

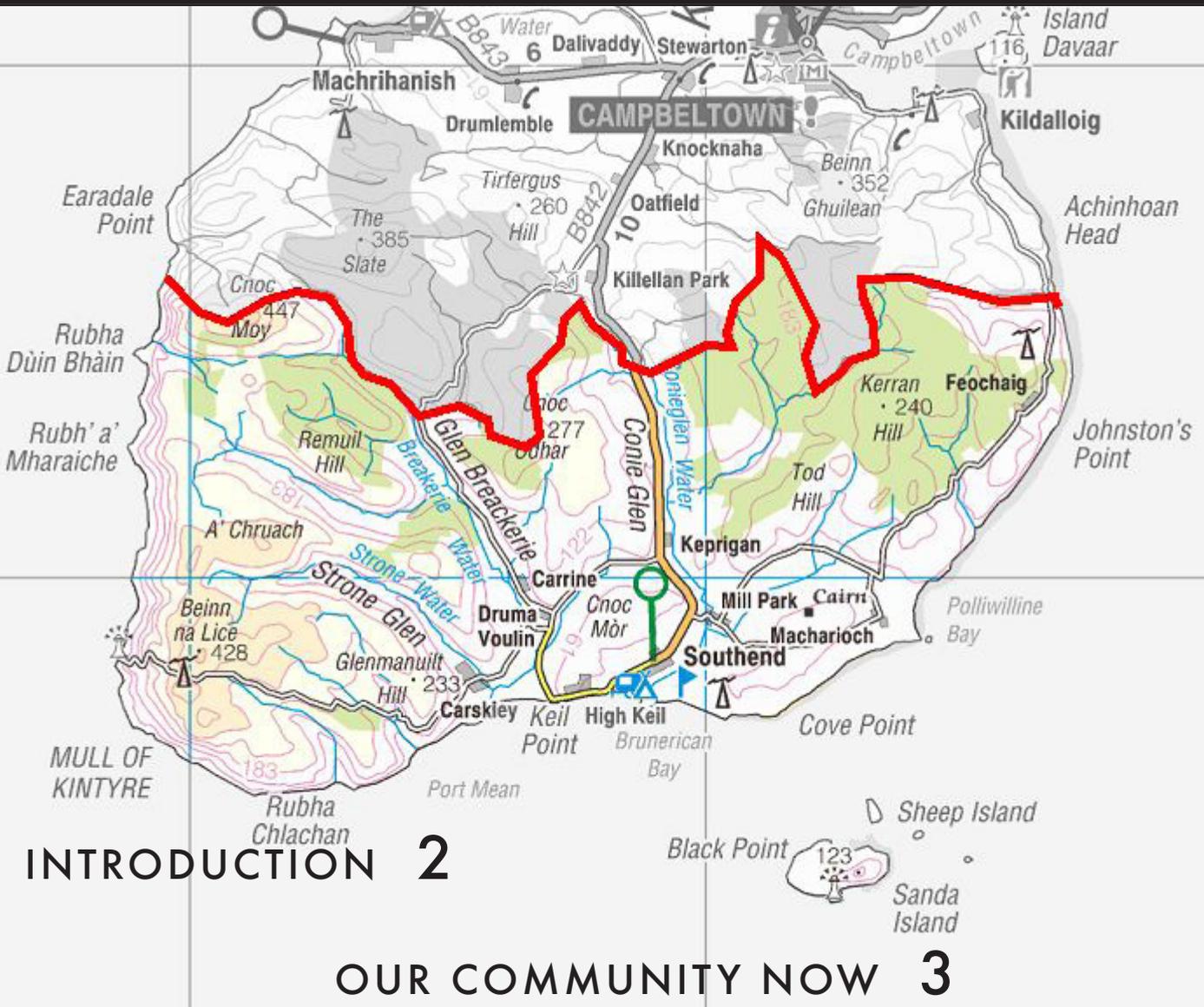
SOUTHEND COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2012 - 2017

Southend Community Futures Steering Group



SOUTH KINTYRE COMMUNITY FUTURES

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INTRODUCTION

100 COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY FORMS WERE RETURNED
FROM OUR **244** HOUSEHOLDS

12 STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS AND INTERVIEWS WERE HELD WITH LOCAL GROUPS,
BUSINESSES, AND SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

43 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE COMMUNITY FUTURES EVENT

This Community Action Plan summarises community views about:

- Southend now
- the vision for the future of Southend
- the issues that matter most to the community
- our priorities for projects and action.

