

Portlethen
Community
Action Plan
2019-2022



Portlethen (with Findon & Downies)

Scale - 1:23,000

26 July 2019



This is the Community Action Plan for the community of Portlethen. This Action Plan was created from various surveys and public meetings, held between 2017 and 2019. These were to establish what the people of Portlethen wanted in order to improve their area in some way, be it in a material way, by improvement to services, or to provide directions towards a change. Various inputs were gained from different age groups and community groups. This was managed by both the Portlethen & District Community Council and Aberdeenshire Council. This project for a Community Action Plan 2019 is being co-ordinated by the Kincardineshire Development Partnership.

This information has now been used to guide the community and the Community Planning Partners in compiling a detailed action plan to take forward the top priorities, as well as addressing the other issues which have been identified.

For each priority, or issue, it has been agreed who needs to be involved, and over the coming months what resources will be required with target dates set for completion.

All the ideas in this booklet came from the community. The table at the back shows those ideas which can be taken forward by the community on its own, those which require help from an external partner and those which can only be taken forward by one or more external agencies, which can provide moral, technical and possibly financial support.

It is recommended that this Action Plan should have a maximum lifespan of 3 years. Some projects may be completed quickly whilst others may take much longer but all should be reviewed regularly to ensure that they are still relevant.

It is important that this plan is seen by all interested parties, both within the local community and other partners who may be able to assist with the implementation of any actions set out in the table.

Kincardineshire Development Partnership is one of a number of rural partnerships in Aberdeenshire who run the Community Action Plan initiatives sponsored by Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership.



Portlethen from the air 2008



Findon "Harbour"



Portlethen from the air 2008

Introduction

Portlethen is a coastal town in the North East of Scotland, lying along the North Sea. It is in the historic county of Kincardineshire, which was absorbed into the southern part of the modern county of Aberdeenshire.

Portlethen is in the area that is now called Kincardine and Mearns, one of six administrative areas in Aberdeenshire. Kincardine and Mearns covers 756 sq km (292 sq miles). Its "capital" is the market town of Stonehaven.

Economy

The Kincardine and Mearns area supports 16,850 jobs (2017), not including self-employment. The largest sector is the public administration, education and health sector. However, compared to the rest of Aberdeenshire there are fewer jobs in this sector and proportionately more in banking, finance and insurance. The sector which is most different to the rest of Aberdeenshire is manufacturing. Throughout Aberdeenshire, 7.2% of all jobs lie within the manufacturing sector but in Kincardine and Mearns this figure is 17%.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Kincardine and Mearns is one of the lowest in the country. Although it rose between 2014 and 2016 it was never above 1.6% and over the last five years has always been lower than the Aberdeenshire rate. However, the effect of the collapse in oil price in 2014 can still be seen;

employment has not yet returned to its 2013 level. The unemployment rate in Portlethen is 1.4% (2017)

Working Population

In 2017, 56% of the working population travelled from Portlethen to work in Aberdeen City, 20% went to work out with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, 15% worked somewhere else in Aberdeenshire and only 9% worked in Portlethen itself. This may contribute to the wide spread belief and feeling that Portlethen is really a suburb of Aberdeen City and is sometimes considered by its residents to be a stereotypical "Commuter Town".

Population

In 2017 the population of Kincardine and Mearns was 45,285. Between 2012 and 2017 the population increased, and Kincardine and Mearns' share of the total Aberdeenshire's population increased from 16.9% to 17.3%.

During this same time Portlethen & District* (part of the North Kincardine Ward) saw the population grow from 6,760 (2012) to 9,090 (2017) which is a growth of 34.5%. There are currently new housing developments which makes it likely that the population will rise again.

*Portlethen & District: The Town and Villages. Portlethen, Old Portlethen (or Portlethen Village) Findon, Downies, Checkbar



Medical Centre



Portlethen Railway Station

History

There is evidence for man living and working in the area around Portlethen around 4000 years ago with the standing stones and ring cairns of Aquhorthies, Cairnwell, Craighead, Auchlee and Old Boutreebush. The gap between the building of these stone circles and when people began to use writing to record the passing of days is a huge one.

Although there are hints of the area's history, with the Romans, Picts and many others making impressions on it, it would be some time before Portlethen entered the history books. The next historical milestone is the creation, from a drover's road, of the Causey Mounth in the 12th Century. This was built as a connection between Stonehaven and the City of Aberdeen and it was also built as one of the few "easy" routes to avoid the hills and to avoid the boggy areas of the Portlethen Moss. Some of it is still in use today.

