

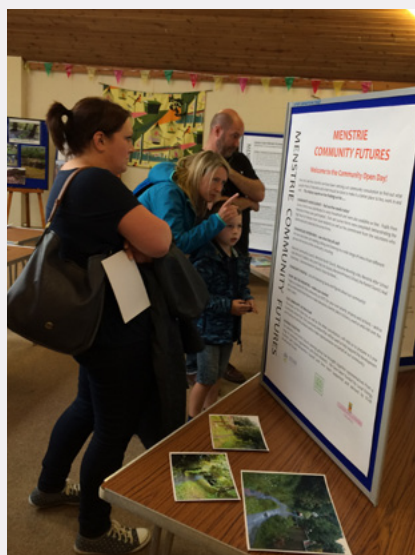
# MENSTRIE

COMMUNITY  
ACTION PLAN  
2017 – 2022



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# INTRODUCTION

## MENSTRIE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

This Community Action Plan summarises community views & information about:

- Menstrie - our community now
- Our Vision for the future of Menstrie
- Main strategies & priorities - the issues that matter most to the community
- Our plan for priority projects and actions

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

## MENSTRIE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN STEERING GROUP

The preparation of the Community Action Plan has been guided by a local steering group which brings together representatives of the Community Council, local community groups, businesses and interested local residents.

## LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

The Community Action Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement carried out over a five month period from February – June 2017. The process involved:

- a community views survey, delivered to all households and also available on-line
- children's survey carried out with pupils at Menstrie Primary school
- stakeholder meetings with groups and individuals representing all aspects of the community
- preparing a community profile detailing facts and figures about the community
- a Community Futures Event held in June 2017

**414 SURVEY FORMS WERE RETURNED, REPRESENTING AROUND 470 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 60 FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN**

**18 STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS WERE HELD**

**224 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE COMMUNITY EVENT**



**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART,  
AND TO ALL THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED.  
IT'S A REALLY GREAT RESPONSE AND GIVES WEIGHT TO THE  
PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN THIS COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN.**

# OUR COMMUNITY NOW

We have summarised below some of the main facts and figures from the Community Profile - a report produced by the Steering Group to give a picture of the community as it is now.

## MENSTRIE COMMUNITY PROFILE SUMMARY

### LOCATION

Menstrie is one of the four "Hillfoots Villages" of Clackmannanshire lying on the A91 five miles to the east of Stirling at the foot of the massive and striking Ochil hills.

The village stands on the Carse of the River Devon, with two of the most westerly summits of the Ochil Hills, Dumyat and Myreton Hill, rising steeply to the north of the village to reach about 400m altitude, divided by Menstrie Glen.

### POPULATION

The total population of Menstrie is around 2800. Due to the building of many new homes, the population grew by 40% between 2001 and 2011. The population of Clackmannanshire grew by only 7% over the same period.

The percentage of very young children (under 4 years) nearly doubled in this period from 3.8% to 7.3%, which is now slightly higher than Clackmannanshire and Scotland.

### HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

Over 350 new homes were built around 10 years ago, causing a dramatic increase in the number of households by 40% during the period from 2001 to 2011.

Menstrie has a much higher percentage of owned homes than Clackmannanshire and Scotland, and this has increased over the last 10 years. The percentage of social rented housing is correspondingly much less than Clackmannanshire and has halved during 2001 – 2011.

Future development will be guided by the Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan which allows for the completion of the Menstrie Mains development to the south of approximately 80 homes. This would be dependent on flooding constraints and infrastructure, and could provide affordable homes and an expansion of the primary school.

### INDUSTRY & EMPLOYMENT

In the 17th Century, the main occupation was processing wool from the sheep farmed on the Ochils. By the mid-19th century, the Elmbank and Forthvale mills were in business on either side of the Menstrie Burn.



In 1841, Menstrie's population was about 500 but had increased to more than 900 by 1881.

The Glenochil Distillery opened in the middle 18th century and manufacturing continued on this site for more than 250 years though production of whisky stopped around 1930. An extensive bonded warehouse area remains for storage of whisky as it matures in barrels before bottling, while bakers' yeast has given way to fermentation products derived from yeast. The whisky and yeast businesses are now operated by separate companies, namely Diageo and Kerry Group.

