

ARDENTINNY

Community Futures

Community Profile



January 2008

Ardentinny Community Futures

The Community Futures community development program was put in place after the creation of the new Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The Park has been working with the communities within its area to ensure a baseline of information is available to help them, give them the chance to look at priorities and issues, and develop an agreed vision of what they might want to achieve. This enables communities to have sound information for future projects, grant applications or plans that they may want to pursue. Any groups in Ardentinny can use this statistical and qualitative information.

Community Profile

The community profiles provide factual and some qualitative information about the local communities, which take as their area their community council boundaries. The first was produced in 2001 and used 1991 census statistics. This second profile draws mainly upon 2001 census statistics, but also on the electoral role and local knowledge to update the first profile.

**Community Survey and Stakeholder Interviews**

The profile is complemented by a survey of the whole village to gather community opinions. Stakeholder and focus group interviews are also carried out to allow more depth to the process of determining community priorities for action.

Community Action Plan

All the materials form an action plan for the community to use. The action plan also can be used to influence the plans of statutory agencies. The plan is agreed by the community through the profiling, surveying and stakeholder interviews, as well as by community workshops.

Ardentinny Community Trust

The Trust was set up in 2003 as a result of the first wave of community development supported by the Park. It established a mechanism for taking forward projects which other organisations, such as the Community Council, would find it hard to do because of constraints on the way they operate. The Trust is struggling for active members and unless some come forward, will become inactive until more support can be secured. It could be that the village is too small to sustain a Trust, a Community Council and a Hall Committee. The first Community Action Plan highlighted a range of projects the community wanted to take on. These were the subject of a great deal of hard work by the Trust.

Heritage Centre The community was interested in developing a Heritage Centre at the picnic site. The Trust spent much time investigating the possibilities but was eventually advised by a consultant that the number of people who would use it would not sustain a centre.

Jetty Proposals for the restored use of a jetty in the village. The possibility of the original jetty being restored or the provision of a new landing slip was the subject of much research, including consultation with all interested parties. The proposal for a pier at the old landing above Shepherd's Point was clearly not wanted by villagers, and as a result of Trust representation these plans have now been abandoned.

Viking Heritage Play Centre Play provision was requested in the original Community Plan, and research was carried out and plans produced. These remain on file, but there is some opposition to play park provision at the picnic site.

Through the years, other projects came to the fore:

The Arched Bridge This beautiful stone bridge was in a dangerous state and there were plans by the Forestry to replace it with a flat steel construction. The Trust has renovated and repaired it, thus saving an important feature of the village.

Fingals Well The restoration of this was investigated by the Trust. The work was eventually completed by the Community Council.

Baron Turner's Cairn The restoration of this has involved considerable research by the Trust. This project is ongoing.

Flower Tubs The Trust has installed and maintains flower tubs throughout the village.

Local Land Land, such as the walled garden, the bowling green, the riverside and the field adjacent to the caravan site are under consideration for sale by the Forestry Commission. The Trust is monitoring the situation as locals are concerned about potential developments.

Open Days The Trust has held open days to enable the whole community to contribute their ideas.

This second Community Action Plan reinforces the priorities highlighted in the first. It also shows some positive changes, but also some new concerns.

Who is involved

Ardentinny Community Trust is responsible for the reports produced as part of the Community Futures process.

A 'community profiler' was employed, Lorna Ahlquist, from Cowal Community Care Forum.

Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park fund the work under the 'Community Futures' Program. The Park's Officers, Ceci Alderton and Hannah Dinneen, supported this and wrote up the community survey and the action plan. Other Trusts in the Park are doing similar work. The whole process is supported by the Small Towns and Rural Development Group.

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