During the following centuries Portlethen, and especially the Findon estate, passed through many owners' hands. Findon, it is believed, received its name from one of its earliest owners Philip De Fyndon, in 1281. The estate and Barony of Findon, created sometime after 1320, was broken down or expanded or sold as plots.

From that point onwards Landowners then started to play a smaller part in the management of their estates, and farmers started to play a more important role in care of the land. This also included Seatown of Portlethen which was 720 acres in size. In the "book of Bon-Accord", Portlethen was called "Port Leviathan" because of certain whales that came ashore there. The dating of this is, however, unknown. It later was just called Portlethen.

Sea fishing was undertaken from the harbour at Portlethen, from the coves at Findon, and later from Downies (set up in the 1700's). At times this played a major role in providing food to those inland, and later, fish was carried on the backs of fish wives from Portlethen, along what became known as the "Creel Walks", to be sold at market in Aberdeen.

Findon was famous for its Finnan haddie (also known as Finnan haddock, Finnan, Finny haddock or Findrum speldings) which is a cold-smoked haddock, smoked using green wood and peat. Its origin is the subject of a debate and the "dispute" goes back to the eighteenth century, although it is hard to trace.



Old Boutreebush Stone Circle



Part of the Causey Mounth Road, a modern section



Portlethen Harbour 1920's



Findon "Harbour"



Creel Fishing off Portlethen

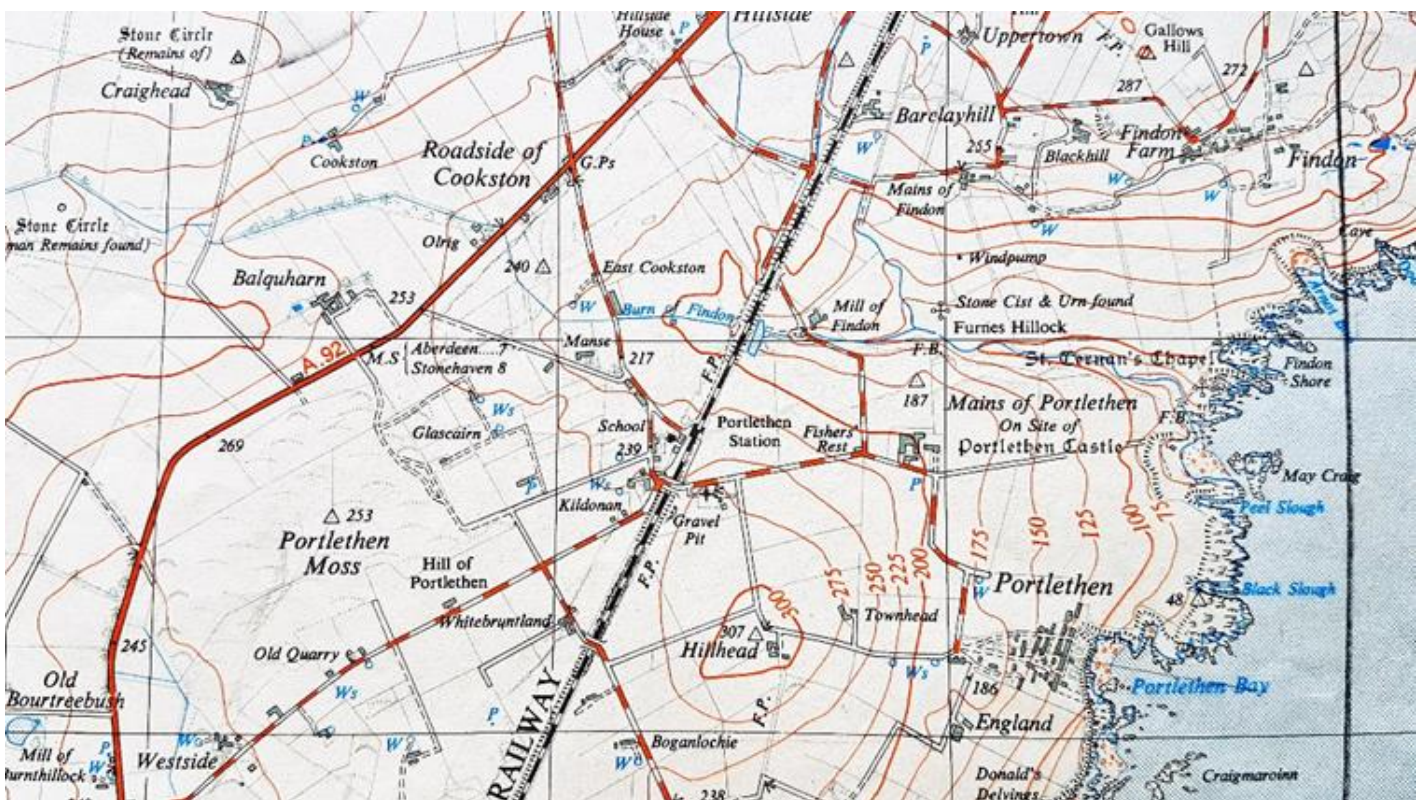
A testimonial in an early 20th century Boston cookbook describes the origin from a fire in a fish curing house in Portlethen, very near Findon. It may have been a popular dish in Aberdeenshire starting at least as early as the 1640's.

