This Community Action Plan summarises community views about:

- Lochgelly - the community now
- the vision for the future of Lochgelly
- the issues that matter most to the community
- the priorities for projects and action

The plan will be our guide for what we as a community try to make happen over the next 5 years.

The Action Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement carried out over a six-month period from March – August 2015.

The process involved:

- Carrying out a community views survey, delivered to 1000 households and online;
- Stakeholder interviews and meetings with different groups and individuals representing different aspects of the community;
- Preparing a community profile detailing facts and figures about the community;
- Holding a Lochgelly Going Forward event to prioritise the actions and projects.

The preparation of the Action Plan has been guided by a local steering group. The steering group brings together members of Lochgelly Community Development Forum, Lochgelly Women’s Group, Lochgelly Christmas Lights Group, Loch of Shining Waters, and other local volunteers including a local Community Councillor. This Action Plan will provide a guide for all community organisations over the next 5 years.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART THIS IS A GREAT RESPONSE AND SHOWS THE STRENGTH OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE ACTION PLAN

Fife Council supported the production of the Action Plan and provided £28,000 Funding to help get initial projects off the ground

432 SURVEYS WERE RETURNED

AROUND 60 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS HELD WITH LOCAL GROUPS & BUSINESSES

OVER 300 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE EVENT
Location
Lochgelly is situated five minutes from main motorway links with Edinburgh to the south (40 minutes) and Dundee to the north (1 hour).

The whole of the town is surrounded by farmland and woodland areas.

The south of the town overlooks the Gelly Loch, Little Raith Wind Farm and the petrochemical plant, Mossmorran.

The North of the town the land is rolling farmland with many core paths and neighbourhood agreement paths that are suitable for walking and cycling which connect to Lochore Meadows Country Park.

Lochgelly is a town with a prosperous past based on the coal mining industry. Since the late 1960’s the town gradually lost its main source of life as pits were closed and unemployment figures began to rise. An economically and socially deprived area in the process of regeneration.

Population
Based on 2013 mid-year estimates from the National Records of Scotland, the total population of Lochgelly is estimated at 7037. This compares with a total of 6933 at the 2001 Census evidencing a small growth over the last 10 years.

Lochgelly has a slightly higher percentage of children aged between 0 – 15 (18%) than Fife as a whole (17.5%) and also than Scotland (17.1%). It also has a slightly lower elderly population, and a correspondingly lower percentage of working age population.

Employment & Economy
The latest SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) figures from 2012 show that 21.4% of the population is classed as “employment deprived” compared to 12.8% for both Fife and Scotland.

End Child Poverty estimate that in 2013, 28.91% of children (778) in the Lochgelly and Cardenden Ward were in poverty.

In 2014 a report from Fife Council and Changeworks show that Lochgelly East is the fourth highest fuel poor area in Fife at 38.60% and Lochgelly West and Lumphinnans at the 20th highest fuel poor area in Fife with 35.08% estimated in fuel poverty.

Lochgelly has a wide variety of businesses serving local needs. There are also branches of a national supermarket chain, a post office, two banks, several small independent shops, pubs and various fast food outlets.
Housing
In 2013 there were 3292 households in Lochgelly.

62% of houses are owner occupied, compared to 69.1% in Fife. 28% of homes are social rented by Fife Council, and a further 6.6% are provided by other social landlords.

Education and Child Care
There are three primary schools in Lochgelly of which Lochgelly South and Lochgelly West offer nursery provision. Sunflower Nursery is a “stand alone” nursery based in Lochgelly and generally feeds in to St Patrick’s. This facility also has a family nurture centre. Noah’s Ark is a private nursery on Auchterderran Road.

St Patrick's pupils normally transfer to St Andrew’s RC High School in Kirkcaldy, but pupils also have the choice of attending Lochgelly HS which is the catchment high school.

The percentage of school leavers with no qualifications in 2011 was 37.8 compared to 26.4 in Fife and 26.8 in Scotland. Those who left with level 4 qualification is 11.2% in comparison to 23.8% in Fife and 26.1% in Scotland.

Health & Care
The Lochgelly Medical Practice and Health Centre provide GP services and a variety of clinics. There are two dental practices and two pharmacies in the town.

There is a sheltered housing complex in the town and two Care homes.

Social and Community
Lochgelly Town Hall is owned and operated by Fife Council. There is a range of clubs and organisations that meet in the Centre including the Aero Car Club, Parents and Toddlers and Dance Classes.

