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Commissioned by:

**Johnstone Community Council**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN?

This Community Action Plan provides a framework for collaborative action in Johnstonebridge and the surrounding Johnstone Community Council area for the next 5 years.

It is a flexible framework for everyone who has Johnstonebridge and its interests at heart: residents, community groups, landowners, businesses, the local authority, Community Planning partners and other agencies.

The plan contains the local community's vision of what their community should be like in 5 years' time, together with priority actions to get there. The vision and actions are based on the local community's own aspirations, gleaned through a process of local engagement and co-production during the summer and autumn of 2018.

Preparation of this Plan was triggered by the future availability of substantial amounts of 'community benefit' funding from existing and proposed windfarms in the Johnstonebridge area, which we hope will be channelled to supporting the priorities for action contained in section 5 of this Plan. Other sources of public and private sector funding may also be available in the future.

The Plan is not simply about money, however. It should also be of use to the local authority and Community Planning partners to inform how they deliver services and decide policy in the future, including health care, housing, transport and land-use planning. This particular plan is also designed to fit the 'Local Place Plan' model contained in the Planning Bill currently being considered by the Scottish Parliament.

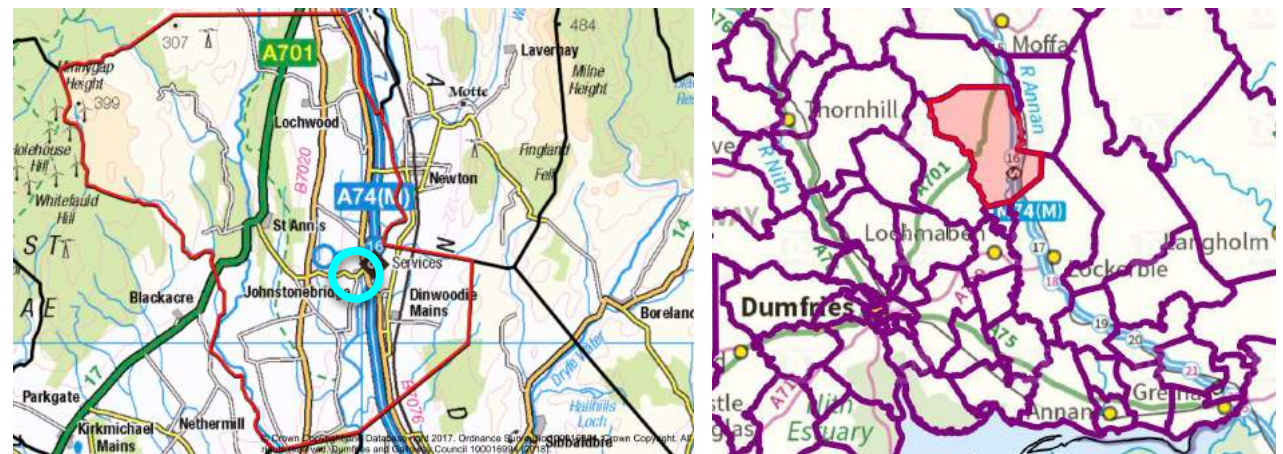
This Plan is therefore designed to guide not only investment but also decision-making affecting Johnstonebridge in the future.

Its aim is to help the local community, public, private and third sectors understand how best to act in Johnstonebridge for the good of the community, as well supporting the community itself to access funding. It has been prepared at a time of increasing political desire to empower communities and increase the impact of limited public spending - a changing context which creates opportunities for the local community and Community Planning partners to work together for better effect.

Importantly, the Plan is also about how people and organisations work together for common cause.

Delivering the vision outlined in this Community Action Plan will not be achieved by one organisation on its own. It will require collaborative action by residents, community groups, landowners, the local authority, businesses and other public / third sector agencies - in other words, everyone who has an interest in the future of the village and surrounding area, working together in genuine partnership.

Johnstone Community Council area is outlined in red on both plans.  
Johnstonebridge village is circled in light blue on the left-hand plan.



