



LOANS COMMUNITY-LED ACTION PLAN 2025 - 2030

Message from the Loans Community Council (June 2025)

Loans has seen engagement and participation in Community initiatives dwindle post-Covid and has had an urgent need over the past couple of years for more local people to get involved in both the Community Council and the Village Hall to make sure these local groups flourish.

There are great opportunities for continued growth in Loans with the park, well-equipped village hall and local pub all offering excellent opportunities to get out and about and to socialise with friends and neighbours.

The new housing developments in Barassie have increased the volume of traffic coming through Loans and this remains the main area of concern for residents of the village. The Thriving Communities survey did highlight traffic as a key challenge but also flagged other opportunities for improvements. The Community Led Action Plan has been created to support these initiatives and work towards a shared vision for the future of Loans.

Consultation in Loans

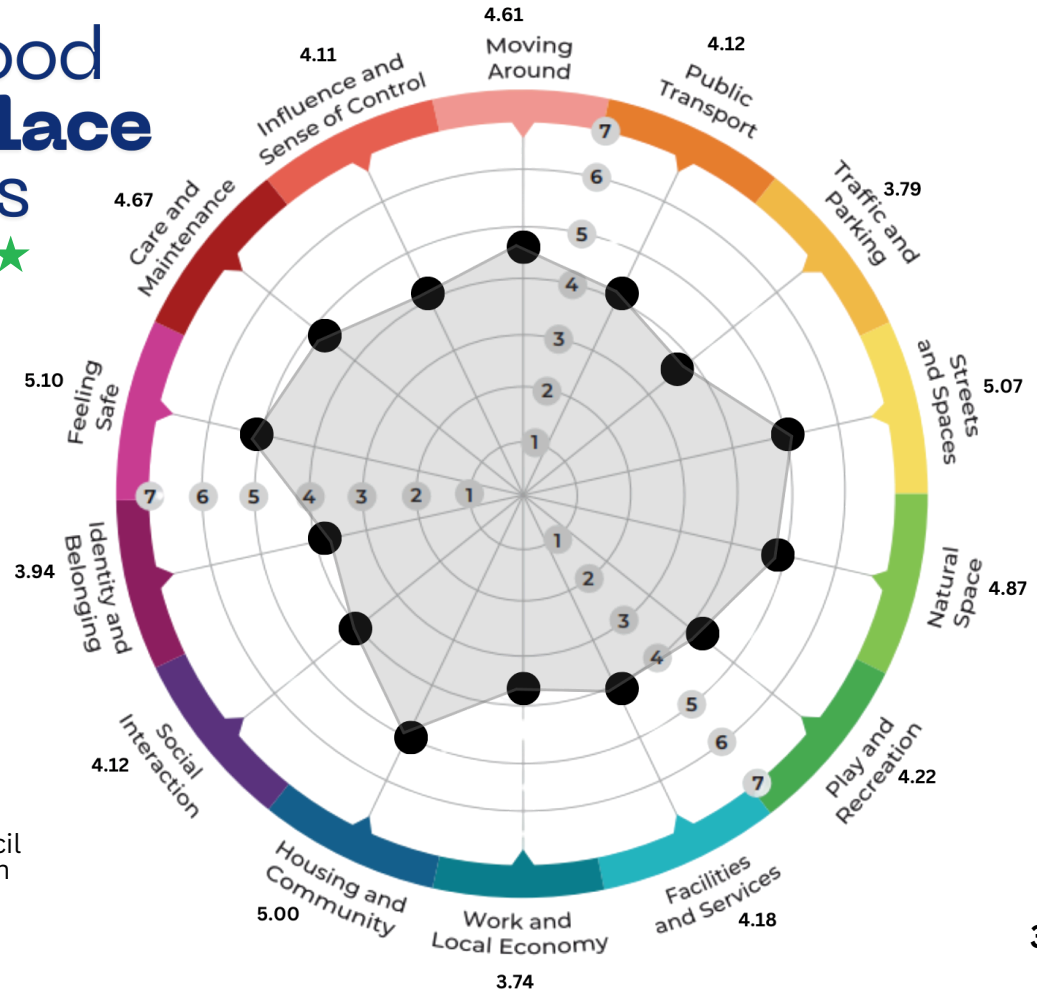
Between November 2021 and February 2022, the South Ayrshire Council undertook a series of community conversations with the residents of Loans, that sought to identify their main concerns.