In the mid-20th Century, Menstrie was home to families whose menfolk worked the Clackmannanshire Coalfield and other mines in Central Scotland. As the mining and textile industries have declined, Menstrie has become a commuter dormitory for the central belt and further afield.

### LOCAL ECONOMY

Local shops and services include a hotel, a pub, a fast food outlet and a coffee shop/gallery. Two general stores, one including the post office. There is a pharmacy, a beauty salon/boutique, a petrol station and a car repair garage.

Menstrie is approximately 10 minutes' drive to the Springkerse area of Stirling, with Morrison's superstore and a range of large furniture and DIY outlets.

Elmbank Mill has been converted into business units for rent, provided by Ceteris.

### PRE-SCHOOL & CHILDCARE

Menstrie Tiny Tots (toddler group) runs from the Dumyat Centre on Monday and Thursday mornings.

Menstrie After School Care (MASC) set up in 2012 runs 5 afternoons a week from the Dumyat Centre with capacity for 20 children.

There are several childminders in the village.



### EDUCATION

Menstrie Primary School was built in 1978, and numbers of pupils have grown over the last 10 years, from 166 in 1996 to 298 in 2017. The school has a playground with an adventure trail, climbing wall and a garden area for growing food. It was the first primary school in Clackmannanshire to achieve the Gold School Sport Award from SportScotland.

Most children attend Alva Academy for secondary education.

### HEALTH & CARE

There is no GP practice or clinic in Menstrie. Mostly people are registered with the practice in Alva or Tullibody. Forth Valley Royal Hospital in Larbert is the closest emergency service. There is a minor injuries unit in Stirling.

Menstrie House is a registered care home for elderly people.

### TRANSPORT

There is a frequent direct bus service to/from Stirling. There is also a service to Alloa and along the Hillfoots; the Number 23 by Stagecoach operates between Stirling and St Andrews.

Trains run from Alloa, through Stirling to Glasgow. There is a fairly extensive, free car park beside Alloa station. Bridge of Allan and Stirling stations provide services to Edinburgh and beyond.

### COMMUNITY, SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- The Dumyat Centre, including library, sports hall and community rooms
- Menstrie Parish Church and the United Free Church
- The Bowling Club
- The Scout Hall
- Community Woodland
- Community Garden
- Midtown (Nova Scotia) gardens
- Public park – with open space, football pitch and a play area
- Smaller play areas in Menstrie Mains housing area
- A forest play area in the Community woodland

### COMMUNITY & SOCIAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS INCLUDE:

- Menstrie Community council
- Menstrie WRI
- Pensioners Association
- Lunch Club
- T in 2 (weekly coffee morning at the Parish Church)
- Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
- Rainbows

### REGULAR COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- Annual Duck Race (April)
- Gala week (June)
- Christmas lights

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Menstrie Matters Community News is produced by the Community Council and distributed quarterly by volunteers.

[www.menstrie.org](http://www.menstrie.org) provides information about the community.

### ENVIRONMENT & ACCESS

- Direct access to Dumyat and Myreton Hill, and from there to the wider Ochil hills.
- The Hillfoots Way (from Logie Kirk to Muckhart) created by Ochils Landscape Partnership passes through Menstrie.
- An excellent network of paths and cycle routes linking Menstrie to Tullibody, Cambus and the Hillfoot villages.
- The Community Council owns an 11hectare area of woodland stretching west of the village, and have developed low level paths and provided interpretation.

### HERITAGE

Heritage features include:

- Menstrie Castle – now turned into residential flats, but also has a small museum open limited hours in the summer
- Midtown (Nova Scotia) Gardens
- Fox Boy sculpture
- War Memorial
- Menstrie Glen



# OUR COMMUNITY NOW LIKES

414 responses were made by local residents in our Community Views Survey. Here is what people said they like about the community ... and what they were not so keen on!

## COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY

LIKES	% OF RESPONSES
Environment and outdoor recreation	57%
Community spirit & friendliness	44.8%
Location and access	30.7%
Small, quiet, safe nature of the community	30.4%
Local amenities – shops, café, church, petrol station	22.4%
Public services – school, community centre	19.8%
Community events and activities	18.9%
Village appearance & environment	11.5%

## WHAT PEOPLE SAID:

The peaceful, tranquil and beautiful hills and countryside

Its setting under the Ochil hills – great for outdoor exercise and visually stunning

People are friendly – always say hello in passing while out walking

The community feeling generated by community events like the Gala week

There are relatively good transport links to the main towns/cities

I like that it is close to amenities in Stirling like the Peak, Vue and MacBob

Although it has grown, has still kept its village appeal

A good place to bring up a family. Low crime, friendly neighbours and villagers

Most essential things in village – post office, shop, chemist

The church plays a big part in the community

Pharmacy is good – staff very helpful and I can pick up my prescription

Forge Café – a great asset to the community

School is really good – great teachers

It has a good community centre and library

It has a very good community council with quarterly newssheet and annual gala

There is support for older people – Menstrie Parish church, coffee mornings, lunch club, the community garden project

Local paths in the town and well-kept green spaces

I like the wild flowers at the entrance to the village



# OUR COMMUNITY NOW DISLIKES

## COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY

DISLIKES	% OF RESPONSES
Deteriorating village environment	55.5%
Traffic, parking & roads	26.9%
Lack of shops and amenities	25.6%
Lack of community activities and facilities	21.8%
Public services and facilities	19.5%
Nothing	6.8%
Housing & development concerns	5.5%
Loss of community spirit	4.2%

## WHAT PEOPLE SAID:

The path and grass is full of dog dirt, can't let grandkids play on grass

Dog mess on every path, especially on way to school

Burnside Inn has been empty a long time and is an eyesore on Main Street

Rubbish in burn and surrounding area – people don't seem to care

Poor layout of Dumyat Centre car park

Drivers parking on pavements, corners and grass

The speed of traffic on Tullibody Road especially from Middleton estate exit

Main road through the village is too busy – makes it dangerous at times

Back road is needing repaired

Poor shops in the centre of the village do not lend itself to a thriving community

Menstrie is now of a size that should be able to support some more shops

Think there is a lack of activities for young people – there is no youth club anymore.

The park could be improved – some safety measures would be good – fencing and self-closing gates

Only village in the Hillfoots without a MUGA for children

Lack of social facilities in the evening

It often feels like a commuter village – people just drive in and out from their houses



# OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF MENSTRIE

We asked people what they hoped for their community in 20 years' time. From what they said, we have developed this Vision Statement.

## In 20 years Menstrie will ...

### STILL BE A VILLAGE ...

It won't have grown much more, and will still be rural and peaceful, safe, welcoming and caring.

### HAVE FACILITIES AND SERVICES THAT SERVE OUR GROWING COMMUNITY ...

With a bigger school, great sports and play facilities, local health services, and energy efficient public transport.

### BE CLEAN AND CARED FOR ...

There will be beautiful parks, clean buildings, an attractive main street.

### HAVE A THRIVING ECONOMY AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY LIFE ...

With good range of shops and eating places, lots for everyone to do, and a busy community hub.

### BE GREEN, SELF-SUFFICIENT, AND HEALTHY ...

We will produce our own energy, excel at recycling, and have an excellent network of cycle and walkways.



# MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving over the next 5 years, in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

## THEME 1: COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

The population of Menstrie has grown by 40% over the last 10 years, and there are a lot more families and children now. This has put pressure on services and facilities, and in particular the lack of play and recreation facilities was noted, as well as the lack of activities for children and younger people. Although the Menstrie Matters newsletter is much appreciated, there were a few suggestions for improving community information.

Main priorities:

- Play and recreation facilities
- Youth and community activities
- Community information



## THEME 2: PATHS, ROADS & PARKING

Paths and cycle ways around Menstrie are well used and valued. However, there are one or two specific improvements that there was strong support for in the survey and at the event. There were also strong concerns about speeding traffic and road safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Lack of parking is a concern for locals, and also for encouraging visitors to stop and benefit the local economy.

