



COALFIELDS  
COMMUNITY  
FUTURES

# Community Action Plan 2015 - 2020



# CLACKMANNAN



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The Community Action Plan is not just for the few but for everyone, we hope you will read it, consider its content and help toward making it work by taking action where you are, in whatever way you can. If everyone did something positive for their community every day, then what a difference that would make!

Many thanks go to all those who took their time to share their views, to the volunteers and participants who made the Open Day a great success and to the local schools that enabled our young people to have their say.

Thanks go to Colin Anderson who contributed the images in this Action Plan .

Special thanks go to Clackmannanshire Council for funding the printing of the Action Plan.

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# Coalfields Community Futures

The Coalfields Community Futures Programme is an approach to local community planning and sustainable community development that aims to encourage active citizenship and build local democracy. It enables communities to devise a community action plan which makes a case for the things that the community thinks are important and wishes to make happen.

The process builds on existing processes of community action research to identify local needs and priorities, using residents as co-researchers. We work with local residents and groups to develop a common sense of purpose and assist them to produce a deliverable community action plan.

To support the action planning process the community receive a Participatory Budget which is available to local constituted community or voluntary groups.

This budget enables the community to fund small projects that are identified by the community through the results of the household surveys, stakeholder interviews and the Open Event.

Projects funded through the Participatory Budget are highlighted under the Actions and Priorities in this document.



124 Community Surveys were returned

14 Stakeholder interviews took place with local groups, businesses and support organisations

103 people attended the Community Futures Open Event

## Introduction

A community event took place that brought various groups together and was supported by Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society, local Highland Dance Group, Boys' Brigade, Brownies and the Clackmannan Primary School Parent Teacher Association. A special thank you to all who have been involved.

### Clackmannan Community Action Plan

The Action Plan summarises community views and information about:

- Our community now
- Vision for Clackmannan
- Priority themes and actions

### Clackmannan Community Futures Steering Group

Local people came together to form a steering group that would guide the preparation of Clackmannans Local Action Plan. The steering group brought local residents together who represented Clackmannan Development Trust, Clackmannan Community Council and The Town Hall Trust. At different points throughout, the process was supported hands on by local uniformed groups and Clackmannan Primary School.

Thank you to everyone who took part in helping Clackmannan plan for a bright future.

# Our Community Now

This Profile has been produced to give an insight into the Clackmannan area. It is part of a wider Community Futures process being delivered by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust across Scotland's coalfield communities to assist them reflect on what is good and what could be improved and how.

Clackmannan is 1.8 miles (2.9 km) south-east of Alloa and 3.2 miles (5.1 km) south of Tillicoultry. The town is within the county of Clackmannanshire of which it was formerly the county town until Alloa overtook it in size and importance. The town centre has suffered from neglect and the historic importance of many of the town's features has been insufficiently recognised.

The statistical information in the profile was taken from the Clackmannanshire Community Plan, the 2011 census and Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

## Population

The population resident in the area from the last census was 3,450. It is now approximately 4,600 and mirrors Scotland generally in terms of demographics. The population has shown a slow increase of 748 from 2005 to its current level. However population projections to 2037 suggest a continued slow growth then a decline to below the current level. This negative growth hides a significant issue. In all age groups up to 64 years old their % of the population will decline. This will be most pronounced in the 30 – 49 age group. The overall effect is lessened by a large increase in the 65 – 74 year olds and 75+.

## Housing

There are slightly fewer 1 person households compared to Scotland as a whole.

The % of housing which is detached is slightly more than Scotland as a whole while the semi-detached houses are significantly more. Similarly the % of the housing which is terraced is much more. Conversely the % of flatted house types is much less (more than half less than Scotland). Despite there being fewer 1 person households there is still a slight dearth of 1 person accommodation.

Home ownership rates are 8% lower than Scotland and public rented higher. The local authority has historically been the largest provider of social housing in the area.

## Health

People perceive their health broadly in line with the picture for Scotland. The main difference is expressed in 1 or 2 % points towards the not good side. It is not surprising therefore that the % of the population with a limiting long term illness is only slightly higher than Scotland (22.3% in the area compared to 20.3% for Scotland) and those who do not slightly lower (77.7% in the area compared to 79.7% for Scotland). The local health centre is generally well thought of by residents.

## Employment and Economy

The % households with at least one person aged 16–74 who is unemployed or permanently sick is 3.2% above the Scottish figure. Youth unemployment is high running almost 4% above the national figure of 27.8%. Unemployment among the age group 50+ is conversely below the national rate.

