



# CAIRNRYAN COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



Prepared and produced by Creetown Initiative Limited

2023 - 2028

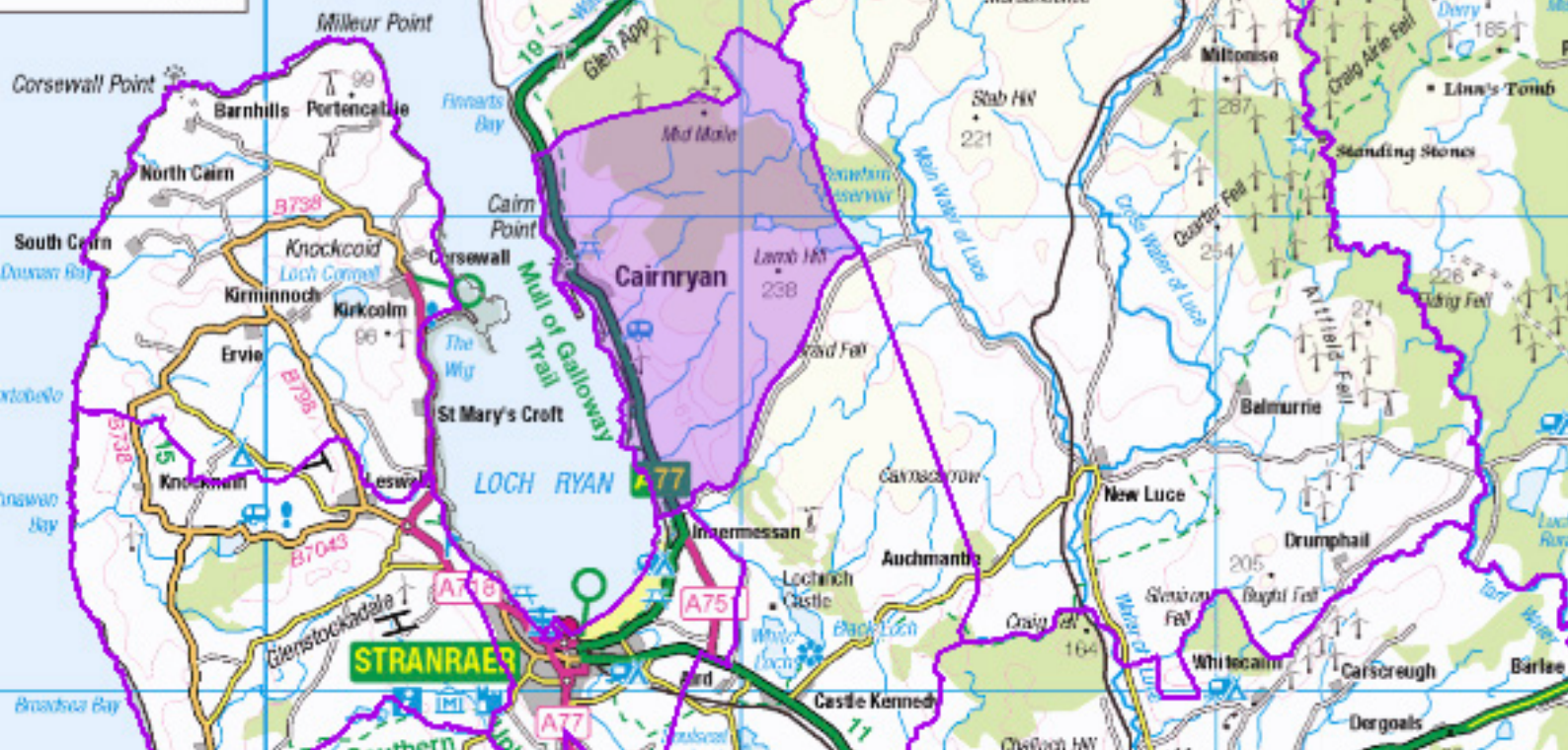
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The accompanying Cairnryan Community Action Plan Appendices Document details village demographics and statistics, local plans and strategies, full community consultation results and external funding examples.

The Appendices Document can be obtained by emailing [grants@foundationscotland.org.uk](mailto:grants@foundationscotland.org.uk) or via this website; [www.foundationscotland.org.uk/cairnryan](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/cairnryan)





# 1. INTRODUCTION

Cairnryan is a small, rural village situated on the eastern shore of Loch Ryan in the western region of Wigtownshire, in Dumfries and Galloway, south west Scotland. It is situated 6 miles north of Stranraer, 45 miles south west of Ayr and 76 miles west of Dumfries, the administrative capital of the local authority.

