

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Pàirc Nàiseanta Loch Laomainn
is nan Trosachan

(c)Getmapping plc 2001

2008 – 2011

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



CROFTAMIE

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2008 - 2011
CROFTAMIE COMMUNITY FUTURES STEERING GROUP
LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS COMMUNITY FUTURES PROGRAMME

CROFTAMIE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The people of Croftamie Community Council area prepared this, our second Community Action Plan, with the assistance of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Community Futures Programme.

The plan revises and replaces our initial Community Action Plan which is now out of date. The village has achieved some of the priorities in that plan, such as:

- Establishing the Croftamie Community Development Trust
- Installing speed limit warning signs
- Establishing a community heritage group
- Producing a local directory

Some other priorities are carried forward, while a few new important issues have been identified to reflect the changes in our community over the last few years.

The Plan summarises community views on

- Croftamie now
- the vision for our future
- the issues that matter most
- priorities for action

The Plan makes a clear statement about the type of place Croftamie aims to be – and what needs to be done.



CROFTAMIE COMMUNITY FUTURES STEERING GROUP AND SUPPORT

A local Community Futures Steering Group was established including members from Croftamie Community Development Trust, the Community Council, and with the SWRI assisting. Members were Anne Ewing, Graham Hamilton, Alexis Easton, Sheila Welsh, Ned O'Keefe and Anne Morrison, with support from other members of the Trust and the Community Council.

Teresa Dowie and Kit Neufeld worked as the Community Profilers.

Diane Davidson Kinghorn from Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority worked with the Steering Group to support the consultation process.

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

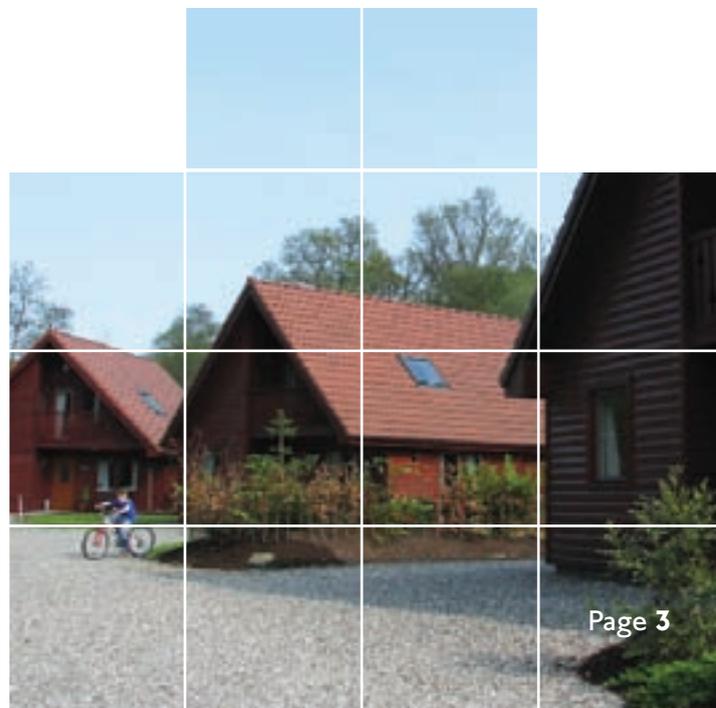
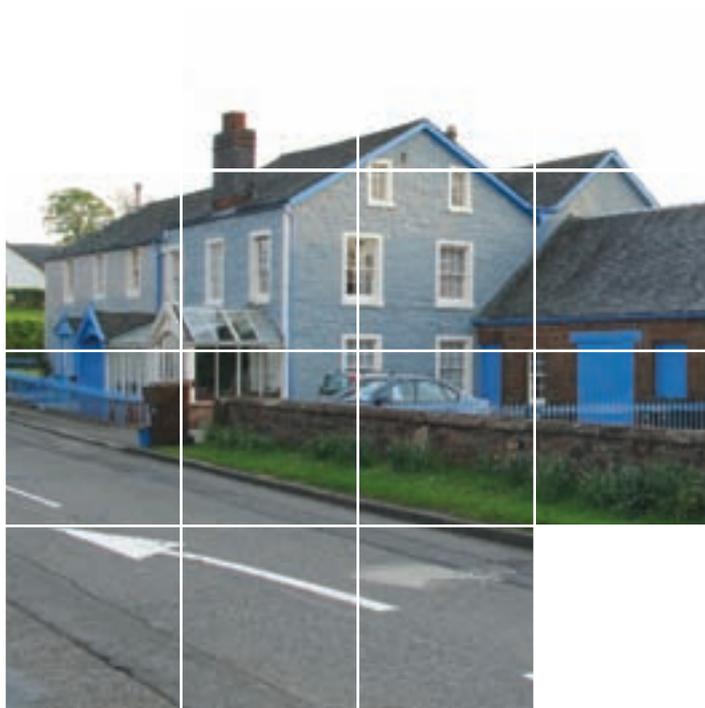
The Plan was prepared following extensive consultation with the community over the period from November 2007 to May 2008. Consultation included:

- A series of interviews with different groups and individuals representing all aspects of the community
- A community views survey went to all house holds
- A community profile detailing facts and figures about the community
- A Community Futures Open Day

60 SURVEY FORMS WERE COMPLETED BY OUR 139 HOUSEHOLDS

17 STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS WERE HELD WITH A BROAD RANGE OF INTEREST GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

46 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE COMMUNITY OPEN DAY



OUR COMMUNITY NOW

We have summarised below the views from our COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY.

COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY		
WHAT WE LIKE - THE TOP FIVE		% Responses
1	Surroundings and peaceful environment	57%
2	Friendly people and community spirit	55%
3	Small attractive rural village	33%
4	The services	23%
5	Outdoor activities, walking and cycling	8%



Quotes from the survey

“Croftamie is very peaceful and quiet, it has kept its village feeling and people are very friendly”

“Living in a rural environment with open views – friendly neighbours”

“The houses and flats and all the well-kept gardens”

“Attractive village, friendly people, shop, pub and good walking”

“Good walking close by and around the village”



WHAT WE DON'T LIKE - THE TOP FIVE		% Responses
1	Lack of facilities & activities for the village	57%
2	Roads, traffic and safety	55%
3	Public transport	23%
4	Nothing!	13%
5	Village environment and unkempt sites	12%



Quotes from the survey

“Having no proper hall for meeting; not being able to use nursery in holidays”

“Lack of path to Drymen. Unable to push buggy or ride bicycle safely along beside road. Path too narrow and crossing over main road dangerous.”

“A lack of decent public transport through the village.”

“Can’t think of much; nothing actually!”

“Pirniehall left to go to rack and ruin. Also nothing being done about Dalnair”



OUR COMMUNITY NOW

We have summarised below some of the information from the COMMUNITY PROFILE.

COMMUNITY PROFILE 2008

Location

Croftamie is a small village located 3 miles south west of Drymen in the western rural area of Stirling Council; it is one of the southern gateways to the National Park. The Community Council covers an extensive rural landward area of around 25 km² and is bordered by Drymen Community Council (at the Endrick) to the north and east, by Killearn Community Councils to the east and south and by West Dunbartonshire Council to the west. National cycle route 7 passes through the centre of the village and the West Highland Way is just outside.

Population

At the time of the 2001 census the population was 383, when compared to the National Park and Scotland there was a lower than average proportion of 5 to 15 year olds and young adults; there was a higher than local average proportion of 45 – 64 year olds. Since the 2001 census a local nursing home has closed.

Housing

There are 139 houses of which a very high proportion – 79% – are owner occupied. Only 6% of housing is socially rented. The desirability of the area for commuters and the resultant rise in house prices makes it difficult to cater for local housing needs.

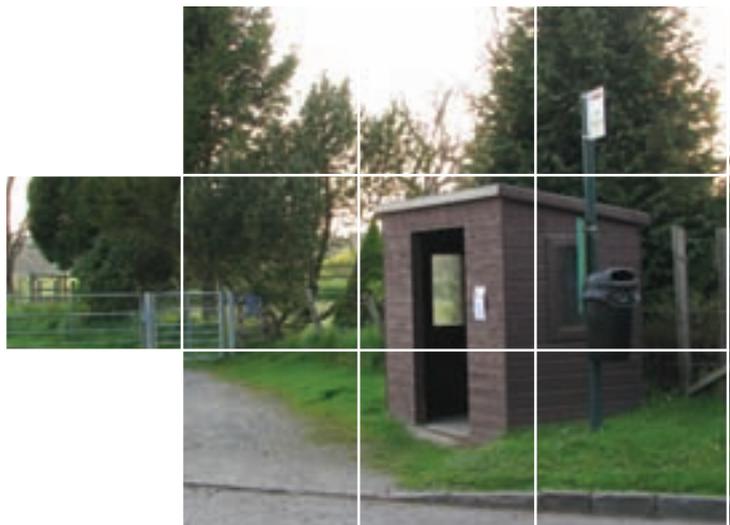
Employment & The Local Economy

38% percent of the economically active population in Croftamie work full-time. It is estimated that a high proportion of this figure actually commute to Glasgow/Stirling and beyond. Agriculture, although not as important as in the past, still provides a major contribution to local employment. Of the 50 or so employed in agriculture 50% occupy farming units; the remainder constitutes regular and casual staff. Local knowledge indicates that tourism is an important and growing sector in Croftamie.

