

# PORT WILLIAM LOCAL PLACE PLAN 2024-2034



PORT WILLIAM... OUR DOSE OF VITAMIN SEA



# CONTENTS

Page 4 .....What is a Local Place Plan?

Page 4 .....Introduction

Page 8 .....Our Context

Page 12 .....Village Map

Page 13 .....Our Consultation Process

Page 15 .....What we Found... What we said...

Page 20 .....Community Feedback

Page 20 .....What does the community want to see happen?

Page 21 .....Our Priorities

Page 21 .....Completed... On the Go... In the Pipeline...

Page 21 .....Completed

Page 22 .....On the Go

Page 27 .....In the Pipeline

Page 30 .....Conclusion... What Now?

Page 32 .....Acknowledgements

Page 33 .....References

Page 34 - 57 .....Appendices

## WHAT IS A LOCAL PLACE PLAN?

Local Place Planning was introduced by the Scottish Government in 2019. Local Place Plans are an integral part of the National Planning Framework (2023), Local Development Plan 2 (2019) and Locality Plans. In these, visions for planning and development for Scotland's future are outlined. Communities developing their own Local Place Plans are a means of feeding into these wider development plans and Scotland's future.

Local Place Planning supports a community-led approach and helps empower local communities with ownership, planning and development of their community. It is the community's opportunity to come together and decide upon how they would like their space to be and develop a local vision for the future. It's an opportunity for local people, young and old alike to have their voices heard to help effect change and improvements.

Port William's Local Place Plan 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 and will help improve the sense of value people have over their spaces and where they live.

This Place Plan belongs to the people and community of Port William.

## INTRODUCTION

Port William and District Community Council are the organisation leading on Port William's Local Place Plan project. They are the local community's link to the wider Dumfries and Galloway Council. All of those serving on the Community Council have the benefit of living in and around Port William.

Port William and District Community Council covers a wide geographical area, total population is estimated to be 866. The villages and hamlets included in this Community Council area are:

Port William    Mochrum    Monreith  
Elrig    Loch Head    Barrachan    Alticry

Port William is the largest village with the most residents within this geographical area. It contains a number of services those living in other villages and hamlets included in this geographical area will use (see map, page 12 for details). As a result, it was decided to focus on the village of Port William to develop a Local Place Plan.

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.

The Community Council taking the lead on the Local Place Plan initiative would hopefully be the catalyst for change. It would be an attempt to bring the community and groups together, for them to partner and hopefully work more closely in the future. Doing so would hopefully enable everyone to see the benefits of partnership working for the benefit of local people. Working collaboratively, would help identify strengths, challenges, assets, aspirations, needs for development and importantly, help unlock funding to invest in Port William's future.

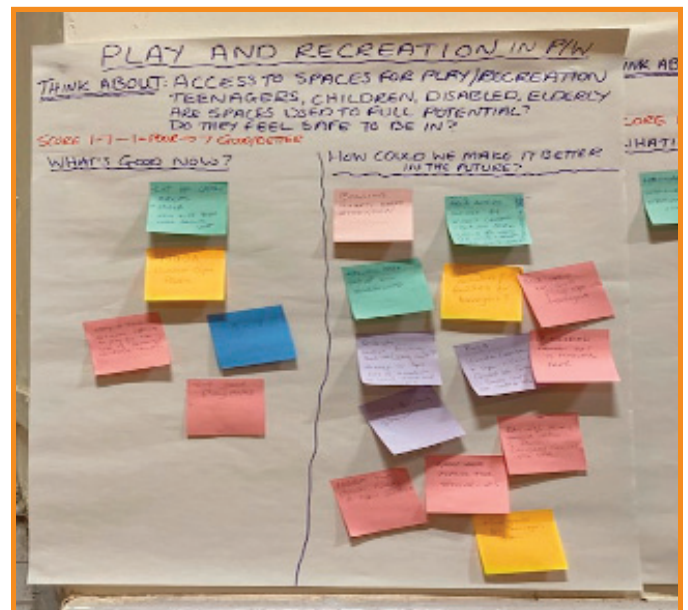
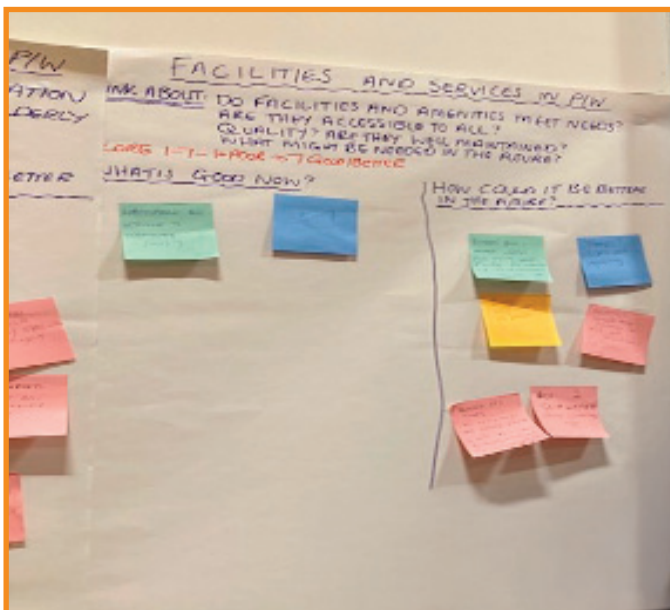
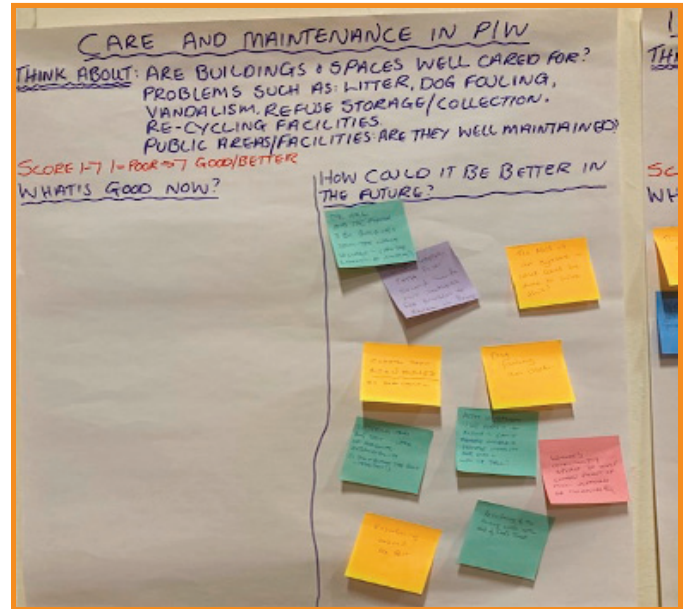
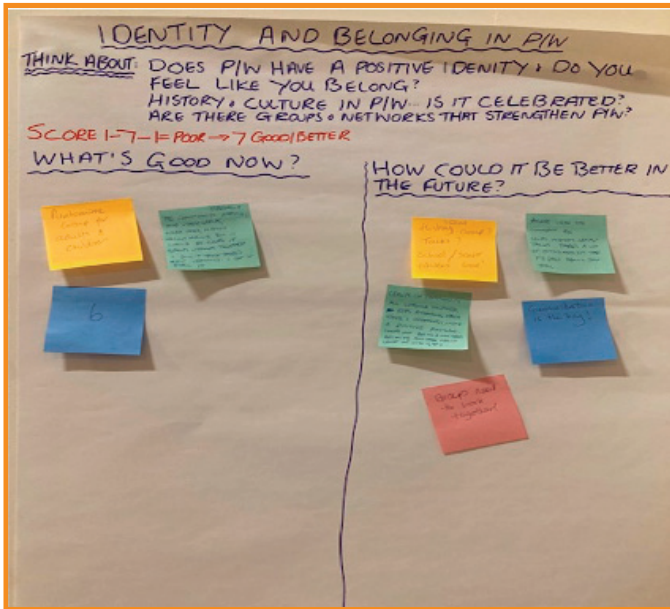
Throughout the consultation process and beyond, it was important to emphasise to local people that finalising the Local Place Plan would not be the end but rather mark a new beginning for Port William. The Local Place Plan is a working document that can be added to or amended at any time. It can be used by an individual or local community groups looking to provide or demonstrate evidence of need within the village for a project or provision of a service.

Several consultation exercises were held during the Autumn/Winter 2023. Different formats and methods were used in an attempt to engage as many people in the local community as possible. Face to face meetings in the village hall were held. Refreshments and incentives to attend were offered which included meal and shopping vouchers. Families were encouraged to attend and attended along with their children. At consultation exercises, children were offered the opportunity to contribute and did so using pictures. The Community Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council Place Plan Team were available on these occasions to discuss any queries or issue raised.