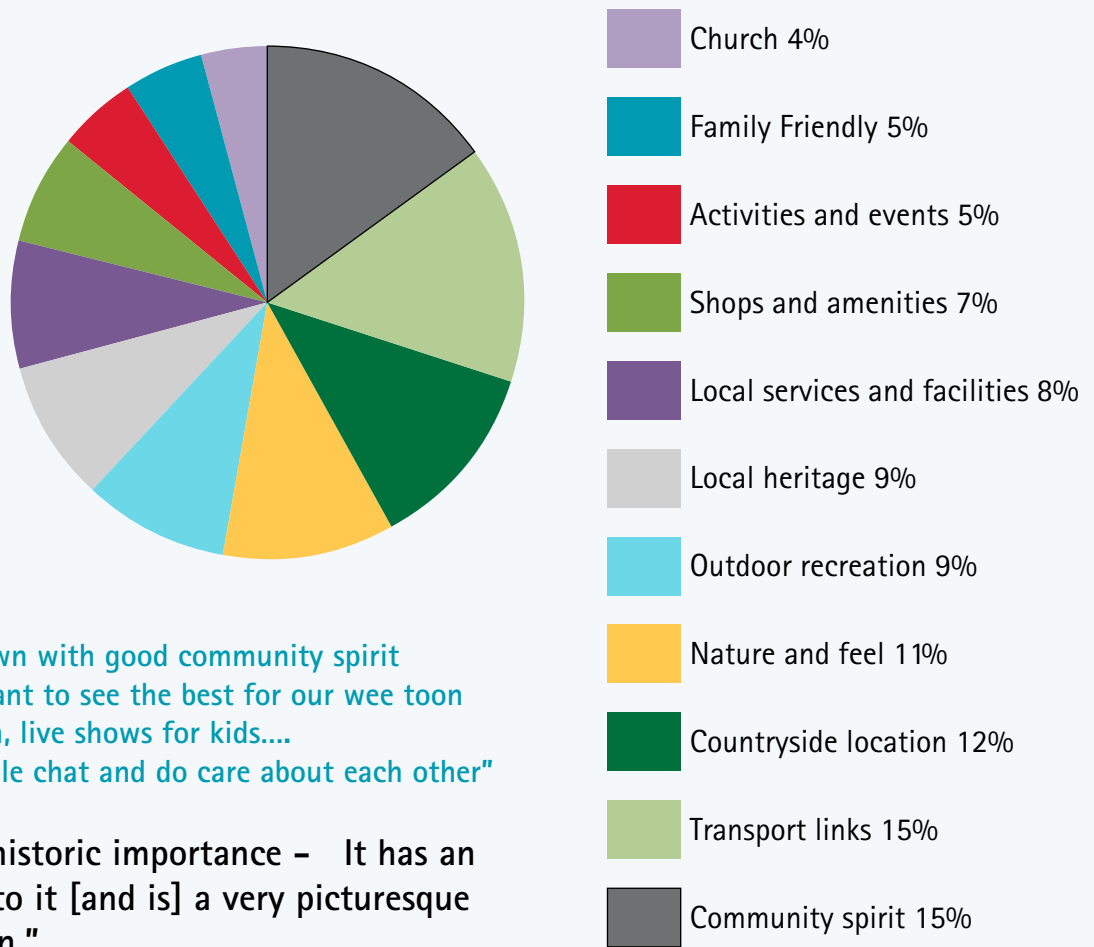
Clackmannan outscores Scotland generally in terms of long term unemployment. More than half of those unemployed last worked in 1999 – 2000 and those who have never worked is 2% more than for Scotland.

The main difference between Clackmannan and Scotland in terms of type of employment is there are roughly 3% more of involved in manufacturing, construction and the wholesale and retail trade and a similar amount less involved in real estate, business activities and health and social work.

## Education and Training

The % of households where no one aged 16–74 has qualifications or is in full-time education is higher (40.54%) than Scotland as a whole (33.11%). This poor educational attainment level is underlined by the discrepancy between the % of the population

# Our Community Likes



## People said:

"its a fine little town with good community spirit and people who want to see the best for our wee toon ie xmas lights, gala, live shows for kids... the fact most people chat and do care about each other"

"It's wonderful historic importance - It has an olde world feel to it [and is] a very picturesque village type town."

"Close to the countryside yet convenient for Stirling and Glasgow. Good transport connections."

"Lovely village on a hill with Tolbooth, ancient "Clack" stone, church, old cemetery and tower... much history [so] ideal as a tourist place if marketed well."

**"The backdrop of the Ochils can be spectacular"**

"the location is beautiful for walks it has a country feel and the people are friendly and helpful"

"the mix of housing types and socializing groups and good range of shops and services"

"where we are its a quiet and tidy street, it feels like home - everybody knows someone"

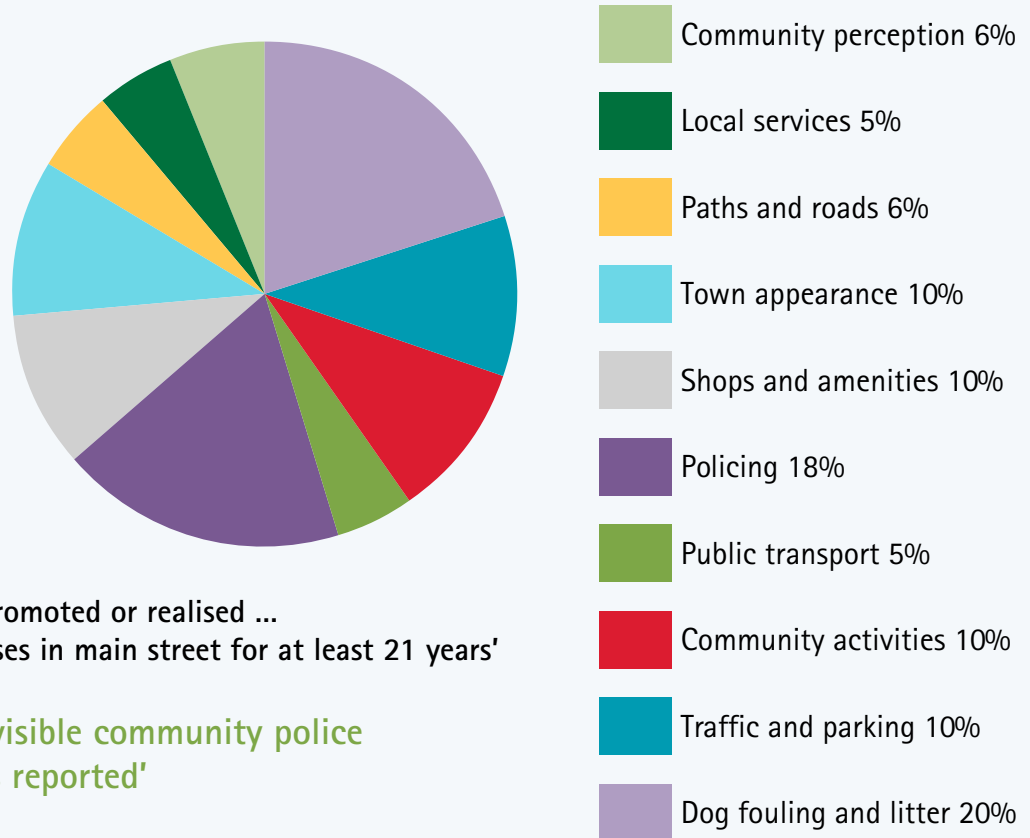
"the primary school - its a good one!"

**"How the community pulls together for events and fundraising"**

"the people all know each other and understand each family"

"Main Street is well maintained and cleaned daily ...Convenient co-op, well serviced surgery, library and lay point"

# Our Community Dislikes



## People said:

'Tourist potential not promoted or realised ...  
Boarded up shop premises in main street for at least 21 years'

'lack of policing or visible community police  
even when incidents reported'

'youth need somewhere to keep them off the streets'

'nothing socially in the town. Most things are church related which doesn't suit everyone'

'lots of people with social problems who find it difficult and its hard to know how to help them'

"no central community focus"... "Lack of a cafe or restaurant to sit and meet with others."

'poor parking habits on main street'

'we seem to be at the bottom priority list for the council:  
street lighting is poor and could do with a tidy up'

'no available info on historic buildings'

'street disorder particularly Friday and Saturday nights'

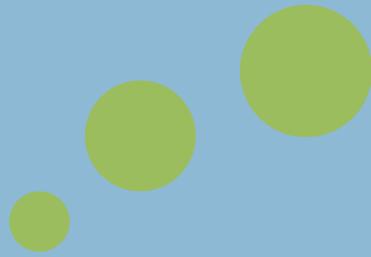
'very little public transport in evenings and Sundays'

Over the last few years there has been a **noticeable amount of vandalism**, also the younger generation are using the streets as race tracks on motorbikes.

some roads are not wheelchair friendly .... due to there being no flat pavement.

Litter. **dog poo, not dogs fault, bad owners!**

# A Shared Vision for the Future



## Our Clackmannan will be.....

A safe, inclusive and thriving community in the hands of the people that live here. Clackmannan will be a place that displays its community spirit and values proudly in a way that makes families want to live here. There will be a calendar of community activities and events throughout the year with something for everyone and with opportunities for all to get together. People will feel confident that they can get involved with community decision making at all levels to really contribute and make a difference locally.

A confident community that is proud of, and celebrates its rich heritage while looking forward to a vibrant future. There will be a buzz about Clackmannan as we become a community that welcomes tourists to join us in sharing opportunities to learn about and enjoy local history. The town centre will retain its character while offering modern and engaging facilities for those who live, work or play in the area.

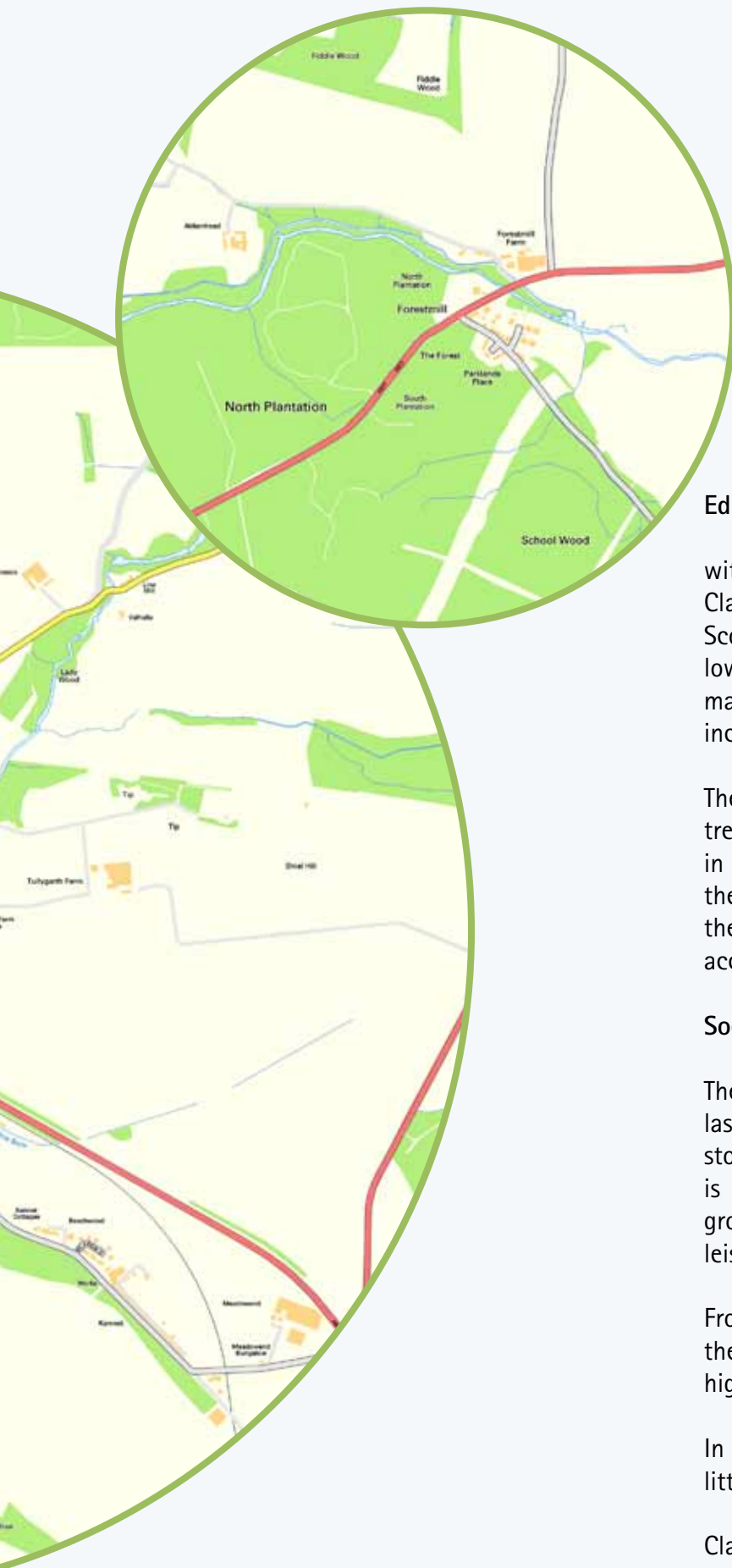
A happy and healthy community that is clean, green and active. Our local environment will be clean and attractive with better traffic management so that residents feel good about the time they spend here. We will continue to protect and develop our local greenspace for all to enjoy. Modern and accessible paths, tracks and parks will encourage people to regularly get active and to take ownership of these valuable spaces ensuring they stay clean and green for generations to come.

A community that is well connected and well equipped to support people at all stages of life. We will be a community that is invested in and that provides the spaces, businesses and services we need for everyone to feel cared for and supported. Local transport links will be well used and reliable, connecting Clackmannan locals

# Putting Clackmannan on the map







### Education and Training

with no qualification being 9.5% higher in Clackmannan than in Scotland. The area outscores Scotland markedly for the number of people with low level qualifications and is outscored itself, again markedly, by Scotland as the level of qualification increases.

The small nature of the community is something treasured by many local residents, although decline in industries across the decades has meant that there are few opportunities for employment within the town, and transport is heavily relied on for access to employment and education.

### Social and Community

There have been a number of improvements in the last 2 years with the railway, upgrade of the co-op store and a good path network for cyclists. There is now also a range of community and voluntary groups providing services and opportunities for leisure, sport and personal development.

From the community survey the community spirit, the location, heritage and transport links scored highest on likes.

In terms of things people did not like dog fouling, litter and policing were highest.

Clackmannan has a good environment with the River Forth to the south and Gartmorn Dam Country Park to the north.

# Main Priorities identified by the Community, and a Strategy for Community Action

## THEME 1: Local heritage

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

Local heritage plays an important part in the community. The areas around the Tower and Tolbooth have been neglected and require attention; these have the potential of being tourist attractions which could provide employment for local people. We have good walking routes which require improvement. We must promote these routes to encourage local people as well as visitors to enjoy our heritage and surrounding countryside.

### Celebrate Town Heritage with events and displays

- Work with local primary school on heritage projects
- Pilot heritage walks around Clackmannan
- Improve pathway to Tower and connect to other walkways

### Better access to Clackmannan Tower

- Re-develop car park within Tower vicinity
- Train locals as Tower Guides to assist with open days
- Improve pathway to Tower and connect to other walkways

### Improve and promote walking and cycling routes

- Promotion of Medal walking routes through local and wider networks
- Ensure three main cycle routes are promoted and continue to be well maintained

### Improvements to Tolbooth area

- Continue to work with partners to enhance this area as part of an overall Historic Town Centre Regeneration Project

### Heritage Walk

- Create heritage walk working with community partners

#### Key partners

Clackmannan Community Council  
Clackmannan Development Trust  
Clackmannanshire Council  
Clackmannan Field Studies Society  
Wee County Walkers  
Historic Scotland  
Paths for All



# Main Priorities identified by the Community, and a Strategy for Community Action

## THEME 2: Community involvement, activities and events

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

We need to develop our community activities and events, especially for young people. We also have to build on existing groups and organisations. We need to ensure that groups work together to co-ordinate their efforts and promote what is available with better information.

### More activities and events for children and young people

- Carry out youth engagement activities to find out what teenagers want
- Support existing youth groups to access wider support and resources
- Continue to develop the Gala day
- Continue to develop the Festive Celebration

### Activities that bring older people together

- Continue the Christmas Lunch for older people
- Promote Circle of Friends activities to increase engagement

### Increase and improve communication streams of 'What's on'

- Continue local newsletters and develop community web networks
- Display local information and promote group activities in local noticeboards and newsletter
- Develop the community calendar through collaboration of groups and networks



#### Key partners

Clackmannan Development Trust  
Clackmannanshire Council CLD  
Clackmannan Community Council  
Clackmannan Gala Committee

# Main Priorities identified by the Community, and a Strategy for Community Action

## THEME 3: Parking, roads and transport

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

We need to work closely with public services such as Police Scotland, Bus Companies and Clackmannanshire Council to alleviate traffic problems such as congestion the Town experiences. There are also issues with the road conditions and this causes hazards for motorists. We also have to work with the school and parents to encourage responsible parking around the school as the children's safety is of utmost importance.