Main priorities:

- Improve paths
- Traffic calming & road safety
- Improve parking



## THEME 3: LOCAL ECONOMY & SUSTAINABILITY

Menstrie used to have many more shops than it does now - and with the increase in population, there is hope that more businesses might be attracted to the area to service local and visitor needs. Better signage and promotion of the area would also help. The idea for a micro-hydro project on the Glen has been proposed, and gained a lot of support from the community – along with other ideas to encourage sustainability.

Main priorities:

- Improve main street
- Better signage and promotion
- Renewable energy & sustainability projects



#### THEME 4: VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

Menstrie benefits from wonderful surrounding views and countryside, the very attractive Midtown gardens, and a community woodland and garden. The Community Council and others work hard to maintain these, and in general would encourage more volunteers to assist with environmental enhancements and support for these projects. A specific issue of current concern is the maintenance of open space at the Menstrie Mains development. A Residents Association has been established to liaise with the landowner to resolve this.

Main priorities:

- Environmental enhancements
- Community garden
- Menstrie Mains open space maintenance



#### THEME 5: ACCESS TO SERVICES

Again, the impact of a 40% increase in population over the last 10 years has put pressure on public services as well as community facilities. In particular, the Primary School is seen to be under extreme pressure – “bursting at the seams”. Health services are also a priority – there is a well-used pharmacy in the village, but no GP or health clinic. People travel mostly to Alva or Tullibody for GP services, which is fine for folk with a car, but for elderly or people without a car this can be expensive and problematic. It would be worth exploring the possibility of a satellite GP surgery in Menstrie.

Main priorities:

- Primary school extension
- Health Services
- Public Transport

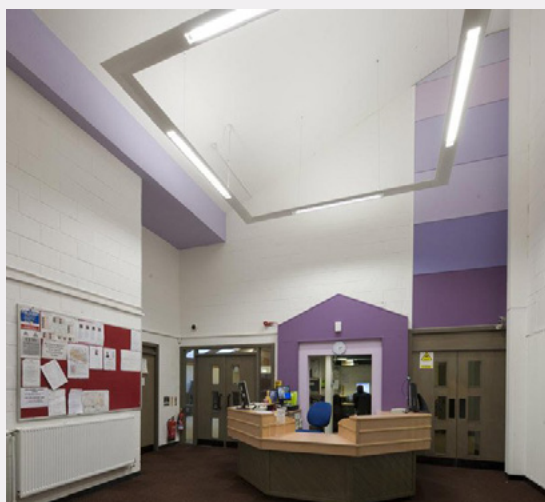


# ACTION

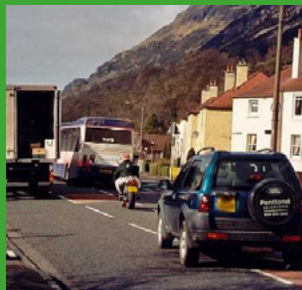
*A guide to the first steps to be taken*

## THEME 1: COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

<b>PRIORITY</b>	<p>Play and Recreation Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Clackmannanshire Council to agree what needs to be done to improve the Dumyat Play area in terms of safety and improved equipment</li> <li>• Raise funding and implement play area improvements</li> <li>• Review previous proposals for a Multi Use Games Area to see if this is feasible</li> <li>• Continue to develop and promote the woodland play area</li> </ul>
<i>action by</i>	<p><i>LEAD: Menstrie Community Council (MCC)</i>  <i>INVOLVE: Menstrie Primary School Parent Council, Clackmannanshire Council</i></p>
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<p>Youth &amp; Community Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange a meeting of those interested in volunteering to run youth activities to set up a Youth and Recreation Action Group</li> <li>• Work with Clackmannanshire Council Youth Development team to support volunteers</li> <li>• Liaise with other Hillfoots villages involved in EDF Burnfoot Hill Community Fund to find out how they are taking forward findings of Youth Research project (OYCI)</li> <li>• Consider how to make more use of the Dumyat Centre for community activities</li> </ul>
<i>action by</i>	<p><i>LEAD: Interested individuals to form a Youth and Recreation Action Group</i>  <i>INVOLVE: Clackmannanshire Council, MCC</i></p>
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<p>Community Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep <a href="http://www.menstrie.org">www.menstrie.org</a> up to date</li> <li>• Contact list of all groups and activities in the Menstrie Matters newsletter</li> <li>• Set up a Menstrie Community Facebook page</li> </ul>
<i>action by</i>	<p>LEAD: MCC          INVOLVE: Volunteers with IT skills</p>







