



COALFIELDS
COMMUNITY
FUTURES

Community Action Plan 2016 - 2021



CROSSGATES & MOSSGREEN

History

The earliest mention of Crossgates is on a map of Fife dated 1237, there are also reports of monks from Dunfermline digging for coal from around this time. It was on the map as Cors Gatts.

The village was in the 1800's tenanted mainly by miners but was never a single company village with the workers employed by the different coal companies, however Fordell (which is part of the Community Council area) was a company village.

There were in the village various small shops including a drapers, butchers, bank, shoe repairs, blacksmith, greengrocer, various fish and chip and grocer shops, paper shops, ice cream shop, barbers, hairdressers, bakery, weavers, tailors, masons and a cooper. Today nothing like that selection is available.

There was a large number of mines in and around the villages, well over 30 major pits, starting in the 1700's although smaller drift mines and "bell" pits produced coal for centuries before this date. In the 1800's coal was taken down the Fordell Railway to St Davids and then shipped from there. This was a wooden wagon way the moved on to iron/steel rails in 1833.

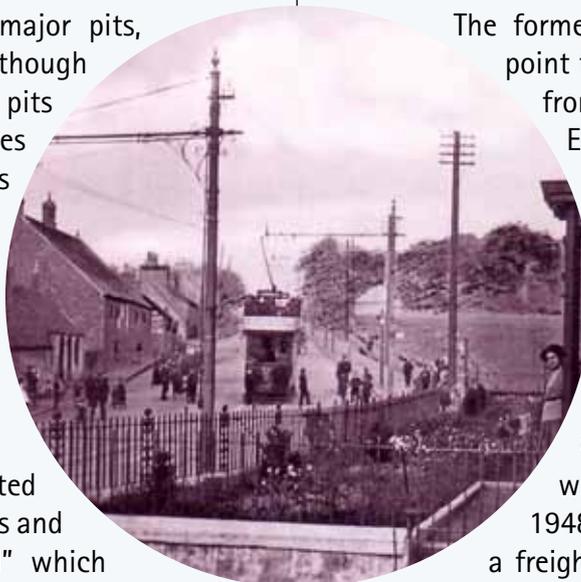
The Fordell day Level was started in 1750's to help drain the pits and was an underground "canal" which enabled pits to go deeper and reach seams that were previously unable to be mined. The day level is still in existence and draining water from old mine workings. There are no longer deep mines in the area but the land around the village has been

open casted since the 1950s and still has a current site working.

The village is in three parishes Dunfermline, Dalgety and Cowdenbeath, this resulted in the village having two parish churches, two schools and two war memorials. The church in Mossgreen has been closed and demolished leaving only one church in Crossgates. The school in Crossgates is on its third site (being first on the corner of Manse Road with Main Street, the second was converted into the Miner's Institute then moved to Dunfermline in 1925, the school in Mossgreen(1875), which moved there from Fordell (1844) and before that from Drumcooper (1803) is also closed. There was also a school in Donibristle. The libraries in the villages were very important to get a better education.



The former Cross Inn was a coaching point for both mail and carrier carts from the north of Scotland to Edinburgh and the road itself was a busy drover's route for cattle and sheep with these spending time at Droverhall Farm. There were two toll houses in the village which charged to use the roads.



Crossgates had its own station which opened on 1848 (closed in 1948 for passengers but still having a freight siding) and was part of the local tramway which opened in 1909.

The village had in the past a 9 hole golf course, tennis courts and a curling rink as well as a cinema with a busier social scene than now.

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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.

103 Community Surveys were returned

12 Stakeholder interviews

194 people attended the Community Futures Open Event

Introduction

The Action Plan summarises community views and information about:

- Our community now
- Vision for Crossgates and Mossgreen
- Priority themes and actions

Crossgates and Mossgreen Community Futures Steering Group

Local people came together to form a steering group that would guide the preparation of Crossgates and Mossgreen's Local Action Plan. The steering group brought local residents together, many of whom represented local organisations; Crossgates and Mossgreen Community Council, Crossgates Bowling Club, Crossgates Primrose FC, Crossgates Primary School and PTA, Greenfingers and Crossgates Community Woodland.

Thank you to everyone who took part in helping Crossgates and Mossgreen plan for a bright future.



Our Community Now

Background

This Profile has been produced to give an insight into the Crossgates and Mossgreen 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.

Crossgates is a former mining village with a history of both deep and opencast mining. Located close to the junction of the M90 and A92, about two miles east of Dunfermline and a similar distance south west of Cowdenbeath, it is well linked with road and rail routes across Scotland. In 2008 ATH Resources opened an opencast mine at Muir Dean to the south of the village, continuing this history of mining – something which continues to divide community members in their opinion of the venture.

Mossgreen is a village in north of the former Dalgety parish near Crossgates. A public school was built in 1876 at a cost of £1900, in the Gothic style.



Population

The population resident in the area from the last census (2011) was 2,138. The population has grown since then and from Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics it is now around 2,659.

There is little difference between Crossgates and Mossgreen and Scotland in terms of the age breakdown of the population. There are slightly more in the 30 – 59 year old age group with 2.27%. Unlike most other former coalfield communities where the number of 60+ is more than Scotland, in Crossgates it is 2.5% less.

Overall from the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics the population has shown a slight increase from 2003 to its current level. Similarly the population of Fife as a whole has grown from 351,350 to 366,910 in the same period. The population within Fife is rapidly ageing. The 75+ population in Fife is forecast to increase 64.3% by 2024. This has serious implications for the delivery, particularly health and social care, of services in the future.

Housing

The average number of people per household is higher than Scotland but the average number of rooms is also higher. This suggests that the match between house size in terms of rooms and household size in terms of people is good and this is reflected in the percentage of households with too few rooms per resident which is just under half the Scotland figure.

There is a greater proportion of detached and semi-detached houses compared to Scotland and of a similar magnitude less terraced houses, flats and maisonettes. Home ownership rates are 12% higher than Scotland and public and social rented lower. Private rented rates are also low.

Currently there are two property developers interested in further expansions in the area and working through local

Our Community Now

consultation and planning process. The coalfields community futures survey highlighted a clear split between those who would be happy with further development and those who did not see any further developments as positive.

Health

The average age of people with good health or people with a limiting long term illness roughly equates to Scotland as a whole. People perceive their health broadly in line with the picture for Scotland. The main difference is expressed in 1 or 2 percentage points towards the good side.

Employment and Economy

The average age of a person who is unemployed is 30.92 compared to 35 for Scotland as a whole (Table 13). The % of unemployed people who possess a degree (or equivalent) or higher is much smaller than Scotland as a whole (6.00% compared to 10.46%). Youth unemployment is high running at just over 4% above the national figure of 27.8%. Unemployment among the age group 50+ is conversely well below the national rate at 2.0%

More people are economically active (71.5%) than inactive. For Scotland the percentage of the population who are active is 65.25%. The biggest difference between Crossgates and Mossgreen and the rest of Scotland is the higher number of people who are self-employed.

Education and Training

The % of households where no one aged 16-74 has qualifications or is in full-time education is slightly lower (31.98%) than Scotland as a whole (33.11%). The area is outscored by Scotland for the percentage of the population whose highest qualification is at level 4 but generally is slightly higher than Scotland for qualifications at levels 1, 2 and 3. School leavers in Crossgates fare well in general with around 95% accessing further/ higher education, training or employment compared with around 91% across Scotland.



Social and Community

From the community and stakeholder survey the environment came out highest in terms of things people liked about the area followed by parking, roads and transport and the community spirit. The facilities or lack and quality came highest in terms of dislikes, followed in rank order by services, environment, parking, roads and transport and activities.

Community Action Plan: Considerations

The population has grown slowly. The long term projection is for a disproportionate increase in the elderly population. This places a range of pressures on health and education services.

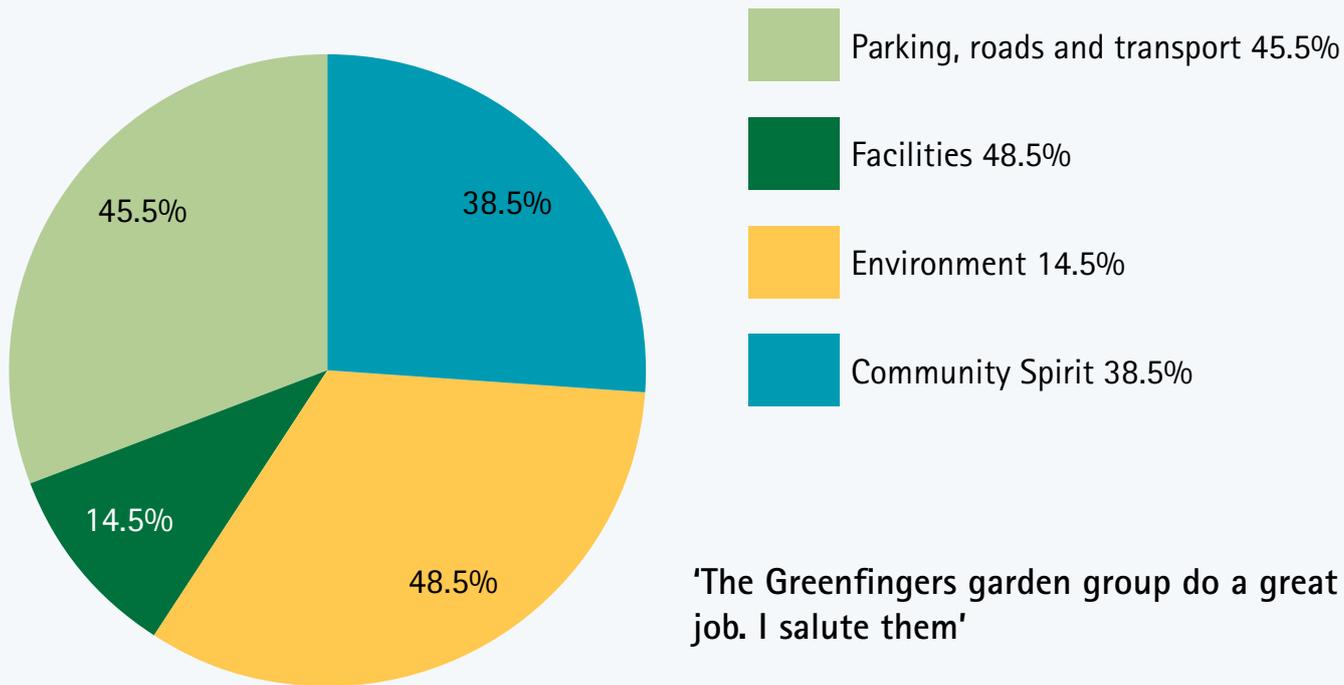
There are major issues identified with regards to social, 'affordable' and sheltered housing.

There are no major concerns with respect to employment and economy.

There are no major issues in relation to the general health of the population of Crossgates and Mossgreen.

The level of community activity is good. The main concern is the quality and quantity of facilities.

Our Community Likes



'The Greenfingers garden group do a great job. I salute them'

'It's rural, lovely scenery, has a doctor surgery and own primary school, has a wonderful ice-cream shop yet it is only a few minutes drive to all facilities of historic Dunfermline'

'Within easy reach of amenities. Countryside on doorstep Lots of open spaces i.e. the TAFT'

'Beautiful flower tubs on Streets'

'The junior football team'

'The people, services, culture and history'

'The community spirit, the locals come together to make special events like the gala'

'Village looks attractive with flower displays'

'Christmas decorations and lights'

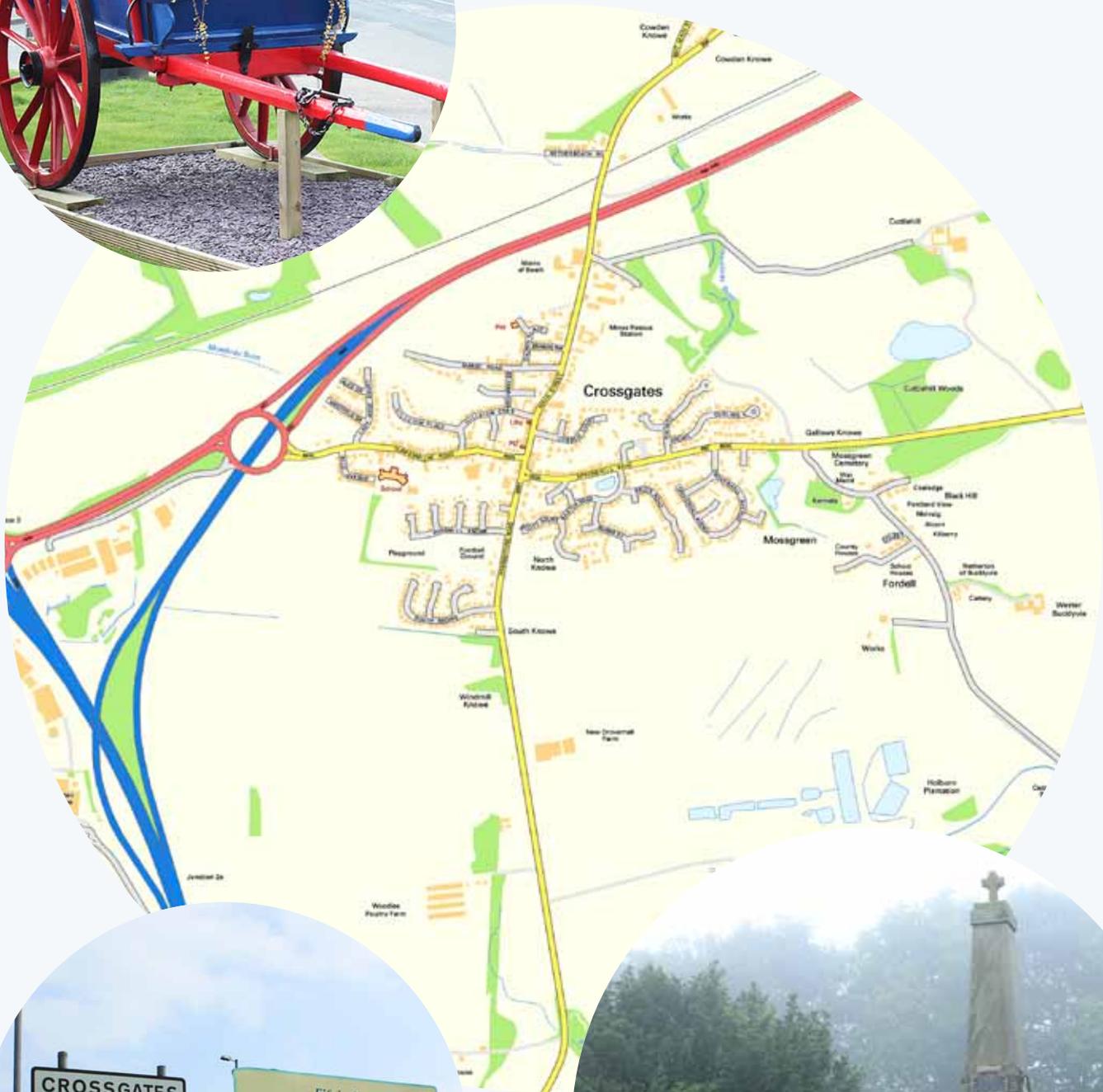
'It is still a village with five separate communities acting as one'

'Cute wee church'

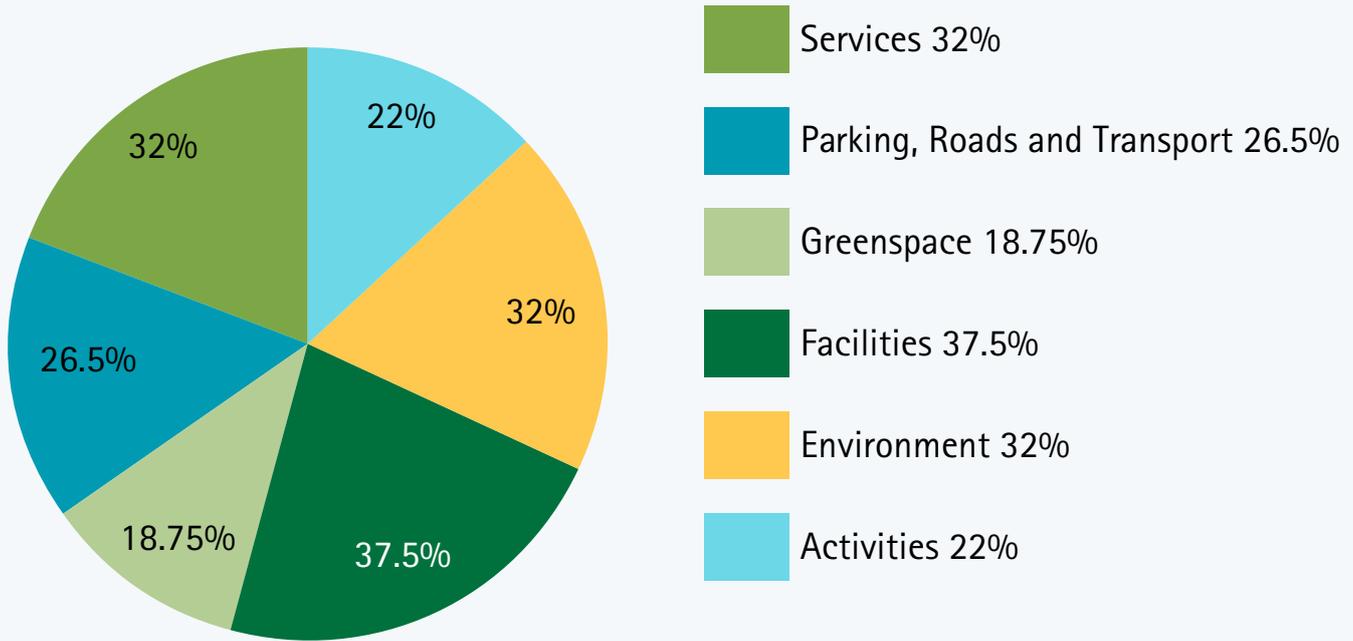
'Mossgreen is a small quiet community'



Putting Crossgates and Mossgreen on the map



Our Community Dislikes



‘Lack of social/ sporting facilities’

‘No Bank or ATM’

‘The amount of traffic passing through the village’

‘Small community centre. No football facilities fit for use’

‘No banks or shop’

‘Lack of facilities, services especially for young people’

‘Traffic chaos at school run time. Lack of parking on Main Street’

‘Lorries going throughout the village’



‘Not enough things for young people to do’

‘Lack of shops’

‘Speed of traffic coming in and out of village’

‘The amount of new houses being built and lack of parks’

‘Dog fouling’

‘Coming through town centre it feels run down - looks poor! roads not wide enough’

‘The old style of lamp posts as they don’t give enough light, dangerous for the elderly’

‘Population of village has rapidly outgrown resources available at local medical centre - needs an additional GP’

‘The school playground is boring and dangerous - not child friendly’

‘Park too wet’

‘No decent swing park that covers big AND small children with lots of adventure’

‘Nowhere to eat out or go for coffee/tea’

‘Poor state of roads and pavements in the area’

‘Vandalism to Crossgates Greenfingers good work to brighten the area’





Crossgates and Mossgreen A shared vision for the future

Live well in Crossgates and Mossgreen.

A confident and engaged community that is bursting with potential in the hands of people that live here. Crossgates and Mossgreen will celebrate a reputation of strong community spirit. Community activities and events offer something for everyone, which means that we all feel part of something great. People will feel confident that they can get involved to really contribute and make a difference locally.

A safe and happy community where people want to spend time. Our local environment will be tidy and attractive with better traffic management so that we feel good about the time we spend here. People of all ages will be proud of our space and want to keep our community clean and safe, with everyone doing their bit.

A healthy and family friendly community that is clean, green and active. We will continue to protect and develop our local woodland for all to enjoy. Always improving- our modern and accessible paths, tracks and parks will encourage people to regularly get active locally and to take ownership of the resources we have.

A well connected community that is well resourced to support people at all stages of life to live well. Local transport links will be well used and reliable, connecting locals to wider opportunities and supports but also attracting local business into the area. We will be a community that is invested in and that provides the spaces, businesses and services that we need for everyone to feel cared for and supported in their own village.

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

THEME 1: Community Facilities and Recreation

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

The community would like to see the development of the school grounds, work has already begun, but further improvements are required and this will require funding. There was a strong need identified to improve open spaces to provide outdoor sports and recreation facilities. A village park focused on play, children and families. Residents thought that there are few community facilities within the village and that the existing Community Centre requires improvement. There were also a high number of residents who would like to see a café in the village, therefore we should ensure that the Community Café running in the Church Hall is more widely promoted and volunteers encouraged to assist with the running of the café which would enable it to be open more hours.

Improve parks and greenspaces to provide outdoor sports and recreation facilities

- To work with 'Greenspace' and other partners to create a development plan of these areas
- Investigate the possibility of cycle routes around the village
- Investigate sources of funding

Improve School Playground

- Work with School and PTA to continue to develop school playground

Develop a Community Café

- Build on existing community café at the Church Hall
- Promote café facility
- Encourage more volunteering support with a view to opening more often

Improve/develop existing Community Facilities

- Work with partners to carry out review of facilities
- Work with Crossgates village park and other groups



Key partners:

Crossgates and Mossgreen Community Council
Fife Council
Crossgates Primary School
Greenspace
Crossgates Primary School PTA
Crossgates Community Woodland
Crossgates Village Park
Greenfingers

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

More activities for young people is a high priority for the village and we have to focus on providing family oriented services, and to have a range of activities for children and young people. There are Noticeboards in the village, but means of communication streams need enhanced and we are doing this through a Digital Noticeboard and information leaflet. We also need to ensure that existing community groups receive the support they require to continue to provide their services to the community.

More activities for young people

- Work with Fife Council CLD to carry out a consultation with young people to find out what they would like

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

- Install Digital Noticeboard and produce information leaflet
- Ensure local information regarding clubs and groups is displayed on all noticeboards
- Use Social Media as a tool for disseminating information

Support and strengthen existing groups and clubs

- Local groups to identify wider support and resources for their activities

Involve more locals in volunteering

- Volunteer recruitment drive across all groups

Community Clean Up

- Continue to support local community cleanup activities

Key partners:

Crossgates and Mossgreen Community Council
Fife Council CLD
Crossgates Primary School PTA
Fife Voluntary Action
Greenfingers
Crossgates Community Woodlands

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

THEME 3: Housing, 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 and Fife Council to alleviate the traffic problems that the village encounters. There are also issues with the road conditions and this causes hazards for motorists. A very important issue within the community is the development of a train halt at Halbeath Park and Ride and we must ensure that the community continues to lobby for this.

Better Traffic Management

- Explore scope for introduction of more parking within Crossgates Village Park development
- Work with Fife Council Roads Department and Community Police on measures to reduce traffic speed
- Launch a road safety initiative at the school

Improve conditions of roads/pavements

- Continue to work with Roads Department to identify priority areas for improvement

Possible halt at Halbeath Park and Ride

- Continue to lobby for Halt at Halbeath Park and Ride

Housing that meets the needs of local people

- Investigate impact on local infrastructure of increase to housing provision
- Investigate opportunities for social housing
- Investigate possibility of sheltered housing

Key partners:

Crossgates and Mossgreen Community Council
Fife Council
Housing Developers
Crossgates Village Park



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

Theme 4: Village Appearance

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

Having won awards for the floral displays in the village we must ensure that support is given to the volunteers that make this happen. We have lovely walks around the village and we must work with other agencies to help increase and improve these. The community also felt it was important to develop a Kirk Bell memorial and continue to support the Gala Week as these things are part of the village's heritage.

Tackle litter and dog fouling

- Develop a dog fouling and litter campaign

Increase floral displays and trees

- Encourage more volunteers to assist with floral displays throughout the village
- Investigate more funding sources

Improve drainage in local parks

- Work with partners to investigate problems

Develop TAFT Paths

- Increase/improve path network

Develop Kirk Bell Memorial

- Investigate appropriate site for memorial
- Investigate funding sources

Increase heritage displays and celebrations

- Develop a Heritage Noticeboard
- Continue to support Gala Week

Key partners:

Crossgates and Mossgreen Community Council
Fife Council
Greenfingers
Paths for All
Gala Committee
Crossgates Community Woodland



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

Cowdenbeath Trinity Church

Crossgates Primrose Juniors

Crossgates Toddler Group

Crossgates Bowling Club

Crossgates Greenfingers

Crystal Barcelona Football Club

Crossgates Primary School Parent Teacher Association

Crossgates Community Woodland

Crossgates and Mossgreen Community Council

Making it Happen

This Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of Crossgates and Mossgreen over the next 5 years as identified by the community through an extensive process of community engagement carried out over a period of 7 months, September 2014 to March 2015.

The Plan contains:

A summary of the Crossgates and Mossgreen Community Profile

Our main Likes and Dislikes expressed in the community survey

Our Vision Statement for Crossgates and Mossgreen

The main themes and priorities for taking action

Information on how to get involved or just be kept informed!

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 Tony Brown and members of the community who contributed the images in this Action Plan. Special thanks go to Fife Council for funding the printing of the Action Plan.

To find out more information about the Action Plan or to volunteer with any projects please contact Crossgates and Mossgreen Community Council



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead



the coalfields
regeneration trust



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