

# DUNBLANE COMMUNITY FUTURES

REPORT ON THE  
DUNBLANE CONFERENCE

BRAEPORT CENTRE

17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2009

Small Town and Rural Development Group

January 2009

## INTRODUCTION

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The Conference was held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2009 in the Braeport Centre. It brought together a wide range of stakeholders from community organisations, public services, local businesses, local developers' representatives and partner agencies to discuss what had been achieved in Dunblane over the last 5 years and to identify what needs to be done over the next 3 - 5 years.

The aim of the conference was to help review the Dunblane Local Community Plan 2003 and to contribute to the preparation of a new Dunblane Community Action Plan for 2009 - 2012 and beyond.

The Conference was organised by members of a steering group brought together by the Development Trust (DDT) and the Community Council (DCC). The Development Trust had been set up following the preparation of the 2003 plan with a remit to attract funding, volunteers and support and to take a lead in the development of the town and support projects prioritised in the plan.

It is hoped that DDT and DCC will continue to work closely together alongside a range of community and public organisations to develop and implement the new Action Plan.

### The work of the Conference

The Conference used small group work, feedback and plenary discussion to undertake the following activity

- A review of the Action Plan - measuring progress against the priorities in the 2003 Action Plan
- An assessment of the Current Situation in Dunblane
- A review of the original Vision Statement that lies at the heart of the 2003 plan to see whether it is still relevant
- Identification of the main development themes and priorities for the next 3 years

This report summarises the conference findings under each of those main activities.

## 2. AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE

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### Displays about

- Photos of DDT's environmental achievements
- Holmehill
- Skatepark
- Maps of Dunblane

9.30 Arrive - Tea and Coffee

### 2.7 Opening Session

#### Welcome and Introductions

Terence O'Byrne - Chairman of Dunblane Community Council

#### Dunblane Development Trust Achievements

Bryan Grieve - Chairman of the Dunblane Development Trust

#### Outline of the day

Alan Tuffs - STAR Development Group

### 2.7 Review of the outcomes of the 2003 Community Action Plan

- What's happened?
- What's not happened?
- What's been good - what could have been better?
- Who's benefited?

### 10.30 Dunblane Now

- Issues
- What's in the pipeline
- Emerging themes to work on for the future?

11.15 Break

11.30 Our vision for the future

11.45 Themes, Priority Projects and Actions for the Next 5 years

12.30 Summary and next steps

1pm Finish

## 2 ATTENDANCE

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### 2.7 Local community groups working with Younger People

Barry	Whitelee	Dunblane Scout Group
Morag	Campbell	Second Dunblane Brownies
Diane	Leithead	Braeport Playgroup (Dunblane Pre-School Playgroup Association)
Morag	Campbell	Braeport Playgroup (Dunblane Pre-School Playgroup Association)
Scott	Neil	Dunblane Centre
Nora	Dougherty	Dunblane Centre
Sue	Lockwood	Dunblane Centre
Sandra	Hunter	Dunblane Childrens' Community Partnership / Dunblane Health Centre

### 2.7 Community and Sports Organisations

Bryan	Grieve	Dunblane Development Trust
Sandy	Mackay	Dunblane Development Trust (Environmental Group)
Lawrie	Dewar	Dunblane Development Trust / Dunblane Community Council
Terence	O'Byrne	Dunblane Community Council
Alan	Booth	Dunblane Community Council
Sue	Faulkner	Dunblane Community Council
Carol	Stobie	Scottish Churches House
Alex	Mitchell	Dunblane Council of Churches
Moyra	McKay	Dunblane Civic Society
Caroline	Crawford	Holmehill Community Buyout Group
Steve	Mason	Holmehill Community Buyout Group
Alison	Brown	Holmehill Community Buyout Group
Gerard	Hastings	Doune and Dunblane Fling
Sarah	Aldred	Doune and Dunblane Fling
Alastair	Gibson	Dunblane Sports Club / Springbank Community Hall
Moira	Stewart	Victoria Halls Management Committee
Denise	Fyfe	Sustainable Dunblane
Kevin	Curtin	Sustainable Dunblane
Morag	Watson	Sustainable Dunblane / Doune and

		Dunblane Fling
Bridget	Clark	Sustainable Dunblane (Transport Group)
Chris	Morgan	Sustainable Dunblane (Locate Architect)
Sue	Harley	Dunblane Allotment Group
Steve	McGrail	Dunblane Allotment Group
Nancie	McLean	Dunblane Folk Club

## 2.7 Education

Ian	Bowman	Dunblane High School
Heather	Hennessy	Hummingbird House Nursery
Louise	Maxwell	Hummingbird House Nursery
Stephanie	Dodds	Arnhall Day Nursery
Ncola	Pryde	Arnhall Day Nursery

