

Monkton Place Planning

Priorities for Action

Engagement outcomes June 2022



THRIVING PLACES
POSITIVE • PROUD • AMBITIOUS
PLACEMAKING IN SOUTH AYRSHIRE

Introduction

South Ayrshire Council is currently undertaking Place Plans with many of the communities in South Ayrshire. These plans are at the heart of a new approach to placemaking in South Ayrshire, one that is embedded within, and driven by the Community's own concerns and aspirations. The aim is to develop plans collaboratively with the community that are a true reflection of the priorities of those who live and work in the towns and villages of South Ayrshire. The plans will provide a series of actions that the community, the Council and other partners can work together in delivering.

Between November 2021 and February 2022, the Council undertook a series of Community Conversations with the community in Monkton, that sought to identify the main concerns facing residents. This report presents the findings from the engagements and provides the basis from which the next round of conversations can take place where actions to address priorities will be developed.

Outcome of Engagement

The Community Conversations in Monkton began in November 2021 and continued through to February 2021. The engagement consisted of a number of focused meetings with community groups as well as an online survey. The Scottish Government designed Place Standard toolkit was used to measure and assess the community's priorities.

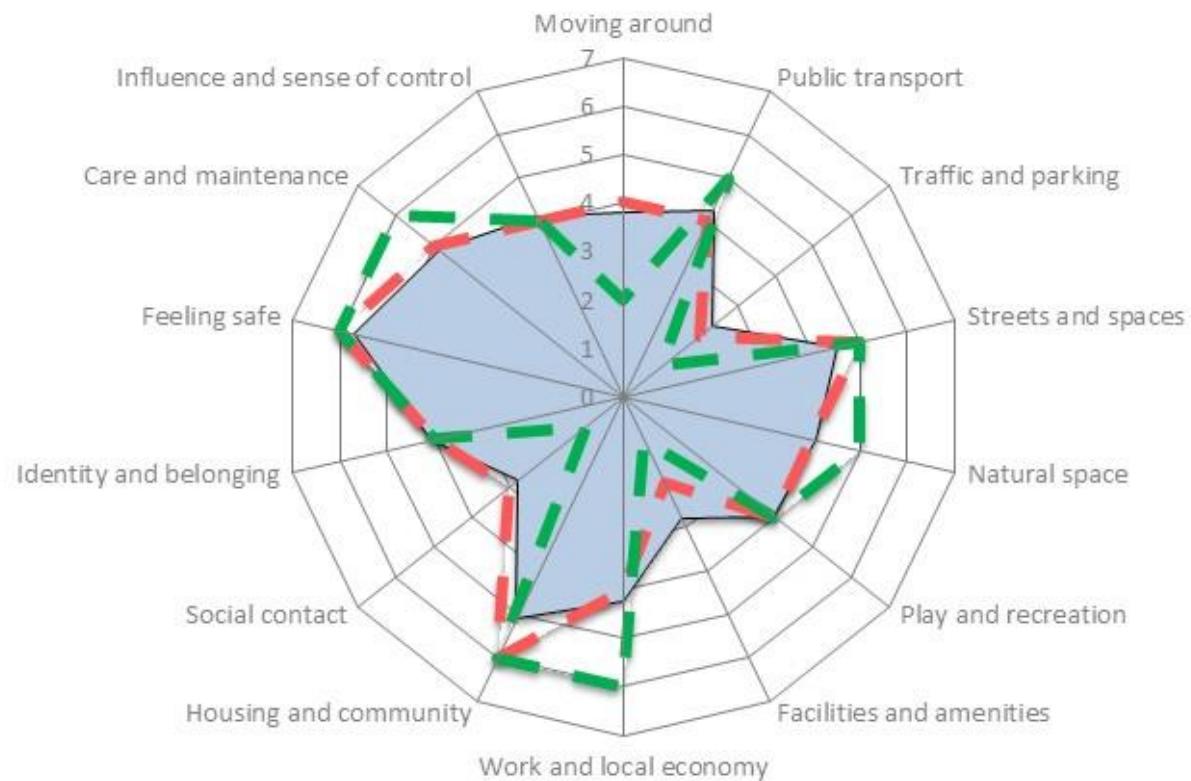
The Place Standard sees a score awarded for each of the identified topics that make up a successful place. This ranges from 1, where most improvement is needed, to 7, where no improvement is needed. The scores given by each member of the community who took part were averaged to give an indication of priorities. A total of 74 people took part in the consultation including from 3 community groups and 44 online surveys.

