

Example Local Place Plans

Throughout our pilot community-led planning project, which ended in August 2024, we reviewed a Local Place Plan from somewhere in Scotland each month. Looking at what has been registered in other places can provide inspiration, with the assurance that the plans have met the requirements for registration under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.

Local Place Plans can combine Community Action Plans with a spatial map-based element, and don't just have to be about influencing planning. They can set out priorities for community action, use of land and buildings, as well as amplify the combined voice of your community to influence statutory service delivery.

[Read more about all of this here!](#)

We hope these reviews are useful to you as you consider how to present your own.

Stromness



This month I would like to highlight the [Local Place Plan for Stromness](#). This is a great example of a well-presented plan, with a map-based approach throughout. Pages 13 – 16 are a good place to look if your group is at the community engagement planning phase, so you can get tips on the kind of information to collect for presentation in your plan, such as photos of engagement sessions, hits on relevant social media posts, numbers at each event etc.

Please note, this place plan was produced before the relevant legislation was adopted and has not been registered as an LPP yet (last checked August 2024).

Drymen

Our example Local Place Plan of the month is Drymen Place Plan from Loch Lomond and the Trossachs. It can be downloaded [here](#). This is very well presented throughout and clear to follow. The section on community engagements (P.5-9) gives some good ideas for the sort of evidence you could be collecting to present this section of your own LPP. The map on P.13 is a great example of how to clearly present a summary of proposed landuse developments which form part of you LPP.



[Photo attribution: Pater S. 2014](#)

Strathfillan

[Strathfillan Community Place Plan](#) Is a super clear, attractively presented example of a registered Local Place Plan. Check out the use of maps to show the area covered (P.3) and to identify the location of community projects and development proposals (P.21 and 22) - both are a requirement for Local Place Plans.

The responses from the community have been summarised in sections for children, young people, businesses and residents, giving a good cross-section of community aspirations.

The Place Standard Tool results feature strongly. Photos from community engagement sessions with maps and post-its provide and local photos provide an impactful visual presentation.



A delivery plan is separated out from the Local Place Plan, leaving this document simply presented and making it easy to see the vision, mission, priorities and overarching actions.

Lots of great ideas to learn from, thanks Strathfillan Community Development Trust!

Linlithgow

This month we are featuring [Linlithgow Local Place Plan](#).

According to the government guidance, LPPs should “have regard” for the NPF4 (the new National Planning Framework), the Local Development Plan and any locality plans covering the same area. Demonstrating how wider plans are reflected at a local level in your plan can seem a daunting task, so it is helpful to see how others have approached this.

Linlithgow LPP categorically states how it has met this requirement on P.4 and woven



throughout the plan are references to national policy reflected in the NPF4. Catch-phrases which will stand out to funders and local planning authorities are worth taking time to get familiar with, such as [20-minute neighbourhoods](#), [Community Wealth Building](#), [Town Centre Living](#) and [sustainable places](#).

Picture credit: [Nessy](#)

Balquhidder, Lochearnhead and Strathyre



[Attribution-David Dixon](#)

[Balquhidder, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Community Place Plan](#) covers a rural area consisting of three villages with a total population of 787 at 2011 census. As such it provides a useful example for our more rural community council areas in the Scottish Borders, of which there are many!

This Local Place Plan builds on the previous work of a Community Action Plan for the area and combines aspirations for each village into in one plan, but with clearly colour coded sections for each village.

Two out of three of the villages undertook and funded their own engagements as consultants were only funded for one of the villages. They used their own online adapted version of the [Place Standard Tool](#), then combined their findings with their Community Action Plan. Through this process they identified four ‘focus groups’ to engage with further: residents, businesses, young families, and young people. This process is very much what several groups in the Borders are going through.

A highlight for me is the clear presentation of representative comments from each focus group for each community priority theme, followed by a map plotting relevant proposals for action identified for that theme.

The final pages set out overarching priorities for the whole area spanning the three villages, such as improved public transport, health and social care services and addressing the issue of housing being sold as second homes and the resulting lack of affordable housing for locals.

Crail

[Crail Local Place Plan](#) sets out the communities’ aspirations for the sustainable development of their small rural harbour town in Fife, developed by Crail Community Partnership, a constituted body representing several local voluntary groups, and Community Council combined. The community groups were supported by various consultants at different stages and through various funding streams, including their Common Good Fund.