## WHO IS BEHIND THE PLAN?

The Plan was commissioned by Johnstone Community Council to support community-led activity that will improve the Community Council area as a place to live, work and visit.

An independent team, comprising Nick Wright Planning and Willie Miller Urban Design, was commissioned to prepare this Plan. They were assisted by a steering group comprised of local residents from the Community Council and Johnstonebridge Community Trust.

The steering group was clear that the content of the Plan should be based on engagement with the local community, which it is. The Plan should be seen as belonging to the local community. And it will be the local community's energy and drive that will turn it into reality.

## HOW WAS THE PLAN PREPARED?

### Stage 1: initial engagement & research

The first stage aimed to build an understanding of what it is like to live, visit and work in the village and surrounding area, the issues faced by the local community, and their aspirations for their future. Main points are summarised in chapter 2.

This was done, first and foremost, through a programme of initial **community engagement**:

- A community survey delivered door-to-door throughout the Community Council area (approximately 170 households), via school

bags and online via [facebook.com/JohnstonebridgeCentreTrust](https://www.facebook.com/JohnstonebridgeCentreTrust), with 28 responses from an estimated population of approximately 400 (see pages 10-11).

- Sessions with pupils in Johnstonebridge Primary School, Moffat Primary School and Moffat Academy (see page 12).
- A presence at local events like the Johnstonebridge Show and Funday.
- Visits to community organisations.
- One-to-one discussions with local residents and businesses.
- The local community's main social media page, [facebook.com/JohnstonebridgeCentreTrust](https://www.facebook.com/JohnstonebridgeCentreTrust).

Secondly, **socio-economic research** using publicly available data from the Census and other sources. The purpose was to understand trends over time to complement the 'softer' qualitative data from community engagement. The main points are summarised in chapter 2.

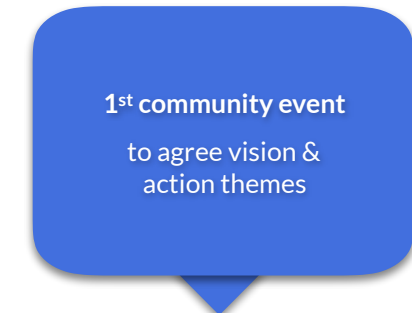
Thirdly, **desk research and site visits** to understand how the area has changed and developed over time, current proposals (such as new housing), and particular opportunities or constraints in relation to community aspirations.

Fourthly, the team contacted **local authority and Community Planning Partnership staff** to (a) make them aware of the Plan and (b) understand current and future work. These discussions covered community planning, land use planning, transport, housing and health and social care.