## THEME 2: PATHS, ROADS AND PARKING

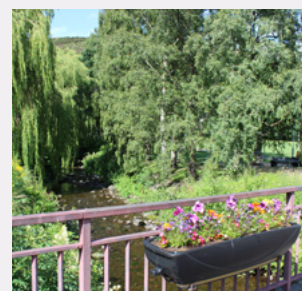
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<p>Improve paths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Clackmannanshire Council and landowners to get lighting on path from Menstrie Mains to school – a priority before winter</li> <li>• Continue to maintain and develop paths in the community woodland</li> </ul>
<i>action by</i>	<p>LEAD: MCC</p> <p>INVOLVE: Menstrie Mains Residents Association, Primary School (safe routes to school), Clackmannanshire Council</p>
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<p><i>Traffic calming &amp; road safety</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree priority measures for improving road safety on the Tullibody road and on the A91 through Menstrie</li> <li>• Liaise with Clackmannanshire Council/Police to have these implemented</li> <li>• Make recommendations for improvements and signage on the back road, now being promoted as the Hillfoots Way</li> </ul>
<i>action by</i>	<p>LEAD: MCC</p> <p>INVOLVE: Clackmannanshire Council, Police</p>
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<p><i>Improve parking</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Clackmannanshire Council to redesign parking area at Dumyat Centre to make it more useable and create more parking space</li> <li>• Signage for parking at Dumyat Centre</li> </ul>
<i>action by</i>	<p>LEAD: MCC</p> <p>INVOLVE: Clackmannanshire Council</p>

## THEME 3: LOCAL ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABILITY

<b>PRIORITY</b>	<p>Improve main street of the village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise a meeting with local businesses and the Community Council to explore how best to move this forward.</li> <li>• Consider – improving shop fronts, floral enhancements, parking arrangements.</li> </ul>
<i>action by</i>	<p>LEAD: MCC, local businesses</p> <p>INVOLVE: local businesses</p>
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<p><i>Better signage and promotion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that parking is better signposted</li> <li>• Work with Clackmannanshire Council and Enabling Projects in Clackmannanshire to implement signage for walking routes around Menstrie</li> <li>• Prepare a heritage/walking leaflet for Menstrie</li> </ul>
<i>action by</i>	<p>LEAD: MCC, volunteers</p> <p>INVOLVE: School, EPIC, Clackmannanshire Council Access Officer</p>
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<p><i>Renewable energy and sustainability projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up a new group of interested individuals to drive this forward</li> <li>• Investigate funding for a feasibility study into a micro-hydro project (e.g. Local Energy Scotland, LEADER)</li> <li>• Pursue other ideas for Sustainable Menstrie projects e.g. “fix it” club, fruit &amp; veg “barra” etc.</li> <li>• Link with ideas and efforts of Primary School to promote sustainability</li> </ul>
<i>action by</i>	<p>LEAD: Interested individuals to form “Sustainable Menstrie” group</p> <p>INVOLVE: MCC, Local Energy Scotland, LEADER, Menstrie Primary School</p>