Unfortunately, the uptake for the 2022 exercise was too low to provide meaningful results and the local survey had to be redone. An outreach consultation exercise was developed and ran between May and September 2024. Although we would have liked more responses, we did get 58 replies which are the basis of this community-led action plan.

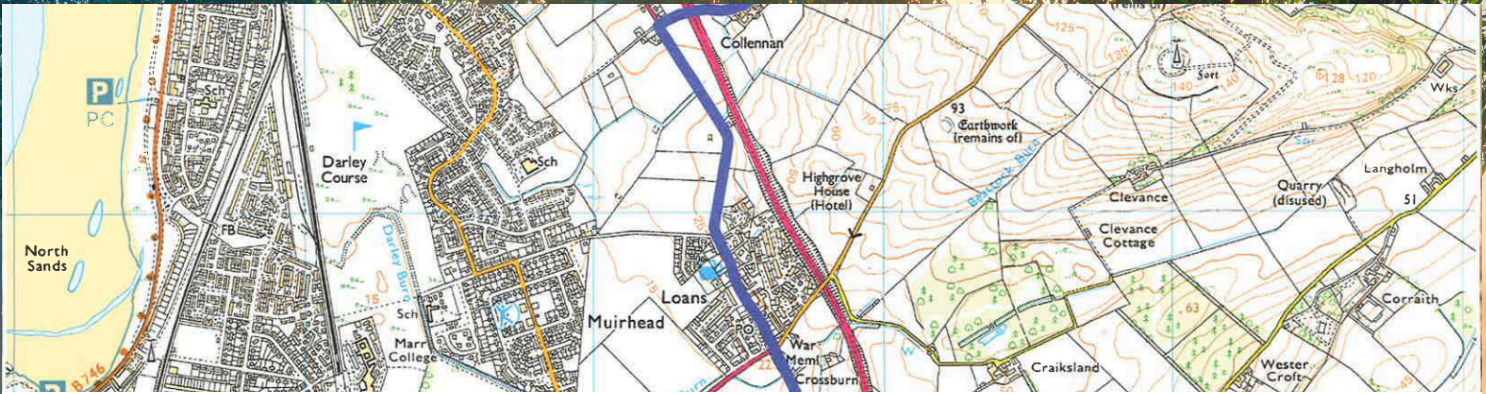
The Scottish Government recommended Place Standard Tool was used to measure and assess the community's priorities. The PST sees a score awarded for each of the topics. This ranges from 1, where most improvement is needed, to 7, where less improvement is needed. The scores given by each member of the community who took part were averaged to give an indication of the priorities.

how good is our place

Loans



*Responses from the community engagement exercise May - Sep 2024, Loans Community Council in partnership with South Ayrshire Council.



Our Village, Our Community

Our community may be small but it has a long and proud history. Look around and you'll see lots of reminders of the past. Loans has a close relationship with Troon and Dundonald, but still holds on to a distinct identity.

1654

A small settlement called Lons is shown on Blaeu's Atlas of Scotland, dated 1654 visit site.

1740s

John Dickie founded the Loans smuggling company in the 1740s. The company was then taken over by his son in law David Dunlop, the miller at Schulloch Mill and were known as David Dunlop & Co.

1922

Loans War Memorial was erected in memory of the soldiers of Fullerton and Loans District who fell in the Great war of 1914-19.

Our action plan is sectioned in three main priorities...

01

Priority

Spaces and Places

02

Priority

Live, Work and Learn

03

Priority

Civic & Community Pride

01 Priority

Spaces and Places

Moving Around: *Loans has a mix of good standard paths (to and from Highgrove and Barassie), and poorer paths such as the Smugglers Trail with stretches without suitable pavements and/or busy roads with fast moving traffic. Safe crossing in the village is limited to the sole one at the traffic lights. Whilst some areas may be affected by surface water due to poor drain maintenance.*

Action needed - 1. Improve and maintain the quality of the path and road network for pedestrian and commuter safety, improved mobility/walkability and the promotion of active travel.

Short term

~ **1.1** As part of the wider review of traffic calming measures, revisit with ARA (Ayrshire Roads Alliance) the introduction of a pedestrian crossing(s).

~ **1.2** Work with funding bodies to find solutions to improving the footpaths that are becoming increasingly used by people coming to Loans from Barassie or through Loans and on to the Smugglers Trail.

Medium term

~ **1.6** The completion of the third phase of the Loans/Troon safe cycle and walkway will deliver improvements to the existing path between Loans and Muirhead.

~ **1.7** Look into the feasibility of having a 'daily mile' walk round the village, as it would encourage locals to exercise on a regular basis and prompt social interaction.