### Stage 1 | August-October 2018



### Stage 2 | early November 2018



### Stage 3 | late November 2018



action and delivery



# 2 JOHNSTONEBRIDGE TODAY

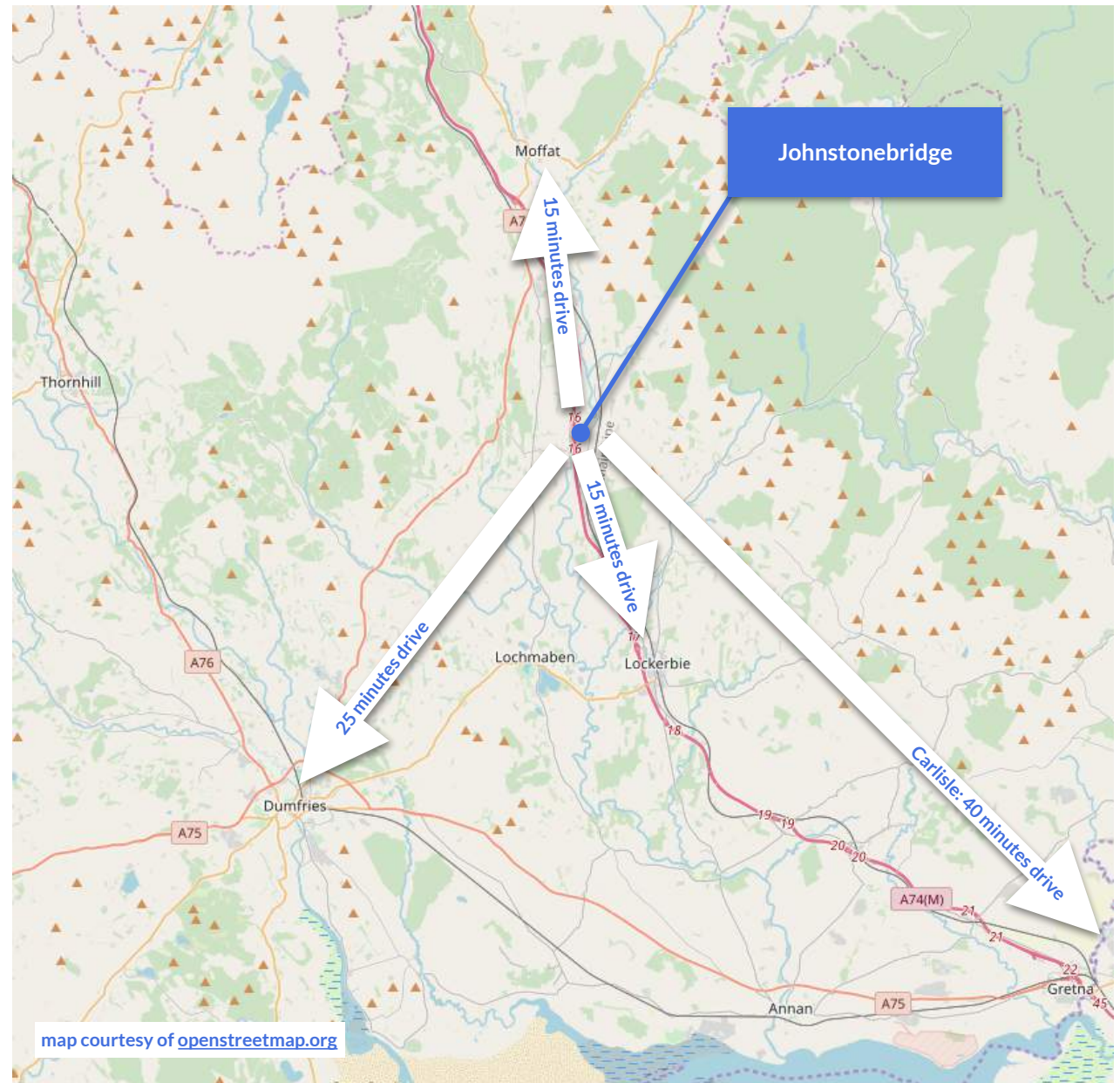
## CONTEXT

Johnstonebridge and Johnstone Community Council area are located in mid-Annandale, a rural part of Dumfries and Galloway. The Community Council area corresponds approximately to the Census 'output areas' numbered S00097149-151; the population of these areas in the 2011 Census was 400 people in 159 households. (When flyers and surveys were delivered to every household in the Community Council area in connection with the Community Action Plan, the number of households counted was similar: 169.)

Johnstonebridge is the main settlement in the Community Council area, with approximately 75 households. The village is located next to junction 16 of the A74(M) and the Annandale Water motorway services. Although the village itself has no shops, the service station has facilities (including shops, cafes, fuel and a hotel) and jobs.

The nearest towns are Lockerbie and Moffat, each about 15 minutes drive, with secondary schools, supermarkets, health facilities, sports facilities, libraries etc. A bus service links Johnstonebridge with the two towns approximately every 1-2 hours on weekdays, less frequently on Sundays. Dumfries is about 25 minutes drive and Carlisle 40 minutes drive,

Facilities in Johnstonebridge itself are limited to a small Primary School (roll: 30), a well-equipped and recently built Community Centre (owned and managed by the Johnstonebridge Community Trust), post office and play park. The village has a doctor's surgery (part of a practice based in Moffat) which closed to patients earlier this year; its future is uncertain. There are no other public facilities in the Community Council area.