Lochgelly Centre is a theatre and arts hub operated by Fife Cultural Trust that also incorporates the local office (Fife Council) and the library (Fife Cultural Trust).

The library is now known as the Jennie Lee Library in memory of the Lochgelly-born MP who played a key role in the foundation of the Open University.

The 33rd Fife Lochgelly Scouts rent their own hall and run activities for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Events for the whole community are organised by volunteers throughout the year – including Lochgelly Gala and the Christmas lights switch on.
Leisure and Recreation
Lochgelly High School Community Use offers both vocational and non-vocational learning opportunities including sports, leisure and adult education. They also have a swimming pool; dance studio; fitness suite; Astroturf and Café.

Lochgelly boasts a Bowling Club, Golf Club and the Raceway Motorplex that attract competitors and spectators from a wide area.

Lochgelly is home to the Junior football club Lochgelly Albert and also has a number of other local teams.

Lochgelly Public Park has a large play area, paved walk areas, football pitch with changing facilities in the pavilion and car parking area.

Other parks include: Timmons Park; West End Park; Launcherhead Park and Jubilee Park. Lochore Meadows Country Park is also in close proximity.

Transport
Lochgelly has a railway station serving the Fife circular network which takes in coastal towns and the main towns in Central Fife (Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy) with direct travel to Edinburgh.

A regular bus service is provided between Dunfermline and Ballingry including connection services with the Halbeath Park and Ride. A semi-regular bus service is provided to Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes.

Environment
The town derives its name from the nearby body of water to the south of the town, Loch Gelly. The name comes from the Gaelic Loch Gheallaidh which, loosely translated, means ‘Shining Waters’ or ‘Loch of Brightness’. Land around the loch is owned by Wemyss 1952 Trust.

Community allotments can be found at Brucefield and Grace Street.
What We Like

- **Parks, countryside and walking**: 13.5%
- **Good transport links and central location**: 20%
- **Shop facilities and services**: 23%
- **Friendly people, community spirit and community events**: 35.5%

- "The people are friendly and the town is a relatively safe place to live"
- "It’s a good place to bring up a family and if I’m away anywhere I always like coming back"
- "Good community spirit"
- "Good public transport services"
- "It is near lovely countryside and things to do within a few miles. It is good for commuting, near the A92 and M90 and Park and Ride Halbeath. It has a nice library and generally the folk are nice and friendly."
- "Hard core of people who have the time and energy to try and help the town"
- "It is still a town with heart. Despite some problem areas, people still care about each other"
- "Good educational establishments from nursery to High school"
- "Plenty of parks and green spaces"
- "The Lochgelly gala and local events are fun"
- "Small town with good amount of amenities for size"
- "Easy access to the countryside and not too far from the coast"
- "Excellent library with first class staff"
**What We Dislike**

- **Anti Social behaviour - 11%**
- **Lack of facilities for children and youth - 16%**
- **Poor condition of the environment - 28%**
- **Shops and services - 27%**

*Quotes*

- “I feel the town has become run-down and the planners and policy makers don’t care about the town or its people”
- “Empty retail premises – some derelict”
- “We no longer have a community centre”
- “Lots of rubbish and dog fouling in public places”
- “Unruly behaviour by a limited number of teenagers”
- “The Lochgelly Centre café closes at 3pm”
- “Lack of parking”
- “Mossmorran is a blight and Little Raith”
- “The town is depressing, dull and empty buildings or poorly presented shops”
- “Lack of facilities for young people – not a great place to be a young person”
- “Lack of supermarket choice”
- “The high prevalence in drug dealing”
- “Lack of decent walks despite core pathway network”
- “Lots of drinking in the street”
- “Too many takeaways”
- “Shops are limited. Scruffy in areas. The Medical Centre needs to be updated and fit for purpose”
- “General air of neglect, very poor pavement and road surfaces”
- “Nothing to do for any age group”
- “The train station is only disabled friendly on one side – which is also a difficulty for those with prams/buggies”
- “The horrific amount of dog fouling in the parks and streets”
Some quotes from the survey

“A clean, bright place where everyone is friendly”

“New medical centre with associated parking, with improved services for the community”

“A town with good public space, community woodland around Loch Gelly”

“More varied businesses in the town”

“Pathways installed around the loch so that it can be brought back into use”

“All shop fronts bright and cheery”

“More community engagement; pride in the town; tidier streets; no vacant shops; a major supermarket in the town; better playparks and a permanent facility for youth clubs”