The plan will be our guide for what we - as a community - try to make happen over the next 5 years.

SOUTH KINTYRE COMMUNITY FUTURES

South Kintyre Development Trust is working to assist four community council areas in South Kintyre to prepare their own Community Action Plans.

The Southend Community Futures Steering Group was set up to manage the process in Southend and was made up of representatives from Southend Community Council, Dunaverty Village Hall Committee and local residents.

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

The Action Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement carried out over a four month period from October 2011 to January 2012.

The process involved:

- stakeholder interviews and meetings with different groups and individuals representing all aspects of the community;
- carrying out a community views survey, which was delivered to every household; preparing a community profile detailing facts and figures about the community;
- organising a Community Futures Event.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART

SOUTHEND COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

OUR COMMUNITY NOW



We have summarised below the main facts and figures from the Community Profile and some of the views from the Community Views Survey. Full copies of these reports are available on the South Kintyre Development Trust web site: www.skdt.org

SOUTHEND COMMUNITY PROFILE 2012 SUMMARY

Location

The Community of Southend lies at the end of the Kintyre Peninsula only 13 miles from Northern Ireland. The nearest town, Campbeltown (pop. 5,919) is 150 miles from Glasgow. The community consists of a small village with scattered farms and settlements and is classed as very remote rural.

Population

There are 624 residents living in Southend on a regular basis with almost treble this amount from April to October due to visitors to the area many of whom can spend up to six months in the community. A century ago the population was around 2,000. The population has a high percentage of people of retirement age and the last

10 years has seen a reduction particularly in the number of women of working age, and children. According to Argyll and Bute Councils population projections the South Kintyre area as a whole will experience a 25% population drop by 2025.

Local Economy

Southend is still a farming community with over 30% of the working population involved in agriculture and forestry compared with only 4.5% for Argyll and Bute and just over 2% for Scotland. There is a very high level of self employment and working long hours. Tourism is also a significant local sector, while others commute relatively long distances to work in Campbeltown or elsewhere.

Education

- Southend Nursery (Pre five Unit) provision for 3-5 year olds is open from 9am - 11.30am five days a week, school term only.
- Southend Primary School has previously been threatened with closure but is a vital community asset.
- Secondary Education - Campbeltown Grammar School.
- Further Education and Adult Education courses are available in Campbeltown

OUR COMMUNITY NOW

Health and Care

- There is a GP medical practice in the village. It recently became an NHS run practice which shares its staff with another community in the peninsula. The practice runs appointments and drop in clinics. It offers out of hours care, with a base for a Midwife, Nurses, and a Health Visitor.
- There is a small, non surgical, hospital in Campbeltown which also has a small hospice run by Macmillan Cancer Care within it. For more specialist consultation patients need to travel to Oban or further afield to the Glasgow area.
- The nearest residential care is in Campbeltown.

Emergency Services

- Two emergency ambulances operate from the station in Campbeltown, as well as three non-emergency, patient transport vehicles.
- The nearest Police Station is based in Campbeltown. The nearest Fire Station is in Campbeltown.
- There are currently 4 volunteer coastguards based in Southend. There is a larger team based in Campbeltown.

Public Transport

- There are six public buses a day between Southend and Campbeltown during school days in school terms between 8.20am and 9.45pm. Out with the school timetable the service reduces by two buses. There are no buses on a Sunday.
- There is an airport 12 miles from Southend with no connecting bus, the service

runs two flights a day to Glasgow, Monday to Friday.

- Some residents access community transport through the Red Cross

Community and Recreational facilities and organisations

- The old community hall was demolished in 2007. Other local facilities include St. Blaans Church Hall, Sports Field, and our new Play Area. The nearest library is in Campbeltown and a mobile library comes once a month.
- Local events include the School sports day, Southend Highland Games in July, Annual Bonfire and Fireworks, Scarecrow Challenge, Duck Race, Macmillan Coffee Afternoon, Halloween Party, Bowls Night Competition, Christmas Craft Fayre, Seniors' Christmas Meal
- Groups and organisations include - Southend Community Council, Dunaverty Players drama group, The Youth Club, Sunday School, the Southend Women's Rural Institute, Southend Sports Club, Tuesday social group for older people, St Blaans' Church group.