However, this industry, which has left its mark on the coastline and once employed many folk, has declined as the small coves and harbours cannot handle the larger boats and the gear required for larger fishing boats. Only a few fishing boats are left at Portlethen, these being small white fishing boats and a few creel fishing boats.

So, housing growth was slow in the rest of the Portlethen area. As this map from 1950's shows, Findon and Portlethen Village have several houses but Portlethen was mainly based around the Railway Station and was once known as Portlethen Station. In 1955 what is one of the largest local employers in

Portlethen was founded, MacIntosh Donald, and it is still going strong today.

During the late 1950's and early 1960's, houses were built along Cookston Road, Burnside Gardens and around that area, which led to the building of the new Portlethen Primary School. By the 1970's there were more houses, and by the late 1970's, the population of Portlethen exploded with hundreds more homes being built. This was due to the rapid raise of the oil and gas industry in and around Aberdeen with an influx of thousands of workers both for onshore and offshore work. This continued into the 1980's, 1990's and the 2000's with housing estates being added piecemeal and with no overall plan, central design or creation of a unifying Town Centre or facilities. Portlethen has suffered from this 'Wild West' approach to house-building and was to do so for years to come.



OS map of Portlethen Area 1950's

Retail

Portlethen has five shopping areas: Portlethen Retail Park, The Green, Muirend Court, Rowanbank Court, and Hillside Road. There is an Asda superstore in Portlethen Retail Park and two McColl's convenience stores located at The Green and Rowanbank Court. There is a Co-op at Hillside Road, along with other small shops. Other outlets in the town include Argos, Matalan, and B & M's.

Food & drink

There are a variety of take-away and restaurant outlets in Portlethen, most of these are located within the main shopping areas. There is also a Brewers Fayre pub restaurant, The Mains of Balquharn, next to the A92 dual carriageway near Badentoy Park. There are four pubs in Portlethen; the Mains of Balquharn, The Paddock (at The Green), The Leathan, and The Neuk (in Portlethen Village). Portlethen Golf Club also has a bar open to the public. In addition to the Brewers Fayre restaurant, there is a Premier Inn hotel at the Mains of Balquharn.

Sport

Portlethen has two all-weather concrete tennis courts, a bowling green with public and private sessions, a swimming pool and a private members' golf club.

In Portlethen Academy there is a Gym and indoor basketball, indoor cricket, and dance studios for hire by the public. Outdoors there is a basketball pitch, a 2G pitch and two full size football pitches.

There is a desire to improve the access to the existing sports pitches and to increase the amount of sports pitches for various sports in the area, however the people of Portlethen have to get behind these projects to show their support.

Portlethen Golf Club

Portlethen Golf Club was founded in 1981, and a championship course designed by Donald Steel opened for play in 1989. The club is owned by its members. The club's first professional player was Muriel Thomson who, when she was appointed in 1990, was the first female golf professional in Scotland. The course is a 6,663 yards par 72 with two par 3s and two par 5s in each half (providing a par 3 and a par 5 facing each of north, south, east and west) to complement five par 4s in each half. The club has an extensive clubhouse and practice facilities, including a covered driving range, practice bunkers, short-game area and putting green.



Premier Inn hotel at the Mains of Balquharn



The Leathan



Portlethen Golf Club



*Jubilee Hall Burns Night Supper
1960*



Portlethen Church



*Portlethen Moss Conservation
Group at work*

A Youth drop-in centre was opened in April 2007, in the old library building. There are also various youth groups running regularly at Portlethen Parish Church. There is a Jubilee Hall that is used by various groups. This hall was gifted to the people of Portlethen by Mrs Taylor, but it was the Walker family who were behind the work to get the Hall built and started in 1889, with foundation stone laid, it was opened 27th June 1890. It was named to commemorate the jubilee of the Sovereign (Queen Victoria) in 1887.