Croftamie has a higher number of self employed than the regional or national average. The availability of suitable space for small business within the area is limited.

Roads and Transport

Croftamie is served by infrequent public bus services operating between Croftamie, Glasgow and Stirling; there are no buses through Croftamie on a Sunday. Commuting to work by bus is difficult, as although there is a service to Glasgow at an appropriate time, there is no suitable direct bus back.



Community Organisations and Facilities

At the present time the nursery building is designated as a dual use facility, for community use alongside its educational role. It is poorly suited for this and there are no other community facilities in the village. This has resulted in a virtual cessation of community events and programmes within the village. Croftamie has however a long-running SWRL; there are currently 40 members – demonstrating Croftamie’s willingness and desire for community activity. There is a shortage of clubs and activities for all age groups in the village; the majority of leisure activities are dependent upon journeys to recreational facilities either by public or private transport.

Education

Croftamie nursery serves Croftamie, Buchanan, and Drymen; providing 40 places in 2 sessions, currently 4 children from Croftamie attend. Since the closure of the primary school, children attend schools in Drymen, Killearn or Buchanan. Balfron High is the catchment secondary school.

Health and Care Services

The nearest services are GPs in Drymen, Killearn and Balfron. Hospitals in Stirling and Glasgow; dentists in Alexandria and Balfron. Drymen Health Centre dispenses their own prescriptions otherwise the nearest dispensing pharmacies are in Killearn and Balfron.

Leisure and Recreation

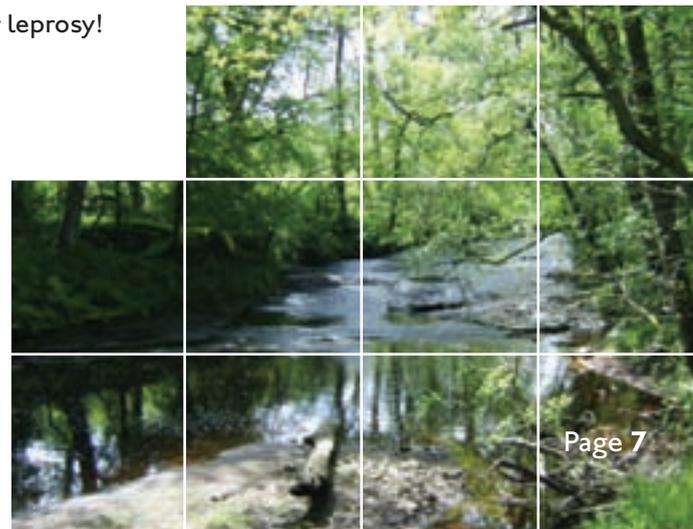
The lack of a community facility is perceived as the largest single factor inhibiting the development of community activities in Croftamie.

Environment and Heritage

The River Endrick is the principal environmental asset in the area and flows west to enter Loch Lomond. The river is the major inflow into the Loch and forms the main spawning ground for the Loch’s salmon. The area is noted for its low levels of pollution, the habitat supports a wide range of species. The Endrick area to the north of Croftamie is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), primarily because of its unique lamprey population. The other principal site of interest in the area is at Aucheneck on the Carnock Burn (a designated SSSI due to its well-preserved examples of various glacial landforms, a key site for interpreting the Ice Age of the Loch Lomond area).

Some of the features that make Croftamie special:

- The drove roads - from the north of Scotland to Glasgow over the Stockie Muir and from Argyll and the west to the Falkirk Tryst
- The railway – opened in the 1850s and closed a century later
- The annual February horse fair
- The ruined castle at Mains of Kilmaronock.
- The well of St Dieldrin, reputed to contain a cure for leprosy!
- The ruins at Spittal, thought to be a Templar site
- The stone quarry and a timber mill



OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF CROFTAMIE

CROFTAMIE VISION STATEMENT 2008

A good place to bring up a family...