#### THEME 4: VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

<b>PRIORITY</b>	<p>Environmental enhancements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up an Environmental Action Group to take forward this priority</li> <li>• Support Community Council efforts to “beautify” the village with tubs and baskets</li> <li>• Organise local campaign and litter picks to deal with dog fouling and littering</li> <li>• Install more benches around parks and paths</li> <li>• Involve youth and children to encourage responsibility for environment</li> </ul>
<i>action by</i>	<p>LEAD: Interested individuals to form an Environmental Action Group, MCC</p> <p>INVOLVE: Community Warden team, primary school, volunteers</p>
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<p><i>Community garden</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Let the community know how to access and use the Community Garden responsibly</i></li> <li>• <i>Hold regular open days at the garden to encourage more volunteer involvement</i></li> <li>• <i>Involve primary school and other youth groups</i></li> </ul>
<i>action by</i>	<p>LEAD: MCC</p> <p>INVOLVE: Primary school, parents, volunteers</p>
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<p><i>Menstrie Mains open space maintenance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Menstrie Mains Residents Association to liaise with landowners</i></li> <li>• <i>Resolve issues of open space maintenance in the Menstrie Mains development</i></li> </ul>
<i>action by</i>	<p>LEAD: Menstrie Mains Residents Association</p> <p>INVOLVE: Landowners, MCC</p>



### THEME 5: ACCESS TO SERVICES

<b>PRIORITY</b>	Primary School extension • Lobby for an extension to Menstrie Primary School, using evidence from CAP consultation to support this
<i>action by</i>	LEAD: Menstrie Primary School Parent Council INVOLVE: MCC, Primary School
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<i>Health Services</i> • Liaise with NHS and Clackmannanshire Council to explore potential to have a satellite GP/nurse clinic in Menstrie
<i>action by</i>	LEAD: MCC INVOLVE: Clackmannanshire Council, NHS
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<i>Public transport</i> • Work with other communities to improve bus service to Alloa in particular, and lobby to reduce fares
<i>action by</i>	LEAD: MCC INVOLVE: Joint Community Council Forum





# GETTING INVOLVED AND MAKING IT HAPPEN

This Community Action Plan has been developed by the whole community and is for the whole community. We hope that many people will get involved in making it happen.

There was a terrific response to the community consultation and we intend to build on this positivity in the community and create more opportunities for people to get involved.

Menstrie Community Council will take a leadership and co-ordination role. The priorities in the Community Action Plan will be reported at each Community Council meeting, and regular updates will be given in the Menstrie Matters.

New Action Groups will be set up, co-ordinated by the Community Council, to focus on specific aspects of the Plan.

These will include:

- Youth & Recreation Action Group
- Sustainable Menstrie Action Group
- Environmental Action Group

## KEEPING THE ACTION PLAN UNDER REVIEW

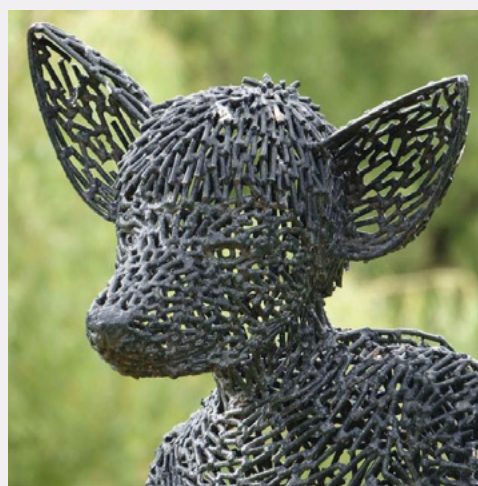
Community Council meetings will regularly report on progress with all aspects of the Action Plan and the Action Groups. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend monthly MCC meetings (held at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Dumyat Centre).

We will also involve the community in an annual review of the Community Action Plan, re-setting priorities and actions.

## GET IN TOUCH AND GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in getting involved in any of the projects or groups mentioned in the Action Plan, or would like more information, please get in touch.

Contact: Menstrie Community Council  
sec.menstriecc@my-inbox.net



# COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2017 – 2022

This Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of Menstrie over the next 5 years as determined by the community through a process of extensive community engagement carried out over five months from February – June 2017.

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 our community
- the main Themes and Priorities for action
- information on how you can stay in touch and get involved.

The Community Action 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.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to all those who took their time to share their views and take part, and to all who gave their time voluntarily on the Steering Group to make it a great success.

Thanks to:

Emma Marshall and Geo Stewart, and others who provided the photos.  
Local Energy Scotland and Clackmannanshire Council for funding the work.  
STAR Development Group for their expertise in Community Action Planning.



For more information about the STAR Community Futures Programme see: [www.stardevelopmentgroup.org](http://www.stardevelopmentgroup.org)



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