“Shopping and leisure facilities that make the town vibrant”

“A community centre that provides activities for all ages”

“More community events that can be enjoyed by everyone”

“Have an attractive main street where people could commute into and spend time and money”

“A community that invests in all sections of the community to ensure a better quality of life for all.......community activities that support youths, supports families and supports elderly residents”

“Shops will be fully occupied by a cross section of traders, attractive floral displays, well policed, no graffiti, litter or dog poo”

“More jobs and investment for local people with better prospects, education and health”

“Lochgelly needs to be a place that people want to come and stay, that the people who live here are proud of their town and work together to make it a better place for the future. This will need to start with the wee ones at school – teach them the history and heritage. Have enough houses for the families who need them. Have places where people want to meet together. Very important to have a high school where our young people can aspire to be the best they can be”

“Investment in training programmes and job creation programmes for young people”
THEME 1: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

The survey showed that people who live here would like to see a dedicated community facility in the town that is accessible by all. This theme is about ensuring we focus our efforts on developing facilities that will be fit for purpose and accessible by all members of the community.

Although the youth groups that are run in the local High School are valued and well used, there is a strong message from the community that some kind of dedicated youth facility would be of great benefit for our young people while also reducing the risk of alcohol, drugs and crime. The survey also showed the lack of provision for families and children’s activities; a community centre would certainly address this. Local people have expressed the need for more community events that can be enjoyed by the whole family. Social isolation for older people also became apparent through the results so an effort to develop more activities for this age group would be well considered.

Finally, under this theme, we think it is vital that groups work together to co-ordinate their efforts and promote what is available with better information.

THEME 2: ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

Lochgelly has good provision of open spaces, parks and woodland and both the Lochgelly Public Park Improvement Group and the newly established ‘Growing in Lochgelly’ will be working hard along with partners to make improvements to these over the years. But there is more to be done and the views expressed by the community in our survey and at the community event endorse and support these efforts.

As well as open spaces and the natural environment, the look of Lochgelly would be greatly enhanced by dealing with some of the derelict buildings and empty shops that blight the town. Survey responses also expressed the need to clean up the pavements; litter and dog fouling.

The heritage of Lochgelly was also highlighted at the community event; the need to celebrate our people and history in a positive way. A new group has been set up to preserve the heritage of Lochgelly.
Main Priorities:
- Improve health service provision
- Improve railway station
- Smarten appearance of town
- Improve and repair roads and pavements
- Increase social/affordable housing

Theme 3: Infrastructure

Theme 3 is about improving the appearance of Lochgelly as well as making sure that local services are fit for purpose. A number of respondents expressed the need for the local medical practice to be improved to accommodate the expanding population.

We are fortunate to have a railway station however improvements are required as it is not fully DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant. Improving the physical infrastructure of roads, pavements and parking facilities is also needed to encourage business development and improve the experience for locals and visitors.

Main Priorities:
- Improved shopping opportunities
- Local economy & Jobs

Theme 4: Sustainable Lochgelly

Jobs and housing will be needed in the future to sustain Lochgelly as a vibrant community, so we will support efforts to encourage business development and reduce unemployment.

Survey results have shown that there is a need for a new supermarket to create a competitive market – currently the Co-operative has the monopoly in the town.
THEME 1: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

PRIORITY 1
Develop a Community Centre with dedicated youth facility
  • Work with partners to identify suitable premises
  • Involve young people in decision making
  • Raise necessary funds
  • Develop more activities for young people

PRIORITY 2
Activities for children & families
  • Involve children in deciding what activities they would like
  • Involve families in deciding what activities they would like
  • Develop more community events
  • Develop more activities for children & families
  • Identify suitable venues

PRIORITY 3
Activities for older people
  • Involve older people in deciding what activities they would like
  • Develop more activities for older people
  • Identify suitable venues

PRIORITY 4
Co-ordination, promotion and information
  • Identify a ‘community hub’ where information can be shared
  • Install a new Community Noticeboard and keep up to date
THEME 2: ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

PRIORITY 1
Upgrade parks and play facilities
- Improve play equipment in parks
- Install Multi Use Games Area in Lochgelly Public Park
  - Floral enhancement

PRIORITY 2
Preserve Lochgelly’s heritage
- Raise awareness of our proud heritage
- Develop storyboards depicting our rich history
  - Develop new and exciting projects
- Organise events that celebrate our people and history