...with a first class community hall as a focus for community activities, and with good transport links for young and old alike.

A rural community...

...where rural activities, farming and open spaces predominate.

A safe community...

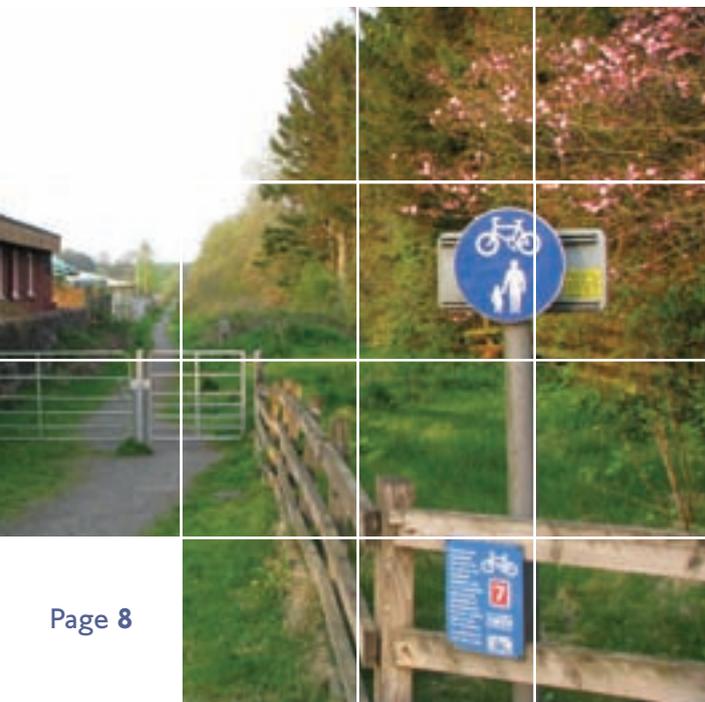
...where traffic does not dominate the needs of people walking, cycling and riding.

A dynamic community...

...where gradual change is recognised and some new housing, of low density and appropriate scale is welcomed.

An enterprising community...

...with good opportunities for the development of local businesses suitable for a rural environment.



MAIN THEMES & PRIORITIES

These are the things that the community, in partnership with a range of agencies and supporters, will aim to achieve over the next few years.

THEME 1: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The key issue for the community is the current difficulty of using the Nursery building for community purposes even outwith school hours. This restriction on the way in which the community socialises has led to the virtual cessation of community activity. This is compounded by the lack of play spaces and other outdoor community spaces.

MAIN PRIORITIES

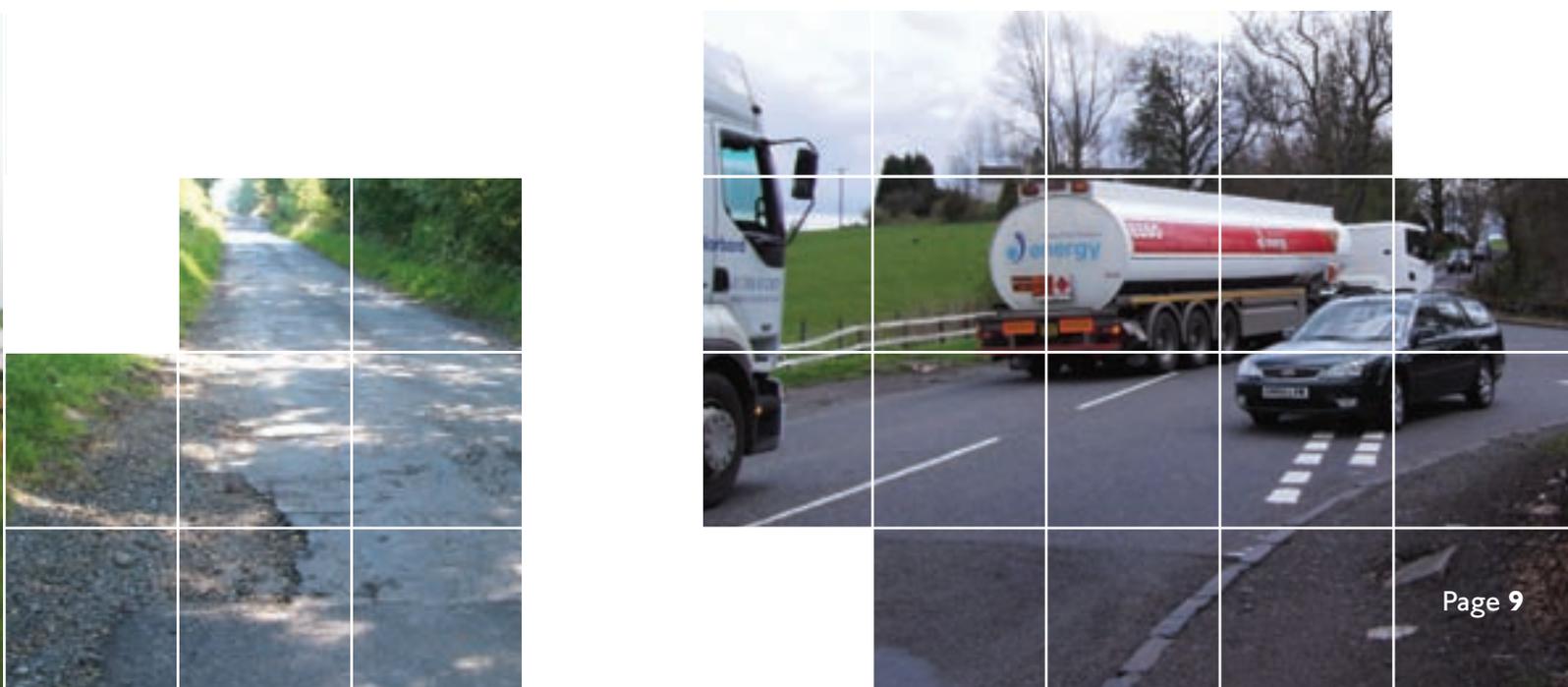
- Old school to be a truly multi-purpose building - for nursery and community use.
- Provide play facilities for children of all ages