Cairnryan has been given the opportunity to make a difference to their community through access to community benefit funds, via Scottish Power Renewables Glen App and SchrodgersGreencoat UK Wind Ltd North Rhins wind farms. These funds are expected to be in place for 20 years (North Rhins) and 13 years (GlenApp) with approximately £30,700 index linked funding available each year. In 2018 the Community Council decided to form the Cairnryan Community Fund which pooled these two sources of money into one Fund. Decisions about how the money is used are made by the Cairnryan Fund Advisory Panel which is made up entirely of people who live in Cairnryan. Foundation Scotland, a grant-making charity with a local team, is contracted in by the Community Council to do the Fund administration and supports the Panel.

Community benefit funds can bring both opportunities and challenges and over the years, communities have had mixed success when administering such funds. To maximise the opportunities in this funding and provide a longer-lasting impact on the local area, Cairnryan Community Panel has commissioned consultants to undertake the development of an action plan for the community. The Community Action Plan will identify local need and set out options to meet that need using the community benefit funds and other external funding where required.

In the four years the fund has been live, the grantmaking in Cairnryan has largely been supporting short, or one-off projects and the panel recognises a more strategic approach to grantmaking could have a longer-lasting impact on the local area, working towards securing the long-term future and sustainability of the community. This plan will try to create a plan of action which meets both the short-term and the longer-term needs of the community.

The community must have the capacity to manage the process and the projects it decides to take forward. In some cases communities have decided to engage paid support to help manage community benefit funds, both to administer grants to organisations and to help develop bigger legacy projects. This plan will illustrate how the community can build its capacity and the benefits of doing so. However, the decision to go down this route will rest entirely with the community.

The Community Action Plan is a document designed to identify the priorities within the community and support the community decision-makers to make best use of the wind farm benefit funds, in addition to leveraging additional external funding to enable some projects to go ahead. Its findings are based on extensive community consultation which took place over a two month period during the summer of 2022, which included a questionnaire delivered to every house in the village, a drop-in session and one-to-one focus meetings with partners and stakeholders.

## 2. CAIRNRYAN COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2023 – 2028

This Community Action Plan is a tool for change. It will help Cairnryan and the surrounding parish achieve its aspirations and to make a better place to live, work and visit.

This will be the guide for what the community will focus on achieving over the next five years.

This plan and the accompanying Appendices Document will show:

- what it's like to live in Cairnryan and its parish now
- how Cairnryan could change in the future
- what things matter most to the people who live here
- what the priorities are and how they can be addressed

Many communities in Scotland produce such plans, as they deal with issues arising in changing times and often in relation to the receipt of Community Benefit Funds.

A community action plan needs to be:

- clear, well-researched, robust, strategic, accessible and importantly, readable
- designed in a way to contribute to securing funds for projects
- able to help shape local services
- able to make best use of community assets - land, buildings, funds and people



# 3. PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

## 3.1 Methodology

Three consultation strands were used to obtain as wide a response from the community as possible:



### 1. One-to-one informal conversations

Informal conversations were carried out with individual members of the Cairnryan Community Council and Cairnryan Community Fund Advisory Panel. Nine conversations took place, both in-person in Cairnryan Community Hall and also online via video call for those who preferred that method.

The reasoning behind the one-to-one chats was to gather a clearer understanding of life in Cairnryan, the positive aspects, any issues and to obtain a general overview of how the community functions. Information gained from the consultations, helped to inform the content of the community-wide questionnaire, ensuring the relevancy of the questions.



### 2. Community-wide survey

A community survey was created and hand delivered to every household in the Cairnryan Community Council area. Every door was knocked on and an explanation of the survey and project as a whole was given to those who opened their doors. The survey was also available to be completed online, with links from the two main community Facebook groups in Cairnryan. There were two weeks given to return the paper surveys to two local drop off points and a pick up day was advertised on the surveys, with Project Officers knocking on every door asking for any returns.

A total of 110 surveys were distributed and 34 were returned; 30 paper returns (6 were collected from households on the advertised pick up day and 24 returned to the two drop off addresses) and 4 online submissions. This provides a 30.9% return rate.