## 2.7 Local Business Interests - Tourism, Hospitality and Retailing

Tricia	Fitzsimons	Dunblane Hydro
Mark	Richardson	Ristol / Kippendavie Estates
Niall	Erskine	Erskines Opticians
Glenn	Murray	Glenn Murray & Associates
Graham	Fleming	David Bennet and Sons
Archie	Paterson	Archie's Floristry and Gifts

## 2.7 Elected representatives

Cllr David William	Goss	Stirling Council
Cllr Graham	Houston	Stirling Council
Bruce	Crawford MSP	Scottish Parliament
Anne	McGuire MP	Houses of Parliament

## 2. Partner agencies

Ian	McCourt	Stirling Council Community Services
Donald	Balsillie	Stirling Council Land Services Countryside Team
Brian	Sharkey	Central Scotland Police
Drew	Mackie	High Street Project Consultant

## 2.7 Apologies were received from

Wendy	Bellars	Head Queen Victoria School
PC Simon	Fraser	Dunblane Police Office
David	Gill	DDT
Laura	Gray	Laura Gill Designs
Rod	Jones	Secretary B of A and Dunblane Rotary
Sue	Lawson	Practice Business Manager Dunblane Medical Practice
Grahame	Lees	M&S McLEAN & STEWART, Solicitors
Juliet	McConnon	5th Dunblane Brownies
Joy	MacFarlane	Head-teacher Dunblane Primary
Elizabeth	Mitchell	Head-teacher Newton Primary
Mary	Paterson	Headteacher St Mary's Episcopal Primary School
Helen	Plank	Dunblane pre School Play group Association
Richard	Stirling-Aird	Kippendavie Estate
Peter	Thomson	Kilmartin Property Group
Neil	Welsh	(Chairman Dunblane Sports Club

### 3 REVIEW OF THE 2003 LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN

The Action Plan had been organised into four main themes with a series of priority projects and actions related to each of them. The Conference explored perceptions about the outcomes from that plan; identified any lack of progress ; and highlighted projects and actions still required. The responses are shown below - more or less verbatim.

#### 3.1 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

PRIORITIES in the 2003 ACTION PLAN	What's been done, what's been good?	What's NOT been done, what's not so good?	What should still be done?
Ensure adequate facilities for a broad range of activities for young people	<p>Dunblane Centre opened</p> <p>Improved policing with young people engaged in this</p> <p>Skateboard Park finished</p> <p>New classes run by the council</p> <p>New Dunblane High School opened</p> <p>Three new private nurseries</p> <p>Extension to Dunblane Kids' Club</p> <p>Improvement to Millrow Play Park (?)</p>	<p>More facilities for 14+ (both outdoor and indoor) e.g. basketball hoops /' five a side pitches</p> <p>Recreational facilities fragmented</p> <p>No swimming pool</p> <p>Laird Hills football pitches poorly maintained</p> <p>High School sports facilities not accessible or affordable</p>	<p>Better access to High School facilities currently restricted because of costs</p> <p>Youth café</p> <p>Graffiti wall (behind the library)</p> <p>More adult education</p> <p>Connecting recreational facilities to the High Street</p> <p>Support the Sports Club</p> <p>Need more cycle paths</p> <p>Need grass football p[itches]</p> <p>Improve weekend access to High School facilities both inside and outside - make affordable</p>
Improving community meeting spaces	<p>Scottish Churches House more prominent</p> <p>Victoria Halls renovated</p> <p>Braeport under new management and some improvements carried out</p> <p>Dunblane Centre opened</p> <p>Range of pricing</p>	<p>Building maintenance</p> <p>High School costs make sue of the space unaffordable</p> <p>Too few pitches and they are badly maintained</p> <p>Audit of meeting spaces</p>	<p>Braeport extension with small rooms</p> <p>Leaflet / webspace about community facilities and charges</p> <p>Co-ordination between centres on activities provided</p> <p>Link Scottish Churches House better / more to the community</p> <p>Information about Community Facilities should be at the station - with a map of the paths in Dunblane</p> <p>An audit of meeting spaces</p>

			Better marketing of the Sports Club
<b>Assisting the Dunblane Skate Park Committee to develop their project</b>	Good that we have the skate park Job done!	More girls skating and biking Sculpture trail	Organize skateboarding lessons / safety Involve the youth workers
<b>Public access to the swimming pool and the other sports facilities in the Queen Victoria School</b>	Nothing done	Meeting with QV staff No public access at present	Improve public access to new Forthside facilities Arrange meeting / negotiate with QV / Push for improved access Urgent need for a swimming pool locally - a small one would be OK - could negotiate a deal with the Hydro (?) for local residents / young people / older people