THEME 2: TRAFFIC, ROADS AND PATHS

With Croftamie being such a small community, local people need good access to services in neighbouring Drymen. At present walking or cycling between the two communities is difficult and dangerous; made even more so by heavy traffic on the busy main roads and unmarked crossing points. The A809 through the village itself is in need of particular attention.

MAIN PRIORITIES

- Construct a safe roadside path to Drymen
- Develop a good variety of local path routes
- Improve pedestrian safety in the village – pavements and road crossings
- Make sure that through-traffic observes the speed limit
- Improve the condition of the “Back Road”



THEME 3: VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

There is a community aspiration for some appropriate small scale development in Croftamie. With the loss of the railway and station, the closure of the nursing home at Dalnair House and the educational facility at Pirniehall, the village is losing its identity.

MAIN PRIORITY

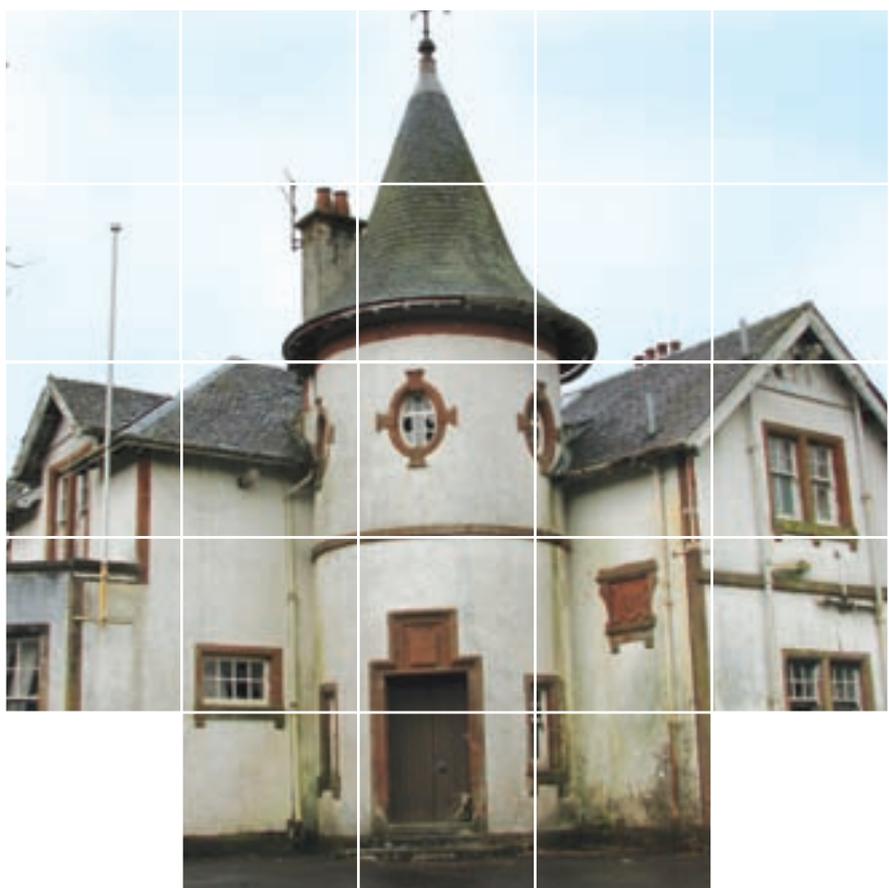
- Improve the outdoor spaces in the village for public amenity
- Make sure that new housing developments reflect local housing needs
- Action on the Dalnair House and Pirniehall development sites
- Ensure good access for emergency and service vehicles at Mill Quadrant
- Create safe off-road parking for both local people and visitors