## COMMUNITY SURVEY

Between August and October 2018, a community survey was run online and using paper copies distributed online, door-to-door to all 160 households in the village and Community Council area, and also via the Community Centre, school bags and community events.

28 people completed the survey. Their responses to the main questions are on these pages. The survey itself can be seen in Appendix 2.

### What's best about Johnstonebridge?

"Central, handy, well located"

"Lovely views  
Close to towns  
Good for motorway  
Walks & bike routes"

"Neighbourly & friendly"

"The FAB community hall - great community EFFORT"

"The location. Easy access to north and south via the A74."

"Lots of community groups for those that want to join"

"Quiet. Not much"

"Recently moved to outside area - very nice surroundings"

"Location quiet but convenient for road/rail transport links to nearby towns and, further afield, cities"

"Very peaceful  
Lovely neighbours  
Very clean & tidy place  
Lovely houses"

"Playground and MUGA"

"Carpet bowling"

"Community centre if used more by locals"

"Community centre"

"Service station (McDonalds) (Costa) (M&S)"

"Location"

"Great countryside area around the village"

"The Centre"

"Peaceful rural location"

"The quiet, safe area to bring up my children"

"Service station (McDonalds) food"

"Leave as is"

"Quiet village, the people I have met are very friendly"

"The school, the sense of community, the show, the hall, the countryside"

"Friendly people, beautiful scenery to suit all tastes for outdoor activities"

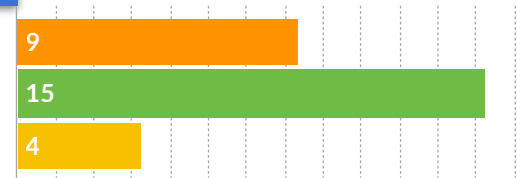
"Ease of access to Lockerbie. Access to Petrol, etc - especially in snow"

"Community Centre"

"Tranquillity, no vandalism"

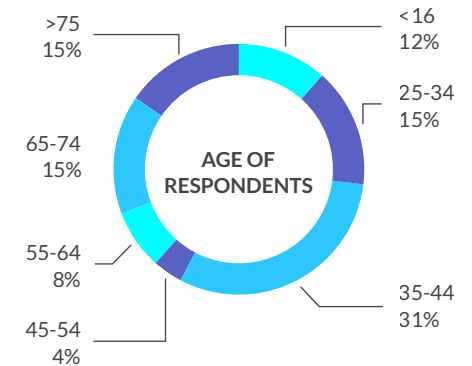
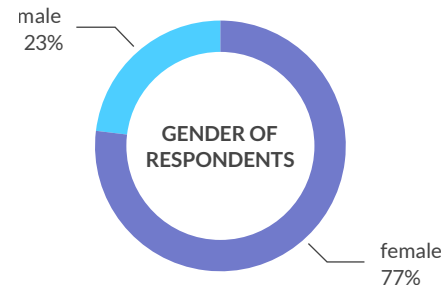
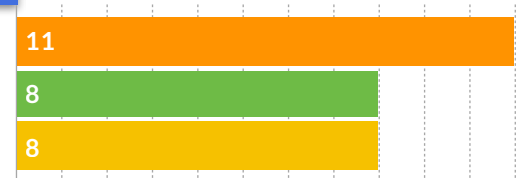
### How often do you visit Johnstonebridge Centre?

once or twice a week  
every month or so  
hardly ever



### How often do you visit Annandale Water services?

once or twice a week  
every month or so  
hardly ever



What could be even better?

"There's someone qualified in the village to run a youth club in the Centre - what's stopping it?"

"Doctor's Surgery re-opened - even one day per week"

"Total change of community council and trust.

"A fitness club or a gym in the Centre"

"I'd use the services more if it wasn't as expensive for essentials"

"The end of chasing money from wind farm grants to subsidise unviable community centre"

Too many committee people set in their way and don't understand the need of major change.