The findings of the consultation are laid out in the table below, and in the diagram on the following page. There were three particular areas that were identified as being of particular concerns, with scores below the median of 3.5. These were the topics of Traffic and Parking, Facilities and Amenities and Social Contact. These marks show that the way vehicles move and use Monkton is of high concern as well as provision of facilities where residents can meet and feel part of the community.

At the other end of the scale Feeling Safe, Care and Maintenance and Housing and Community achieved high scores.

Topic	Average
Traffic and parking	2.4
Facilities and amenities	2.8
Social contact	2.8
Moving Around	3.8
Play and recreation	4.0
Natural space	4.1
Identity and belonging	4.1
Influence and sense of control	4.1
Work and local economy	4.2
Public transport	4.3
Streets and spaces	4.5
Care and maintenance	4.9
Housing and community	5.1
Feeling safe	5.7

PLACE PLANNING : MONKTON



□ Average Score

▬ Middle Score

▬ Most common score

As part of the conversations, participants were invited to provide comments relating to the topic areas. These provide an insight into the reason for the scores, as well as some of the possible solutions. A sample of some of the comments received are set out in the boxes below.

Traffic and Parking = 2.4	
<p><u>Positive</u></p> <p>Benefits from new traffic calming system Plenty of parking</p>	<p><u>Negative</u></p> <p>Congestion on Main St – cars parked both sides Speeding drivers New traffic calming measures have had little effect Road layout is not good</p>
<p><u>Suggestions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More double yellow lines to stop people parking • One way system through the village – would affect bus service though • Better parking facilities / Speed cameras 	

Facilities and Amenities = 2.8	
<p><u>Positive</u></p> <p>Shop well stocked and has range of items Mobile library and small post office Great school and village hall</p>	<p><u>Negative</u></p> <p>Nowhere to sit down and socialise with people Access to hall is limited as one group dominate the use of it No health facilities - doctors / chemist</p>
<p><u>Suggestion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community hub – doctors/chemist/dentist • Places to meet and socialise – café/pub • Extend shop facilities 	

Social Contact = 2.8	
<p><u>Positive</u></p> <p>Community events and activities Lots of parks and outdoor space to meet people Community council do a good job to enhance opportunities</p>	<p><u>Negative</u></p> <p>No places where residents can meet socially (eg. tearoom / pub) Village hall has limited access Not enough for all age groups</p>
<p><u>Suggestion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area needs more indoor meeting spaces – eg. cafe/pub/restaurant • More pleasant outdoor meeting spaces • New site for community garden and allotment would be a good place for events and meeting people 	

Moving Around = 3.8**Positive**

Walking is fine and access to lots of routes
Easy to walk around village
Good access to cycle routes
Paths are nice and pleasant to use
All paths are linked

Negative

Heavy transport on roads
Uneven surfaces
No safe cycle routes
Surrounded by dual carriageway
Pavements are narrow/overgrown

Suggestions

- Dedicated cycle lane
- Better access to country walks for people of all abilities
- More litter and dog waste bins
- Cats eyes on pavements for safety

Play and Recreation = 4.0**Positive**

Play parks in good condition and well used
Recreation field used to play football
Allotment group with 56 members

Negative

Poorly maintained
Lack of facilities for some age groups
Nothing for teenagers
Dog dirt

Suggestion

- The parks need lights
- More opportunities for adults – encourage intergenerational activities
- Tennis nets / football nets
- Community garden