*A child's pictorial vision for Port William's future.*

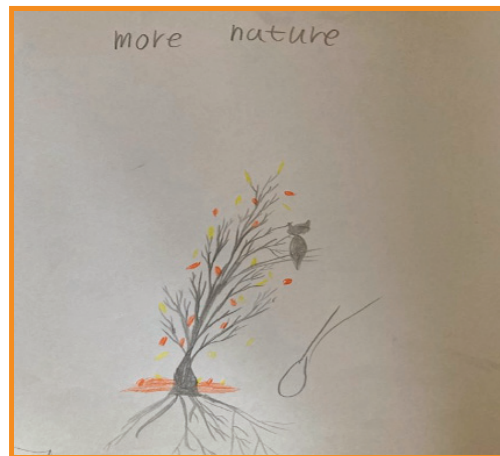
People were encouraged to use post it notes to place comments and suggestions on individual themes from the Place Standard Tool that were placed around the village hall walls. All of these comments can be found in Appendix 2.



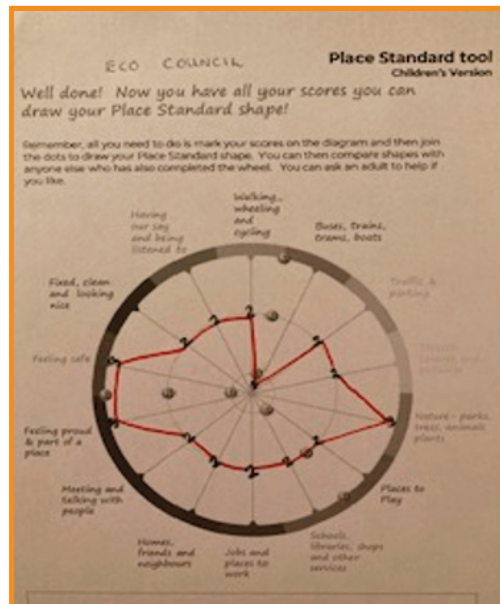
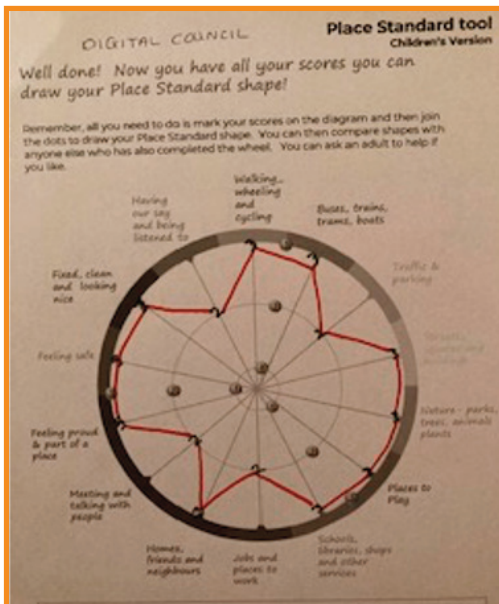
Some comments on the themes from the Place Standard Tool

Social media was also used as a platform for engagement and encouragement to contribute. A QR code was developed and enabled contributions to be made and completion of the Place Standard Tool. A number of other people, mostly elderly residents unfamiliar with these methods also completed the Place Standard Tool manually and this data was inputted by a member of the Community Council.

Children are the future of Port William. A consultation exercise was also held with the Primary School children and their teachers. Two members of the Community Council were involved with this. The Place Standard Tool for Children was used. The children were broken down into their School Council groups, 5 in total of mixed ages. As a group they were encouraged to discuss the themes in the Place Standard Tool for Children. Some of the children have special needs and not all could tolerate this approach. These children were encouraged to draw and use pictorial illustrations where possible.



*Pictures from the school children.*



*Diagrams 1 & 2. Port William Digital & Eco School Council Children's Place Standard Tool results.*

Following the consultation exercises and over a number of months, several feedback meetings with local groups and the wider community were also held. The local community was encouraged at these to suggest a potential name for their Local Place Plan. Several suggestions were made, (Appendix 1) a poll set up on social media and potential names voted on. The suggestion with the highest percentage of votes is the name given to this Local Place Plan.

## OUR CONTEXT

Port William is an 18th century fishing village on the Eastern shore of Luce Bay in the Parish of Mochrum. It is an example of a planned village and was founded by Sir William Maxwell of Monreith in 1770. The harbour was one of the first to be built in Western Galloway. In the 17th and 18th centuries rumour has it smuggling was rife in the Port William area at this time. Plenty of caves can be found up and down the coastline in which the contraband will have been stored.

Port William occupies a rugged, rocky coastline rich in wildlife and rare fauna and flora. The harbour remains a busy working harbour. Families of fishermen have fished out of here for many generations and will continue to do so for years and generations to come.



## Port William Harbour

Locally there are shaley beaches, open green spaces, many walking opportunities, camping facilities, wildlife in abundance, play parks, a bowling green, outdoor community gym, tennis courts and a golf course 2 miles along the coastline.



## Port William shoreline

The local voluntary lifeboat rescue service, Port William Inshore Rescue Service Action Committee (PIRSAC) operates from the village. There is a café in the village, The View, all proceeds from this contribute to supporting PIRSAC.



PIRSAC in action off the shore in Port William



Village café, The View, linked to PIRSAC

Some areas in the village are included in the conservation area and there are buildings of historical interest. One to note specifically is the old derelict mill, now privately owned. Port William is a popular tourist destination and sits on the South West 300 hundred route. Along with the café linked to PIRSAC, in the village square there is a small general store/post office, takeaway, hardware store, carpet shop, hairdressers and two community/charity shops. Until recently, a mobile bank facility used to visit the village weekly. Unfortunately, due to lack of use, this service has now ceased and people need to travel to one of the towns to use a bank.

The population of the village is estimated to be approximately 523. The village has an aging population and many residents are elderly people who have been born and brought up in the village. There are a number of younger families living in the village which has a range of housing. There are three social housing schemes owned by different housing groups: Loreburn Housing Association, Wheatley Group and Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership.

Port William Primary School is on the outskirts of the village and serves many other villages in the area. Children tend to progress from here to the high school located in Newton Stewart.

Most of the housing in the village is privately owned and there are a number of residents who have migrated in from other parts of the UK. There are number of second homes in the village however, it has been difficult to establish exactly how many due to registration issues. There are currently 28 holiday lets in the village. The number of second homes and holiday lets has been identified in the consultation exercises as something residents are unhappy with (Appendix 2).

There is a GP surgery in the village. Recruiting and replacing retired/retiring GPs is proving problematic with locum GPs only being available to date. The nearest community hospitals are Stranraer and Newton Stewart both of which are under threat of re-purpose and closure. Newton Stewart Community Hospital has been re-purposed and no longer has in patient facilities. Stranraer Community Hospital has the nearest Accident and Emergency Department. Public consultation on the future of these two facilities are ongoing. Loss of these two facilities would impact on Port William and many surrounding areas greatly. A larger hospital is located in Dumfries, approximately 70 miles away necessitating a long bus or car journey.

Emergency Ambulance and Fire Services are located in the town of Whithorn, approximately 10 miles away from Port William.

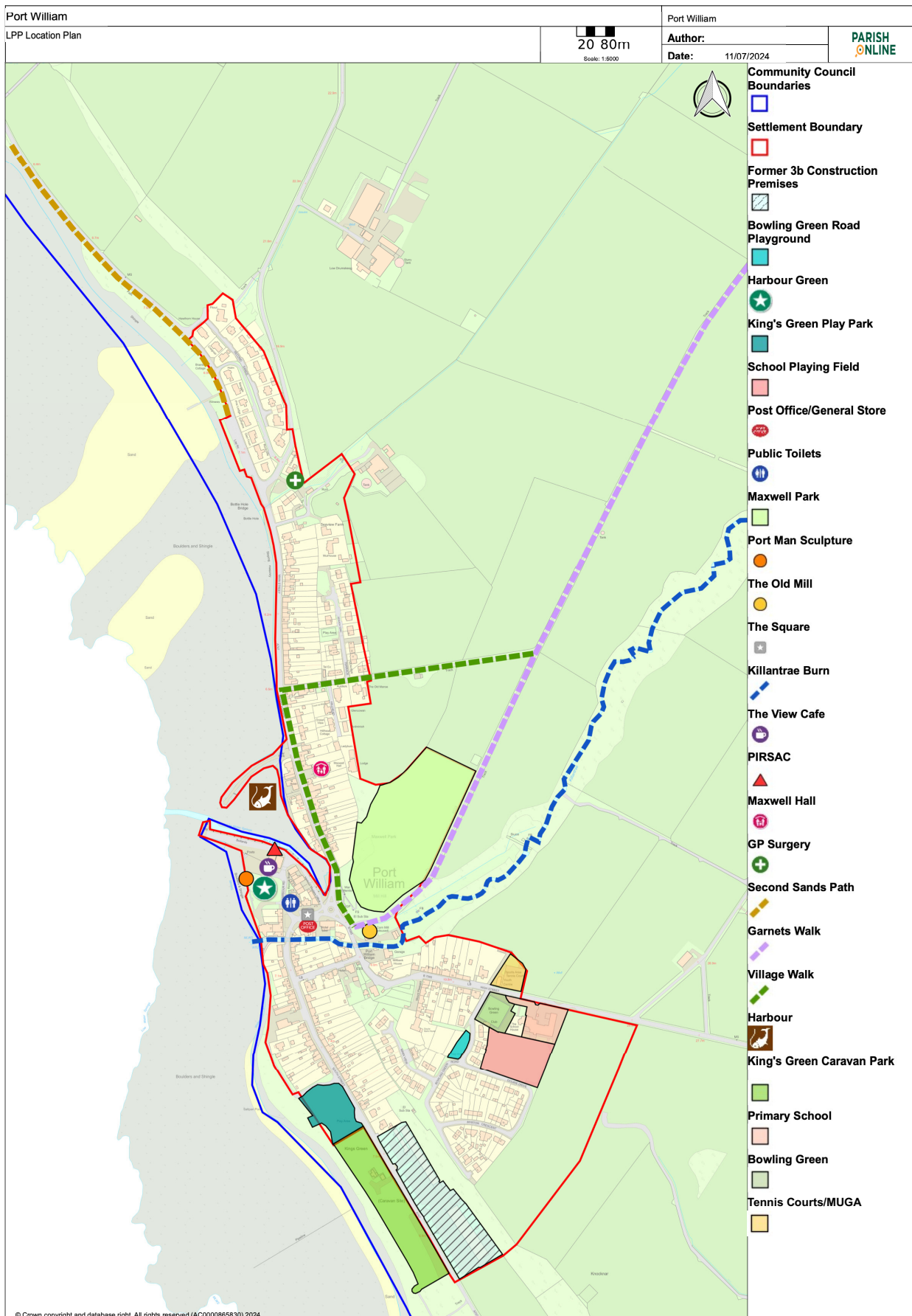
Provision of health and social care services in rural areas generally has historically presented many challenges. For those needing 24-hour care, there is a small 24 hour care facility in Monreith. There are also 24-hour care facilities in Newton Stewart and Stranraer. Residents in Port William requiring health and social care support within their own homes do have access to care services. Port William is a very “close knit” community and residents pride themselves on being able to support each other in times of need and do so.