Too much looking after the few and disregarding needs of the many.

Values and vision too prehistoric."

"Reduce the speed of traffic on the main road - we don't want another fatality like 3 years ago"

"Maybe a newsletter to let people know about groups and activities?"

"Maybe extending the play area making it more inclusive to children with disabilities and mixed age range. I really like and use the park a lot so any extras would be welcomed."

"The locals could be much friendlier and the sniping and bitching should stop!

"Better longer accessible areas to walk dogs. I have a buggy and can't take dogs a long walk and if you have a wheelchair you're not able to access large areas of your village."

"Something for the kids - so they don't have to hang around at the service station in the evening"

Or an up to date list on Facebook?"

If your face don't fit, you might as well not be here. The community 'spirit' is ONLY for those who are within the clique. Any new suggestions are ignored or shouted down.

"More events"

"Community Centre"

"Better broadband"

"Having a more coherent joined up plan for the village and how it is going to deliver for not just the village but also for the wider community, in order to ensure that it is a sustainable vibrant community"

There is an obvious 3 way divide in the village. Kirkbank vs Kirkhill vs the longstanding residents. Talking to any of the groups confirms that those who would welcome inclusion are those who are shunned.

"Nominate 1 person in each road to deliver flyers advertising activities as not everyone uses internet or calls into centre."

"Community Spirit and use of hall"

"Better public transport"

"Safer crossings"

"Activities for young people"

"Road maintenance often neglected"

"The community"

Change the community spirit and become more inclusive!"

"a delivery man used to come midweek with regular grocery orders but this was discontinued last year"

"Speed limit on service road"

"Automatic registration to Johnstonebridge doctors for residents as had to go to Moffat"

"More activities for children at weekends or holidays, when you have younger children it's not always possible to take older children out of village to attend activities such as sports like football."

"Cycle lines on B7076 Lockerbie to Moffat to be repainted and indicating this is a cycle route and smoothed out where possible.

"Crossing for the busy service road, children daily have to cross and many times I've seen lorries just pull out of service junction or cars speed and as a parent I'd be happier if we had a safer way of crossing that road."

"If car park at Centre was made bigger. Visitors attending functions are appalled at the size of the car park. Action needed urgently."

"Involve the 'scheme' at north end of village"

"The main road being full of potholes leading to the services"

"Local shop"

"Community shop"

This is part of the Lands End/John o Groats route but is prone to punctures and traffic ignoring the fact it is a cycle route.

"There is only limited information available as to what is on in the village and that is only if you know who to ask!

"More use of the hall for example yoga and other activities which may appeal to the wider community as I understand these take place in Moffat in the evening but are more expensive as the cost of the room is factored in."

"Bins needed at various areas"

"More events"

"Pub 😞😞"

"Keep school and surgery"

"A new Community Council"

"More events"

The bridge that goes over the A74M coming up towards Johnstonebridge has no path"

Everything seems to be very guarded.

"Nice open spaces. Nice walks. Paths to river."

"Potholes are disgraceful"

What a shame and also a major missed opportunity"

"If people came along & joined in all the local activities, they would get to know more people in the community"

"Baby & toddler groups. More family orientated activities in hall"

## YOUNG PEOPLE

Special efforts were made to engage with young people in the preparation of the plan. Most young people living in the area were able to give input to the plan through sessions in Johnstonebridge Primary School and Moffat Primary School and High School.

What are their aspirations for the local community?