### Better Traffic Management

- Formally explore scope for introduction of designated parking in line with Historic Town Centre Regeneration
- Initiate dialogue with bus providers around rethink of bus route and terminus
- Mini roundabouts where road safety would be improved
- Better signage where road safety would be improved
- Revisit the possibility of one way system in Main Street

### Improve conditions of roads

- Repair potholes and uneven surfaces

### Address road safety issues around primary school area

- Work with school and parents to encourage responsible parking around the school and school routes
- Work with residents and businesses

#### *Key partners:*

Clackmannan Development Trust  
Clackmannan Community Council,  
Clackmannanshire Council,  
Clackmannan Primary School,  
Clackmannan Primary Parent Teacher  
Association/Parent Council,  
Police Scotland



# Main Priorities identified by the Community, and a Strategy for Community Action

## THEME 4: Community services, facilities and amenities

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

The Town Hall is an important facility and we have to ensure that this is maintained for the future, together with other buildings which support local organisations. All existing services need to be promoted to ensure that the people that require these know that they are there for them. We have to ensure that our community have adequate recreation facilities and work together with potential partners to ensure this happens.

### Improve local Community Park

- Seek funding to undertake a feasibility study to establish that the development of a Community Park with an enhanced play area is a viable objective
- Consult with the local community regarding development of a Community Park.

### Maintain existing facilities for future generations

- Maintain Town Hall interior and exterior
- Repair and maintain Scout Hall

### Better access to sports groups and facilities

- Promotion of existing sports groups at events and through networks

### Increased uptake of existing services

- Promotion of existing services such as Credit Union and Library Services

### Police presence and dealing with anti social behavior

- Clackmannan Community Council to continue to liaise between police and residents
- Advocate for vandal proofing of public space and buildings
- Encourage the community to report any incidents to the Police or relevant authority



Key partners  
Clackmannan Community Council  
Police Scotland  
Clackmannanshire Council  
Clackmannan District Scouts and Girl Guides  
Clackmannan Development Trust  
Clackmannanshire Credit Union

# Main Priorities identified by the Community, and a Strategy for Community Action

## Theme 5: Town environment and appearance

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

Regeneration of the Historic Town Centre will play a vital part in attracting tourism to the area. It should be attractive and welcoming to visitors. We should also be encouraging small businesses to come to the town to assist with its regeneration.

### Regeneration of Historic Town Centre

- More floral displays and signage around Town Centre
- Carry out consultation activities with residents and businesses around town centre development
- Work together to develop plans and establish strategic partnerships for significant regeneration projects
- Access funding for regeneration and restoration works

### Boost tourism with better tourist information signage and facilities

- Promote Clackmannan heritage sites through a variety of communications
- Display tourist information around Clackmannan
- Install Welcome / Interpretation Boards

### Regenerate under-utilised space around the town

- Install flower beds and benches in appropriate spaces
- Continue to promote value of Community Council walkabouts amongst residents

### Development of a tearoom to meet tourist potential

- Explore scope for encouraging local business in line with Historic Town Centre Regeneration

### Tackle litter and dog fouling

- Liaise with Council to update local approach in line with most recent Council Initiatives
- Request additional dog and waste bins in strategic locations

Key partners:  
Clackmannan Community Council  
Clackmannanshire Council  
Clackmannan Development Trust



# Early actions identified by the Community, and supported by funding from Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Clackmannan Development Trust – Community Signage

Clackmannan Development Trust – Community Communication

Clackmannan Primary School Parent Council – Digital Explorers

36th Stirling Boys Brigade – Enhancement of IT Skills

Clackmannan District Girl Guides – Hall Refurbishment

Clackmannan Town Hall Trust – New Equipment

Clackmannan Community Football Club – New Floodlights

Clackmannan Community Council – Town Enhancements

## Community Action Plan: Considerations

Future population projections would suggest at best a stagnant population growth or a decline. The population is likely to age significantly.

There are no major concerns over housing.

The main challenge for health services is the large increase of elderly people in the long term.

Youth unemployment is a concern.

There are also low levels of people in higher paid jobs

The need to improve the levels of qualification through education and training in the area is quite apparent. This impacts as has been evidenced, on the employment profile with few managerial, professional and technical workers and on the high youth unemployment.

The issues highlighted are mainly positive. Key challenges relate to the parking, shopping and retail opportunities in the Main Street and dog mess and litter.