Environment

The area is mainly farm land and forestry with a beautiful coast line and beaches. Dunaverty Beach is popular with tourists. There is a nature reserve at Largiebaan along a 4 mile coastal strip run by the Scottish Wildlife Trust and home to Golden Eagles.

The Kintyre Way ends at Dunaverty Rock and passes near to Southend village.

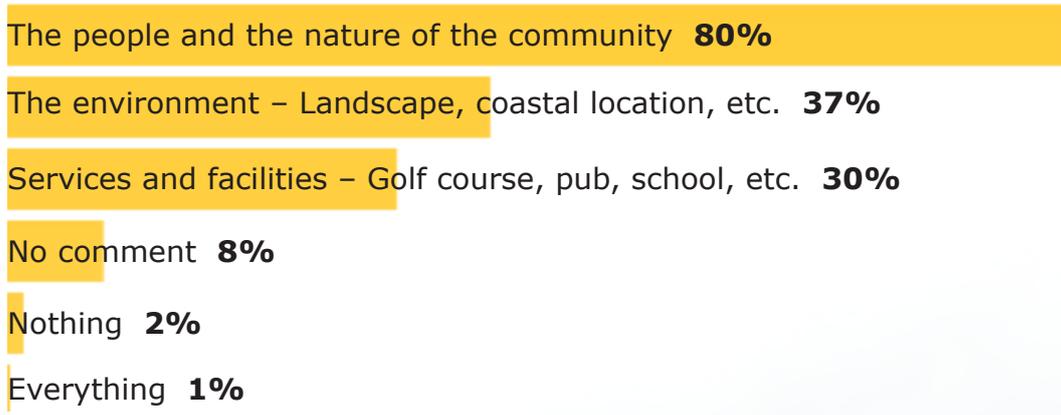
Heritage

Southend is the first landing spot on the mainland for the Gaelic speaking people from Ireland who forged the Kingdom of Dalriada. It could be claimed to be the birthplace of the nation that we know of today as Scotland.

The area has a varied traceable history from Neolithic times to the present day with a number of historical sites – chambered cairns, townships, standing stones, legends of visits by St. Columba and the massacre of Macdonald Clan at Dunaverty Rock. There are iconic buildings and remains of a number of sea and air tragedies. Most notable landmarks include:

- Dunaverty Rock - The site of a bloody massacre in the 17th Century, where a fort stood from the 13th Century.
- Keil Hotel – A large art deco style hotel which is currently being renovated
- Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse – Situated eight miles from the village the lighthouse was built in 1788.
- St Columba's Footprint – The footprint is an imprint of a foot etched in stone.
- Blasthill Site – An excavation of a Neolithic chambered tomb (Clyde Tomb) unique to Scotland. This is a closed site now.

OUR COMMUNITY NOW LIKES



WHAT PEOPLE SAID:

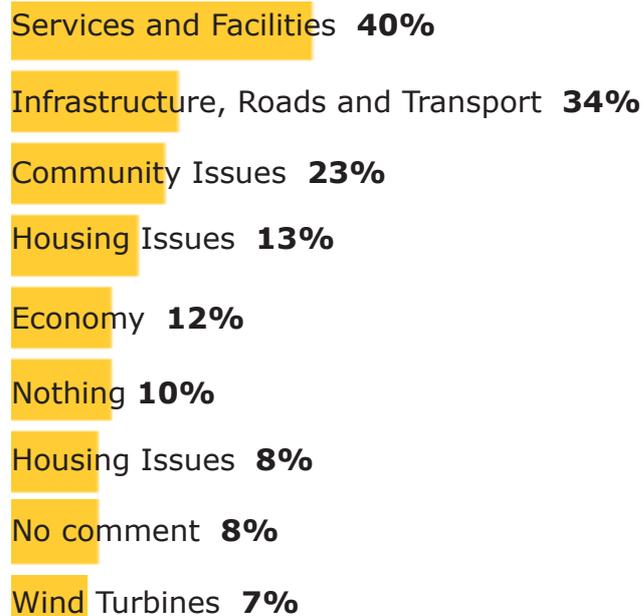
The people...the efforts of the whole community to welcome tourists
 Excellent community spirit evident in groups like the PTA, the rural, the Southend Highland Games committee, the Burns committee, the church...

The peace and quiet, the sense of caring in the community
 The friendly people in the village...
 ...it is small, safe environment and we all know one another.