[Attribution-Andy Hawkins](#)

This LPP is a reworking of a recent Community Action Plan to meet requirements for registration with Fife Council and combines the ability to feed into spatial planning with community action.

They take an interesting approach to presenting evidence of their community engagements, with a summary in the body of the LPP and further details in an appendix, thus reducing the number of pages in the (already fairly lengthy) LPP itself. I particularly like the graphic summary on P. 14!

A key driver behind the LPP appears to be proposals for a large housing development on the outskirts of the town. This has provoked concern amongst the community that such a development may not contribute to the sustainable development of the town, but rather become a commuter zone for St. Andrews which is disconnected from the town centre and does not provide suitable housing for local people.

The document is a high-level framework to guide development which aligns with the community's vision for Crail, and the proposed actions it sets out are broad brush, structured under a set of five priority themes. This is an intentional approach to allow for flexibility in delivery guided by a set of principles.

A map is used to clearly present key proposals on P.7 in a spatial format, in alignment with requirements for registration as a Local Place Plan. Proposals for action include traffic calming measures, additional recycling facilities, harbour improvements, Community Hall improvements, active travel routes, green corridors, coastal path improvements, upgrades to public toilets, parking and town centre regeneration – and that's not even an exhaustive list!

There is a clear intention for community oversight of delivery, whether projects are taken forward by community groups, or through influencing the Local Development Plan, statutory service delivery or private sector developments and businesses. In their own words, this LPP “represents the start of Crail's community empowerment journey over the next decade, bringing together the Scottish Government's aspirations for community empowerment, planning and placemaking at a very local level” (P.11).

Kirkconnel and Kelloholm



Attribution: Richard Webb

Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Parish Place Plan is in two parts, which can be found on the [Dumfries and Galloway Council register of Local Place Plans](#). Central to the plan is energy: the decline of coal industry has had a major impact on the local economy and employment and the focus of this plan is on green energy as a driver to re-invigorate the local economy and benefit the community.

This LPP is a delivery focused and ambitious plan, with a strong thread of community-led action in its delivery plan. It also demonstrates a high level of partnership working with notable involvement from South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE), Dumfries and Galloway Council, the Health & Social Care Partnership, Buccleuch Estates, Wheatley Homes and other organisations, alongside their Development Trust.

As this LPP was produced in part as a requirement for accessing Borderlands investment funding (available to predetermined towns across the South of Scotland and Northern England as part of the [Borderlands Place Programme](#)) it has additional requirements to a regular LPP and so might be more complex than is needed for other communities, especially those with no town within the boundary of their plan. However, it is a helpful example of a community-led plan which could be used to attract significant funds from any source.

Borderlands Place Plans are primarily economic documents which identify projects to attract investment. Although it isn't a requirement for them to be registered with the Local Planning Authority as LPPs, it makes sense to incorporate the requirements for spatial planning at the same time and that is the approach being encouraged across the Borderlands Towns in the Scottish Borders. Some of the project funding will be sought through the Borderlands Place Programme, others from other sources.

Although it is long (each part is over 50 pages!) the clear presentation makes navigation straightforward. I recommend checking out Appendix 3 (P.42 of part 2) which is a very helpful summary table of the action plan, setting out the various projects and how they link with the strategic aims of the plan.

Another notable element is the list of other plans, such as the Local Development Plan and housing strategies, which were considered in their LPP development (Appendix 2: P. 41 pf part 2).

I'm always on the lookout for how evidence of community engagement is presented in LPPs. In this one, the details are saved for an appendix (part 2, P. 34), listing the engagement events and other methods used, and the findings, then using word clouds to present the aspects most frequently mentioned. The headline findings are presented at the end of part 1 (P. 50). However, I think the most useful way the evidence is presented is in the quotes and figures which are peppered throughout part 1 as evidence for the selection of each investment theme.

The only maps used in this LPP are the boundary map on P.6 and an overview map of the proposed projects or sites of community interest on P.45 of part 1.

Finally, I really like the use of case studies of relevant projects and practical solutions from around the UK which are used to demonstrate that the proposals presented have precedent elsewhere and that the groups involved in delivery are keen to learn from them.