### 3.2 LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

PRIORITIES in the 2003 ACTION PLAN	What's been done, what's been good?	What's NOT been done, what's not so good?	What should still be done?
Upgrading the riverside paths in the town centre - surfaces, banks and borders	New seats, Haining Bank, New Bridge, Community Garden, Barriers repaired	River Walk fence repairs Paths, River Wall, Litter bins, dog fouling programme, outdoor drinking problems, graffiti, flooding prevention, new toilets  Lighting and maintenance on paths	Better paths, more bins, path network to connect with all routes, Memorial garden refurbishment  River walk fencing and wall needs to be repaired  Stirling Arms Bridge needs to be repaired
Improving the open spaces along the riverside paths	New Seats Community Garden Memorial Garden (Haugh) improved Area near the bridge improved	Public toilets closed Grass cutting Flower beds Mill Race Develop policy for water maintenance on Minnie Burn	Biodiversity trail Wild meadows More allotments Formal / native planting mixture Improve Darn Walk More native planting
Better management and protection of the Laighhills	Skate park success Allotments Great sand pit	Plan for Local Nature Reserve Scouring burn flooding Flood prevention measures Better paths, nature conservancy, trees, care of football pitches Drainage of football pitches Improve natural side of Laigh Hills Should be a Nature Reserve	Form Laigh Hills Working Group New toilets Erosion protection project Woodlands Paths and bridges Wildlife Mobile catering Better signage for Laigh Hills and paths Improve the bridge across the railway Improve the paths Eradicate Japanese knotweed and Giant hogweed

		Dog waste bins	
<b>Improving public access to Holmehill</b>	Tried very hard ! but no result Raised awareness amongst local groups	SOLD to private developer! Community Buy out failed Path and woodland maintenance and management plan	Signage History Walks Path maintenance Keep public paths through Holme Hill Prepare a management plan Try to purchase for the community - yet again!
<b>Better management of Ochlochy Pond</b>	Ochlochy Park improved / pond refurbished Tree planting Seat improvements Wild flower planting and trails	Drainage in Main Park	Maintenance Plan Keep natural! Better signage Children's orchard Carp pond - for food
<b>Improving the B8033 through the town</b>	Resurfacing and speed controls Safety improved Parking Cycle lanes Flower planting Investment to improve traffic flows	Traffic calming on Perth Road Smell from sewage works and abattoir	Safer cycle paths that do not come to an end at the roundabouts "Slow Down!" lights Improve bad smells (get abattoir to move further out?) Remove 6 signs narrowing the road by M&S

### 3.3 PLANNING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

PRIORITIES in the 2003 ACTION PLAN	What's been done, what's been good?	What's NOT been done, what's not so good?	What should still be done?
<p>Creating a better balance between the number of residents and community facilities that serve them - schools, shops, community meeting spaces, health facilities</p>	<p>Braeport under new management and improved</p> <p>Dunblane Centre opened</p> <p>Marks and Spencers - but depends on its impact on the High Street .....</p> <p>Skate Park opened resulting in the High Street being more peaceful at night time\</p> <p>Stirling Arms re-opened</p> <p>New shops opened</p> <p>Allotments site</p> <p>Parking strategy developed and new parking spaces designated</p> <p>New High School</p> <p>Victoria Halls improved</p>	<p>Petrol Station lost</p> <p>High School costs VERY high</p> <p>Stirling Arms not PROPERLY open</p> <p>Health Centre expansion</p> <p>Shops</p> <p>Mill Row parking</p> <p>Public indoor swimming pool</p>	<p>More dentists</p> <p>More restaurants</p> <p>More shops</p> <p>More integrated local transport</p> <p>More health care facilities</p> <p>Nursery / pre-school development</p> <p>Retail environment and diversity of provision</p> <p>Pedestrianise (??)</p> <p>Public toilets at the Laigh Hills</p> <p>Health Centre expansion</p>