There are three main parks in Portlethen: Bourtree Park, Nicol Park, and Burnside Park. Nicol Park has a toddlers' park, a skate park and two basketball courts. Bourtree Park has a football pitch and a few swings and climbing frames. Burnside Park also has children's play equipment. In addition, there are several small parks containing swings and climbing frames throughout Portlethen.

There is also the Portlethen Moss. This is a remnant of the original moss that used to cover a large area. It is now cared for by the Portlethen Moss Conservation Group, which is made up of members from within the community of Portlethen. They are supported by, and work closely with, Aberdeenshire Council and its Ranger Service,

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the Forestry Commission, the community and the local schools within Portlethen.

Portlethen Moss is an area of natural raised acidic bog which supports a variety of plant and animal species; however, over the years the area has been subject to certain development pressures and consequently much of what was the Moss has now been lost. In response to this, the Portlethen Moss Conservation Group was formed, working towards preserving what is left of this environmentally sensitive area and to gaining Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status.

The group has recently taken on board a second major environmental project - the creation of a Community Woodland within Portlethen - in an area which is currently owned by Aberdeenshire Council. This area is located just over the railway bridge on the Downies Road, the North end of the site being adjacent to Portlethen Church. A letter was sent to the Area Manager, Aberdeenshire Council in July 2007 requesting the Council consider the group's aspirations for the area, and as a result it now has full backing for this project.

The Portlethen Moss Conservation Group endeavours to raise funds for both projects. The Moss requires constant maintenance such as gorse control, care for 2,000

newly planted trees and the hedgerows, to name but a few. The Community Woodland site is a huge and exciting project and has gained much support locally and is well used. Both projects are of benefit to the community, education and biodiversity and the group will continue to work to raise funds to maintain these projects.

Education

There has been a school in Portlethen since the nineteenth century. The original school building is still in use today as the local police station. The school was then moved to new buildings on Cookston Road in 1860. In 1962, a new school block was opened directly across from the old buildings on Cookston Road. This is now Portlethen Primary School.

In 1987, the first Portlethen Academy was opened. The 2nd academy was opened in 2006 and the old academy was demolished. In 1989 Fishermoss School, the second primary school in Portlethen, opened its doors. In 2016 work started on a third school for Portlethen, Hillside Primary School, and that opened in March 2017.

There is an integrated community library and community centre located within Portlethen Academy.

The Social Work offices of Aberdeenshire Council for the local area are also located within Portlethen, along Rowanbank Road.

Public transport

Trains

There is a train station in Portlethen and there is now an hourly service to and from Aberdeen, as well as services to Stonehaven, Laurencekirk and Montrose connecting to trains to Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Buses

Portlethen is connected by direct bus routes to Aberdeen and to the Airport in the north, and Newtonhill, Stonehaven, Montrose and Dundee in the south. Buses are operated by Stagecoach Bluebird.



Sundew Plant



Peacock Butterfly



Portlethen Primary 1962



Big Path by Paddock

The main issues and aspirations raised by the community have been grouped into five themes summarised below with proposed actions outlined in the table at the end of this plan. These reflect the situation that was current as the action plan was developed, but will be supplemented by further actions as these are identified over time. Community action planning is a dynamic and progressive process that will reflect the priorities of the various subgroups within the community as they evolve. It is also dependent on the involvement and energy of the community to enable action to be achieved.



The Green

In preparing this Community Action Plan we are mindful of actions being undertaken as a result of community engagement events using the 'Place Standard Tool' led by Aberdeenshire Council and Architect & Design Scotland. It is not the intention that the actions in this plan duplicate or contradict the outcomes and subsequent activities from this participation; it is hoped that the activities held within this document will dovetail with actions and activities already identified through this process. A brief summary of the feedback from these events is included in this Community Action Plan as many of the points are reflected across all the engagement undertaken.