Long term

~ **1.9** The members of local community groups will:

1.9.1 Monitor that partners secure funding and

1.9.2 Support the implementation of the prioritised improvements to pathways within the village.

~ **1.3** Liaise with ARA regarding the cycle/walkway junction with Main Street and Seaview Terrace to determine if the design is finalised and if the scheme specifies dedicated cycle and walking ‘lanes’. If not finalised, consult on preferred design.

~ **1.4** Generate feedback on uptake for new paths e.g. a running track or a useable walking path up to the Highgrove viewpoint.

~ **1.5** Liaise with SAC (South Ayrshire Council) teams to ensure regular drain maintenance to reduce flash flooding occurrences at the traffic lights during heavy rain.

~ **1.8** Liaise with SAC teams and other local groups in the KA10 area to set up information boards/historic information ledgers providing historical information and identification of particular points of interest in the local area.

~ **1.10** Ensure that ARA and SAC teams review occurrences of flooding as stated in 1.5 and assess if any upgrades are required to the current infrastructure.

Short Term

Actions that
can be
Initiated and
completed
within the
next 12
months

Medium Term

Actions
planned for
implementation
within the next
1 to 3 years

Long Term

Actions
envisaged for
completion
over a period
exceeding 3
years

Streets and Spaces: *The Smugglers Trail is a popular historical and long-established walk that goes through Loans.*

Action needed - 2. Improve landscaping, signposting and information available in the village in connection with the Smugglers Trail.

Short term

~ **2.1** The 'Walkers Rest' project will provide a resting spot for walkers, visitors and residents alike.

Members of local community groups will work with the local authority to flesh out and finalise the specifications for the 'Walkers Rest' project which will deliver the landscaping of the village hall garden area with information boards about the village and the Smugglers Trail.

~ **2.2** The 'Walkers Rest' project currently includes resurfacing of Hall Lane, monitor to ensure this is included in the planning and implementation of the project.

Medium term

~ **2.3** Complete the landscaping work and establish the 'Walkers Rest' garden, even if it includes applying for grants/funds for traditional gardening, establishing a biodiverse eco system, and/or wildflowers, etc.

~ **2.4** Monitor use and generate feedback about the garden area by walkers on the Smugglers Trail.

Natural Spaces: *Loans recreational park is a community asset and has huge potential for further development to benefit the village and wider community. A scheme has been documented and circulated for review on the Life in Loans website and at community council meetings. Additionally a social media poll was generated for feedback and to help prioritise the improvements that could be made.*

Action needed - 3. Ensure the recreational space is useable year-round and all potential uses and users are carefully considered.

Short term

~ **3.1** Funding has been committed for improved pathways in the Loans recreational park. Liaise with SAC to collaborate in the development of the project design and and to stay informed about the timescale for completion.

~ **3.2** Actively engage with residents living around Collins Drive and Craiklands Place about the proposed access routes leading to the recreational park that are being considered as part of 3.1.

~ **3.3** Liaise with Neighbourhood Services and/or look at funding options for upgrades to the play equipment and/or feasibility of a multi-generational fitness equipment.

~ **3.4** Work with the local authority and community to determine the uptake of and ongoing support to maintain initiatives such as a community garden and/or other recommendations.