Johnstonebridge Primary school pupils would like to see:

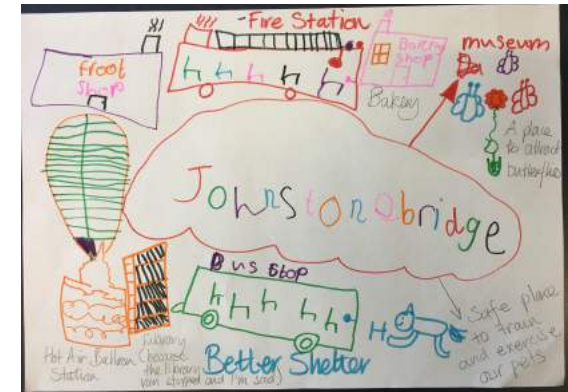
- Improving the park by the gold phone box with a stature and a water fountain for passing Lands End - John o'Groats cyclists, with a map for tourists and a sign up to the Centre.
- Better paths down to the beach by the river.
- A trampoline park as part of the play area by the school.
- Safer pedestrian crossing over the B7076 to get to the service station and bus stops - which would benefit people of all ages.
- A mountain biking track in the woods above the river.
- A cinema in the Community Centre - which might be a monthly young people's movie night with popcorn, for example.

All of the children's drawings are shown in Appendix 3.

Moffat Primary School and Academy pupils who live in the area had lots of good ideas too:

- Traffic lights to get across the B7076 to the bus stop and service station, as the traffic is very fast.
- More things in the Centre which they could go to - like cinema nights and the dog show, to bring the community together.
- Public paths down to the river and further afield.
- More play equipment in the play park.
- Better disabled access around the village.

Images from Primary School engagement



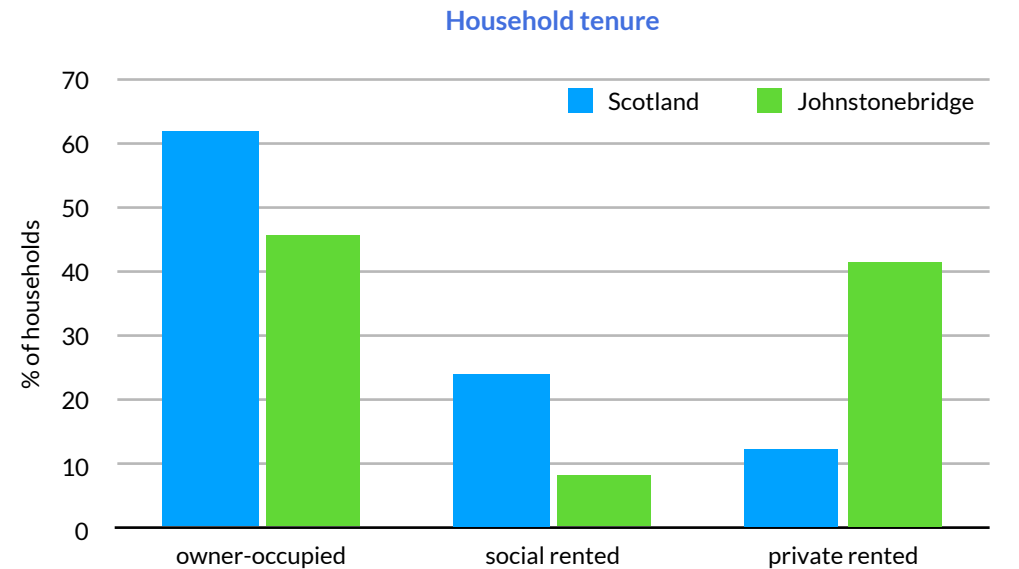
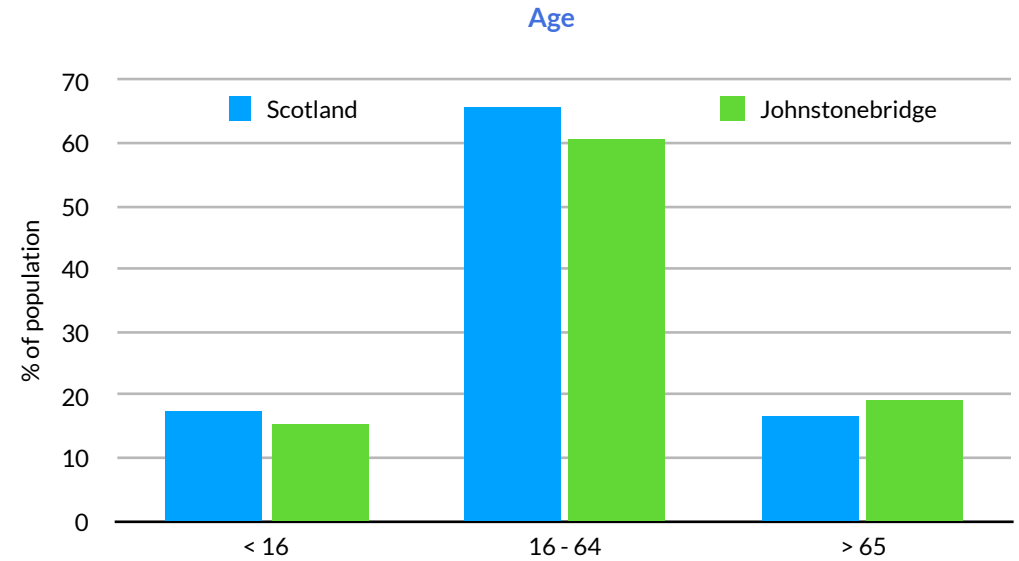
## CENSUS STATISTICS