Pitch without Floodlights

The actions plan at the end of this document can be categorised in to the following five themes:

THEME 1 Roads, Paths, Transportation

THEME 2 Facilities and Amenities

THEME 3 Sports and Recreation Facilities

THEME 4 Community Activities

THEME 5 Outdoor Spaces

As previously acknowledged, the following themes emerged from the Aberdeenshire Council led engagement:

Theme - Facilities and Amenities/
Social Contact

Theme - Housing and Community

Theme - Outdoor Spaces

Theme - Public Transport

Action plans for these four themes based on the '*PORTLETHEN – HOW GOOD IS OUR PLACE*' results, have been prepared and made available to the community. A further event was held to identify members of the community prepared to take some of the actions forward. A 'Paths' group has emerged from this engagement who will take on some the actions highlighted. In addition to the work emerging from both this engagement and the work in

preparing this Community Action Plan, a recreation services working group has been looking at outdoor space in Portlethen and have prepared a concept document which is currently in draft but will be made available once in final form.

This Portlethen Community Action Plan links into similar themes, although there are no actions under the theme 'Housing.' This is an area of concern with a number of issues. However, at this time it is understood that this is largely a matter for Aberdeenshire Council Housing and Planning Departments. Some innovations such as Self-Build and work were highlighted in the 'PORTLETHEN – HOW GOOD IS OUR PLACE' action plan.

THEME 1

Roads, Paths, Transportation

- New and improved road signage for the area.
- Community upgrade of a path.
- Public Transport: To have a circular bus route around Portlethen.
- Repair and creation of a Coastal Path
- Encourage the creation of more cycle paths around the area

New and improved road signage for the area. Portlethen needs better signs to tell people that they are in Portlethen.

As Portlethen has grown there are additional entry points into the town requiring additional signage. There are three specific areas in the town but no actual town centre. There is a desire to encompass Hillside as it was part of Portlethen. The paths group are also looking at signage in and around Portlethen.

Community upgrade of the small path opposite the Lethen Arms and on the same side as the Police Station. That the path be widened, and the wall pushed back to the trees.

The area of the path from the police station to the primary is extremely narrow. Enquiries have been made with a stonemason for a price to move the wall. There is a Dentist and bus stop alongside the wall but no real access. It had been suggested the path should be routed along the other side of the fence and wall to prevent having to remove the stonewall.

Public Transport: To have a circular bus route around Portlethen.

It is believed that the older residents and those with young children used a circular route. Following the Place Standard engagement there had been contact with Stagecoach regarding



Narrow Path by Leathan



The other side of the wall



Bus Route



Cycle Path

a town service in Portlethen which would connect with the main bus route, however there was a lack of stock of buses to offer such a service and it would need to be commercially viable, therefore, at this point in time they were unable to offer such a service.

There is a need to gather evidence and inform the community of what is currently available. It was suggested that some research could be undertaken, perhaps with the help of TrAK. It was suggested that the research may show that there may be scope to develop a Community Transport initiative.

Repair and creation of a Coastal Path and to encourage the recreation of a "Creel walk" from Portlethen to Aberdeen.

This is a longer term venture and it would be great to link the communities. There is a desire to form a group to look after Portlethen.

Encourage the creation of more cycle paths around the area.

There is a wish to encourage people to be more aware of their environment and adopting greener activities. The creation of an open access group or similar could be a way of addressing this.



The Green

THEME 2

Facilities and Amenities

- The Green
- Hillside

The Green: This area needs re-generation, with better signs and directions towards it. More use needs to be made of the paths and the area to make clear that it is a shopping centre. Can be applied to all of the retail areas.

Aberdeenshire Council have been engaging with the businesses on The Green to establish a Business Association to take forward a number of improvements. Funding has been secured from the Scottish Government's Town Centre fund for signage, noticeboards and landscaping. Discussions are to take place with the property developer to gain agreement for the works to be undertaken and perhaps offer some additional funding.

Hillside requires improved community facilities including play area for small children, areas for older children, and areas for families. Also required is land for a Community Centre.

There is considerable work to be done and the first steps would be to survey those who live in the area to see what they want? There are three small playparks but no communal areas or green space.



Hillside

The community space at Hillside school is very rarely available so if land was available it could be used to build a community centre or similar.

THEME 3

Sports and Recreation Facilities

- Sports pitches in Hillside
- Floodlights at Portlethen Academy grass pitches
- Nicol Park
- Create more sports pitches

Sports pitches in Hillside, next to Hillside School, to be transferred to the Community for use either as sport pitches or as a park.

This large green space has been unutilised for some time. Parents have expressed an interest in using it for a park. Community members are keen to learn what the space can be used for. Aberdeenshire Council are still considering options for the large green space at Hillside which could deliver 2 full size grass pitches and possibly floodlights and changing facilities. It is suggested that perhaps Hillside could use it as a Rugby/Football Pitch. At the Roadside of Findon there is a redundant pitch, however the facilities would need improving and steps to establish ownership would need to be taken.