### 3. Community drop-in

A community drop-in event was held in Cairnryan Community Hall on Wednesday 31st August and was advertised widely via a leaflet drop to every household in the parish, posters displayed around the village in prominent places and via social media. A press release was also sent to the three local newspapers; The Stranraer and Wigtownshire Free Press, The Galloway Gazette, The Galloway News. A total of 16 community members attended and 11 questionnaires were handed back at this event. Community members communicated their thoughts in conversations with one another, with the consultancy staff co-ordinating the consultation and some also chose to write their comments on post-it notes, displayed on a tabletop easel.

## 3.2 Community Consultation Results Summary

The full, detailed consultation results are detailed in the separate Cairnryan Community Action Plan Appendices Document, however a summary of the results from the three strands of consultation is provided below.



The community projects high on the community priority list, based on findings from the community consultation, are:



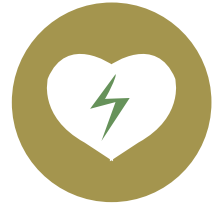
Pop up Cafe



Bird watching hut



Refurbishment of the notice boards



Defibrillators



Activities for all



Activities for seniors



Activities for young people



Improve coastal path accessibility



Wildlife interpretation boards



Celebrate local heritage

Other issues the community would like to see addressed are:



Slowing down traffic



Public toilet improvement



Stranraer cycle path extension to Cairnryan

Other projects discussed, but that did not receive a majority decision are the refurbishment of the play park and a shop. Key projects or activities that community members have suggested they would be interested in volunteering with, includes a café or coffee morning, a shop, flowers, activities for seniors, activities for young people and some simply stated “anything”.

There is a clear consensus that community usage of the hall should be increased, with 93% of respondents regarding Cairnryan Hall to be very important or important, 7% believe the hall is a little important, but no one believes that it is not important at all. At this time there is a sense of the community being unsure as to whether the hall should be transferred to the community, or should be managed but not owned.

Opinions were also very mixed regarding the possibility of encouraging visitors and people passing through to stop in Cairnryan. The main concerns related to the impacts of increased littering, the lack of parking and the potential increase in traffic through the village.

# 4. GOVERNANCE AND CAPACITY

Cairnryan has a substantial advantage over many other communities due to having access to community benefit funds from two wind farms and, used wisely, could create a lasting legacy for the future. Although windfarm funds will continue to support small-to-medium size projects in the future it is hoped that longer-term, longer-lasting projects can also be brought forward.

Communities in receipt of windfarm funds can sometimes become too reliant on these funds for smaller projects. Where, in the past, there were fundraising social events, bringing communities together in dances, sales and coffee mornings, which often raised money for the smaller projects, the danger is that communities cease coming together to support a common cause and rely on the funding available from windfarms. Community activities in Cairnryan have reduced significantly over recent years, partly due to low interest and volunteer capacity, but the Covid-19 pandemic had a large impact too.

Community benefit funding can also be used to lever additional funds from other sources; this is particularly useful for larger key projects.

Whatever course of action the community decides to take, capacity to deliver and manage the process is critical. Under-pinning achievability of the actions from this plan is the issue of capacity. Most plans that fail or do not deliver what was expected and anticipated, fail because the community did not have the capacity to develop or deliver the projects. Examples of community groups employing project workers/development officers are numerous and rarely are these appointments a failure.

The community will need to consider how to make all the desired activity sustainable, to maintain volunteer capacity and financial support. A phased strategic approach to project delivery can achieve this.

## 4.1 Current Governance

Currently within Cairnryan, four organisations exist and each organisation will be able to take on specific elements of the Community Action Plan.

- 1 Cairnryan Community Council
- 2 Cairnryan Community Fund Advisory Panel – supported by Foundation Scotland and existing as an extension to them in the legal sense only
- 3 Cairnryan Hall Welfare and Facilities Group – Company Limited by Guarantee
- 4 Cairnryan in Bloom -Voluntary Unincorporated Organisation



The **Community Council** exists to support the local community through consultation and are comprised of members of the community aged 16 and above. Community Councils can organise community projects, undertake community surveys, campaign on local issues and organise community events, such as galas or fetes. However, Community Councils cannot employ staff, or own assets and have limited access to some funding streams.

**Cairnryan Community Fund Advisory Panel** is a grouping made up of local residents who volunteer to help manage the Fund and make decisions on how it should be used. The group has Terms of Reference setting out its responsibilities and how it works; it operates under Foundation Scotland's charity governance.