THEME 4: COMMUNITY SERVICES

Croftamie’s important location as a gateway to the National Park is just one of the reasons why local people are distressed at the amount of litter and the run-down appearance of the roadside spaces in the village.

MAIN PRIORITY

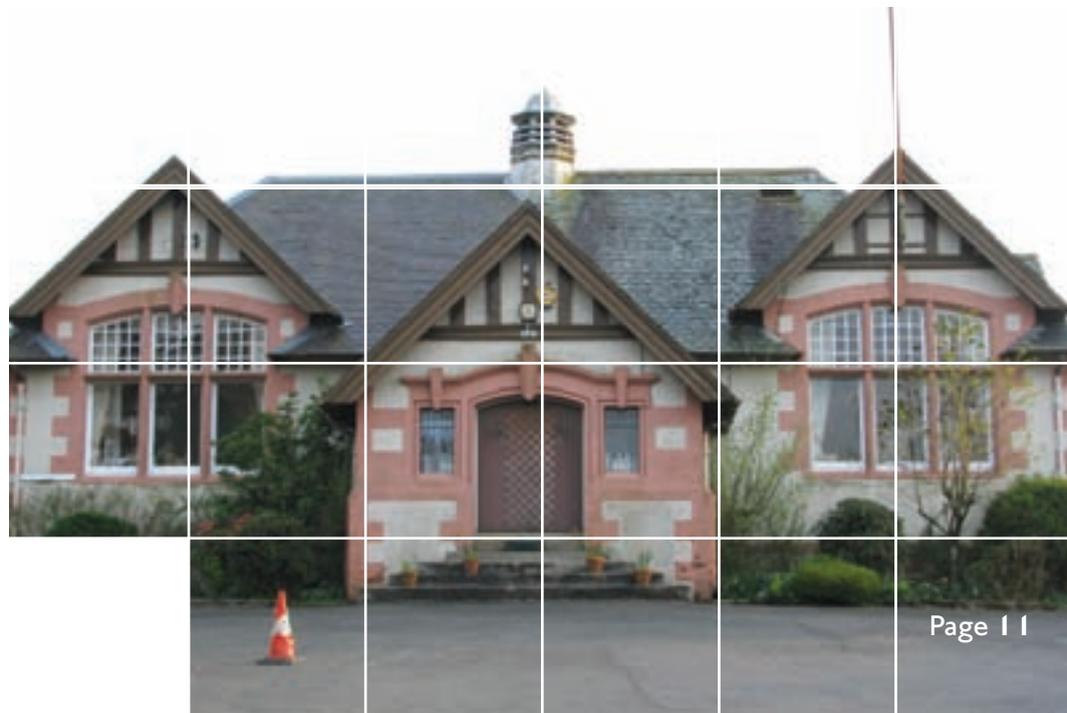
- Keep Croftamie tidy!
- Improve public transport timetables and co-ordination
- Improve the bus shelters



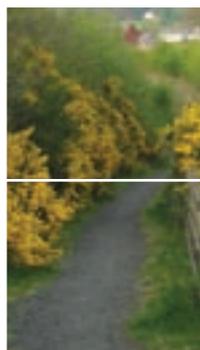
ACTION

Making progress – some of the action steps to be taken over the next 12 months:

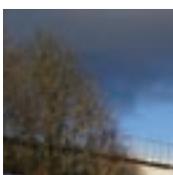
THEME 1	COMMUNITY FACILITIES
PRIORITY 1	<p>OLD SCHOOL TO BE A TRULY MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING - FOR NURSERY AND COMMUNITY USE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Call a village meeting to define what the community wants from the building ■ Prepare a report on the outcomes ■ Organise an Old School Conference to bring together local organisations and public officials ■ Devise a range of possible solutions ■ Seek funding as appropriate to implement the proposals
Action by	Croftamie Community Development Trust, Croftamie Community Council, Stirling Council Education Officers, Nursery School staff, Community Council Support Officer from Stirling Council
PRIORITY 2	<p>PROVIDE PLAY FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identify a range of possible and preferred sites for play spaces ■ Approach land owners to explore options for access and use ■ Recruit expert support for a technical study
Action by	Croftamie Community Development Trust, Stirling Council – Children’s Services



THEME 2 TRAFFIC, ROADS AND PATHS	
PRIORITY 1	<p>CONSTRUCT A SAFE ROADSIDE PATH TO DRYMEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gather evidence from other reports indicating support for the idea – e.g. The East Loch Lomond Visitor Management & Destination Framework ■ Carry out an informal survey to identify specific issues / problems / possible solutions ■ Contact Stirling Council Roads Department ■ Arrange a meeting of all parties on site to explore how best to implement this project ■ Draw up a proposal ■ Mount a publicity campaign in support of this
Action by	Croftamie Community Development Trust , NPA Access Officer, Drymen Community Development Trust, Croftamie Community Council, Drymen Community Council, Stirling Council – Roads Department, Elected members, Scottish Government, Affected landowners
PRIORITY 2	<p>DEVELOP A GOOD VARIETY OF LOCAL PATH ROUTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Form a Local Paths Group ■ Developing the ideas already generated, draw up a schedule of existing and proposed routes ■ Identify priorities for action ■ Seek support or funding to prepare a technical study ■ Seek support and funding to implement the project
Action by	Local Paths Working Group, Croftamie Community Development Trust, National Park Authority Access Officer, Stirling Council Access Officer
PRIORITY 3	<p>IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN THE VILLAGE – PAVEMENTS AND ROAD CROSSINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Draw up a list of key locations in the village ■ Work with Stirling Council Roads Department to identify problems and possible solutions
Action by	Croftamie Community Council, Stirling Council Roads Department
PRIORITY 4	<p>MAKE SURE THAT THROUGH-TRAFFIC OBSERVES THE SPEED LIMIT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Explore options for traffic calming measures ■ Lobby the council for improved speed controls ■ Mount a campaign for enforcement of the existing speed limits ■ Identify good practice from elsewhere ■ Draw up a set of proposals ■ Work with the local authority to implement these
Action by	Croftamie Community Council, Stirling Council Roads Department, Central Scotland Police – Road Policing Unit
PRIORITY 5	<p>IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF THE “BACK ROAD”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Contact Stirling Council to praise them for work already undertaken ■ Find out what the current proposals are for continuing maintenance and improvement of the “Back Road” ■ Lobby for this to be made a priority
Action by	Croftamie Community Council, Stirling Council Roads Department, Elected members



THEME 3 VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT	
PRIORITY 1	<p>IMPROVE THE OUTDOOR SPACES IN THE VILLAGE FOR PUBLIC AMENITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Form a working group ■ Draw up a list of spaces in need of improvement ■ Prepare proposals for specific actions – e.g. seats, planting, paving, tree planting, better access ■ Contact the landowners of the sites – public and private ■ Seek funding in partnership with others to implement the improvements
Action by	Outdoor Spaces Working Group, Croftamie Community Development Trust, Stirling Council, National Park Authority, Sustrans, Beechgrove Garden team
PRIORITY 2	<p>MAKE SURE THAT NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS REFLECT LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prepare a local housing policy statement and work with Stirling Council and the National Park Authority planning officers to ensure that new developments meet this policy
Action by	Croftamie Community Council, Stirling Council, National Park Authority
PRIORITY 3	<p>ACTION ON THE DALNAIR HOUSE AND PIRNIEHALL DEVELOPMENT SITES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Make representations to the two planning authorities to try to influence the extent of any new developments on these sites ■ Work with the developers and the planning authorities to maximise community benefit from the developments
Action by	Croftamie Community Council, Stirling Council, National Park Authority, Development companies
PRIORITY 4	<p>ENSURE GOOD ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY AND SERVICE VEHICLES AT MILL QUADRANT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Support the Community Council in its endeavours to solve this issue ■ Review the proposal drawn up several years ago and revise if appropriate ■ Work with the land owners (Stirling Council) and the householders to agree what needs to be done ■ Seek funding or support for a technical study
Action by	Croftamie Community Council, Local residents, Croftamie Community Development Trust, Stirling Council – Housing Department
PRIORITY 5	<p>CREATE SAFE OFF-ROAD PARKING FOR BOTH LOCAL PEOPLE AND VISITORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identify potential sites in the village – e.g. the road-side part of the Old School yard and others ■ Contact the various landowners ■ Draw up a set of proposals
Action by	Croftamie Community Development Trust, Croftamie Community Council, Stirling Council