The comparative data on these pages is from the 2011 Census. The 'Johnstonebridge' data combines statistics for the three Output Areas that approximate to the Community Council area.

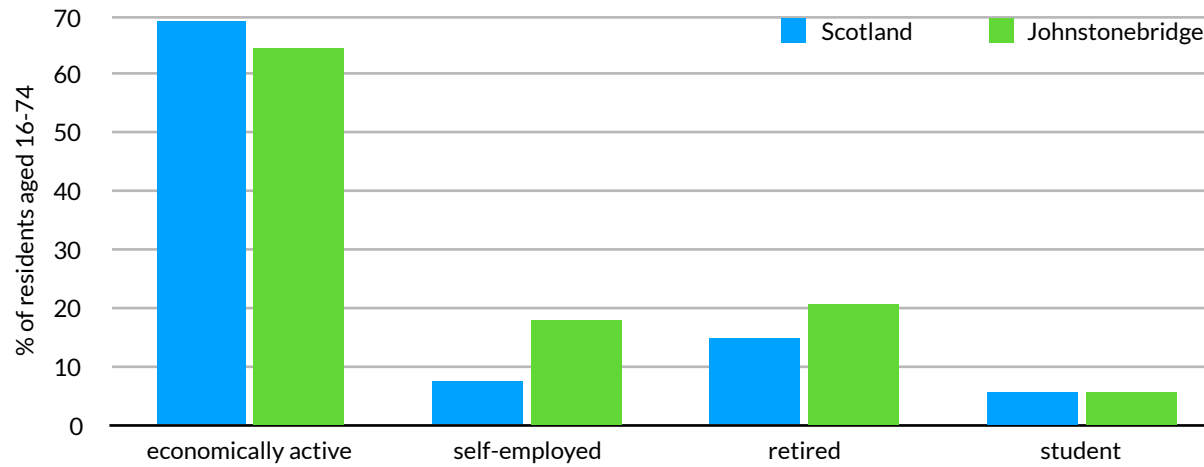
Johnstonebridge has a number of interesting divergences from Scottish averages:

- Substantially more private rented homes than the Scottish average, and fewer social-rented and owner-occupied homes.
- More self-employed and retired people, and slightly fewer economically active people than than the Scottish average.
- More people working in skilled trades than the Scottish average, but fewer in management, professional or technical jobs.
- Substantially more people working in agriculture, forestry, fishing and construction than the Scottish average.
- Far more people with access to a car or van in Johnstonebridge, reflecting the rural nature of the area and lack of public transport. But the corollary of this is that anybody without easy access to a car - such as young people, disabled people or elderly people - can suffer social isolation and difficulties accessing services.