**Cairnryan Hall Welfare and Facilities Group** is recently set up (September/October 2022), with the aims of hall operation, and social/project activities for the benefit for local residents, including projects outwith the hall. The organisation was originally formed and a Voluntary Unincorporated Organisation and in November 2022 converted to a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). CLGs are not-for-profit organisations which have legal identities separate from its members, meaning that members are not liable for the company and that title to land and buildings can be held in the name of the company. It is a legal personality.

**Cairnryan in Bloom** group members maintain and plant the flower planters along the coast of Cairnryan and can provide support with some additional community projects.

## 4.2 Capacity

Results from the community consultations indicate a current lack of capacity within the community to develop and manage community projects. However, the community survey itself has produced a sense of new enthusiasm, with a number of individuals stating that they were unaware of the need for more volunteer support, or that they would be interested in volunteering to help with community projects and activities. Comments also suggested that communications with the community should be increased, making better use of the existing notice boards and erecting new notice boards to let residents know what is going on and how to get involved.

When asked directly whether residents would be interested in volunteering at community events, 42% of responded stated they would, which equates to 13 individuals, whilst a further 11 individuals thought they might. Although small figures, an additional 8 – 15 volunteers would increase the community capacity massively, especially if volunteer hours were managed on a rota basis to ensure that volunteer burn-out is avoided.

It is advisable for Cairnryan to initially increase capacity via volunteer input and engaging paid support for professional advice and support, on a project by project basis, as and when required.





# 5. CAIRNRYAN MAIN THEMES AND PRIORITIES

## 5.1 The Top Priorities

The top priorities are obtained from community consultation and wider research and include both community projects and other lobbying tasks.



1. Slowing down traffic  
(LOBBYING)



2. Cafe



3. Increase hall usage



4. Take control of the hall



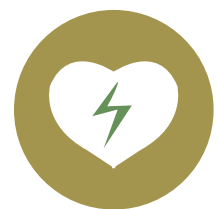
5. Improve coastal  
path accessibility



6. Stranraer cycle path  
extension to Cairnryan  
(LOBBYING)



7. Shop



8. Defibrillators



9. Public toilet  
improvement  
(LOBBYING)



10. Wildlife  
interpretation  
boards



11. Celebrate local  
heritage



## 5.2 Communications

A current theme throughout the consultation has been the need to improve communications. Due to the demographics of the village (high proportion of older and retired residents), there is a large portion of the community unable, or unwilling, to be online and use internet-based communication platforms such as emails, social media and websites. However, there are some who do use these mediums and therefore online communication shouldn't be discounted.

Repairing existing notice boards and installing new ones is already an action underway and should be maximised to ensure that community members know where to go in the village to obtain up to date information. Complementing this would be a quarterly newsletter delivered to every household and would include articles from all community groups and organisations. This could be produced by the Cairnryan Hall Group, in collaboration with Cairnryan Community Council. This newsletter could also be available electronically online. Flyers could also be produced to advertise specific events and knocking on doors in a neighbourly fashion to let others know what is happening is also a method that works well in smaller, rural communities and Cairnryan is no exception, given the high response of the community survey. Furthermore, if regular events are run at the same time on a weekly or fortnightly basis, residents will also begin to rely on this consistency and view it as a (more or less) guaranteed way of connecting with others in the community and improving communications.

## 5.3 The Four Key Themes and the Key Projects

The top priorities identified via the community consultation have been categorised into four thematic headings, which are then organised into the following four tables.

Estimated project costs bandings:

Very small	Under £2,000
Small	Under £5,000
Medium	£5,000 - £9,999
Large	£10,000 - £25,000
Large capital	£25,000 +

### 5.3.1 Cairnryan Hall

What could be done	How	Estimated Cost	Possible Funding Source	Who could do it	Estimated timeframe
Defibrillator and training	Work with defibrillator provider and electrician for installation. There are local organisations who will provide training.	Very small	Cairnryan Community Fund	Cairnryan Community Council and volunteers to organise	Within 6 months
Community control of the hall	Enter discussions with Council. Proper Management Agreement with the Council needs to be agreed, which outlines the responsibilities and liabilities of each party. It should be noted that the heating system for Cairnryan Hall has been fixed.	£TBC	Cairnryan Community Fund	Cairnryan Hall Welfare and Facilities Group	Within 6 months
Running costs of community hall	See section 5.4	Medium - large	Cairnryan Community Fund	Cairnryan Hall Welfare and Facilities Group	Within 6 months

The new Cairnryan Hall Welfare and Facilities Group have had initial conversations with the Dumfries and Galloway Council Community Asset Transfer team, with regards to exploring the option of a short-term, 2 year Management Agreement of Cairnryan Hall.