Floodlights to be provided on the Portlethen Academy grass pitches so that the pitches can be used on dark evening.

Enquiries had been made about providing floodlights on the academy pitches but it was advised that the pitches were already well used and there were concerns that additional usage would impact on the condition of the pitches.

Nicol Park be redeveloped as an asset with sport area and or play area.

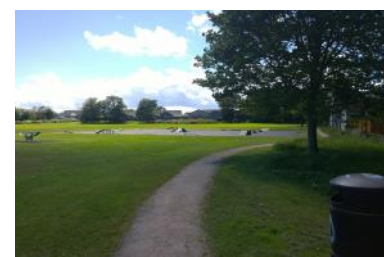
Work on how this space can be developed is ongoing. It is understood that the Friends of Nicol Park group had folded, due to lack of support. The amenities and facilities all need to be upgraded but there had been objections from the neighbours. Consideration of the demographic of the residents overlooking the park needs to be taken into account when looking at how this space is developed. A community space catering for an older age group may gather more local support.

Create more sports pitches in the area

With the options for consideration concerning the large green space at Hillside, this item may already be addressed going forward.



Portlethen Academy



Nicol Park



Nicol Park



Portlethen Police Station



Portlethen Police Station rear



Bench at Old Porty

THEME 4

Community Activities

- Police Station building
- Porty Cabin
- Raise the public image of Portlethen and the surrounding villages.
- Benches

If the Police Station building were to become available (i.e. no longer used as a Police Station), that consideration be made to asset transferring it to the Community for use as a training centre or Portlethen Museum.

This is a longer term aspiration, however it is recommended that a robust plan for such a project be developed in the meantime so that should the police station or any other suitable building become available the community would be in a stronger position to take ownership.

The Porty Cabin could be transferred to the Community to be used for the youth of Portlethen

Aberdeenshire Council are currently considering the future of the venue and should it be declared surplus then groups will be notified. The advice to any interested groups is to put a plan together as soon as possible as there may be a lot of interest.

Look at how we can raise the public image of Portlethen and the surrounding villages.

There is a need to give Portlethen

a feeling of identity and belonging for local residents. Addressing the issues around signage will help. This needs to be led by the community council and other community groups. Improvements to the overall appearance of the town could help to generate a sense of place.

Have more benches installed around the area for people to use. Encourage the idea of memorial benches being put in place.

There are few places to just stop and have a seat. Aberdeenshire Council funding for benches had been cut from Landscape Services budget, but the Council would consider installing memorial benches on Council land. Landscape Services currently recommend plastic recycled benches which cost approx. £400 and these require little or no maintenance. It is suggested that sponsorship for benches could be sought.

THEME 5

Outdoor Spaces

- Allotments
- Space next to Cornerstone
- Nicol Park

Allotments: Portlethen needs allotments - a local group has been campaigning for them for a long time.

Over the last few years there has been a growing body of evidence supporting the benefits of

community growing, green spaces and outdoor education for physical and mental wellbeing. Horticultural and other tasks involved in community growing (such as regular exercise) alongside healthier eating patterns (usually the result of eating fresh produce grown in the garden) are often cited in such research.

It is critical to get some ground for allotments in Portlethen and Aberdeenshire Council have been looking at potential sites. There are several small parks in the town which are overgrown and not maintained and therefore not used. Could these areas be used? For example: next to the school - could this be used as a green area? Most of the green areas in Hillside are still owned by the developer. There are a lot of green areas around Portlethen that have not been adopted by the Council but it is unclear who owns and maintains them.

There is currently interest for up to 90 allotments at this time. Aberdeenshire Council are still considering options for the large green space at Hillside and this could potentially offer the allotment group an area of ground but there would have to be community engagement to ensure the Portlethen residents are agreeable to this.

Space next to Cornerstone: Proposal that this land be converted into a public garden with fruit trees, edible plants, and a pavilion to shelter from the rain.

This was set aside for a café, space and shops, however the funding of £1million had been withdrawn. The status of this area is still to be confirmed, however, the site could be used in the meantime for events such as a farmer's market. More permanent options would have to be carefully considered.

Nicol Park be redeveloped as an asset with sport area and or play area

This has already been covered in Theme 3 , however cognisance needs to be taken of the diversity of the Portlethen Community and consider community spaces accessible and suitable for all.