I like the natural unspoiled landscape and seascape
 Fresh air and open spaces
 ...stunning scenery

Beaches
 The glorious scenery both inland and coastal. The abundant wildlife...
 It has a Dr surgery. School, church, hotel/post office, golf course, play park all set in such a lovely area...
 ...we have a school, a pub/hotel, golf course, caravan parks for visitors, a church...
 Having a play field for the children.
 Good primary school and nursery...well equipped shop and tearoom...
 The fact it has a school, shop and post office...
 Excellent golf course.

OUR COMMUNITY NOW DISLIKES



WHAT PEOPLE SAID:

No village hall for birthday parties, for the youth club...for seeing theatre/arts/what is going on...

We would have liked to see a new hall built where community events could be held. Lack of a village hall is leading to a loss of community spirit in Southend

Lack of other sports facilities for children and visitors

I worry about the school closing which may mean we have to move away

The state of the roads with pot holes and dangerous corners because of the lack of scrub clearance

Cars speeding through the village

Could it not be arranged that the a morning bus Southend to Campbeltown could connect with bus going to Glasgow...

Lack of proper bus service when schools are on holiday

Poor broadband/telephone reception (mobile)

Digital TV reception is poor

The split that has been caused by the possibility of the erection of wind farms is sad

The fact that it's fastly becoming a retiral village...

Houses/outbuildings in broken down condition

Lack of social housing forcing young people out of the community

I wish there were more areas of employment to encourage families to move to rural areas...

The lack of young people (except farmers) able to find work

High cost of electricity – esp as main source of heating

Price of fuel

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

This statement has been prepared to summarise the main aspirations for the future as expressed by local people and organisations

A VILLAGE WITH MODERN COMMUNITY FACILITIES

We will have developed a new fit for purpose village hall that is a community hub used by all members of the community

A COMMUNITY THAT PEOPLE CAN STILL LIVE IN AND ACCESS SERVICES

We want to be a thriving community with a good mix of young and old. To achieve this we will work to retain vital community services and improve transport, road, phone and internet connections.

A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CAN WORK AND EARN A LIVING

We will support local businesses to establish, diversify and grow and push for the wider regeneration of the Kintyre Peninsula to help create employment and business opportunities and help to strengthen our local economy.

AN AREA THAT PEOPLE WILL VISIT AND ENJOY

We will continue to develop and promote our quality facilities, recreational opportunities and access to our beautiful environment and provide information and interpretation about our special heritage. Tourism will be a strong part of our local economy

MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES



These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

A new hall is of vital importance to the community and was the main priority identified. It has been difficult to sustain community groups and activities in its absence. It is essential for the area to retain its sense of community by providing a focal point for people to meet and socialise. In particular the needs of teenagers to have places to meet and things for them to do was highlighted in the survey work for this action plan.

A new hall would also have an important role in providing wet weather activities for visitors to the area. A new hall should also include changing facilities and toilets that could serve the sports field and play park.

Main priorities

- New Dunaverty Village Hall
- More for young people to do
- Better sports facilities
- Develop wet weather activities

SERVICES, OPPORTUNITIES AND CONNECTIONS FOR A REMOTE COMMUNITY

The community is at risk of depopulation and there has been a drop in the numbers of working age women, and children. It is of great importance that we try to retain the school as well as other vital local services. Important services include the school, the church, the post office, health service, and public transport.

Better access to services and training and jobs opportunities in Campbeltown and beyond are also important and there is a need for a concerted initiative to improve roads, transport, broadband, and phone connections are all important for the future sustainability of the community.

Main priorities

- Retain vital community services locally
- Improve access to other services elsewhere
- Improve broadband and phone services
- Improved public transport
- Better roads

MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES



LOCAL ECONOMY, TOURISM AND REGENERATION

Southend is very dependent on agriculture and needs to diversify its economy through the local promotion of tourism – there are a wide range of assets that could be further developed and promoted.

Its future is also closely linked to wider regeneration of the Kintyre peninsula as a whole and so the regeneration of Campbeltown, improved ferry and air transport links, and the new hotels and golf courses are also important. The development of windfarms and renewable energy in the Kintyre Peninsula is also an issue which could benefit Southend but this would need to be handled with extreme environmental care, take account of the unique heritage and also provide sufficient community and economic benefit to help address issues and priorities within this action plan.