A Management Agreement defines the level of service expected by a customer from a supplier and acts as a contract for programme delivery. It is a commitment for both parties and details aspects of the agreement including the quality, duration, content, responsibilities, and any outcomes.

### 5.3.2 Community Life

What could be done	How	Estimated Cost	Possible Funding Source	Who could do it	Estimated timeframe
Refurbish notice boards	Investigate different types of notice boards.	Very small	Cairnryan Community Fund	Cairnryan Hall Welfare and Facilities Group	6 months
<b>Lobbying</b> for traffic calming measures, such as chevrons, or average speed cameras, or speed activated traffic lights (e.g like Springholm)	Discussions with DGC and Transport Scotland to lobby for traffic calming measures.	n/a	No cost to village	Community Council	18 – 36 months
Activities for Seniors	Coffee mornings, starting monthly, increasing over time with themed activities, such as arts and crafts, talks, chair yoga, advice sessions	Very small	National Lottery Fund Awards for All	Cairnryan in Bloom, Cairnryan Hall Welfare and Facilities Group and key volunteers	Commencing next year. On going
Activities for Young People	Lack of capacity for regular weekly activities, however seasonal events could be organised, such as Easter egg hunts, summer picnic, Halloween party and Christmas crafts. N.B. organisational Child Protection Policy and PVG Scheme Membership/Disclosures will be required, even for volunteers.	Very small	Cairnryan Community Fund  DGC Get into Summer (youth) fund  The Holywood Trust (small grants) for activities for young people aged over 12 only	Cairnryan Hall Welfare and Facilities Group and key volunteers	Commencing next year. On going
Activities for all	Book club/swap, flower show, bingo, music nights, jumble sale, craft fairs	Small	Cairnryan Community Fund block application	Cairnryan Hall Welfare and Facilities Group and key volunteers	Commencing next year. On going
Newsletter and communications	Quarterly newsletter	Very small	Cairnryan Community Fund	Cairnryan Hall Welfare and Facilities Group and Cairnryan Community Council, liaising with all other groups	Commencing next year. On going



### 5.3.3 Environment and Outdoor Pursuits

What could be done	How	Estimated Cost	Possible Funding Source	Who could do it	Estimated timeframe
Improving coastal path accessibility	Beoch Bridge repairs/renewal and cutting back overgrown vegetation along the path	£TBC	Cairnryan Community Fund	Cairnryan Hall Welfare and Facilities Group and key volunteers	6 – 12 months
Wildlife interpretation boards	Identify locations and obtain permission from landowners	Small	Cairnryan Community Fund, Kilgallioch Community Benefit Fund	Cairnryan in Bloom and liaising with appropriate organisations and landowners	12-24 months
Bird watching hut	Liaise with the foreland owners to obtain permission.	Medium	Cairnryan Community Fund Kilgallioch Community Benefit Fund	Cairnryan Community Council and liaising with appropriate organisations and landowners	24-36 months
<b>Lobbying</b> to extend cycle track into Cairnryan	Work with Sustrans, land owners and Transport Scotland to investigate the possibility of extending the path. Needs to be discussions with the organisation who put the cycle path in. Could talk to other communities that have created or extended paths, such as Glentroof.	n/a	Unknown	Cairnryan Community Council, liaising with appropriate organisations	Unknown

### 5.3.4 Facilities and Heritage

What could be done	How	Estimated Cost	Possible Funding Source	Who could do it	Estimated timeframe
Pop-Up Café	Start as a monthly soup and sandwich lunch with the potential to hold more often.	Very small	Cairnryan Community Fund block application	Cairnryan Hall Welfare and Facilities Group and volunteers	6 months
Update public toilets – <b>Dumfries and Galloway Council responsibility</b>	Liaise with Dumfries and Galloway Council Ward Officer initially	n/a	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Cairnryan Community Council, but work carried out by Dumfries and Galloway Council	18-36 months
Celebrate heritage	Update the existing heritage interpretation panels and possibly create new panels/pictures for the hall.  Run a monthly or quarterly history club.  Create a heritage trail.	Medium	National Lottery Grants for Heritage (between £3,000 - £10,000)	Cairnryan in Bloom and key volunteers	24-36 months
Upgrade existing play park	Consultation with children, parents and grandparents to established what is wanted and needed.  Obtain quotes and designs, whilst in discussions with Dumfries and Galloway Council.  Apply for funding.	Large capital grant - potentially in excess of £300,000	Potentially the replacement LEADER fund, DGHP/ Loreburn Housing, Kilgallioch Community Fund, some match funding from Cairnryan Community Fund	Cairnryan Hall Welfare and Facilities Group with support from Community Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council	36 + months