<p>Increasing the amount of affordable accommodation within the existing stock</p>		<p>Affordable housing has NOT happened</p> <p>Still too many executive type houses</p> <p>Housing for rent</p> <p>Sustainable housing</p> <p>Sheltered housing</p> <p>Care homes - there are only 17 non private spaces in the town</p>	<p>Affordable housing desperately needed</p> <p>Proper strategy for this needs to be prepared</p> <p>Need to overcome social resistance to affordable housing</p> <p>Shared ownership schemes</p> <p>Need to identify sites for development</p>
<p>Improving paths, trails and cycle routes - including safe routes to schools</p>	<p>Core path plan prepared</p> <p>New Memorial Bridge</p> <p>Zebra crossing at Tescos</p> <p>Cycle Path on B8033</p>	<p>Cycle paths</p> <p>School run still quite bad</p> <p>Perth Road</p> <p>Traffic safety</p>	<p>Improve cycle paths and school run</p> <p>Cycle parking at the Health Centre</p> <p>More dog muck bins with an active enforcement policy and practice</p> <p>Riverside paths</p> <p>Faerie Bridge to be painted</p> <p>Ashfield Path</p> <p>Zebra crossing ay Dunblane Primary</p> <p>River clean up</p> <p>Warden needs to outdoor spaces</p>
<p>Improving the general surroundings and approaches at the station</p>	<p>Planting</p> <p>Network Rail improvements</p> <p>Private business improved site</p> <p>Station OK</p>	<p>Surfacing</p> <p>Pedestrian access still confusing</p> <p>No sense of "arrival" at Dunblane</p>	<p>Repaint and more planting</p> <p>Signage</p> <p>Extend manning</p> <p>Regular tidy up</p> <p>Safety and cleanliness of railway bridge in winter needs to be attended to</p>
<p>Improving parking facilities</p>	<p>Good parking at Tesco</p> <p>High Street and town centre parking much improved</p>	<p>Mill Row car parking extension</p> <p>Parking problem moved up hill to George Street</p>	<p>Drop off areas at the Victoria Halls</p> <p>Multi storey at Mill Row (??) - tastefully designed</p>
<p>Improving public transport networks</p>	<p>Rail upgrade (??)</p>	<p>Bus routes around the housing areas</p> <p>Multi modal connectivity</p>	<p>Improve bus services around the houses</p> <p>Direct bus connection tot Forth Bank Centre</p>

		<p>Some trains turn round at Stirling without notice</p> <p>No bus to Callander</p> <p>Poor information</p> <p>High cost of short journeys</p>	<p>Links northwards</p> <p>Park and Ride facility</p> <p>Community bus service (??)</p> <p>More appropriate timetables for local needs</p> <p>Shuttle bus serving railway station</p> <p>More safe parking for cycles</p> <p>Encourage more parking at Bridge of Allan</p> <p>Pricing of fares to encourage use of other stations</p>
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### 3.4 LOCAL ECONOMY

PRIORITIES in the 2003 ACTION PLAN	What's been done, what's been good?	What's NOT been done, what's not so good?	What should still be done?
<p><b>Creating a thriving High Street</b></p>	<p>Limited success No / fewer empty shops Parking changes Road surfaces, street scape pavements and signage improved Improved aesthetics through planting and tubs Scottish International Relief (Bosnia) shop</p>	<p>Café culture Shop frontages not improved - but this is partly because many are listed buildings There had been talk of grants but did not materialise Some now cannot get parked and have to pay Chinese shop boarded up Traders' Association - gone Little promotion o High Street</p>	<p>More lighting Incentives to improve appearance Park and Ride for commuters Better train links north - and south Restaurants Niche market shops like - say - the Running-wear shop in B of A Pedestrianise the High Street but would need alternative parking e.g. in Mill Row Pedestrianise the High Street on a particular day - e.g. Wednesday - for a market day Create rates incentive to encourage individual small businesses o- locally of nationally Promote locally produced produce Promotion of variety of goods Develop the gap site - with a restaurant Compulsory purchase of the empty Chinese restaurant</p>
<p><b>Developing enterprise locally</b></p>	<p>Limited support from STEP Broadband improving</p>	<p>Too many barriers with STEP - difficult to access support No local business support centre Festival culture too small</p>	<p>Capitalise on tennis fame More promotion More information e.g. Dunblane website to support enterprise Increased college presence Decide of a theme for Dunblane e.g. food, music Small units for local business Compare the "melting Pot" in Rose Street Edinburgh (office space with facilities and hot desking) Small-scale white collar start up space / incubator units</p>

			Set up a business support centre Training Centre
<b>Growing the Business Parks</b>	Plans proceeding for the new business park at Barbush	But little interest in take-up No real change at Duckburn Barbush Park NOT in place	Develop Barbush Business Park More information and encouragement Move TESCOS to Barbush, with Filling Station, New Health and Treatment Centre on old Tescos site and new Performing Arts Centre Create jobs as well as businesses locally
<b>Developing tourism in the town</b>	Museum work progressing Sign board at derelict chinese restaurant Doune and Dunblane Fling	TIC closed Tourism group disbanded	Places / shops for people to go from Hydro Upgrade the play-park BIG IDEA needed - High Street Fetes, and market, Hydro spa Spaces for parking tourist buses Improve revenue from tourist buses Walking tours from the Hydro Encourage Visit Scotland to set up and invest in Dunblane Developing tourism will improve the High Street Lunch facilities Market rambling from Dunblane Create Town Trail interest Can the Museum do an audio town trail? Promote the ecclesiastical history of the city will support the High Street Heritage bus Improve the website

