Plan
- South of Scotland Economic Delivery Strategy Plan 2022-2025
- Responsible tourism Strategy for the South of Scotland 2024-2034
- 10,000 Voices (2023)
- B-Lines Bug Life....Building Insect Super Highways www.buglife.org.uk
- Nature Scot Developing with Nature Guidance (2024) www.nature.scot
- Regional Transport Strategy-Regional Transport Partnerships 2024 www.transport.gov.scot
- Solway Firth Partnership-Solway Review. www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk
- Solway Coast and Marine Project-SCAMP www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was integral to the development process. This included residents within the Parish of Mochrum, community groups and some visitors and second home owners in the area. It was the driver and informed the LPP as it stands today and will continue to do so in the future. Please see page 13 of the LPP for more details and Appendix 2 for detailed results.

Port William's LPP captures the hopes and dreams of the community. Priorities for change have been set by and for local people. This will help foster a sense of ownership, control and responsibility amongst local people.

This LPP belongs to the people and community of Port William.

TIMETABLE FOR ENGAGEMENT

DATE	ACTIVITY
August 2023	Four village residents recruited to complete a village audit prior to the consultation exercises.
19/09/2023	Day time community consultation exercise in village hall with members of Community Council and D&G Planning Team. Information session and opportunity to share ideas and comments based on Place Standard Tool
21/09/2023	Evening community consultation exercise similar to above enabling those who find day time difficult to contribute.
October 2023 (4 weeks)	Community consultation via physical notices around villages in Parish. QR code shared via notice boards to enable online completion of Place Standard Tool and comments.
October 2023	Completion of Place Standard Tool and discussions with village elders, those unable to attend in person and less able to use electronic means of completing the Place Standard Tool.
November 2023	Consultation exercise with Port William Primary School.
13/02/2024	Evening consultation with members of the community to present and discuss results of consultation exercises.
18/04/2024	Evening consultation with members of the community to discuss some action points, consider priorities and identify these as a community.
07/05/2024	Evening consultation with community groups to discuss and consider results of consultation exercises and what community have expressed.

CONSULTATION

In compliance with legislative requirements, we carried out a month-long public consultation on our draft LPP from August 28th to September 25th 2024.

A draft copy of the LPP was sent to the following Wigtownshire Ward 2 elected members and adjacent Community Councils registered on Dumfries and Galloway Council website as still operational at that time.

Elected Members

David Inglis

Katie Hagmann

Jackie McCammon

Richard Marsh

Community Councils

Isle of Whithorn

Kirkcowan

Sorbie

Kirkinner

The draft and its contents were also discussed at community meetings and with individuals expressing an interest but unable to attend arranged meetings or use online methods. All the community groups (15) also received a copy of the draft LPP for comments. The LPP was a

rolling agenda item for the Community Council. Updates, progress, drafts and future plans were discussed at these monthly.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

On the basis of our engagement and public consultation exercises, needs and proposed changes were discussed and priorities identified (see page 21 LPP for more details).

Priority 1: Work and local economy

Priority 2: Environment

Priority 3: Well-being

There is acknowledgement most of the priorities identified will rely on different people, individuals and groups but more importantly larger organisations. As a result, some changes will take time, hence the need for a 10-year plan.

Port William however, takes pride in being a close knit, supportive community and within a short space of time of some needs being identified, local people in the community sprang into action and changes were made, changes within our control. Some of these appeared small in nature but the impact on people and their well-being much larger. Without the process of Local Place Planning some of these issues would not have been identified and the community's frustrations continued in silence. As a result of this we identified and documented some of our priorities as:

Completed.....On the Go..... And..... in the Pipeline.

It was felt the community would be able to relate to these and the changes made, however large or small. To enable continued engagement with the LPP, the message this was just the start of a long process was regularly re-visited and re-iterated.

IMPACT ON THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Within the LPP, we present a fresh vision for the community of Port William. Many of the actions required to achieve our Priorities will require participation and collaboration from many including all residents and businesses within the area. Collaboration is crucial and actions will not be the sole responsibility of the Community Council. Involvement of all stakeholders is required including: the various community groups, community volunteers, local farmers, local land managers, businesses (including letting agents) regional organisations (i.e. D&G Council) and wind farms. An inclusive, open and transparent approach will hopefully ensure we achieve our goals.

Going forward, focusing on potential business opportunities would support and have the potential to impact upon on all Priorities identified. The proposals for a new National Park in Dumfries and Galloway may also impact on all these, particularly Priority 1.

Port William residents have already, as a result of the Local Place Planning process, begun to take some actions to enhance our spaces, things within our control and will continue to do so where possible. However, there are wider and bigger areas for action including large neglected pieces of land and neglected, derelict buildings within Port William. The community want to see these developed and utilised better (LPP Appendix 2). Included in this is the desire for more affordable housing, social housing and housing better suited to the needs of our aging and elderly population. Public transport, infrastructure and access to other surrounding areas and towns requires attention. In relation to public transport and moving around, people feel isolated here. They are also unable to engage with environmental issues and concerns fully due to the lack of public transport to support alternative and cheaper means of moving around.

Along with other initiatives, we have considered Dumfries and Galloway LDP2 in developing our Local Place Plan. We now ask Dumfries and Galloway Council, as the local Planning Authority, to listen to our voices. Local Development Plan 3 (LDP 3) is already well underway and we hope our aims and aspirations for the future are taken into account in accordance with this.

CONCLUSION

This LPP identifies planning and potential changes over the coming decade. Almost half of the residents in Port William have contributed to the development of this LPP. People from within the Parish of Mochrum and visitors from completely outside the area have also had a voice. It identifies three priorities for change incorporating different aspects (see LPP page 24 for details).

The Place planning process has already been our catalyst for change. There is an appetite for change in the community and people want to see change and their spaces enhanced/improved. Community groups have been brought together and communication between them for the first time has begun.

We aim to use the Place Plan to evidence community need and aspiration when applying to funding bodies for support with future projects. We will also use this LPP with Dumfries and Galloway Council and other larger organisations concerned with our bigger aspirations i.e housing, public transport and land use.

Going forward Port William and District Community Council will continue to take responsibility for the LPP. It will remain a rolling agenda item at monthly meetings and will be reviewed annually or as required by them.

Contact:

Dr Jacqueline Crowther Port William & District Community Councillor
jxcrowther@hotmail.com