Public transport is an issue with a limited bus service to Stranraer and Newton Stewart. The 415 to Newton Stewart operates 3 services daily and the journey takes approximately 1.5 hours. The 416 to Stranraer also operates 3 services daily and takes approximately 45 minutes to reach Stranraer. There is no direct access to the rail network, the closest access to rail services is in Stranraer, a car journey or bus ride away. There is one e-vehicle charger in the village situated at the car park for The View café in the village square. Some villagers have installed their own e-vehicle chargers.

The village hall, Maxwell Hall, is situated in the heart of the village. This continues to be owned by Dumfries and Galloway Council but is managed by the Maxwell Hall Management Committee who are responsible for the interior and encouraging use of the hall by different groups. It is expected Community Asset transfer will be applied for in the future and the village hall will eventually be owned and managed by the community.

As mentioned earlier, there are numerous community groups within the village ranging from specific activity groups such as Bridge and Bowling to other groups that specifically support larger group community/village activities and wider developments i.e. The Community Association, Port William Inshore Rescue Service (PIRSAC) and The Community Development Trust.

Anecdotally, people describe Port William as the once thriving “place to be” locally. The village was a hive of activity with lots of focus and many things happening here. However, over the past 30-40 years many changes have occurred in Port William. Numerous businesses have been lost including various shops, pubs, hotels, the bank, police station and a restaurant. The community and area have felt these losses greatly. Now is the time for action to enhance the village and community spaces.



Port William Village Map

## OUR CONSULTATION PROCESS...

Prior to consultation with the community a small group of village residents (4) were recruited to undertake an audit of the village (Appendix 3). Geographically, this included an area from the village hall, around the village square and out along the coast road in a South East direction to King's Green Campsite. Private residencies were not included apart from the old Monreith Arms. This is an imposing building in the village square which is now privately owned and it's future purpose unknown. Worthy of note is, since this audit was conducted some work has been undertaken on some of the buildings included in this. It was interesting to discover post consultation, the similarities between results of the audit and views of the community.

As identified earlier, our consultation exercises took different formats. Some were face to face conversations, village elders were supported personally with completing the Place Standard Tool, online access to Place Standard Tool, public events held in the village hall and consultation with the local Primary School. The consultation process ran over 8 months.

Notices and posters about the consultation exercises, containing a QR code for access to the online Place Standard Tool, were placed around the village and shared on social media. This enabled a younger demographic and those more familiar with these methods to be reached. The QR code facilitated access to the online tool from anywhere enabling people to contribute from wherever they may be. This was also means of reaching out to those who may not reside in the village but who visited frequently and used some of the services located in Port William.

Larger face to face consultation exercises were held in the village hall. Incentives were offered to try and encourage people to come and have their voices heard. Incentives included a shopping voucher and a voucher for food and drink in the village coffee shop where all proceeds go to the local voluntary lifeboat service, Port William Inshore Rescue Service (PIRSAC). In order to be as inclusive as possible, these were offered at different times of the day.

The face-to-face events gave people the opportunity to come together, to meet each other and members of the Community Council and the wider Council Place Planning team. This gave the opportunity for the purpose of the Local Place Plan and development of this to be explored with people further. People welcomed the opportunity to discuss their ideas and concerns and were encouraged to document these on the walls around the room. All themes from the Place Standard Tool were displayed on these with post it notes and pens provided to facilitate comments being made. Over 100 local people, including families attended face-to-face events and 220 comments were made (Appendix 2).

The online Place Standard Tool was available for completion for a two-month period. There were 306 hits to the online Place Standard Tool which demonstrated people were interested and curious about Local Place Planning. A number of the tools (8) were incomplete and therefore unable to be included in the data. A total of 50 were fully completed. The youngest age group completing the online tool were the 16-24 group and the oldest was the 75+ age range. More females than males attempted or completed the online tool.

The Children’s Place Standard Tool was used for the consultation exercise with the Primary School. Following liaison with the school Head and teachers it was agreed consultation with the children would be undertaken using the five School Councils as a means of capturing the children’s thoughts, ideas and contributions. The age range within these School Council groups was 4-11 years.

Some of the children in the school have difficulty tolerating such activities but were encouraged and included as much as possible and shared ideas via pictures. A total of 50 children ranging from ages 4 to 11 were included. At the time of the school consultation, no means of inputting data from this tool had been devised, as a result, it was analysed manually. Results from their contributions were shared with them at a later date.

Unfortunately, the teenage demographic is underrepresented in this Place Plan. Capturing ideas and thoughts from the local teenage demographic, although not large in number, was difficult. Despite calls for support and contributions from young people in the village, only one Young People’s Place Standard Tool was completed and returned. A number were given to families with teenage children but these were never returned. There were a number of Place Standard Tools completed online within the 16-24 age group. However, it is difficult to be more specific and identify actual ages in this data.

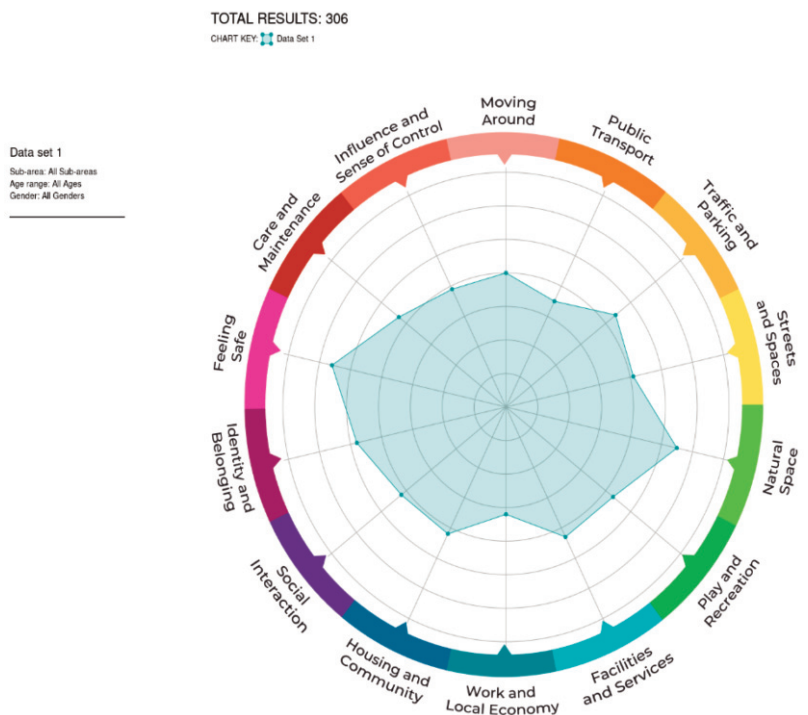


Diagram 3. Representation of results from completed online Place Standard Tool

## WHAT WE FOUND... WHAT WE SAID...

Results from face-to-face consultations, completed online tool, hard copies of individually completed Place Standard Tools and consultation with the Primary School yielded very similar results. Locals' messages about their needs and wishes were consistent.



### Top 5

1. Feeling Safe
2. Natural Spaces
3. Identity and Belonging
4. Traffic and Parking
5. Housing and Community/Social Interaction

**FEELING SAFE...** People, including children, generally felt safe round and about Port William. There were however some comments about darker spaces at night, broken street lighting and occasional anti-social behaviour from some younger people in the village.