## 4 DUNBLANE NOW

This session explored the current situation in Dunblane from different perspectives:

- Housing and homes
- Open spaces and outdoor recreation
- People and community
- Local economy
- Education and childcare
- Road and rail
- Public services
- Heritage and the built environment

### 4.1 HOUSING AND HOMES

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <p>Have delivered housing</p> <p>Good mix of housing</p> <p>Secure and safe family environment</p> <p>Attractive location</p> <p>Excellent commuting facilities</p>	<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <p>Too few affordable homes to keep young people in Dunblane</p> <p>Need homes for people on low incomes</p> <p>Much of the new development is of poor design</p> <p>Secure family environment leads to expensive housing</p>
<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <p>Create increasingly diverse ways for people to access the housing market</p> <p>Low carbon construction</p> <p>Positively addressing the problems of housing affordability and amenity delivery</p> <p>Providing sustainable housing</p> <p>Become less developer led</p> <p>Support (older?) people to who wish to stay in their own homes</p> <p>Develop a planning-led approach to housing development</p>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p> <p>More housing is poorly managed</p> <p>Market and cultural threats to sustainability and quality</p> <p>Too much developer leading</p>

## 4.2 OPEN SPACES AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <p>Great variety of open spaces and routes e.g. Darn Road</p> <p>Vibrant, interested community</p>	<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <p>Riverside Path Not yet repaired</p> <p>Paths in Laigh Hills in poor condition</p> <p>Paths along riverside to Ashfield deteriorating</p> <p>Lack of allotments</p> <p>No public toilets</p> <p>Lack of information about routes and paths</p> <p>Narrow range of outdoor sports facilities for children and teenagers e.g. basketball</p> <p>Grass cutting and problems with dog fouling</p> <p>Lack of enforcement of planning conditions</p> <p>Cycling initiatives do not cover the whole of Dunblane area e.g. routes to B of A and Doune</p> <p>Paths not accessible to all users - e.g prams, horses</p> <p>Ochlochy Park underused</p> <p>No Community Planning Liaison forum</p>
<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <p>New paths to be created</p> <p>Proposals for new golf courses which are managed sympathetically</p> <p>New Core path Network</p> <p>Current Initiatives e.g. funding for active healthy lifestyles and Climate Change initiatives</p> <p>Working with the council and local community groups</p> <p>Integrate the schools with local sports facilities e.g. golf, tennis, Hydro</p> <p>Possibilities for cycle hire and tourism if better routes existed</p> <p>Outcome from the review of cycle routes</p> <p>Feedv</p> <p>Back from facilities which have been installed - e.g. cycle routes up the Old Doune Road</p> <p>Develop more play facilities in Ochlochy Park</p> <p>Help from council to access funds locally</p> <p>Walking to school initiative</p>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p> <p>Developers buying open spaces for inappropriate developments</p> <p>Farming practices which do not encourage wildlife</p> <p>New development NOT integrated with path network</p> <p>Smell from sewage works / abbatoir very off-putting for nearby open spaces and facilities</p> <p>Lack of funds for paths and maintenance</p>

### 4.3 PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <p>Community of love  Range of facilities  History  Cathedral and St Blanes and all churches  Pubs  Education  Level of volunteering  River4  Lively arts and creative community - especially given the statutory requirements  Development Trust  Community Council and councillors</p>	<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <p>Facilities fragmented - need linking  No swimming pool and sports centre  Dormitory town  Can't do all shopping in the High Street  Lack of café culture  Tourism underexploited  Too little low price tourist accommodation  Lack of joined up thinking on sustainability  Young people are "demonised"  Community groups tend to be separate</p>
<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <p>Use this planning process to engage the community through a variety of means e.g. go to them and talk with them  Create a forum of community groups  Young people made the skate park - they can do other things!  Create a Youth Forum for Dunblane  Exploit new electronic techniques for communication - e.g. texting, social networking sites  Maximise people's skills - create a skills and expertise bank</p>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p> <p>Dunblane is a "time-poor" community especially because of high levels of commuting  Burden of statutory requirements for voluntary organisations can cause paralysis - need to think through the implications for these organisations before implementing - especially financial ones -</p>