Medium term

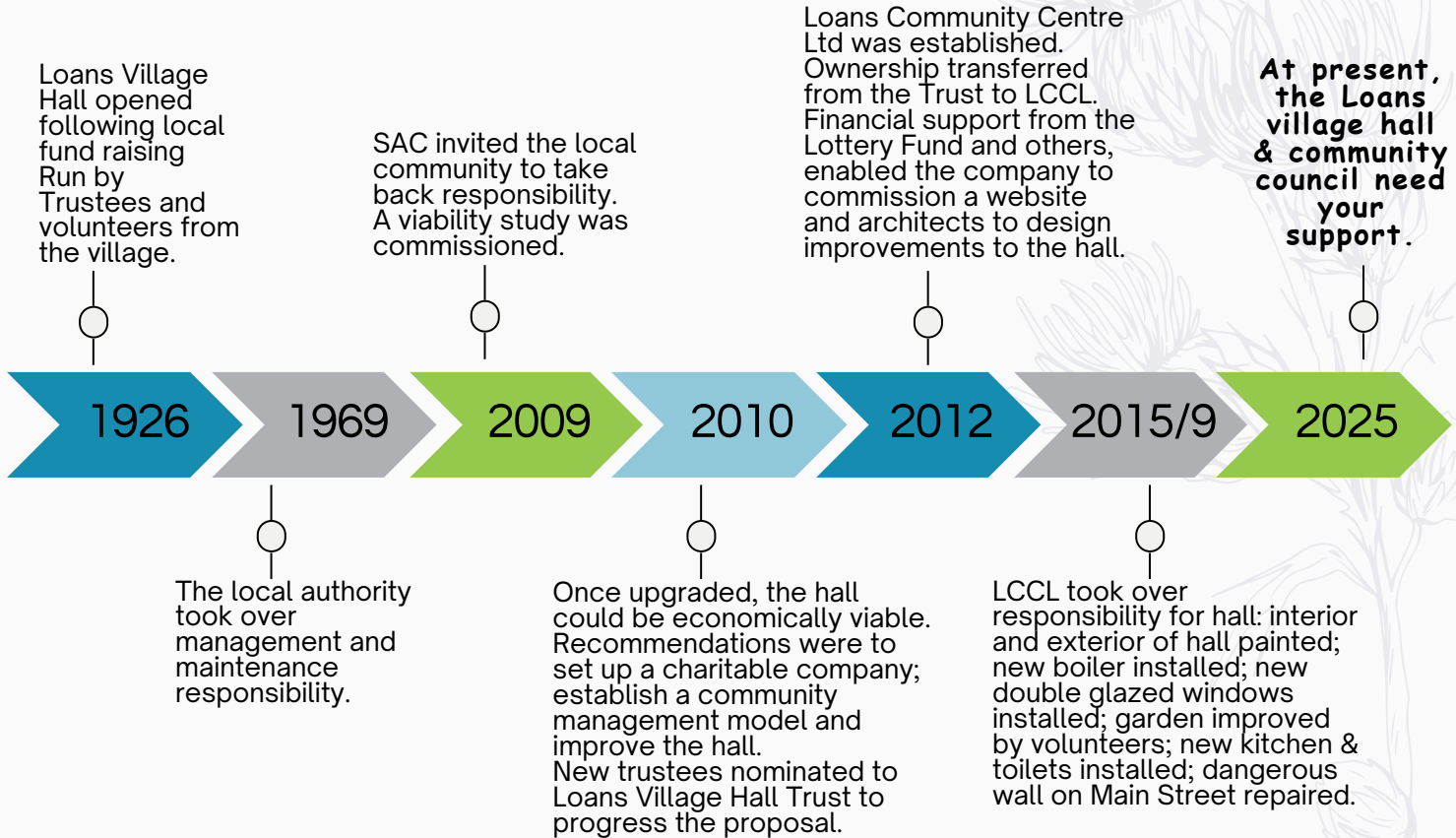
~ **3.5** Work with Council to identify funding options, secure funding and implement prioritised improvements.

~**3.6** Liaise with SAC and other partners to ensure the outcomes of action 3.1 following consultation as indicated by 3.2.

How can we get more activity at the hall?

The village hall is run by a limited company with charitable status. Anyone who lives in or near Loans can become a member of the company. Membership is free and there is no formal obligation to do more. More importantly, membership shows interest in and support for maintaining the hall as a going concern. It also demonstrates to potential funders the extent of support the company has from our community.





02 Priority

Live, Work and Learn

Public Transport: *Despite being a small community with most households having access to private transport, members of the community still rely on the service of public transport.*

Action needed - 4. Ensure that the service is retained and improved in terms of reliability and service.

Short term

~ **4.1** ARA and the South Ayrshire Council have supported the addition of shelters on four existing bus stops. Liaise with SPT (Strathclyde Partnership for Transport) to understand if the remaining two bus stops can have shelters added.

~ **4.2** Use community forums and online channels to encourage local participation in the SPT draft bus strategy consultation.

Medium term

~ **4.3** Share and review the feedback from the bus strategy consultation so the community is aware of any changes being made to the current services.

Traffic and Parking: *The ongoing development of 700 houses and counting at Barassie has significantly increased traffic volume through the village. In this latest consultation respondents have supported the community council view that the existing traffic calming measures need to be reviewed as they are not fit for purpose. The chicane system can be misused by drivers as they speed up in between the chicanes. The reliance on vehicular transport is also putting a strain on the village hall parking capacity and directly influencing hall use and lets.*

Action needed - 5. Liaise and maintain discussions with ARA for alternative traffic calming and parking provisions in the Main Road.