**NATURAL SPACES...** Port William is fortunate to have a number of green spaces in the village. The harbour green, King's Green Caravan Park and play park, Maxwell Park and the verges in front of and leading up to Maxwell Park where the war memorial is situated. These spaces are valued, people want to keep them but feel they could also be put to better use and developed, particularly Maxwell Park and the play park at King's Green. Maxwell Park historically was used for a number of activities in the past including football and village Highland Games. There were also items of children's play equipment i.e swings at one time.

**IDENTITY AND BELONGING...** Something those contributing to the consultation felt quite strongly. They felt accepted, included and loved the place they live and the sense of community within it.

**TRAFFIC AND PARKING...** People felt there is ample parking in the village, more available as expected in specific areas i.e. village square and at the View café. They identified a lack of marked disabled parking areas and would also like to see the current parking areas marked as bays for individual car parking. It was felt highlighting parking areas in this manner would reduce the opportunity for inconsiderate parking. There were comments, including from the school children, about speeding traffic on the three main roads into and out of the village. People also felt traffic drove too fast in and around the village. Of note are the speed signs on two of the three main village entrance roads. There are also 20mph signs around the village school and a chicane situated close to the school. Despite these there appears to be little impact on traffic speed. Another concern is the narrowing of a road on the other side of the village close to the village square. This would appear to be a traffic calming measure but visibility of oncoming traffic in one direction is problematic. Parking by residents in this area also creates some difficulties.

**HOUSING AND COMMUNITY/SOCIAL INTERACTION...** These two themes scored jointly on the Place Standard Tool scoring system. Whilst people were generally happy with the range of housing on offer, they also felt more social housing was required including sheltered/supported housing for older generations who wished to remain at home to end of life.

Port William is a popular tourist destination. There are a number of second homes in the village and the amount of holiday lets has and continues to increase since the pandemic. House prices within the area have also rocketed since the pandemic. There are currently 28 holiday lets in the village. People would like to see some management and “control” over this situation as it is making it almost impossible for younger, local people to purchase local properties and remain in the village.

**SOCIAL INTERACTION...** Locals generally wanted more things to do in the village and wanted to see better use of the facilities available i.e village hall. More activities for both the younger and older generations is desired. Several requests for the return of a pub and focal point were mentioned. Social interaction was impacted upon greatly by issues identified with the public transport system. Access to events in other villages and towns was problematic as people needed to drive. The zero-tolerance drink driving legislation in Scotland also impacted upon this as people who enjoyed a drink had no means of returning home other than expensive taxis.





## Bottom 5

- 10. Streets and Spaces
- 11. Moving Around
- 12. Influence and Sense of Control
- 13. Public transport
- 14. Work and Local Economy

**STREETS AND SPACES...** People commented on broken street lighting that appears to be taking some time to repair. Narrower pavements and areas in the village with a lack pavement were a concern along with an area where a road narrows and oncoming traffic has to give way. Residents parking habits here can make this area difficult for cars and pedestrians to negotiate safely. Dog fouling and lack of taking responsibility for dog mess was an irritation.

**MOVING AROUND...** Some links with theme above... people desire more cycle paths and better facilities for cyclists. Areas in the village with no or little footpath are also a concern, mostly related to safety and traffic when moving about on foot.

**INFLUENCE AND SENSE OF CONTROL...** Something people felt they had little of. There are a number of local groups in the village, some activity focused and others such as The Community Association, who offer activities to the whole of the community and beyond such as

carnival week. Local people commented they wanted groups to work more collaboratively on behalf of the community. They also wanted to be consulted and asked about what they would like to happen and have a sense of being part of decisions made. There were a number of comments made about the LPP process and it being the first opportunity to voice their opinions or be asked for these. Some of the school children made similar comments. People and children welcomed the opportunity to have their voices heard and have the potential to influence Port William's future.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT...** This is limited in Port William, even more so since the pandemic. Bus services are infrequent and some were ceased during the pandemic and have never been reinstated. Little in way of direct routes, people can be sat on a bus for hours before reaching their final destination. The community is very aware for the need to support climate change. Villagers wish to use their cars less and would use their cars less if public transport facilitated this but as it is it doesn't. Public transport services do not support access to work in local towns or beyond, they are too infrequent. They do not support social and leisure needs of individuals and families alike. There is no access to a train service. This requires a significant journey to Stranraer usually a car journey again due to infrequency and times of the bus service. People feel isolated.

There is currently one e-vehicle charging point situated at the village café. This is a number of years old, not upgraded to date and as a consequence is slow. Some families who have invested in an e-vehicle have installed e-charging points at their own property. This is not without issues as parts of Port William lies within a conservation area. Planning permission has to be submitted in order to install private e-vehicle chargers.

**WORK AND LOCAL ECONOMY...** As identified earlier, Port William has changed over time. For some village elders still here and visitors returning, this is now beyond recognition. Many shops, hotels and hostelrys have now become residential premises. There are limited shops and businesses now in the village, most are situated in the village square or just outside. Opening times of all are limited but they do mostly employ local people. What was once the village restaurant has now ceased to trade. It is privately owned and the future of the premises unclear. The View, a café linked to Port William Inshore Rescue Service (PIRSAC), is within the harbour area. Trading times change in accordance with the tourist season. This is another opportunity for local work and employment but changes in accordance with its' opening hours. King's Green Caravan Park is another local employer but again is dependent upon the tourist season and limited. There are an increasing number of holiday lets (28 at present) and second homes within Port William. Port William is a popular tourist destination and this will support the local economy as will the use of local

businesses by tourists. However, people commented on the lack of business start-up opportunities locally and the need to travel further afield for work and employment opportunities. Some derelict building and spaces, with the correct management, could become the focal points of the community and provide some opportunities in relation to work and local economy.

### NEUTRAL THEMES:

Care and Maintenance/Play and Recreation/Facilities and Services. All of these scored the same on the Place Standard Tool scoring system.

#### 6. Care and Maintenance

#### 7. Facilities and Services

#### 8. Play and Recreation

It could be argued all the above are interlinked and impact upon each other, as with a number of other themes contained in the Place Standard Tool. One of these themes did however, generate a lot more comments than the others. Care and Maintenance.....A large number of comments were made about the derelict mill situated within the heart of the village. This is now privately owned, has been for a number of years with little evidence of any restoration/development work being started or completed. It is situated beside a Core Path and comments were made about the safety of this building and the open access to anyone thus rendering it quite dangerous. Locals generally felt frustrated by the lack of restoration and development of this building given its location within the village, importance and historical value to the area. Local people were concerned about the impression this gave of the village and wanted it to change. Other areas people wanted to change were the old wooden shed type buildings close to the harbour green. A number of these have fallen into disrepair and again, safety could be an issue. Ownership of these is not clear. Other buildings, including some privately owned homes and commercial premises appearance due to poor maintenance were also commented on. There is also a large area opposite King's Green people are concerned about. This area contains several unsecured, derelict buildings with no evidence of management or development. As identified earlier, these could be put to good use with the correct management in relation to work and local economy.

People commented they would like to see more opportunities for recreational activities and social interaction amongst different groups within the village i.e. young children, teenagers and older adults. They want to see better use of the services available such as the village hall. There are three play parks in the village, children and parents wanted these upgrading and improving.

### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

In an attempt to try to maintain interest and contributions to the development of the Local Place Plan, following consultation exercises and analysis of data collected, several meetings were held with local community groups and the community as a whole to share the results of the consultation exercises. The community was also kept up to date via social media on progress and the development of the LPP. There were also numerous face to face conversations about this with interested villagers and visitors.

The community was also asked to support the naming of the LPP and several suggestions were made. A poll was set up on social media and the community encouraged to vote for their preferred suggestion. This poll ran for a month and the name with the most votes was chosen. Again, results of this were shared with the community via social media.

### WHAT DOES THE COMMUNITY WANT TO SEE HAPPEN?

- Better use of green spaces.
- Roads and public transport reviewed and improved.
- Improved relations and communications between community groups.
- Improved recreational opportunities for all, young and old.
- Derelict buildings/areas managed and worked on. Improve the appearance, reduce the village eyesores, use them.
- Increase in affordable housing.
- Reduction in number of second homes and holiday lets, application of some restrictions and control to support this.
- Better use of existing facilities.
- Local economy-business start-ups, training/employment opportunities.
- Environmental issues-vehicle e-chargers, recycling, biodiversity, nature.

### OUR PRIORITIES

Considering all results from the consultation exercises and what the people of the village have said, three main priority areas are identified. These incorporate all areas highlighted in the list above. Note the overlap re: public transport and derelict buildings/areas due to potential impact of these across all priority areas. Priorities listed below are not order of priority in relation to actions to be taken.

#### *Priority 1*

Work and Local Economy incorporating: Housing: Business opportunities and start-ups: Second homes and holiday lets: Derelict building/areas: public transport.

#### *Priority 2*

Environment incorporating: green spaces: better use of green spaces, increased vehicle e-chargers, biodiversity, recycling options: roads and public transport.

#### *Priority 3*

Well-being incorporating: better use of existing facilities: increased recreational and social opportunities for all: improved relations and communications between all community groups: roads and public transport: derelict buildings/areas.

### COMPLETED... ON THE GO AND IN THE PIPELINE...

As a result of the Local Place Planning process and people having the opportunity to come together and communicate, a number of different projects were identified, some completed, some underway and others are work in progress and in the pipeline.