#### 4.4 LOCAL ECONOMY

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proliferation of home businesses</li> <li>Local wealth</li> <li>Cathedral / river</li> <li>Walks and environment</li> <li>Infrastructure for access</li> <li>Business leaders</li> <li>Highly educated population</li> <li>Safe community</li> </ul>	<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No incubator facility with e.g. wifi</li> <li>Poor local community ????</li> <li>Rail access point not attractive</li> <li>Lack of eating places</li> <li>Shop displays quite poor</li> <li>Planning restrictions / timescales</li> <li>No Traders Association</li> <li>No Toilet facilities</li> <li>Lack of accommodation for tourists and visitors</li> </ul>
<p><b>OPPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exhibit / promote niche and stylish location</li> <li>Improve Mill Row parking</li> <li>Training / skills transfer opportunity from well educated</li> <li>Newly unemployed to local community - earn money</li> <li>LETS scheme</li> <li>Use the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the High Street project as a crafts / arts area</li> <li>Economic collaboration</li> <li>Sherifmuir heritage - cf Culloden / WW2 links as well</li> <li>The WEDDING industry</li> </ul>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment in many sectors is under threat e.g. financial services</li> <li>Difficult to change shop fronts for both financial and legal and planning reasons</li> </ul>

#### 4.5 EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <p>New High School facilities with teacher numbers to accommodate catchment area</p> <p>Three primary schools and high school with good reputation bring people to live in the town</p> <p>Good choice of private and state nursery provision</p>	<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <p>Poor availability of adult education</p> <p>Current lack of interest in adult education</p> <p>State pre school nursery provision is at capacity</p> <p>No holiday provision at state run nurseries</p> <p>No public swimming pool in Dunblane therefore difficult for people to access swimming lessons</p> <p>Not possible for High School to access off site swimming pool for lessons</p> <p>Access to FE college difficult</p> <p>Cost of accessing High School facility too high for voluntary groups since PPP</p> <p>No representatives from the Primary Schools at the conference</p>
<p><b>OPPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <p>Create better understanding about the shortage of adult education and develop opportunities</p> <p>Create a central place for extra curricular activity information</p> <p>Promote information about nursery and child minding provision in Dunblane - do not just rely on Stirling Council website</p>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p> <p>If Dunblane develops further, the education facilities may not be able to cope with demand - especially the primary provision</p>

#### 4.6 ROAD AND RAIL

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <p>Train service</p>	<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <p>Trains are sometimes terminated at Stirling if running late</p>
<p><b>OPPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <p>Better bus services to Stirling, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Callander - to access leisure centre, swimming pool, climbing wall</p>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p>

#### 4.7 PUBLIC SERVICES

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <p>Health Centre fully staffed</p> <p>Outside services available locally</p> <p>Two pharmacies able to prescribe and provide services to support the Health Centre</p> <p>One purpose built private care home</p> <p>Good sheltered housing provision</p> <p>Visible community policing improving</p>	<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <p>No public toilets at Laigh Hills and inadequate toilets at station and in town centre</p> <p>Health Centre room facilities, parking capacity overstretched</p> <p>Home-start and other services do not cover Dunblane</p> <p>Only 60 places at local care home (only 17 of these are funded)</p> <p>Time taken for ambulances to access sheltered housing</p> <p>No local Social Work department</p> <p>Smell from sewage works</p> <p>River Allan changing course and eroding river banks in town centre area</p>
<p><b>OPPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <p>Social work service to be integrated into new Health Centre or High School</p> <p>Greater integration and accessibility of Police in the local community</p> <p>Toilet provision at railway station</p> <p>Encourage local business to allow use of their toilet facilities</p>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p> <p>Increased distance to new hospital at Falkirk</p> <p>Chiropody service - home visits</p> <p>Increased population putting pressure on sewage works</p>

#### 4.8 HERITAGE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <p>Historic and religious centre Historic spa hotel - the Hydro Cathedral Riverside Walks Laigh Hills Good transport links Good schools and leisure facilities Home of the Murray family Historic architecture Braeport and Ramoye Scenery Walks Conservation area</p>	<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <p>Lack of café culture Lack of B&amp;Bs Mill Row car Park Riverside paths Poor mix of retail outlets Municipal golf course Unaffordable housing Insufficient signage about historic features of the town Lack of good restaurants Former Chinese restaurant site is an eyesore Poor bus routes to major cities No public swimming pool Health Centre too small</p>
<p><b>OPPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <p>Hydro imp[rovementst to spa, bedrooms, public areas Increase tourism Cycle routes Sustainable development Expand the Development Trust Laigh Hills Nature Reserve Improve the Health Centre Move TEASCO to Barbush with a filling station Café culture Better affordable restaurants Affordable housing Sustainable power generation</p>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p> <p>Over development without infrastructure improvements Lack of career opportunities Increased flood damage Lack of policing provision Holmehill development Sewage plant capacity Bus links to villages Lack of funding Banking facilities Power pylons</p>

## 5 COMMENTS ON THE VISION STATEMENT FROM 2003

One table group spent time developing what might be the beginnings of a shorter, simpler mission statement to encapsulate the Vision Statement ethos. Their proposal is .....