Action Plan

There are a number of actions that can be taken forward from these themes. The timescale will vary: some may be short-term; some may take up to 3 years to bring to fruition. However, support from the people of Portlethen and the area will be vital. The community will need to play its part in making these points work for the people and taking them forward in ways that perhaps cannot currently be foreseen.



Little used play area



Land beside Cornerstone



Nicol Park Play Area

THEME 1: Roads, Paths, Transportation				
Projects	Issue/Need	Short to Medium Term Actions	Long Term Goal	Potential Key partners
New and improved road signage for the area.	<p>Portlethen needs better signs to tell people that they are in Portlethen.</p> <p>The village requires more welcome signs</p> <p>There are three specific areas in the town but no actual town centre.</p> <p>Include Hillside as it was part of Portlethen</p>	<p>Roads Department to look into what can be done to improve signage</p> <p>Community to inform Aberdeenshire Council of locations where there is issues with signage</p> <p>Liaise with Paths Group to ensure no duplication of efforts</p>	<p>Improved sense of place</p> <p>Easier to get around</p> <p>More connected community</p> <p>Paths and Green spaces highlighted leading to increased usage and positive impacts on health and wellbeing of residents and the environment.</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Council</p> <p>Portlethen & District Community Council</p> <p>Portlethen Paths Group</p> <p>Portlethen Moss Conservation Group</p>
Community upgrade of a path.	<p>Better access to amenities could be made by widening the path between the Primary School and police Station.</p> <p>Drystone wall may need to be moved or alternative path created through the trees</p>	<p>Investigate Costs</p> <p>Explore Funding Options</p>	<p>Safer more accessible route to amenities.</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Council</p> <p>Portlethen & District Community Council</p> <p>Portlethen Paths Group</p> <p>Kincardineshire Development Partnership</p>
Public Transport: To have a circular bus route around Portlethen.	<p>Older residents and those with young children would use a circular bus route.</p> <p>Not a viable option for a commercial bus operator.</p> <p>Research and Information gathering and sharing exercise needed to establish what is available to community members and build evidence of need.</p> <p>The outcome could offer a possible case for a Community Transport Initiative</p>	<p>Survey Community on their transport needs.</p> <p>Collate and share what transport options are available currently.</p> <p>If evidence suggests that a Community Transport Initiative may be a solution. Explore the options and potential delivery.</p>	<p>Easier to get around</p> <p>More connected community</p>	<p>Portlethen & District Community Council</p> <p>TiRAK</p> <p>Kincardineshire Development Partnership</p>

THEME 1: Roads, Paths, Transportation					
Projects	Issue/Need	Short to Medium Term Actions	Long Term Goal	Potential Key partners	
Repair and creation of a Coastal Path	Repair and creation of a Coastal Path and to encourage the recreation of a "Creel walk" from Portlethen to Aberdeen.	Explore widening the scope of work undertaken by the Paths Group to look at how this might be developed.	The Communities of Portlethen and Aberdeen are linked by a coastal route.	Aberdeenshire Council Portlethen & District Community Council Portlethen Paths Group Kincardineshire Development Partnership Our Mearns Tourism Association	
Encourage the creation of more cycle paths around the area	Encourage people to be more aware of their environment and adopting greener activities.	Create an open access group Build good relationships with Landowners	Improved access and opportunity to choose a greener transport options	Aberdeenshire Council Portlethen & District Community Council Portlethen Paths Group Kincardineshire Development Partnership	
THEME 2: Facilities and Amenities					
Projects	Issue/Need	Short to Medium Term Actions	Long Term Goal	Potential Key partners	
The Green	This area needs re-generation, with better signs and directions towards it. Better use needs to be made of the paths and the area to make clear that it is a shopping centre	Funding to be sought for signage, noticeboards and landscaping Permission and agreement sought from property developer for changes.	Approach and theme applied to all retail areas	Aberdeenshire Council Business Owners Property Developer	
Hillside	Hillside requires improved community facilities including play area for small children, areas for older children, and areas for families. Land is also required for a Community Centre.	Gather information and evidence of what is desired and required by the local residence to build a case for action and support.	Asset Transfer of land to build a Community Centre	Portlethen & District Community Council Hillside Parent Council Kincardineshire Development Partnership	