Mental and physical well-being is high priority nationally and locally. It's high on numerous agendas including the National Planning Framework and other plans mentioned earlier in this Local Place Plan. People are encouraged to take responsibility for this themselves wherever possible but other things out with individual control can impact upon this. The community of Port William have attempted to take care of some things the residents have mentioned during the consultation process. Some of these are outlined below.

### COMPLETED

Comments were made during the consultation exercises about a dangerous slipway in the village resulting in a slip injury for a wild/sea swimmer. It was discovered this slipway is not the

responsibility of Dumfries and Galloway Council. It has now been cleaned by local people and is much safer for people and swimmers to use. This will need future monitoring but will be easier to do now people are aware of it and the potential dangers.

A local picturesque path along the coast road, laid a number of years ago to enable access to the “fleuk hole”, a sea pool, was extremely overgrown and becoming impassible. People commented on this and their desire for it to be cleared and re-instated. Following consultation with Dumfries and Galloway Council part of this was cleared, re-laid and new seating placed along it. The whole path has now been cleared with support from someone in a neighbouring village, a village contained within the Community Council boundary. This path is now passable for people including families using pushchairs and others using mobility aids. Again, this will need monitoring and managing going forward.

### ON THE GO

Request for ward event regarding traffic issues submitted. Other local villages and those within the Community Council boundary will be included and invited to attend this.

Inclusion in consultation around public transport issues identified. Continued liaison with elected members regarding this.

The “fleuk hole” was a sea pool on the outskirts of the village (see village map on page 12). Village elders recall learning to swim in this and families enjoying this space to sail toy boats etc. Villagers tended to this space themselves keeping it clear and free of debris and sea weed deposited by the tides. This space was lost in a short space of time with the introduction of a breakwater in the harbour to aid local fishermen. The opportunity for resurrection of this is being explored. If this is not possible, is there another area along this coastline that might be suitable for the introduction of a sea pool to aid mental and physical well-being? This project has received support from the Solway Coast and Marine Project (SCAMP) and is ongoing. Future funding will be required.



*A now village elder (far right), sitting with his family and sailing boat at the old Fleuk Hole*

The village map situated in the village square and mainly aimed at visitors, is very out of date. Visitors to the village are looking for businesses and premises lost many years ago i.e. local hotels, pubs and a bank all of which are now permanent residences. A new up to date village map has been developed in collaboration with Dumfries and Galloway Council. Funding to replace the old map with the new one is currently being explored.

Port William has a lawn bowling club which is in its 160th year in 2024. It is one of the oldest, if not the oldest lawn bowling club in Scotland. This was at risk of being lost until a new committee formed late in 2023. This committee are now striving to keep the club going but future funds will be required in order to facilitate this. This club has a lot of history in the village. It is now attracting more members and engaging more children who will hopefully be the village lawn bowling champions of the future!



*Port William Bowling Club*



*Port William Community Shop*

The Community Shop is located in the heart of the village. It was acquired many years ago from a national charity for a nominal cost. The Community Shop allocates funds from their proceeds, as stipulated as a condition of purchase and in their constitution, to some national charities. Welcome donations are also made from their proceeds to local groups requiring some financial assistance. The shop is managed and run by volunteers who live locally. The property is now in need of some care and attention itself and repairs required. Review of the constitution and funding applications are ongoing.



Children and parents have requested an upgrade of village playparks. Lack of suitable equipment, inaccessibility for those with mobility problems and safety issues were some of the comments made about existing play facilities in the village. A small group has been formed to take this forward. It consists of members from the local toddler group, play group and Primary School. This group will be consulting further with the community and liaising with the wider Dumfries and Galloway Council and applying for funding in order to effect change here.



*Children's Play Park situated alongside King's Green Caravan Park*



*Headquarters for PIRSAC situated at the back of The View Cafe*

Port William Inshore Rescue Service (PIRSAC), as mentioned earlier, is a volunteer led lifeboat rescue service based in Port William. Community consultation has taken place and plans for development of The View café and related premises are already underway and funding applied for. Funding for further development may be required in the future.

In relation to open green spaces, nature and “insects” mentioned in consultation exercises, Bee Positive is a small group of local people supporting actions locally to help increase and support our dwindling pollinators. The project is linked to a wider national project...B-Lines. B-Lines are a series of 'insect pathways' running through our countryside and towns. A B-Line containing a significant “insect pathway” running through Port William has been identified by the national group and placed on the national map. Port William and surrounding areas are rich in wild life including hares, roe deer, sea otters, various sea birds, woodpeckers, cuckoos and badgers. Some rare fauna and flora have also been identified which must be preserved where possible. These will support pollinators and help sustain their presence and increase numbers. The Bee Positive group are working with the local community and beyond. A number of events helping raise awareness have been held in Port William with more planned for the future.



*Bee Positive bee friendly garden signs made by Number 12 Men's Shed*

### IN THE PIPELINE...

The Community Association are another one of the village groups supporting the village and community. Along with other events and activities, they plan and present the annual village carnival week which has now been in existence for over 70 years. They also own and manage King's Green Caravan Park, a camp site situated on the South East side of the village. Proceeds from this and other activities are re-invested into the community and village. Funding for repairs and upgrades are required here on an ongoing basis. Maxwell Park one of the village large open green spaces, is also owned by this group. People commented on how they would like to see this space developed and used more, this may happen in the future.



*Entrance to King's Green Caravan Park*



*Village War Memorial at foot of Maxwell Park*

The Community Development Trust are mostly responsible for the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and Port William Community Youth Centre. This is also where the village outdoor gym is situated which contains both children's, adults and mobility impaired equipment. These facilities are the result of charitable fundraising initiatives over a period of 18 years. During the consultation process people became aware this committee was on the brink of folding and the MUGA potentially being lost. Similar to the bowling club, a new committee was formed to help avoid this. Developments for better use of this facility including resurrection of the Community Youth Group, are in the pipeline. The astro turf surface needs replacing, new equipment is required and new ways of using this space are being explored.



*Outdoor gym area at MUGA*



*Astro turf 5 aside football pitch, netball and tennis courts at the MUGA*

Number 12 is a new initiative. It is a large property just outside the village square privately purchased by local residents with a view to developing the building into a community activity hub. Purchasing this building and using it in this manner reduced the risk of it being bought and developed as another holiday let or for Air B&B purposes. Something the community identified as a concern (Appendix 2). A steering group of independent people is managing this project and charitable status is being applied for. The plan is for different therapy and craft-based activities to be offered here. A Men's Shed facility is already under way with the men already undertaking several projects within the village. A warm welcome space during winter months has also been offered and so popular it was extended beyond winter. Financial support for upgrading the building and developing this space generally will be required going forward.



*Men's Shed village project before restoration.....*



*Men's Shed village project after restoration.....*

The village hall, Maxwell Hall, as mentioned earlier, remains under the ownership of Dumfries and Galloway Council. The Maxwell Hall Management Committee (MHMC), made up of people who live in the Community Council boundary, currently have a short-term lease on the building. They are responsible for the interior of the hall and increasing and facilitating its use.

The plan for the future is to apply for a longer-term lease. Eventually, under Dumfries and Galloway Council community asset transfer scheme, it is hoped the MHMC and community will take ownership of this building.

During the consultation exercises the community expressed warm affection and appreciation of this facility. A strong desire for this space to be utilised better was also apparent. The community are supportive of this facility and wish to see it continue. With a dedicated management committee, longer-term lease, eventual community ownership and funding to support repair and development the dream of enhancing this space for all can be achieved.

## CONCLUSION... WHAT NOW?

The community has had the opportunity to come together and voice their opinion about where they live and spaces within this. As much opportunity as possible has been given to the people of Port William to have their voices heard.

The community of Port William have spoken and identified how they would like to see their space developed in the future and what changes they would like to see made in order to enhance it. Moving forward, it is going to be important the community, community groups and individuals continue to communicate in order to support development and implementation of the changes people desire. These can be achieved together, working in collaboration with each other and with different organisations that can lend their support.

Port William and District Community Council will continue to monitor, support and record actions. The Local Place Plan document will be reviewed annually and amended accordingly. As things progress and different milestones achieved new working groups will be formed and if required, supported by the Community Council with their projects and tasks.

The development and production of the Local Place Plan document is the start of a long process. As has been demonstrated, through the Local Place Planning process, community inspired and led change and development can happen and has already begun. There is still a long way to go and much to achieve. With commitment, determination and support, the community of Port William can realise their dreams and enhance the space in which they live.

PORT WILLIAM...

OUR PLACE, OUR VISION, OUR TIME, OUR FUTURE,

OUR DOSE OF VITAMIN SEA!



*Port William Toddlers Group, Carnival Week 2023*



*Carnival time! Winners of the adult fancy-dress competition 2023*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Port William and District Community Council would like to thank and acknowledge all the following people for their time, patience and contributions in helping develop this Local Place Plan.

The residents of Port William for coming together and having their voices heard.

Dumfries and Galloway Place Plan Team particularly Chris Churms and John Doig, for all their support and guidance along our journey.

Maxwell Hall Management Committee for use of the hall for meetings.