**"DUNBLANE FOR THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF LIFE IN SCOTLAND"**

The comments from the other groups are shown below against the different sections of the original which is included as the left-hand shaded column. Broadly speaking, the comments focused on two main aspects - **sustainability and marketing**. Where there were suggestions for changing the wording, they are indicated in italics with the changes highlighted in yellow, more general comments are shown in upright font.

ORIGINAL VERSION	COMMENTS FROM EACH OF THE DIFFERENT TABLES					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>A welcoming, safe community ..... ..... with first class childcare and educational opportunities for all ages, superb community facilities for leisure, arts, health and play, with a good range of housing to suit the needs of local people and new residents alike and where the local infrastructure is in balance with the population.</p>	<p><i>A welcoming, safe and <b>inclusive</b> community</i> Needs to have an "eco" message that relates to waste management, self sufficiency etc</p>	<p>Dunblane Centre is a success No dedicated arts venue, no swimming pool Low cost housing is required More places needed for family eating More adult education needed</p>		<p>We have gone a long way towards this e.g. the Dunbane Centre The imbalance in the housing is worse now</p>	<p>Affordable housing Sustainability: - economic - buildings - food - energy production e.g. from the river This aspiration needs to run like a thread through all of this vision</p>	<p>Swimming pool Affordable housing Health hub that's accessible Petrol station</p>
<p>An enterprising community ..... ..... with a</p>		<p>Local traders group is required</p>	<p>..... <i>with a thriving attractive <b>sustainable city</b></i></p>	<p>Limited improvements here - there are</p>		<p>Agree DDT project in High Street is</p>

<p>thriving attractive town centre, bustling with shopping, restaurants and other facilities for local people and visitors. Where new enterprise is supported and encouraged and where an increasing number of people work within the town itself and where the local businesses work together to maximise their potential.</p>			<p><i>with a village atmosphere, bustling with shopping, restaurants - - -</i></p>	<p>no empty shops  Commuter proportion still seems to be the same  Businesses not working together yet</p>		<p>very good  All the shops are filled up now</p>
<p>A well connected community .....</p> <p>..... with good public transport links to major centres, where car use is supplemented with a good network of local transport to link the different areas of the town and where parking is useful and practical but does not dominate other needs.</p>	<p><i>..... a good network of local transport to link the different areas of the town and station</i></p>		<p>Better public transport in Dunblane connecting all areas</p>	<p>Buses worse, links north are poor  patchy cycle routes not integrated</p>		<p>Internal connection not so good e.g. cycle ways with the town  However connections and access to other towns is very good</p>
<p>A town with a first class local environment .....</p> <p>..... with well maintained, safe paths and cycle routes within the town and to give access to the surrounding countryside, with parks and open spaces for recreation and delight, with a town centre that allows people on foot precedence over the needs of vehicles.</p>	<p><i>..... with well maintained, safe paths and accessible cycle routes within the town and t</i></p>	<p>A "super" children's play area would be good</p>		<p>Prioritise this  Market the town better e.g. new postcards  Improve the appearance on arrival at the station</p>		<p>Agree</p>

<p>A community proud of its heritage .....</p> <p>..... where the past enriches the present and helps to create a new future.</p>		<p>Need to encourage tourism within the town</p>		<p>Natural beauty</p> <p>Ancient cathedral</p> <p>Promote the idea of the city</p> <p>Young people's support</p> <p>"Funblane"</p> <p>Holmehill family Day</p> <p>Xmas event</p> <p>Fling</p> <p>The KEY is to highlight the different strengths</p>		<p>We underplay Dunblane's heritage</p> <p>But access needs improving</p> <p>Promote Dunblane more e.g. more signage; the museum will be good once it is completed</p>
<p>A community working in partnership for the benefit of all .....</p> <p>..... well organised to take more control over the way in which the town and its social fabric develop over the next twenty years or so.</p>		<p>We should be educating newcomers to the town about Dunblane's good points</p>	<p>Control of community assets</p>			

## 6 MAIN THEMES AND PRIORITY ACTIONS AND PROJECTS

During the final session, the conference identified four main themes for the shape of the Community Action Plan 2009 - 2012 and went on to explore what might be the priority projects and actions That would breathe life into each of those themes. The themes are listed below in no presumed order of priority - all are equally important aspects of the future of Dunblane:

- Local Economy and Tourism
- Local Environment
- Community Services and Events
- Planning and Sustainable Development