### 5.4 Notes on Above Spending

Some of the projects identified as priorities are statutory responsibilities and so not within the remit of the community and may not be eligible for funding for that same reason. However, where lobbying is required to the appropriate body, this Community Action Plan can be used as leverage to demonstrate the evidence of community opinion and strength of feeling.

As a potential Hall Management Agreement is, at the time of writing, under discussion, it is not yet clear which costs will rest with the community group responsible for the Hall. However it is likely that a significant portion of the running cost (potentially including water rates, utilities and insurances) would rest with the group and that the end of the price cap in 2023 will also impact the running costs which is why the estimate is set at Medium – Large.

### 5.5 External Funding

While windfarm community benefit funds are substantial, on their own they will rarely be able to meet the requirements of larger aspirations. This Action Plan also needs to identify the best ways to maximise windfarm benefit funding. As well as identifying specific projects, the Plan is also designed to illustrate how windfarm benefit funds can be used to attract or lever additional funds, especially where major expense projects are concerned. The Appendices Document provides details of other funders and how they might assist in the future, however the list is not exhaustive.

# 6. CAIRNRYAN - THE FUTURE

## 6.1 Priority Actions for the Immediate Future

- 1 **UNDERTAKE THE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT OF HALL FROM DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COUNCIL**
- 2 **VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT DRIVE**
- 3 **ENGAGE PAID SUPPORT WHERE REQUIRED**

## 6.2 Projects Timescales

1 month	<b>Short term (0 – 12 months)</b> Defibrillators   Notice boards   Wildlife interpretation boards   Regular community coffee mornings and other activities in the hall for all   Senior citizens activities in the hall   Children’s activities in the hall   Community newsletter   Celebrate heritage
12 months	<b>Medium term (12 – 36 months)</b> Coastal path accessibility Bird watching hut Pop-up Café
24 months	<b>LOBBYING - Traffic calming</b> <b>LOBBYING - Cycle path extension</b> <b>LOBBYING - Public toilet upgrade</b>
36 + months	<b>Long term (36+ months)</b> <b>Shop</b> – feasibility study required to ascertain the viability of this facility and to explore management and potential location options. <b>Play park refurbishment</b> – carry out a consultation with children and parents to established what is wanted and needed, before obtaining quotes and designs, whilst in discussions with DGC.

The coming years will present numerous challenges one of which is the fact that Scotland's population is ageing faster than any other country in the UK. As mortality rates rise, dependency levels and strain on support services will increase significantly. With the concentration of centralised services in urban and main-population areas, reductions in rural services will almost certainly ensue. The only way to maintain some services in a rural location will be to deliver them through local organisations. An attitude of community alertness will be necessary, and those communities that have put sustainable projects in place will fare better against this changing backdrop. The priorities in this action plan include some larger key and sustainable projects (for example the hall management and infrastructure related projects such as the cycle path extension and clearing of coastal walking route) but also some smaller everyday activities. All will play a big part in improving the village of Cairnryan for the people who live, work and visit.

The actions of the plan will be taken forward by both Cairnryan Community Council and Cairnryan Hall Welfare and Facilities Group (or any organisation that may supersede it) and in conjunction with other stakeholders. It is important that liaison with relevant community groups takes place to ensure continuity and a joined-up way of making things happen in the village. Communities that develop a level of sustainability will attract more support from funders.

Although within the action plan, a timeframe for each project has been suggested these are not fixed and could change dependent upon outside factors such as a change in the community priorities, capacity to deliver the project or new opportunities for funding becoming available which might suit projects not immediately scheduled. In other words, the delivery of projects should be flexible and be able to react to changes in opportunities particularly funding.



# CAIRNRYAN COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



For more information, or to obtain a copy of the Cairnryan  
Community Action Plan Appendices Document, email:  
[grants@foundationscotland.org.uk](mailto:grants@foundationscotland.org.uk)  
or visit;  
[www.foundationscotland.org.uk/cairnryan](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/cairnryan)