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All community groups in Port William for attending meetings and making contributions.

Louise De-Lisle for pictures taken around the village included in the Local Place Plan.

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J&B Print Ltd., 32A Albert Street, Newton Stewart DG8 9EJ.



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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: SUGGESTED LOCAL PLACE PLAN NAMES

PIP - Port Improvement Plan

The Port is the "Plaice" to Live with a "View"

Port William - More Than Just A Stink!

Port William - Dose of Vitamin Sea

Port William Helping Hands

Port William - Ripples of Change

Port William's People's Plan

Our Choices... For Our Place... For Our Future...

Let's all come Together

All Change Together

We're Not Just Any Port In A Storm

APPENDIX 2. COMMENTS FROM FACE-TO-FACE CONSULTATION EXERCISES IN VILLAGE HALL.

Theme 1: Feeling Safe

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
I feel safe personally	More drugs coming into the village now... I worry about the younger people.
Good Neighbours	Children running through gardens, especially the old folks
Yes, I feel Safe	Drug dealers on bikes visiting Bowling Green Road
Several scores of 6 and 7	Empty buildings and half finished buildings
	Sort out the roads around the village... very unsafe...4 punctures in 1 year!

Theme 2: Natural Spaces

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
Beach cleaning is a good thing local groups are doing	No to Wind turbines No to 5G
Beautiful area	Community garden or allotments
Nice people	Address the harbour smell somehow... I understand it's to do with drainage into the harbour...get experts in to investigate and suggest solutions.
Nice place to live	So lucky to be beside the sea...need more opportunities to educate local kids and adults about how to look after it.....
We live in a beautiful area	Areas could be wilded for butterflies, bees etc...eg Maxwell Hill and Park, area beside King's Green swings, path along to bottle hole....children and young people to appreciate and learn about the importance of nature (as well as mental health benefits)
	Provide more benches/seats etc for people to rest and admire the views.

**Theme 3: Identity and Belonging**

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
Pantomime group for adults and children...	Local PW paper
Good toddler group, playgroup and school...	More younger volunteers
Toddler group allowing parents/carers to come together and form new friendships...	Local history group, talks, school/ senior citizens liaise...
Toddler group and playgroup work and communicate well	Good up to date website with news about all events...
Pantomime was good... Dancing group good... Maxwell Hall good for the community...	Monthly history talks, weekly coffee meetings for people in need and chat..
Pantomime group for adults and children....	Groups need to work together...
The Community Association and other groups work hard, mostly voluntarily but it would be great if groups worked together. I don't think there's one identity... I don't feel it..	Communication... Hall to work with all groups using the facilities
	Groups should meet where common interests prevail...
	Groups need to come together and communicate
	Communication is the key
	If groups like toddlers got free hall hire, it would then be free play...
	Groups in community all working together... rep from each group going to each others meetings with a positive attitude... ideas not being seen/discussed because another group came up with it etc...

**THEME 4: Traffic and Parking**

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
	Speeding coming into the village from
	Glenluce... kids could be at the beach...
	Slow down the dangerous tractors... speed should be 20mph...
	Speeding drivers coming in and going at the village is terrible... people go far too fast a bridge on south street... should be more signs...
	Slow down the traffic on south street from caravan site... speed bumps?....
	Farm traffic slow down!
	Scheme around the school... 20... twenty's plenty...
	Parking needs to be better for play group..
	Facility for electric cars
	Move bollards at Maxwell Hall... car parking at bridge near phone box...
	Add disabled parking spaces in the square...
	Cycle paths
	Parking in Maxwell Hall.... Bollards need removing, one broken, others a nuisance. Would help with parking, getting more cars on area....
	Remove traffic calming at the bridge..

**THEME 5: Housing and Community**

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
	More affordable housing and less holiday lets...
	More Wheatley homes for families and elderly...
	No housing for older people....we need sheltered housing...
	Affordable housing for local people..
	Sheltered housing, affordable housing eg. for first time buyers...
	More affordable housing for first time buyers....
	Holiday houses and Air B&B removing rental opps for working people. Don't know how to address but needs stopped somehow....
	Sheltered housing.... affordable housing...agree...
	Houses for first time buyers and local families
	are unfortunately so rare.....so many second homes and Air B&Bs.....
	Sheltered housing affordable housing....

**THEME 7: Care and Maintenance**

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
Mostly yes... Monreith Arms much improved... then there's the Mill!	The Mill and former 3b buildings spoil the whole village...can the council do anything?
	Dog poop... High Street... have to walk on road with pram...
	Mill?
	Mill is an eyesore... what could be done to solve this?
	Widen coastal path by Second Sands...not suitable for disabled or children in prams...
	Paths need re-surfaced..loose stones easily slip...not smooth...
	Coastal path abandoned by D&G Council
	The Mill!
	Dog fouling is an issue...
	Demolish the Mill and old 3b site and build new houses...
	Mill is a mess....dog fouling a problem at the moment especially with a newborn in a pram....
	Petty vandalism...seen it in action... can't address myself as a female living alone... who to tell....
	Littering and dog shit! Lack of personal responsibility... (don't blame dogs... I have dogs)
	Safety signs and safety fencing on disused properties...
	Where's community spirit to help clean in front of Mill instead of moaning....
	Bring back food re-cycling...
	Re-surfacing of turning circle at end of South Street...
	Re-surfacing around the Port....
	The Mill! Gets worse every day....
	Dog poop regular on Myrton Crescent....
	Dog poo around the village....children and prams regularly avoiding it on the paths.....



**THEME 8: Facilities and Services**

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
Toilets in Square	Buses don't meet needs for social life...e.g. Newton via Isle of Whithorn only then can't get home other than taxi....
Reasonable bus service to Stranraer (only!)	Digital Voice won't work in power cuts... what emergency coverage?
	Power cuts and new telephone proposals....
	Buses... long routes to places...
	All two slipways need updating...
	Transport links need improving...
	Day care centre for the elderly...
	Mentoring group...
	Community arts and crafts project...
	Two streams not used for generations...
	Re-instate week day bus services to N/S via Mochrum...
	Better bus times on weekends... do round robin i.e. N/S, KK, Sorbie, Garlieston, Whithorn, PW, Whauphill etc. and back...

**THEME 9: Play and Recreation**

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
Lots of green areas...MUGA...new kids stuff near bowling green...	Bowling green needs attention...
Great school/playgroup...	Improve children's play facilities...
Great school...	Large area of grass and run down basic park beside King's green needs TLC. A park inclusive to all ages and abilities... similar to Garlieston and Douglas Park N/S. Suitable fence to stop children walking onto busy road...new park set up on Bowling Green Road...not suitable for all ages...pointless?
Outdoor gym, MUGA, parks...	More groups for teenagers to join
Two good play parks	More social events for youth...
Why is the school having to pay for the use of football/tennis courts?	Disabled cannot get to Maxwell Park
	Park on Bowling Green Road, lack of safety and not accessible for younger kids...
	Groups and places for teenagers...
	Need areas for safe play... especially teenagers...
	More activities/facilities for teenagers...
	We need a better park for all ages... new park fine for my 3 year old but no good for my 1 year old...
	Huge area beside swings by King's Green Caravan park... could be used for wild garden...more activities for young people...
	Maxwell Park at top of hill seldom used...

**THEME 9: Play and Recreation (continued)**

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
	Such a shame we have 3 large green spaces rarely used..King's Green, maxwell Park and Harbour Green. Could be a great space for a brilliant park like Garlieston has where we have to travel to... such a shame for the village...
	Consider indoor bowling stadium (long mat) nearest is Ayr. Lots of bowlers in local villages and towns...
	Biking park? Golf? (speak to Hillbillies bikers help funding) done amazing evening in carnival week...
	Railings along harbour wall to protect children from falling in the sea...
	MUGA run down, needs new surface...
	MUGA (gym, courts/netball/tennis could be covered in some way for all weather use?)
	MUGA pricing needs to be reviewed. Children too young to play themselves, if parent helps then adult charge applies. Also open all summer which was fab but not advertised. I paid for my slot and was joined by other kids who hadn't paid. Needs to be one or other. Also charging school far too much. As an example 3G at Blairmount in N/S charge £1 per hour per child and it is a much bigger and better facility.
	King's Green Park needs fencing for safety... main road and cars moving around Caravan Park...

**THEME 10: Streets and spaces**

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
Keep our open spaces as open spaces...	More wildlife....
Lots of green space...	Warm space...
No major changes required...	PW smell needs addressing...
	Need a men's shed or something similar...
	Museum...
	Men's shed...
	Community garden...
	Information centre...
	Beach huts (colourful) on harbour...
	Buildings needs some work eg. Mill and sheds down by harbour...
	History project...
	Boat trips in bay...
	Flowers in square...
	Develop harbour green into pretty space... improve D&G signage...
	Beside King's Green Caravan park is empty, wasted space... garden facilities for young and old...anything would improve it (as long as it doesn't spoil views from the houses!)
	Friendship group for friends who don't know each other yet...
	Mindful we are next to the sea and rubbish, plastics... covers for skips... signage: no cigarette butts in sea (poison etc.)