Natural Space = 4.1**Positive**

Plenty of access to open spaces
Many fields / woodland areas
Plenty of places for walking

Negative

Few areas for wheelchair/pram access
Loss of green spaces due to housing developments
No seating in the greenspaces

Suggestion

- Create walking routes and enhance local history
- More woodland walks and more benches
- Proper pathways

Identity and Belonging = 4.1**Positive**

Friendly and welcoming
 Nice place for families to live – safe
 Proud to live in Monkton
 Very strong community

Negative

Locals quick to point out if you not from village
 Village is split – them and us
 Involvement in community council is limited
 Heritage not known or celebrated

Comment

- An area to meet, talk and relax is important to village life
- History and heritage of the village promoted and celebrated

Influence and Sense of Control = 4.1**Positive**

Community council plays an active role in the village – opportunities to join
 Parent council listen to my views
 Strong sense of community
 Can have a say – various surveys

Negative

Objections made, opinions ignored
 Accessing council is difficult
 Requests seen as complaints
 Community council could be more inclusive
 Decisions made without listening

Suggestion

- Lack of information about joining groups
- People from all backgrounds invited to chat about what they feel would benefit village

Work and Local Economy = 4.2**Positive**

Village is on commuter site
 Lots of good local employment (aviation)
 Good job prospects / opportunities
 Childcare is well covered

Negative

Lots of the employees are not locals
 No opportunities for local businesses to grow
 Local economy non-existent because of lack of shops/cafes/businesses

Suggestions

- Improvements to broadband speeds and mobile connectivity for home working
- Need to encourage environmentally friendly travel

Public Transport = 4.3**Positive**

Reliable and frequent town service
 Plenty of buses
 Lots of bus stops in good locations
 Good bus service

Negative

Unreliable service / frequency not good
 Sometimes bus full and doesn't stop
 No X77 service for Glasgow
 Expensive to use
 Times of buses too close together

Comments

- Express stop on the edge of the village would be good
- One dedicated stop for all park and ride
- More buses needed due to increasing population
- Would be helpful to have electronic displays

Streets and Spaces = 4.5

Positive

Very beautiful village – lots of greenery
Community council work hard making village an attractive place
Well maintained

Negative

Old church is in bad state of repair
Paths/public spaces not well maintained
Grass cuttings not cleared up
Not many public spaces

Suggestion

- Historic attractions and access needs improved
- Village hall needs painted

Care and Maintenance = 4.9

Positive

All public buildings and spaces look nice
Most houses and gardens well maintained
Community/volunteers do litter picks
Public seating and hanging baskets looked after by community council

Negative

Some buildings derelict and not looked after
Dog fouling
Poor road surfaces
No recycling facilities
No support from council – community do most of it

Suggestion

- Could always do with more bins
- Parks and green spaces could be better maintained
- Pavements and roads needs upgraded

Housing and Community = 5.1

Positive

Good mix of private/social housing
Good size of houses
All shapes and sizes to suit a variety of budgets

Negative

Hard to get social/council housing
Housing developments don't support a diverse community
New builds are expensive to buy

Comment

- More affordable housing would be good within a budget
- Sheltered housing for the elderly

Feeling Safe = 5.7**Positive**

Feel very safe in the area
Majority of people are friendly
Low crime rate / antisocial behaviour

Negative

Speed / volume of traffic
Lighting issues when walking at night
Nothing done about drug dealing
Lack of policing resourcing (traffic)

Comment

- More street lighting in areas – Baird Street / park / perimeter of village

Next Steps

The community conversations undertaken to date have established the strengths and weaknesses and priority issues facing Monkton. This information will be used as the baseline for developing actions that will form the final Place Plan in due course. A number of workshops will now be held with community groups to further investigate the issues and possible actions that could be undertaken to address these. Following these workshops a draft Place Plan will be prepared and published online for comment and further input from the wider community.