THEME 4 COMMUNITY SERVICES	
PRIORITY 1	<p>KEEP CROFTAMIE TIDY!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maintain the twice-yearly community-run litter pick with the support of the council ■ Contact Stirling Council to find out what the council's policy is for public open space litter collection in outlying rural communities ■ Lobby Stirling Council for regular, frequent rubbish and litter collection in and around the village ■ Erect more signs advising people about responsible litter behaviour, especially along the cycle track area
Action by	Croftamie Community Council, Stirling Council, National Park Authority
PRIORITY 2	<p>IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TIMETABLES AND CO-ORDINATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Contact the Stirling Council and National Park Authority Transport Co-ordination Officers ■ Lobby for improved co-ordination of timetables to facilitate better travel connections to Stirling and Glasgow
Action by	Croftamie Community Council, Stirling Council, National Park Authority, Transport operators
PRIORITY 3	<p>IMPROVE THE BUS SHELTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lobby Stirling Council for the two bus shelters to be replaced with improved high visibility types
Action by	Croftamie Community Council, Stirling Council



MAKING IT HAPPEN

There is strongly expressed desire – and willingness – for the community to be more active and involved and for a rejuvenated sense of community spirit to be supported and nurtured. In part, this will be helped through more of this kind of open consultation within the community, in part through extending that out to agency partners and in part through more people participating in actions to make this plan a reality.

Everyone living in Croftamie is encouraged to play a part in ‘making it happen’ by joining one of the Action Groups, or indeed by forming new ones and participating in projects that are close to their heart – improving community facilities, issues to do with roads traffic and paths, the delivery and quality of services or physical developments in the village, or any other issue in this Community Action Plan

If you feel strongly about any one of the subjects in this document, and you would like to do something about it, contact the Community Trust Chair listed below to find out how you can get involved and help make this plan a reality.

The Croftamie Development Trust welcomes new members. Anyone over 18, resident in the area, and on the electoral roll may become a member; those between 12 and 17 may become junior members. Joining the Trust gives you an opportunity to be as active as you wish on single issues or on overall projects.

Joining Croftamie Community Council gives you a chance to lobby for many improvements. Elections to the Community Council are held regularly. Members of the public are welcome at all the meetings.

Theme

Community Facilities
Traffic, Roads and Paths
Village Development
Community Services

Contact

Chair Anne Ewing
tel: 01360 660877, email: ewing@croftamie.freeserve.co.uk

All of the community – organisations, individuals and groups in the Croftamie area – will also be part of the joint effort to make this Action Plan a reality.





COMMUNITY FUTURES PROGRAMME

Croftamie community has been supported in the preparation of their new Community Action Plan by the National Park's Community Futures Programme.

Through the Community Futures Programme, all communities in the Park prepared their first Community Action Plans between 2001 and 2003. These Action Plans assisted communities to identify and develop their priorities for projects and actions. They also helped communities to clearly represent their main needs and aspirations and to influence the preparation of the National Park Plan.

Communities have also been assisted to develop local and area based organisations and 20 Community Development Trusts have been established as well as 4 Area Networks – Argyll Coastal Communities, Lomond area, Trossachs and Breadalbane.

The Community Futures Programme is supporting all 21 communities in the National Park area to revise and renew their Community Action Plans.

In revising their Community Action Plans, communities are continuing to shape and influence their own development by:

- Updating facts and figures and views about their community
- Developing a clear set of priorities for their community over the next 3 – 5 years
- Ensuring that there is a strong community mandate for projects and actions
- Offering opportunities for new people to be involved and new ideas to flourish
- Enabling informed community input to the National Park Local Plan

For more information contact:

Lesley Campbell

Rural & Community Support Manager

TEL: 01389 722600

email: Lesley.campbell@lochlomond-trossachs.org



Community Futures Programmes of local community planning and community engagement are designed and supported by the Small Town and Rural Development Group. www.stardevelopmentgroup.org