**THEME 10: Streets and spaces (continued)**

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
	<p>It was said to me that PW was looking "run down"! by someone who hasn't visited for 30 years...some places, old 3b site, empty shops, the Mill! Let down the efforts to have a tidy village. People do make an effort to maintain properties, flowers outside etc. but sadly visitors do pick up on the negatives...</p>
	<p>Compulsory purchase the Mill and make it into a community centre, (compare Whithorn SMCC)...</p>
	<p>Old Mill...</p>
	<p>Mill needs sorting out...</p>
	<p>Use Mill as a community centre whole village would benefit from (like Whithorn)...</p>
	<p>Purchase the old Mill and develop it...</p>
	<p>1 bed accommodation for the elderly...</p>
	<p>Old Mill is an eyesore... could even the front area be more tidy?...</p>
	<p>Mill and harbour area are historical gems... look after them better though...</p>
	<p>Old Mill needs to be used/restored for use by PW people...</p>

**THEME 11: Moving around**

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
Good for pram walkers...	Make a pavement on West side of High Street...over the bridge...
Safe areas to walk, lovely coast line, good amount of bins...	Slipway at Second Sands is treacherous, green slime, recent accident...
	Stranraer path is needing repair: Garnet's Walk needs cut back: path and road up to Maxwell Park needs repairs: some pavements...
	Coastal path abandoned at Second Sands by D&G Council...
	Pathway from Second Sands is inaccessible if disabled, a better pathway is very necessary!...
	More poop bins...
	Some pavements not easy to walk on with a pram due to bushes on path especially on way to school...
	Most of the Port is accessible, no room for cycle routes but few cycle anyway, pavements very narrow on Bank Hill and start of Main Street...
	More seats...

**THEME 12: Influence and Sense of Control**

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
This opportunity to comment...	Groups need to be welcoming and open to new ideas...
I think this is great....well done!	Weekly planner of groups by bus stop...
Most groups have contact information in Parish Magazine...	More info of events locally...
Yes you can get involved if you want to...	Parish Magazine doesn't reach outwith the Port...
	Unfortunately many people have a closed mind to new ideas before they are even suggested...
	PW residents need to adapt more to modern volunteering suggestions...

**THEME 13: Public transport**

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
Friendly drivers	Community bus service run by community could improve public transport....
Reasonable prices	No connection to Dumfries.....Taxis from N/S to Port William too expensive (£50)...
	Re-instate the 415 service/route (removed after covid started)...
	The public bus service within and linking towns in the Machars terrible now 415 service removed...
	Buses to allow bikes on....so if kids go somewhere could get bus back...
	Public transport doesn't link up eg. bus to Dumfries for train? Good luck!
	Public transport locally needs to link with longer distance services all along the A75 and not just from the Machars (buses and trains)...
	Bus transport from Port William to Whauphill to Newton Stewart = cut. It was 30 mins. Now goes via Isle of Whithorn and takes 1hr 15mins...
	Suitable bus times to get to work Stranraer/Newton. An evening round robin bus at weekends...
	Bus to Wigtown and Newton Stewart Friday and Saturday evening and return journey. (Not via Whithorn)...
	Smaller and more frequent buses needed especially to Newton Stewart...
	Why have such big buses when so few people use them? Is this cost effective?...
	We don't fewer buses just smaller buses...

**THEME 14: Work and Local Economy**

What's Good Now?	How could it be better in the Future?
Sorry I don't know enough about this I'm retired but it's great you're thinking about it...	The whole area needs to work together to attract young professionals such as doctors to this amazing area...
	Shop selling everything...seaside...camping...
	Community shop selling locally grown/made produce, locally made arts/crafts...
	What's the possibility of setting up a local shop/outlet selling local produce?...
	More training courses in the Hall...we have a great place here to use...not used enough...
	More places within the village for people to go to meet friends etc. cafes? Having to go further afield just now...
	Re-open (evening) restaurant and bar...
	Better broadband and mobile coverage needed to encourage business and trade...



### APPENDIX 3. VILLAGE AUDIT.

#### Port William village audit July 2nd 2023

At the beginning of the process a small group of residents (4) were recruited to undertake an audit of the village.

Residential premises were not included. The exception to this was the old Monreith Arms due to its location within the village. This was once a local hotel and bar which is now privately owned. It is being re-furbished but its' future purpose is yet unknown. This is an imposing building situated in the village square.

Below is a list of areas and buildings/businesses included in this exercise. All of these were given a score from 0-10 based on condition and appeal of building/area:

- Harbour buildings
- Village Square
- Old Corn Mill
- Community Shop
- Allison's Motors Garage
- Hair Flair and empty premises next door
- Spar and Tasty Bites
- Kinnear's Carpets
- The View PIRSAC
- Monreith Arms
- Maxwell Hall
- King's Green Caravan/camping site
- 3b Construction (old site)
- Morland Upholstery

Audit commenced at far side of harbour close to Morland Upholstery and included parts of Main Street, South Street, High Street and harbour area.

**73 Main St.:** Morland Upholstery: house immediately next door and attached not included. Business easily identified from signage on house wall at side of business entrance. Single storey. Doors and entrance to the business in need of some updating and painting, growth on chimney.  
Score: 4/10

**77 Main St.:** Maxwell Hall: Currently owned by D&G Council. No signage indicating what building is apart from a council sign on wall at side of main entrance. Sign on road across from hall but no information about what it is i.e. village hall. Good disabled access. Car parking limited at front of building. Broken bollards in car park. Flowers and plants outside. Steps up to entrance need painting and highlighting. One of 3 village AEDs located here at front of building. Query who monitors this, no signage guiding people to this or informing them it is there. Waste bins on full view at front but probably for practical reasons. Bucket for smokers and cigarette butts at front of building on left as you look onto it. Probably here so as away from entrance.

Score: 7/10

**14 Main St.:** Hair Flair: Hair Salon easily identified by a clear sign above entrance, window display good. Building in need of some repairs, window frames paint peeling, chimney has greenery growing out of it as do the gutters. Rusty down pipes and some roof tiles need attention.

Score: 4/10

**14a Main St.:** Empty premises next to hairdressers. Storage area to side of building has been left to overgrow significantly. Has been used as hardware store in past. Cracks to building structure, window frames in poor state very old signage still in place now inappropriate.

Score: 2/10

*\*Of note for the above two buildings is they back onto the harbour and the rear of buildings visible from the other side of the harbour. The state of the rear of these two buildings are similar if not worse than the frontages and do not give a good impression when looking across the harbour at them. This is reflected in the scoring.*

**3: Village Square:** Monreith Arms: Old village hotel. On 3 floors, work in progress, will be a private residence when complete, possibly rooms for Air B&B. Difficult to specify how many floors being used just now as owners not in residence permanently. Rear of property painted, front outstanding affecting look of it. Entrance porch needs attention, wooden and quite rotted in places. Flowers and planted tubs up the front stone steps.

Score: 6/10

**11,13: Village Square:** On 3 floors, unoccupied, work in progress. Was village restaurant, unclear what purpose will be in future. Greenery growing out of chimneys, gable end discoloured in need of painting, garage at side of property, poor state needs painting, front of building needs attention, painting etc. Restaurant signage "The Clansman" now irrelevant. Backs onto village burn which is overgrown significantly and contains Japanese Knotweed.

Score: 4/10

**5 & 9: Village Square:** Two village shops owned by same person. Spar shop: 3 storeys all appear occupied, signage and window display good, Post Office contained within store, roof ok, guttering has greenery growing out of it. Tasty Bites: Same issues as Spar shop as same building.

Score: both 8/10

**6: Village Square:** Hardware shop: Painting commenced needs completing, Roof ok, window frames need attention, 2 storeys, floor 1 used as retail and storage, query if floor 2 used and purpose. Signage good easily identifiable what shop is however window display and contents of windows confusing.

Score: 6/10

**16: Village Square:** On two floors, retail, carpet shop. New windows and door recently installed, no signage at present due to building upgrades. Window display confusing, not obvious what shop's purpose is without sign. Roof needs attention, guttering has growth in it and is rusty.

Score: 6/10

**High St. Old Corn Mill:** Derelict old corn mill. Privately owned, query work in progress as no work appears to have been undertaken here re: mill restoration since owner purchased it. Land surrounding used for storage of all kinds of materials and items. Old scaffolding at front, walls collapsing, safety of building consistently being questioned by residents. This building is an eyesore in PW and needs attention.

Score: 0/10

**2: High Street:** This building was the old bank and is now a private residence. On 2 storeys, difficult to be specific which used by resident. Garden overgrowth through railings affecting use of pavement and path. Large garden area, private parking. Roof ok, guttering ok, original features maintained well.

Score: 8/10

**17: South St. Friends of PW Community Shop:** On 2 storeys, retail ground floor, storage upper floor. Purpose easily identifiable via signage above door. Shop display good. Roof and guttering ok. Information on shop takings and donations available in information board at side of entrance.

Score: 8/10

**South St. Allison Motors:** Single storey. Car fuel, servicing, repairs, MOTs available here. Signage good and clear, walls need painting, windows and doors all ok. Roof appears to be asbestos but needs clarification.