THEME 3: Sports and Recreation Facilities					
Projects	Issue/Need	Short to Medium Term Actions	Long Term Goal	Potential Key partners	
Sports pitches in Hillside	Sports pitches in Hillside, next to Hillside School, to be transferred to the Community for use either as sport pitches or as a park.	Await the outcome of Aberdeenshire Council consideration of options for the large green space at Hillside which could deliver 2 full size grass pitches and possibly floodlights and changing facilities.		Aberdeenshire Council Hillside Parents School Group	
Nicol Park	Nicol Park be redeveloped as an asset with sport area and or play area. or a community space accessible for all	Following local objections to previous proposals find out what residents local to the site would like to see.	Development of the Park as a well used outdoor space	Aberdeenshire Council Portlethen & District Community Council Young at Heart Run Porty Run	
Sports pitches	Create more sports pitches	Await outcome of Hillside green space Investigate the redundant pitch Roadside of Findon - what improvement to the facilities are required? Who owns the pitch?		Aberdeenshire Council Portlethen & District Community Council Football Groups Rugby Group	
THEME 4: Community Activities					
Projects	Issue/Need	Short to Medium Term Actions	Long Term Goal	Potential Key partners	
Police Station building	If the Police Station building were to become available (i.e. no longer used as a Police Station), that consideration be made to asset transferring it to the Community for use as a training centre or Portlethen Museum.	Identify or form a group with a robust plan to take forward should the building become available	Asset Transfer Building for Community use	Police Scotland Kincardineshire Development Partnership	
Porty Cabin	The Porty Cabin could be transferred to the Community to be used for the youth of Portlethen	Identify or form a group with a robust plan to take forward should the building become available	Asset Transfer Building for Community use	Aberdeenshire Council Kincardineshire Development Partnership Christian Group Child Minding Group	

THEME 4: Community Activities					
Projects	Issue/Need	Short to Medium Term Actions	Long Term Goal	Potential Key partners	
Raise the public image of Portlethen and the surrounding villages.	There is a need to give Portlethen a feeling of identity and belonging for local residents.	Address the issues around signage Make Improvements to the overall appearance of the town		Portlethen & District Community Council Paths Group Aberdeenshire Council	
Benches	Have more benches installed around the area for people to use.	Encourage the idea of memorial benches being put in place. Encourage and promote sponsoring benches		Portlethen & District Community Council Paths Group	
THEME 5: Outdoor Spaces					
Projects	Issue/Need	Short to Medium Term Actions	Long Term Goal	Potential Key partners	
Allotments	Portlethen needs allotments - a local group has been campaigning for them for a long time.	Aberdeenshire Council are looking at potential sites including the large green space at Hillside Establish ownership of other green spaces	Community Allotment Site with opportunities to improve health and wellbeing of Portlethen residents. Educational activities.	Allotment Group Aberdeenshire Council Paths Group	
Space next to Cornerstone	Proposal that this land be converted into a public garden with fruit trees, edible plants, and a pavilion to shelter from the rain.	Status of site to be confirmed Use for temporary events such as Farmers Market Identify and plan more permanent proposals		Aberdeenshire Council Cornerstone Portlethen & District Community Council	
Nicol Park	As detailed under Theme 3	As detailed under Theme 3	As detailed under Theme 3	As detailed under Theme 3	

Community Action Plan

This booklet is one of a series produced by the Local Rural Partnerships for a number of communities in Aberdeenshire.

This initiative is sponsored by Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership and run by Aberdeenshire Local Rural Partnerships. The aim is to provide community action plans in an attractive, easy to read, professionally printed format

This information can now guide the community and Community Planning Partners in drawing up detailed action plans to implement the top priorities as well as addressing the other issues which have been identified.

For each priority or issue this will involve agreeing who should be involved, what resources will be needed and target dates for completion. It is hoped that this process will be driven by representatives of the community with support - moral, technical & financial - from the relevant Partners.

It is important that this booklet is seen by all concerned as an account of the community's views at the time of the latest consultation, and that it will have to be regularly updated. As some projects are completed, other issues will arise and take their place in future versions of the community plan.

It is recommended that this plan has a maximum life of five years.

With grateful thanks for the help and assistance to:
Aberdeenshire Council, Kincardineshire Development Partnership,
The People of Portlethen, Old Portlethen, Findon, Downies, and Checkbar,
Portlethen & District Community Council,
Portlethen Moss Conservation Group,
Portlethen Woodland Trust, Portlethen Golf Club
Ken Watson, Fred Stewart, Ian Kenn, Gareth Lewis
Wikipedia

Kincardineshire Development Partnership

F9 Sheriff Court Building • Dunnottar Avenue • Stonehaven
AB39 2JD

Telephone: 01569 763 246 • Email: officesupport@kdp.scot



www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk