



COALFIELDS
COMMUNITY
FUTURES

Community Action Plan
2015 - 2020



KINGGLASSIE

Foreword

Saint Glastian is the patron saint of Kinglassie. Amidst the desolation which was spread over the whole country, in the last bloody civil war between the Scots and Picts, in which the latter were entirely subdued, St. Glastian was the comforter, spiritual father, and most charitable protector of many thousands of both nations. He died in 830, at Kinglace in Fifeshire, and was particularly honoured in that county.

In the year 1231, the village was known as Kinglassin and was in Lochoreshire. However, this changed in 1235 when Constantine II of Lochoreshire renounced his claim to the lands in favour of the Abbey of Dunfermline.

From this time on, Kinglassie ceased to be part of Lochoreshire. The name of Glen Kinglass, elsewhere in Scotland, is believed to come from the Gaelic "Conghlais" meaning "dog stream". "Kinglassie" seems on the face of it to be likely to have a similar origin, perhaps in common with Dogton. Little of antiquity remains, except for the Dogton Stone, with its Celtic cross. No one is certain why the stone was erected at this spot. Is Kinglassie linked with the Dogton Stone, which is in a field just over a mile south of Kinglassie and dates back to the 800's? This suggests that there was a settlement, which could have been Kinglassie, dating back a least 1200 years.

Kinglassie itself was the site of a medieval church, and by the 1500s was home to a community of hand loom weavers and to one or more early and probably small scale coal mines, within what was mainly a farming landscape. The village you see today has its origins in a planned settlement developed from about 1800 by the local landowners, the Balfours of Balbirnie, to provide a settlement for weavers. At its west end stood the parish church, rebuilt in 1774 on the site of a medieval church. The village that entered the 1900s seems to have been very similar to the one originally developed a century earlier. Everything changed, however, with the coming of large scale deep mining to Kinglassie. In 1908 the Fife Coal Company sank the first of two shafts for what became Kinglassie Colliery. By 1950, some 660 miners were employed extracting 800 tonnes of coal every day. Five years later employment had increased to over 760

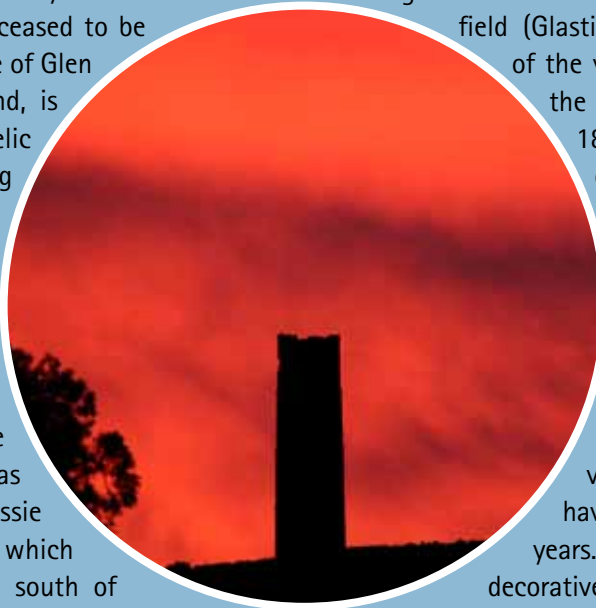
miners. By the time the pit closed in 1966, the local economy had come to rely very heavily on the miners' incomes. The Westfield open cast coal mine lies to the west of the village and is still regarded as the biggest man-made hole in Europe by local people. It is here that the Infinis Windfarm has been erected. Kinglassie will receive an annual community benefit from the windfarm.

Today's Kinglassie is now a positive and progressive mix. Much of the physical evidence of the pit has long gone, but the housing built to accommodate the miners and their families between the wars remains. Recently the village has a lot of new houses being built in the field (Glastian Meadows) at the east end of the village which will probably take the village population to around 1800, only around 100 years ago it only had around 450 residents.

Starting at the south west end of the village we find the parish church which is set back from the main road. Next is the Braefoot Tavern half way up the hill. In the middle of the village are various shops, which have seen many changes over the years. Also on the main street is the decorative Mitchell Hall, built in 1896 and donated to the community by Alexander Mitchell. To the east is Kinglassie Miners' Welfare and the Bowling Club, which is an attractive building erected in 1931.

The new village primary school was built to designs by the architect George Charles Campbell in 1912. It has a butterfly type plan consisting of two single storey rendered wings either side of a hexagon shaped hall. The central portion of the façade is two storeys high and of red sandstone, with generous steps leading to a central formal entrance.

On the hill overlooking the farm of Redwells and Kinglassie, stands Blythe's Folly, built in 1812, is a four-storey square tower, 54ft high, built of rubble with ashlar string courses and a crenelated parapet. The tower was formerly floored to afford access to an observation platform to enable the linen merchant to view ships as they entered the Forth, affording him the opportunity to procure the best goods at port. During World War II, the tower was used as a lookout tower by the home guard.



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.

129 household surveys
returned

100 people signed in to the
Open Day

15 Stakeholder Interviews

Introduction

Coalfields Regeneration Trust have been working with a committed local steering group to deliver the Coalfields Community Futures programme in Kinglassie. This group is made up from representatives of the Kinglassie Community Council, Kinglassie Action Group, Kinglassie Primary School, Kinglassie PTA, Mitchell Hall Committee, Kinglassie Kiddies and Kinglassie Miners Welfare.

In September 2014 the Steering Group came together with the purpose of creating an action plan that will focus the efforts of Kinglassie over the next five years. The process has been in depth, with a community survey being delivered by the steering group members to the whole village with many words of encouragement to people that this is something worth investing time in.

The survey was simple, what do you like, what don't you like, what would you like to see happen in your community and what is your vision for the future? The surveys were analysed to see what key themes were emerging and what was the vision for the future? Many thanks go to the steering group members who carried out stakeholder interviews and to those who gave up their time to be interviewed.

This Action Plan documents what these emerging themes are and identifies priorities for action. This is a mandate for action that has come from the people who live here, and it will be up to the people to work together with agencies and partners to take it forward and make their vision a reality.

Contents

Coalfields Community Futures	2
Introduction	2
Our Community Now	3
Likes	5
Dislikes	6
Putting Kinglassie on the map	7
A Shared Vision for the Future	8
Main Strategies and Priorities	9
Early Actions	14
Links to Community Planning	14

Our Community Now

Background

The village of Kinglassie lies to the north of the Lochty Burn two miles (5 km) southwest of Glenrothes in Fife and two miles southeast of Perth and Kinross district. For many years, Kinglassie was a weaving village, but in the 19th and 20th centuries it developed as a mining town. Kinglassie's development during the late 19th and early 20th centuries was marked by its rapid expansion to house mine workers. The Kinglassie Pit started in 1908 and closed in 1967. The Westfield open cast coal mine lies to the west of the village and is still regarded as the biggest man-made hole in Europe by local people.

Population

The population resident in the area from the last census was 1,320. The population has grown since then and from Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics in 2013 it was 1,956.

The population is older than the overall picture for Scotland with the median age for males being 41 for Kinglassie compared to 37 for Scotland and 42 for females compared to 39. This is underlined in the population breakdown. Scotland has a slightly higher percentage up to 44 years old. From 45 years old onwards there are more people in these age groups in Kinglassie.

Housing

There are more 1 person households compared to Scotland as a whole and as the number of people in the household increases it is lower than the profile for Scotland with the exception of 4 person households where in Kinglassie there are more. The majority of single person households are pensioner, 3.42% above the Scottish average.

The % of housing which is detached is almost a half of that for Scotland as a whole, while the number of semi-detached houses are almost double. There is also much less flatted accommodation. This gives a different look to the town. Home ownership rates are 13% lower than Scotland and public and social rented higher, almost double.

Health

The average age of a person with good or very good health is lower than the Scotland average, as is the average age of a person with a limiting long term illness. The percentage of economically inactive people who are permanently sick/disabled and the percentage of households with one or more carers resident is more than Scotland.

The biggest differences between Kinglassie and Scotland is in terms of how people perceive their health, in Kinglassie less people would describe their health as very good and more just good.

Employment and the Economy

The average age of a person who is unemployed is 33.8 compared to 35 for Scotland as a whole. Youth unemployment is high, running almost 6% above the national figure of 27.8%. Unemployment among the age group 50+ is conversely below the national rate. The % of long term unemployed who have never worked is double the Scottish average.

There are 2½ times more people involved in the manufacturing industry in Kinglassie and correspondingly less people engaged as financial intermediaries, real estate, renting and business activities, public administration,



Our Community Now

defence and social security, education, health and social work. In terms of occupation groups there are many more skilled trades and process plant and machine workers than Scotland and less of nearly every other occupational group.

Education and Training

The % of households where no one aged 16-74 has qualifications or is in full-time education is higher (43.92%) than Scotland as a whole (33.11%) and the % of 16-18 year olds who are in full-time education is much lower than for Scotland (42.59% compared to 62%). This is underlined by the discrepancy between the % of the population with no qualification being 14.7% higher in Kinglassie than in Scotland. The area outcores Scotland for the number of people with level 1 qualifications and is outscored itself, markedly, by Scotland for the percentage of people whose highest level qualification is Level 4.

Social and Community

The area is quite well served by community and voluntary groups. Dog fouling, traffic and parking are the most important other concerns identified.

Transport

The nearest rail station is Cardenden, three and a half miles away. Stagecoach Fife operate 3 services and a further evening only going through Kinglassie. Stagecoach and Bay Travel also operate a school bus service.

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.

While there are no major housing concerns, with the ageing population the number of single person pensioner households will increase.

Overall there are no major concerns for health in Kinglassie.

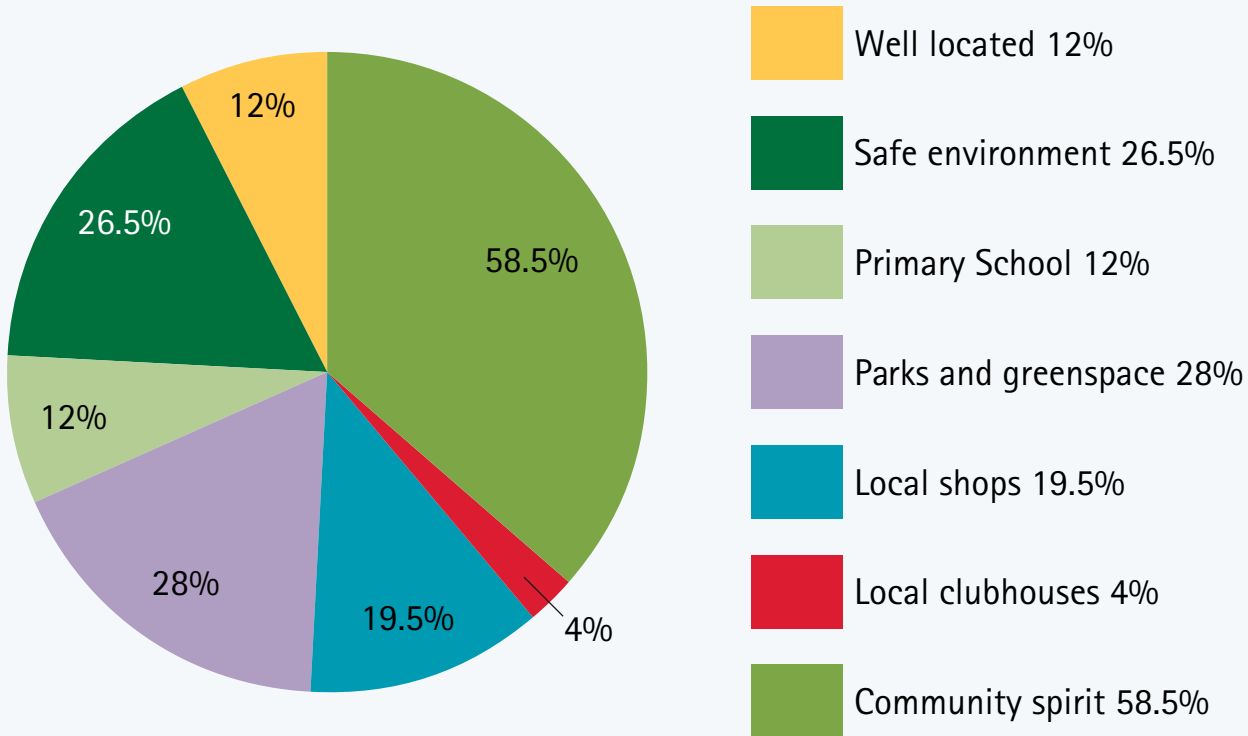
The employment and occupational profile is dominated by plant and machine workers and skilled trades people, this heavy reliance can have a negative impact should a plant close or demand fall. However youth unemployment is a concern.

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 fewer managerial, professional and technical workers and on the high level of youth unemployment.

Dog fouling, traffic, parking and a rationalisation of facilities in the village are the most important other concerns identified. The frequency of the bus services is also an issue.



Our Community Likes



‘I like the school, the park and that it is safe’

‘Small village atmosphere, great community spirit’

‘Quiet, friendly place to live, good neighbours and good place to bring up children’



‘The peace you get at night’

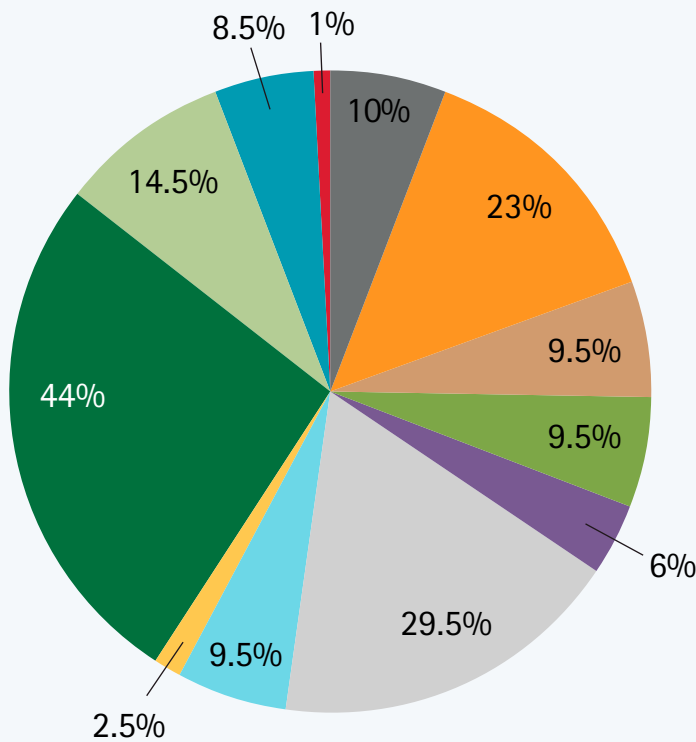
‘There are a decent number of parks’

‘Location to other areas’

‘Low crime rate’

‘Small village feel and all the hills and countryside around us’

Our Community Dislikes



- Wind turbines 1%
- Speeding drivers 8.5%
- Public transport 14.5%
- Village environment 44%
- Path network 2.5%
- Lack of key services 9.5%
- Lack of facilities 29.5%
- No Community spirit 6%
- Lack of activities 9.5%
- Insufficient car parking 9.5%
- Dog fouling 23%
- Anti-social behaviour 10%

‘Parking at the Co-op and the Main Street in general’

‘Irresponsible dog owners’

‘Lack of youth facility’

‘Lack of community policing and no street cleaner’

‘People smash glass in the park’

‘Lack of a doctors surgery’

‘Passing traffic’

‘Litter everywhere’

‘Very little for children to do’



Putting Kinglassie on the map



A Shared Vision for the Future

This statement has been prepared to summarise the main aspirations for Kinglassie as expressed by local people and organisations



Our Hopes and Aspiration for our Future

The residents and businesses of Kinglassie would like to see a healthy, safe, caring and respectful village in which to live.

A Healthy Kinglassie with improved services provision, which can provide local access to excellent healthcare for everyone. A village that has local access to healthy food and with good path networks encouraging healthy lifestyles for all ages.

A Safe Kinglassie with improved public transport, adequate parking and safe speed levels within the village. A community where people look out for each other and support a wide range of local activities and where people can come together in buildings that are fit for purpose.

A Caring and Respectful Kinglassie with a community spirit that is alive and vibrant. We want an open and transparent community which is listening and inclusive; one that shares new ideas and takes them forward. A village which is made up of people who respect each other and their local environment.

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

THEME 1: Community buildings

Kinglassie has a number of public and community led buildings, yet it does not have adequate local facilities for community groups to meet and carry out the many activities organised by local groups and organisations. There is a desperate need to carry out a full community consultation looking at finding out what exactly is needed to give the community the facilities it needs and how that need can be fulfilled.

Library Building – Fife Council

- Owned by Fife Council. Carry out a full community consultation exercise to find out what people think about this building, what they would like to see it used for and whether there is a will for community ownership of this building

Small Hall – Fife Council

- Owned by Fife Council. Work with Fife Council to agree a way forward for this building

Big Hall – Fife Council

- Owned by Fife Council. Work with Fife Council to agree best use of this building for the Primary School and the whole community

Miner's Welfare

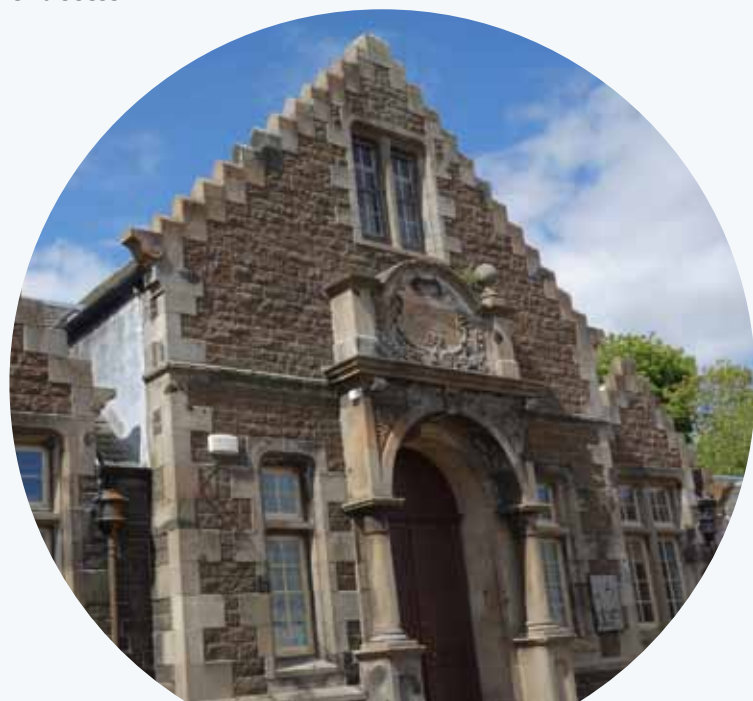
- Diversify services in order to become more sustainable
- Promote facility widely in order to increase bookings
- Work with local groups and other agencies to make best use of the facilities the Miner's Welfare has to offer. Update present security system for easier access.

Mitchell Hall

- Leased by the council to the local community. We need to continue to improve and develop the facilities in the Mitchell Hall and promote it widely as an available space for community activities.

Key partners:

Fife Council
Kinglassie Miners Welfare Committee
Mitchell Hall Committee
Kinglassie Action Group
Kinglassie Community Council and user groups



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

THEME 2: Natural environment and cultural heritage

Kinglassie is set within an attractive natural environment and has a rich cultural heritage. We want to acknowledge and build on these assets through activities that will improve the look of the village. The creation of a walking map will encourage people to get out and enjoy the local walks and parks. A project based around the creation of a heritage centre will allow Kinglassie to celebrate its heritage, enabling both the young and the old to come together to create something of lasting value.

Floral Displays

- Liaise with local businesses regarding sponsorship of floral enhancements to brighten up the village.
- Liaise with Fife Council to increase floral enhancements
- Increase local involvement

Community Clear up including the burn

- Liaise with stakeholders to ensure the burn is kept clean.
- Investigate possible links with voluntary organisations and other support groups like Community Payback

Create Walking Map

- Make the most of the local environment and help people enjoy it by creating a walking map that offers graded walks for people of all abilities and families with buggies!
- Make links with Pilgrims Way Project and other similar initiatives.

Create a record of our Kinglassie Heritage

- Investigate the feasibility of setting up a Heritage Centre which could be operated by volunteers.
- Set up a digital youth project to work with interested community members and with senior citizens to capture stories of Kinglassie Heritage.

Improve Parks

- Work with appropriate organisations to carry out a community mapping exercise looking at green space, how it can be well designed to suit the needs of everyone.
- Work in partnership with Fife Council to upgrade existing facilities and access to King George V Park, Lochty Park, Pitlochrie Park
- Work with Fife Council to carry out a study to find the best location for a BMX track in addition to the planned skate park

Key Partners

Local businesses
 Fife Countryside Rangers
 Fife Council
 Kinglassie Miners Welfare
 Mitchell Hall Committee
 Kinglassie Action Group
 Kinglassie Community Council
 Community Police
 Kinglassie Primary School

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

THEME 3: Community Facilities and Activities

Our survey showed clearly that there is a need for more activities to engage people of all ages and during the life of this action plan we intend to engage with local people, find out what activities people would like to be involved in and secure the appropriate facilities we need to enable them to happen.

Support Radio Station

- Continue to support the local Radio Station
- Find it the best and most sustainable location
- Increase local participation and involvement
- Prepare bids to secure funding

Activities and facilities for young people

- Commission a feasibility study to be carried out and to identify need and best location for activities for young people.
- Secure suitable facilities
- Encourage community involvement
- Encourage young people to access statutory organisations
- Secure suitable funding.



Activities for older people

- Commission a feasibility study to be carried out to identify need and best location for activities for older people.
- Secure suitable facilities
- Encourage community involvement
- Secure suitable funding

Sheltered Housing

- Carry out a feasibility study around the need and possible location for a sheltered housing complex.

Key Partners

Fife Council
Kinglassie Community Council
K-Town FM Committee
Kinglassie Action Group
Kinglassie Miners Welfare Committee
Mitchell Hall Committee
Police Scotland
Kinglassie Primary School
Local Housing Association

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

THEME 4: Public Services

There is a lot that needs done to give local people the range of services they need to keep safe, keep well and enable them to travel to work and for social needs. We will be working in partnership with a range of agencies over the term of this action plan to ensure we can have the services we need for the people of Kinglassie.

Main Street Improvements

- Work to create a development strategy for improving the Main Street.

Transport issues

- Continue to lobby for improved transport links
- Develop a strategy including ideas for improving car parking throughout the village

Health Services

- Create a development strategy to look at removing barriers for residents to access essential health services locally
- Explore innovative ideas such as a "health on wheels" bus
- Explore opportunities for enhanced services at the local chemist

More Police Presence

- Liaise with Police Scotland to look at increasing community policing

Keep pavements, streets and surrounding areas clean of dog fouling, litter and fly tipping

- Work with Fife Council to make sure there is an effective response time to the dumping of rubbish and litter
- Discuss with Fife Council a joint approach to dealing with dog fouling
- Work with Fife Council to increase litter picking.

Improve Pathways and surrounding areas

- Continue to liaise with Fife Council to identify priority repairs for local foot paths and roads and identify any new paths required.



Key Partners

Fife Council
Kinglassie Community Council
Police Scotland
Kinglassie Action Group
Transport Company
NHS Fife
Kinglassie Primary School
Community Police

Kinglassie in Action!

Kinglassie Community Council

Kinglassie Community Council members are democratically elected and serve for a period of 4 years. All community councillors give their time freely and do not receive any remuneration for their efforts. All meetings are open to the public. The Community Council provides important community involvement in local projects and social events. They are consulted on planning issues and are recognised by other public bodies as being representative of their local community. Being a properly constituted, independent body they are also able to attract external funding. As a statutory body they have to comply with legal requirement, and are publicly accountable. They can undertake any activity in the interest of their community that they consider necessary as well as coordinating and expressing the views of their community to any other authority.

The Community Council were instrumental in applying to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust Futures Programme which provided the funding and support for the production of this publication. We hope that it is the beginning of future projects which the community have identified as being needed.