Main priorities

- Support local businesses and jobs
- Promotion of local assets – golf, hotels, pubs, events, walks, heritage
- Support South Kintyre Regeneration flagships in Campbeltown and Machrihanish
- Consider appropriate development of renewable energy projects



ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

The development of tourism is closely linked to making more of the special heritage and beautiful environment. The area would also benefit more from the Kintyre Way if it developed its own linked network of paths and cycle ways. Despite its proximity it is also by passed by visitors to the Mull of Kintyre lighthouse and needs to do more to sign people into Southend and to continue to make the village more attractive.

Main priorities

- Development of paths for walking, cycling and horseriding
- Interpretation and promotion of our heritage
- Village improvements

HOUSING

There is a need for affordable housing to make it more possible for younger working families to stay or relocate to the area. It is another important aspect of trying to help to address the decline of the working age and child population – and is therefore linked to the hope of retaining vital community services.

Main Priority

- Explore options for affordable housing in Southend

ACTION

A guide to the first steps to be taken over the next 12 months

THEME 1: COMMUNITY FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

PRIORITY 1	<p>Rebuild Dunaverty Village Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Recruit new members to the committee •Finalise design and costings •Secure funding •Secure planning permission •Tender for Contract and commence build!
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Dunaverty Hall Committee, more volunteers, and relevant funders</i>
PRIORITY 2	<p>Changing facilities and toilets for sports pitch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Include in plans for new halls •But also investigate other more immediate solutions
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Local sports groups, hall committee</i>
PRIORITY 3	<p>Wet weather facilities and activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Investigate the potential for using existing facilities for activities •Include in proposals for the new hall so that it can accommodate •activities for local and visitors
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Local businesses, Southend Community Council, Dunaverty Village Hall Committee</i>
PRIORITY 4	<p>More activities for young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Support the development of the Youth Club
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Southend Youth Club, relevant funders, local residents, Southend Community Council</i>

ACTION

THEME 2: ACCESS TO SERVICES, OPPORTUNITIES AND CONNECTIONS

PRIORITY 1	<p>Retain and improve existing services</p> <p>Action should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working closely with the school and local authority to retain the school in the community • Developing community and health service links and look at extending GP hours later in the day so there is a surgery for people who return late from work. • Explore solutions to recent closures (post office) • Developing awareness of the needs of the growing number of elderly • Looking at whether more local childcare options than Campbeltown could be developed.
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Southend Community Council, Southend PTA, local businesses, local residents, Argyll and Bute Council, local politicians.</i>
PRIORITY 2	<p>Improve public transport, retain Red Cross Service and explore community transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In particular lobby for improved late night bus service to Campbeltown on weekends to benefit locals and visitors. • Lobby to retain the Red Cross transport service • Look into the possibility of acquiring and running a community bus
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Southend Community Council, Argyll and Bute Council, transport providers.</i>
PRIORITY 3	<p>Improve broadband, phone and TV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby for improvement to broadband speeds, mobile phone signal, television signal in the area
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Argyll and Bute Council, Southend Community Council, Scottish Government, Mobile phone service providers, BT, MP's, MEP's, local councillors.</i>
PRIORITY 4	<p>Improve roads to Campbeltown and in the area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the roads department to agree a programme of improvements and maintenance and reporting. This should include improvements to surfaces, verges and ditches on the B842, Dalsmirren and Leaside roads as well as roads in and around Southend.
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Southend Community Council, Argyll and Bute Council, residents and businesses</i>

ACTION



THEME 3: LOCAL ECONOMY AND TOURISM

PRIORITY 1	<p>Support for existing businesses and local business networking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Support improvements in the shops, cafés, pub, restaurants and hotels •Look at ways of stimulating interest
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Local businesses working together, local residents, Southend Community Council</i>
PRIORITY 2	<p>Promotion and signage of local assets - golf course, beaches, hotel, caravan park, pub, walks, heritage, wildlife, events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Local businesses and organisations working together to put together a promotions package for the area
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Local businesses, golf club, local events committees, walks and heritage action groups</i>
PRIORITY 3	<p>Regeneration projects in Campbeltown and Machrihanish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Support the completion of large regeneration projects (waterfront, golf courses, hotels, Campbeltown Town Centre, ferry to Northern Ireland, Creamery) that will have a benefit for the whole area.
<i>Action by</i>	<i>See Campbeltown Action Plan!</i>
PRIORITY 3	<p>Consider appropriate development of renewable energy projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Consider applications for their merit in terms of impact on social, economic, environmental, heritage and culture aspects of the community. •Make sure Local residents and businesses are thoroughly consulted before any development goes ahead •Make sure the area is protected against single turbine proliferation
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Southend Community Council, wind farm developers, local businesses, local residents, Argyll & Bute Council, other statutory agencies.</i>