Score: 8/10

**South St. 3b Construction old site:** Derelict buildings, company have re-located. Query to be used for housing development. Close to this is another site with derelict and dangerous easily accessible buildings. Unclear if all owned by 3b?

Score: 0/10

**South St. Port William Community Association-Kings Green Caravan Park:** Large camping, touring caravan, motorhome and campervan site. Signage good, easily located and identifiable from these. Good facilities available, currently undergoing some upgrading. Flowers, planted tubs, hub for campers, seating and benches along grassy area very old and in need of replacement. Grass and area close mown and kept tidy. Recycling facilities available.

Children's swing park on site but needs up grade. Large grassy area with some seating and picnic benches available.

Parking layby needs attention, large holes appearing making it difficult to park and cars to use. Query if this is owned by CA or responsibility of council.

Score: 8/10

**Harbour: The View PIRSAC: Single storey, used as café:** Car parking here good, e-car charger, bike park for four bikes, could be increased. Village green located in front of this, extra seating areas. Signage could be improved, no formal signage, A board used on road in village square by café to direct people to it, roof good, décor good.

Score: 9/10

Ice cream parlour attached to The View needs painting, old bunting outside needs removed, all faded and tearing. Outside area here has plastic seating piled up, bin on view and a lone table outside not serving any purpose.

Score: 3/10

**PIRSAC Boathouse:** Located at back of the View tea Rooms linked to PIRSAC. Coned off indicating access restricted. Condition of building from outside acceptable compared to other buildings around the harbour. PIRSAC sign on outside but not very obvious to those who don't know i.e visitors what this building is used for.

Score: 8/10

**2B: James Brawls store:** In need of painting, window frames need attention, not obvious from outside what this building is used for but there is a name plate for person who owns it.

Score: 3/10

**Workshop: P. McGuire:** Local fisherman's storage for catch. Sign on door advising catch for sale and who fisherman is. Reasonable condition.

Score: 7/10

**Miscellaneous within audit area:**

**Public toilets:** There is also a public shower and a disabled toilet. There are ladies and gents toilets. No signage in village guiding people to toilets. These toilets are apparently on council list for upgrade but no idea when this will be done. Access to shower and disabled toilet queried. Some community art here, wee bit of graffiti on it unfortunately. There is also a flower bed in this area taken care of, as are all village floral displays, by village gardening group.

**Wooden structures opposite village green:** Several old wooden and brick structures opposite village green. Ownership unknown, some in need of repair and painting. One is owned by and used for storage by the Community Association along with another old building they also own close by.

**Harbour buildings:** Several buildings around harbour in need of repair and attention. Old boats and trailers lying around near these buildings. Ownership unknown. Compound for fishermen is helping to keep harbour tidier but there is old fishing equipment accumulating again in the harbour. Harbour walls in need of painting. Regional harbour master aware of some issues relating to fishing equipment and painting required.

**Signage:** Lack of signage around the village to guide people to certain areas and facilities. There is also faded and illegible signage that needs replacing.

**Bottle Bank:** Lack of signage to this and one sign in place is pointing in wrong direction.

**Parking:** Plenty of on road parking around the village. Several parking spaces within village square. There are damaged lamp posts, a bus shelter in need of replacement panels but council so far have declined to action this when notified stating panels need to be broken before being replaced. Bus shelter is also in need of painting.

**Bike parks:** Two identified on the audit but more could be helpful as we have a lot of visitors to the village on bicycles.

**Seating:** There is plenty of seating around the village, benches in the square, picnic benches etc. There are some very old benches which are a combination of concrete and wood that need replacing. These seats are extremely low and would be difficult for some people to use.

**Village art and points of interest:** Village roundabout has been decorated with several items related to fishing and the sea. Port man sculpture/statue on village green and mural of this on wall by side of public toilets. Millenium time capsule and fingerpost also on village green. There is also a wishing well on the village green which provides a small source of income for the village. Community Council take care of this and use this money towards village improvements.

**Community Garden South St.:** Small community garden with a bench at end of South St, just before King's Green play park. AED located here but no signage informing people of such.

**Village Notice Board:** Recently replaced by the Community Council.

**Visitor information map:** This is now very out of date and unhelpful for visitors to PW. It is part of the village history but an up-to-date replacement is being explored.

**Waste/litter bins:** There are several litter bins around the village square and area included in the audit. These have recently been replaced and increased in numbers. On the day of audit there weren't any household waste bins noted on the streets and pavements but this does sometimes occur outside of collection days, especially close to holiday lets in the village square.

**War Memorial:** There is a war memorial in the village square. This is used on Remembrance Day and the area around it kept closely mown most of the year.

**Telephone box:** There is one telephone box in the village square. This is still in use at present but this may change in the future.

**Mail boxes:** One wall mail box only on the audit route which is opposite the village hair salon. The Spar shop contains a Post office for mail also.

**AED:** There are 3 AEDs in the village, none in village square. There is no signage guiding anyone to the whereabouts of these and who monitors them is currently unknown.

**Flowers/flowerbeds:** The village gardening group do a grand job of creating and maintaining lovely

flower displays and beds around the village, some in the audit area. The audit commenced at the beach entrance to the harbour where there is a picnic bench and a corner display of colourful flowers all year round.

**Businesses included:**

Three village businesses were approached to contribute to the audit by one of the auditors.

**Kinnears Carpets:** Well established flooring business that has been in the village square for a number of years. Business has always done well and continues to do so. They have built up a good reputation over time and people come from far and wide to this business in PW. The shop is currently undergoing some re-furbishment including new windows, doors and front signage. Over the past 5 years they have increased their number of employees slightly. They feel well positioned in the village, do not feel anything in the village hinders their business or makes it better. When asked about potential changes in PW and what they might like to see, nothing could be added. During Covid 19 pandemic, like all businesses they did see changes and business reduced mostly due to nature of their business and being unable to go inside homes and businesses. However, since the pandemic has now largely resolved it is business as usual and they are extremely busy. There are no concerns about the future of this business and confidence is high. Business is also received from visitors to PW.

**Wee Dram Barrel Creations:** This is a business that interestingly, benefited from the pandemic and commenced during this time. It is a one-man business based within a building owned by PIRSAC. It is situated within the harbour. The building is looking slightly run down from the outside and in need of some re-furbishment, it's single storey. The workman rents the premises. This business is only a couple of years old but the turnover continues to increase and the business is thriving. There is a website on which he sells his creations, garden furniture, household furniture etc made from local whisky barrels. He also visits local shows etc and had just returned from the Highland Show which was a sell out for him with lots of orders for goods being taken.

During the visit he had help from someone but this business is mostly a one-man band. He expressed no concerns about the future of the business and confidence in the future was high. He expressed a concern about future premises as he is aware the current premises is ear marked for development and that does not include his business. This may be another loss to PW in the future. Business is also received here from visitors to PW. When asked about the village and what helps or hinders the business, nothing hinders but visitors and tourists helped. Asked about what changes this person/business might like to see, they mentioned some of the losses we have incurred i.e. restaurant, pubs.

**Hardware Store:** A long standing business in PW. It was re-located a couple of years ago from the shop/premises next to the village hair salon. It has recently undergone some re-furbishment and painting to the exterior. Business is owned and run by a couple. Business turnover has continued to change over time, it has decreased. This person advised me Covid 19 had decimated his business as people have changed their shopping habits and now largely shop online for goods and not in small village stores. When he took over the business his intention was to employ a manager but this has not occurred due to poor turnover and lack of funds to do so. As a consequence this business owner has reduced the shop opening times to three days per week and this business will close and the premises be sold at some point in the future. He has no confidence in the future of this business.

He was extremely negative about LPP, PW village in general and its residents, stating "I don't care about this village, no one cares about me, my business or anything but themselves so why should I care about what happens here?...good luck!". When asked about PW and what might have hindered or would help the business, he continued very negative, said "nothing" and he "didn't care about it or anyone in it".

**Losses to the village incurred over time:** PW was apparently back in the day a thriving village and the "place to be". There were many independent businesses such as creamery, drapers, jewellers, butchers and bakers. There was also a bank, a police station, three public houses of which two were also hotels and offered accommodation. Over time and as a result of evolution these have all been lost. The number of shops and their focus has decreased, there is a mobile bank and butcher occasionally, the mobile fish monger has been lost as a result of the pandemic. The public houses/hotels are all now transferred into permanent residences. Village residents talk about these losses and feel these daily, particularly the spaces where people could meet and socialise. There are numerous holiday lets in the village and visitors and tourists to the are also mention the lack of places to socialise and enjoy locally produced beers etc.



## APPENDIX 4. DIAGRAMS.

### Diagram 1

Port William Primary School, Digital School Council Children's Place Standard Tool results.

### Diagram 2

Port William Primary School, Eco School Council Children's Place Standard Tool results.

### Diagram 3

Online Adult Place Standard Tool results.







PLEASANT PEOPLE  
PEACEFUL PASTIMES (BOWLING, GOLFING, FISHING, TENNIS...)  
SUNSETS TO DIE FOR!  
FOR VISITORS OF EVERY SORT...  
PERFECT PARADISE IS THE PORT..

*Written by Lesley McNaught long standing village resident (April 2024).*

*Original concrete Port Man now in a Port William residents garden.*