6.1 Local Economy and Tourism	
Priority steps	Develop and publish our Style for Dunblane Connect all resources, skills and people under a "Dunblane Banner" Identify and develop Lifestyle themes Market our town
Initial action	Set up a tourism and local business economy group

6.2 Local Environment	
Priority actions	Prepare a "Green Map" to include an audit of what greenspace there is, who is using it and what for Connect local nurseries, schools and young people with the greenspaces
Priority project	<b>Continue the improvement of the Riverside and other open spaces</b> Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a strategy for this - what needs doing, when and by whom</li> </ul>
Priority project	<b>Holmehill</b> Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a strategy for this - what needs doing, when and by whom</li> </ul>
Priority project	<b>Laigh Hills</b> Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a strategy for this - what needs doing, when and by whom</li> </ul>

Priority project	<p><b>B8033</b></p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consider and evaluate road safety and road crossings</li> <li>●</li> </ul>
Priority project	<p><b>Arriving in Dunblane - by road or rail</b></p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consider issues relating to the appearance of the town at its points of arrival - the dual carriageway, the station, from the north and west - in the case of the B8033 this should include matters relating to the sewage works and the abbatoir</li> </ul>

### 6.3 Community Services and Events

Priority project	<p><b>Set up a Forum of Community Groups</b></p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To bring together representatives of different groups to share ideas and plan joint action - e.g. DDT, DCC, DCCP, Young people's organisations like Brownies, Scouts, BB</li> <li>● Could be web-based</li> <li>● It would improve and promote the use of a / the Community Diary</li> <li>● One task would be exploration the exploration of sharing resources - e.g. transport, premises, equipment</li> </ul>
Priority project	<p><b>Adult and continuing education</b></p> <p>Key action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Canvas opinion on potential need / use / scope</li> </ul>
Priority action	<p><b>Themes Events (Joint? / Annual?)</b></p> <p>Key action would be to explore what this might focus on - e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A Taste of Dunblane</li> <li>● Climate Change Festival</li> </ul>
Priority action	<p><b>The Dunblane Handbook</b></p> <p>To include all aspects of civil Dunblane e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Events</li> <li>● Groups</li> <li>● Services</li> </ul>

<b>6.4 Planning and Sustainable Development</b>	
Priority focus	<p><b>Spatial planning and sustainable housing and business</b></p> <p>This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• exploring with the wider community the ideal mix of house types and tenure;</li> <li>• engaging directly with potential developers to reach joint solutions</li> <li>• working out how best to integrate housing types - market value and affordable (consider Bogside as a potential site)</li> <li>• exploring how best the difficult task of providing affordable housing for local needs can be accomplished</li> <li>• seeking rational and convenient integration of local transport services, new developments and green space allocation</li> <li>• develop ideas and targets around the need for fit between community services and needs in the light of any further expansion of the population</li> <li>• explore options for small scale economic developments - e.g. with a tourism and hospitality focus, craft based enterprises; business development projects and premises; support for home based enterprise</li> </ul>
Priority focus	<p><b>Energy conservation and generation</b></p> <p>This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• undertaking an audit of the current energy use picture - homes, meeting spaces and businesses</li> <li>• investigating the potential for local sustainable generation of energy</li> <li>• preparing a strategy for local implementation</li> </ul>
Priority focus	<p><b>Sustainable buildings</b></p> <p>Work towards all new building in Dunblane aspiring to zero carbon standards - make the DDT High Street building a flagship example of this</p>
Priority project	<p><b>Raising awareness of green issues</b></p> <p>Develop a high profile but small scale project to capture local imagination and energy. This might focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bag free town</li> <li>• Guerrilla gardening</li> <li>• "A Food Miles" project</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A "shop Local" policy</li></ul>
Priority action	<b>Communication</b> Maximise use of electronic communication networks to support wide community engagement
Priority project	<b>Zero waste</b> Carry out research into how Dunblane can become a waste free community

## 7 NEXT STEPS

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### Conference Report

This conference report will be circulated to everybody who participated in the conference.

### Further exploration of ideas

Amongst other actions, the Community Futures work will include:

- A Community Views Survey that will aim to take soundings from 1,000 households across Dunblane - approximately one in three
- The survey will be extended with a short questionnaire seeking community views about the DDT's proposals for a new-build project on the gap site in the High Street
- A series of more in-depth interviews with a range of stakeholders
- A Community Open Day that will "test" the emerging priorities for action
- Continuing work by the steering group to shape the eventual action plan. The steering group members would welcome others to join it and take part in this process

The plan will then be published and distributed to all households and businesses, schools and other organisations. The DDT and the DCC will hold a stock of the plans to provide the rationale for any future applications for funding or support.