Ardgour

[Ardgour Local Place Plan](#) was highlighted to me recently by one someone from one of the more rural community council areas in the Borders. They had found it a useful example for their area, so I thought I'd check it out too.



Attribution: [Phillip Capper](#)

Ardgour Community Council area covers the west side of Loch Linnhe, near Fort William and had a population of only 436 in 2020 (roughly 200 households), the size of community which many of us in the Borders can identify with.

The LPP was led by the Community Council and Development Trust working together and steered by a local “sounding board” with wider community representation. It was financially supported by Highland Council, DTAS and others. They had specialist input from an architect, landscape planner and a planning consultant.

At 37 pages (rather than over 100 as some have been!) it is a relatively compact LPP. It starts by clearly stating the purpose of the plan, which takes a combined approach of influencing spatial planning, informing statutory service delivery and community action.

It is first “rooted in the community”, but also reflective of wider plans such as the Local Development Plan and National Planning Framework ([NPF4](#)), as required for registration as an LPP. This is clearly set out early in the document, with a very helpful graphic illustration on P.7.

I like the way it specifically states the kind of things which would give it credence to funders, public bodies and other delivery partners. For example, that their community engagements were carried out in line with the [National Standards for Community Engagement](#). It also clearly sets out how the community priority areas align with Scottish Government [National Outcomes](#), using a simple table (P. 15), something which is facilitated by using the Place Standard Tool as a framework for community engagements. For a quick guide on the link between the Place Standard Tool, the National Outcomes and the NPF4 check out [this article](#) I wrote last year.

There are many other inspired features in this LPP, but I’d like to highlight just two more.

Firstly, I really like the “making it happen” section (P. 31 – 33), which is specific about who will need to be involved in delivery, including local third sector groups, local businesses, public bodies, their enterprise agency (Highlands and Islands Enterprise, which is equivalent to South of Scotland Enterprise, SoSE), housing associations, UK and Scottish Government and NGOs such as NatureScot, Paths for All and Sustrans (and that’s not even the full list!).

Secondly, it includes a table which separates out those proposals which relate to the use of land and buildings, in addition to their indication on the maps (P.34 and 35). LPPs can form material considerations in planning applications and a concise presentation of such proposals will give maximum opportunity for them to be impactful.

Burrtisland

[Burrtisland Local Place Plan](#) (LPP) is one of nine LPPs registered with Fife Council, the Council with the most registered LPPs in Scotland, followed closely behind by Midlothian, with both Councils having far more than any others in Scotland (as an aside, there are 34 Planning Authorities in Scotland: 32 Councils and two National Parks).



[Attribution: Thomas Nugent](#)

It was produced by the Royal Burgh of Burrtisland Community Council with the support of Burrtisland Community Development Trust. It doesn't state on their website whether they had any consultancy or specialist support, so I assume they did the presentation work themselves.

It is singularly focussed on the use of land and buildings and maps only the spatial elements of their existing Community Action Plan (CAP). There is a useful summary table on P.4 which links the priorities included in the LPP to the CAP themes. The document is intended to influence planning and development decisions and does not contain a delivery plan.

They present proposals for designation of land in the Local Development Plan e.g. site location for a car park (P.14 and 15) and where housing development should happen and what type it should be.

There is a strong element of valuing natural greenspace, biodiversity, outdoor access etc, and the area of the plan covers the surrounding countryside.

They have used Parish Online for producing their maps with the proposal sites indicated. Annotation of maps and layering of other data sets are features available through Community Map Scotland, free to all Community Councils in Scotland for the first year, and specially designed for use in with LPPs, [check it out here](#).

It is worth designating a piece of land or a building which is of community value, even if there is no plan for how this might be implemented yet, as in the example of their parish church which is under threat of closure, but the community wish to retain as a “publicly accessible heritage asset” (P.11). Such a designation can be used to build a case for community ownership or protection of an asset at a later date and will form a material consideration in any planning application relating to the building.

They make good use of photos to illustrate issues e.g. derelict sites. I am also struck by their engagement with relevant landowners, it is a very sensible approach to include them in the conversation from the planning stages (P.23)!

I particularly like their tables in appendixes which show how their LPP policies link to NPF4 and LDP policies and aspects of other plans. Such an alignment will strengthen the case for influencing planning decisions, attracting funding for community-led projects and involving relevant partners in delivery.