PRIORITY 3
Improve the built environment
- Work with local businesses and other partners to find a solution to derelict buildings
- Work with partners to find a solution to empty shops (develop housing perhaps)
  - Organise a ‘Clean Up Lochgelly’ event
- Organise campaign to tackle dog fouling – identify areas where bins are needed

PRIORITY 4
Maintain green spaces and core paths
- Improve public spaces with more landscaping eg wildflower planting
  - Cut back overgrown areas
- Increase flower baskets/tubs in the town
  - Develop path around the Loch
THEME 3: INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIORITY 1
Improve health service provision
• Liaise with relevant parties to lobby for a new adequately staffed surgery

PRIORITY 2
Improve railway station
• Campaign for disabled access at both sides of station
  • Lobby for more parking spaces

PRIORITY 3
Smarten appearance of town
• Brighten up shop fronts
  • Work with local food outlets and public houses to reduce litter outside their premises

PRIORITY 4
Improve and repair roads & pavements
• Campaign for wheelchair friendly pavements
  • Work with Fife Council to identify roads and pavements most in need of repair

PRIORITY 5
Increase social/affordable housing
• Liaise with Fife Council and Ore Valley Housing Association to explore how to create more affordable homes
THEME 4: SUSTAINABLE LOCHGELLY

PRIORITY 1

Improved shopping opportunities
• Campaign to bring new supermarket into the town – preferably large enough to have a petrol station attached
• Find out if there is a way to encourage the sort of businesses we want in Lochgelly (i.e. no more fast food outlets)
  • Improve the post office service
  • Petrol station

PRIORITY 2

Local Economy & Jobs
• Bring local businesses together to support this theme
• Support efforts being made to promote Lochgelly as a good place for businesses to locate
• Support volunteering opportunities that provide employability skills (The Community Shop)
• Work with partners to promote apprenticeships and training opportunities for young people
• Encourage new business opportunities that will provide much needed employment
STEERING GROUP
The Steering Group has brought together a range of local groups and organisations and we recognise that this type of forum and co-ordination is needed to manage the delivery of the Action Plan and to keep all community groups involved and informed.

CO-ORDINATION AND SUPPORT
To co-ordinate action, we will convene a quarterly “community forum” meeting to bring all community groups and support bodies together and report on progress. This will be managed by The Lochgelly Community Development Forum, with support from Fife Council Community Learning and Development Service.

GETTING THINGS DONE
There are already a lot of active community groups and organisations in Lochgelly who will be focussing their efforts on the priorities in the Action Plan. Through the Community Action Plan we hope to encourage more volunteers to help out and provide further support to local projects.

Early actions identified and supported by funding from Fife Council:

- Lochgelly West Parent Council – upgrade playground equipment
- Lochgelly South PTA – upgrade playground equipment
- Lochgelly Heritage Group – creation of history trail
- 33rd Fife Scout Group – camping equipment
- St Serf’s Church – upgrade community facility
- Growing in Lochgelly – enhance floral displays
- Lochgelly Community Christmas Lights Group – Christmas Lights event

HOW TO GET INVOLVED
If you are interested or would like to be involved in any of the priority themes or projects, please contact The Lochgelly Community Development Forum at their office in Ore Valley Business Centre (01592 783 442) or The Community Shop. They can also be contacted by email: lochgellycommunityforum@gmail.com or learn more about the project by visiting: www.lochgellyCAP.org.uk

KEEPING THE PLAN UNDER REVIEW
This is a five year Plan but it is important to keep it under review which we will do through our Steering Group meetings and also by involving the whole community once a year.

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This Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the improvement of Lochgelly over the next 5 years as determined by the community through an extensive process of community engagement carried out during 2015.

The Plan is for the whole community and is jointly owned by all the organisations and individuals that took part in its preparation. We will be working together to ensure its implementation over the next 5 years.

We are grateful for funding for our work from Fife Council and support from Fife Council Community Learning & Development Service.

The Plan contains:

- A summary of our Community Profile
- Our main likes and dislikes as identified in our Community Views Survey
- Our Vision Statement for the Future of Lochgelly
- The main Themes and Priorities for action
- Information on how you can stay in touch and get involved

Thanks to all those who took the time to share their views and take part, to all those who gave their time voluntarily to participate in the Steering Group, to Fife Council Community Learning & Development Service for their community development guidance and support, and Fife Council Local Community Planning Budget for providing the Participatory Budget which has allowed some of the priority projects to be initiated.