Short term

~ **5.1** Continue constructive discussions with ARA and head of roads to document the list of current concerns for review and response.

~ **5.2** Review the results of Police Scotland monitoring of speeding cars within the village especially during peak times.

~ **5.3** Revisit the feasibility of creating additional car parking provisions for the village hall in the area beside the Scout Hall. **5.3.1** Open up further discussions with Scout Group. **5.3.2** Seek support from SAC Legal team for clarification on ownership/approvals to enable joint usage of the land by both Scout Hall and Village Hall users.

~ **5.4** Consult community on the demand for additional EV charge points in the village and their preferred location(s).

Medium term

~ **5.5** Implement the output from ARA traffic calming review and monitor to determine if planned benefits have been achieved.

~ **5.6** Investigate any government targets and/or implementation plans for EV charging points in the village.

~ **5.7** Engage with partners and explore funding possibilities if action 5.3 for the additional carpark project is feasible.



What the residents of Loans have said...

"The village hall and garden is great, I use the hall twice a week but does need upgrading and painting. I use the park and play park with my grandchildren, it is also good".

"Loans is a small village but in the wider area of Troon/Irvine these opportunities exist."

"The village is lovely and the green space is one of the best features."

"Buses aren't frequent enough and cost a fortune!"

"Our park footpaths need resurfaced and added to to allow all year round usage of the park"

"The park is a huge space which could be used better with more activities for children."

"It would be so much safer just taking all the traffic calming away, putting in a new crossing at the pub, and keeping the 20 limit. It's the same on the hill, people speed up to get through the narrow bit, it actually encourages speeding!"

"Not much going on here in terms of socialising or community groups in the village."

"A community garden at the park would be great."

"The green space behind the Old Loans Inn could be better used. It needs to be more than just a rectangle of grass."

03 Priority

Civic & Community Pride

Facilities and services: *Over the years participation and engagement have been impacted by local and global changes. These changes have led to less people becoming involved in Community initiatives and activities. The following actions will help mitigate these factors and help to create interest, awareness and support for Community projects and groups in Loans.*

Action needed - 6. Improve the information available in the village on what's going on and simultaneously increase participation levels in community groups.

Short term

~ **6.1** New noticeboard(s) is/are required at locations still to be determined. To increase visibility for walkers during the shorter days, look into solar powered and/or noticeboards fitted with lighting options.

~ **6.2** Ensure better communication between the Hall Committee and the Community Council to advertise what is on at the Hall on a weekly basis (promoted more widely and in a timely way) to increase awareness.

~ **6.3** Ensure that all events/activities are listed with South Ayrshire Connect website.

Medium term

~ **6.4** Implement new noticeboard(s) and ensure and ensure there is a plan to keep the content updated.

~ **6.5** Look at ways to increase content and visibility on social media platforms to drive-up community engagement.

~ **6.6** In conjunction with the Hall Committee, investigate feasibility, costs and funding for an online booking system which potentially would: reduce the administration burden; and improve visibility and ease of hall bookings for users.

Identity and Belonging: *Reflecting the trend from the previous action, both Loans community council and Loans hall committee need new members to ensure that they can continue to operate.*

Action needed - 7. Generate support for Loans Village Hall (Loans Hall Committee) to celebrate its Centenary in 2026.

Short term

~ **7.1** The community group is keen to obtain data and the views of young people about what it means living in Loans and ideas for potential initiatives.

~ **7.2** A strategy needs to be defined by the outgoing Community Council to attract new committee members and ensure minimum numbers required by the Council are met.

~ **7.3** Investigate alternative administration solutions, assuming the Community Council structure is no longer tenable.

~ **7.4** Anniversary celebrations should include: **7.4.1** consultation with the community about anniversary celebrations; **7.4.2** information gathered and fed back; **7.4.3** apply for grants and/or funding pots to support any proposed activities/events; **7.4.4** enrol and engage volunteers for the organisation and running of the activities/events.

Medium term

~ **7.5** Liaise with schools and other community groups (DoE, Saltire Awards, Scout Group, etc.) to create volunteering opportunities such as a Social Media Person; Hall Committee/Community Council Young Person Representative and/or similar.





LOANS
VILLAGE HALL

Competitively priced

Available to book

- Regular Classes
- Workshops
- Birthdays & Celebrations
- Community Initiatives

**Email us with your enquiry at
loanshall@lifeinloans.org**



Loans Community Council in partnership with
South Ayrshire Council for the
community of Loans
Loans Community-led Action Plan 2025 - 2030