ACTION



THEME 4: ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

PRIORITY 1	<p>Develop local paths network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop plans for upgrading and adding to the local network •Agree priorities and take action •Look at ways of promoting the network
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Southend Community Council, Argyll and Bute Council, Kintyre Way, Forestry Commission Scotland, local landowners, recreation interest groups (walkers, cyclists), tourism businesses.</i>
PRIORITY 2	<p>Better interpretation and promotion of local heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Development of better signs for areas within Southend •Do more to interpret and promote the history and links with St. Columba and the roots of Dalriada. •Develop links and connections between the community and Mull of Kintyre lighthouse and other key landmarks in the area.
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Southend Community Council, Argyll and Bute Council, Visit Scotland, local tourism businesses</i>
PRIORITY 2	<p>Village enhancement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Make the village more attractive e.g. hanging baskets. •Remove/refurbish derelict buildings within Southend village •Develop more picnic areas/benches for visitors
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Local businesses, committees, local residents, Southend Community Council, Argyll and Bute Council</i>

THEME 5: HOUSING

PRIORITY 1	<p>Provision of affordable rural housing</p> <p>Investigate the potential for creating affordable rural housing as a method of stimulating population growth in the area.</p>
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Southend Community Council, Argyll & Bute Council, Registered Social Landlords, Commission for the Delivery of Rural Education.</i>

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Local Action

The Southend Community Council will take a lead in promoting the main priorities in this Action Plan. We will look to work closely with other local organisations and businesses to take action, and would also appreciate the involvement of more local people. We would like to hear from you if you are interested in being involved in any of the main actions in this action plan.

Southend Community Council
John Bakes
Waterside Cottage
Southend
Argyll
PA28 6RW

T: 01586 830 655

The village hall is a priority project and needs more volunteers to join the committee. Let us know if you have some time to help.

Contact:
Susan Paterson
23 Wallace Cottages
Southend
Argyll
PA28 6RW

T: 01586 830 336

If you are interested in Rural Housing Issues and issues surrounding the closure of rural schools then please get in touch.

Contact:
Anne Baird

T: 01586 830 613
E: annebaird613@btinternet.com

Working with other communities in South Kintyre

It will be vital for us to work with other communities in South Kintyre – especially where we have joint issues and opportunities. We will continue to work under the umbrella of the South Kintyre Development Trust to develop joint action that can benefit the whole peninsula.

The Trust have taken a lead role in helping communities to develop Community Action Plans and will be instrumental in helping to support our endeavours to implement priority projects over the next 5 years. In recognition of this important role Highlands and Islands Enterprise have provided funding to the Trust for a Local Development Officer.

SOUTH KINTYRE DEVELOPMENT TRUST
3 Harveys Lane
Burnside Square
Campbeltown
PA28 6GE
T: 01586 552870
E: info@skdt.org



SOUTHEND COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2012-2017

This Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of Southend over the next 5 years as determined by the community through an extensive process of community engagement carried out over a four month period in late 2011 and early 2012.

THE PLAN CONTAINS:

- A summary of our Community Profile
- Our main likes and dislikes as identified in our Community Views Household Survey
- Our Vision Statement for the Future of Southend
- The main themes and priorities for action
- Information on how you can stay in touch and get involved.

The Plan is for the whole community and is jointly owned by all the organisations and individuals that took part in its preparation. We will be working together to ensure its implementation over the next 5 years.

The project has been supported by Argyll and the Islands LEADER, Awards for All, South Kintyre Area Development Group, East and West Kintyre Wind Farm Trusts, InspirAlba and the volunteers of South Kintyre Development Trust.

South Kintyre Community Futures is a project organised and managed by the South Kintyre Community Development Trust and is being part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community Argyll and the Islands LEADER 2007-2013 Programme



Community Futures

South Kintyre Development Trust was assisted in the process of preparing Community Action Plans through the Small Town and Rural Development Group's Community Futures Programme. For further information contact:
www.stardevelopmentgroup.org