Kinglassie Action Group

The group was initially set up in 1996 to provide a platform for local residents to meet and discuss issues affecting their village. Since then they have supported various projects and events. The group ran the Wee Neeps Bus, a local community transport initiative which ran for over 5 years. K-Town FM our local radio station was started with the support of Kinglassie Action Group (KAG). The group were also the driving force behind local environmental clean ups. Through the years they have also supported local youth projects, the local craft club and are at present raising funds for a skate park.

Mitchell Hall Group

In 1994 a group of volunteers got together with the object of restoring the then near derelict Mitchell Hall. We obtained charitable status and though a lot of hard work and fundraising we were able to re-open the hall for community use in 1997. Since then it has

hosted: Meetings, Exhibitions, Shows, Concerts, Plays, Dances, Receptions, Parties, Badminton. Zumba, Keep Fit, Majorettes, Tae Kwon Do, Kick Boxing, Youth Groups and Nursery. It requires constant voluntary work and fundraising to keep things going but hopefully this grand old building, which is such a part of Kinglassie's History will remain at the heart of the community for many years to come.

Kinglassie Miners Welfare & Charitable Society

The Miners Welfare is situated on the Main Road fronted by the Bowling Green and provides a social centre for the community. It has a licensed lounge bar and function hall for hire that can accommodate 80-120 people.

Community Contacts

Miner's Welfare	Jim 07717 070998
Bowling Club	Sandy 882121
Indoor Bowls	Sandy 882121
Kinglassie PTA	Primary School
Line Dancing	882805
Craft Club 07985	269913
K-Town Community Radio	07985 269913
Mitchell Hall	882913
Majorettes	Suzanne 07789 490717
Zumba	Susan 07891 159013
Tae Kwon Do	07703 985757
Kick Boxing	Alan 07535 902472
Kinglassie Parish Church	882570
Kinglassie Community Council	882913
Kinglassie Action Group (KAG)	07895 269913
KOFTA	Alan 882795
Kinglassie Kiddies	Stacy.ferns@outlook.com

For information on the Action Plan or to get involved in taking it forward please contact:

Sheena McGowan 07985269913
 sheena.mcgowan@live.com
 Jim Rankin 07717 470998
 jamesrankin7@tiscali.co.uk

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

Kinglassie Community Council
Mitchell Hall Resource Centre
Mitchell Hall Resource Centre
Kinglassie Kiddies
Kinglassie Action Group
Kinglassie Miners Welfare
Kinglassie Bowling Club
K-Town Community Radio Project

Playground Equipment
Stage Curtains
PA System
Garden Renovation
Laptop (Craft Club)
Committee/bowling room and hallway upgrade
New Junior Equipment
FM Volunteer Coordinator

Links to Fife Community Plan

Fife's Community Plan 2011 – 2020 therefore sets out three high level outcomes, each with a number of long term outcomes towards which the partnership groups will work, alongside other key groups. Fife's community planning partners have signed up to these shared outcomes. Lead partnership groups will work together and with the people and communities of Fife to deliver these objectives, with each partner providing a unique and valued contribution.

These priority outcomes are:

Reducing inequalities
Increasing employment
Tackling climate change

The Kinglassie Community Action Plan Themes and priorities for action:

Community Buildings
Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage
Community Facilities and Activities
Public Services



Kinglassie Primary School Song

Way deep down in the heart of Fife
There's a great wee place that's full of life
From the banks of the Ore to the Lochty Burn
It's Kinglassie School where we all learn

Verse 1 It started long ago, and Glastian was his name
And Kinglassie's Dogton stone tells of his battle of fame
As battle raged with Picts and Scots, it all got out of hand.
But Glastian did his handiwork to bring peace back to our land.

Chorus Kinglassie, Kinglassie our past makes us strong
The future is ours, so we're singing our song
Together we'll write it and live it with pride,
Make a mark on the pages of life far and wide.

Verse 2 Our wee village grew and grew to house the miners in it
But even when the pit shut down we never lost our spirit
We all stood tall and showed our strength, hand in hand together
And because of that we all shout out KINGLASSIE FOREVER

Chorus Kinglassie, Kinglassie our past makes us strong
The future is ours, so we're singing our song
Together we'll write it and live it with pride,
Make a mark on the pages of life far and wide.



the coalfields
regeneration trust

**“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