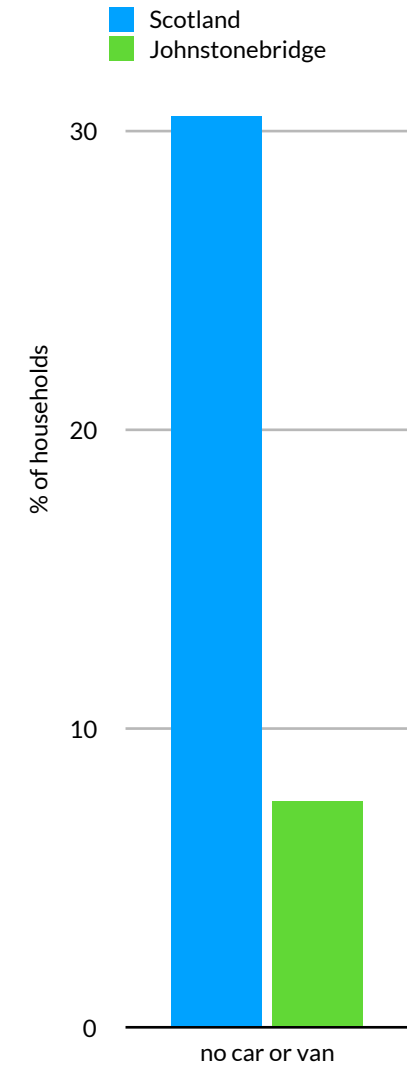
(Analysis has also been undertaken of Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) data. Unfortunately data is not available for the area covered by this Plan; the area lies within a larger 'datazone' with a much larger population of approximately 800 people. SIMD data is therefore unreliable for the purposes of this Plan.)



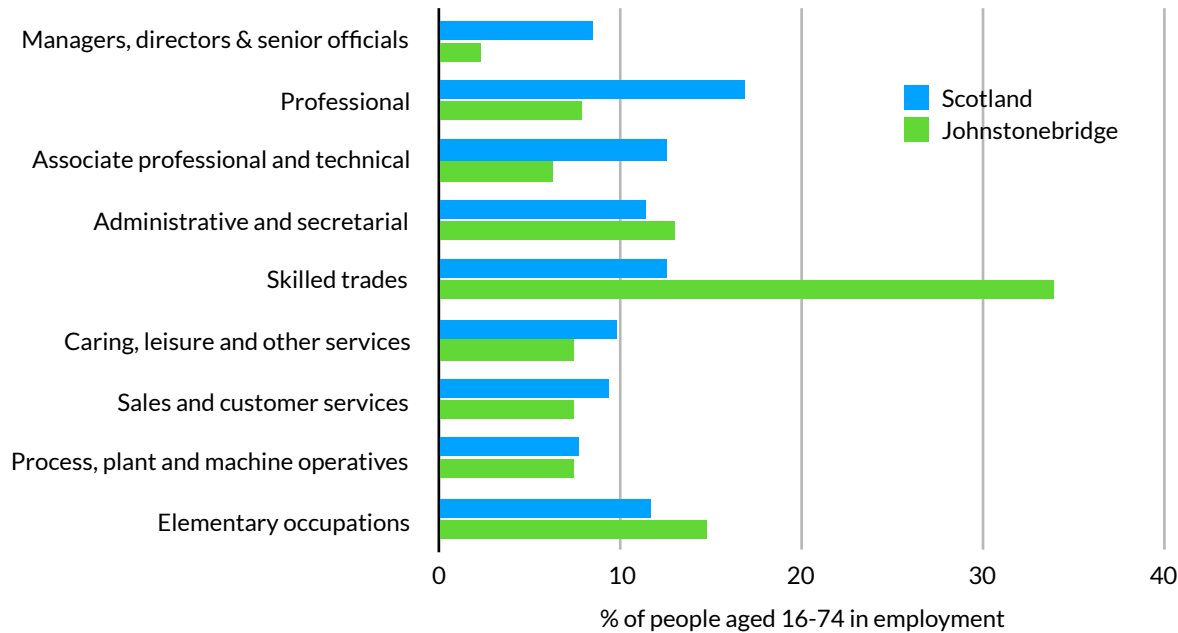
### Economic activity



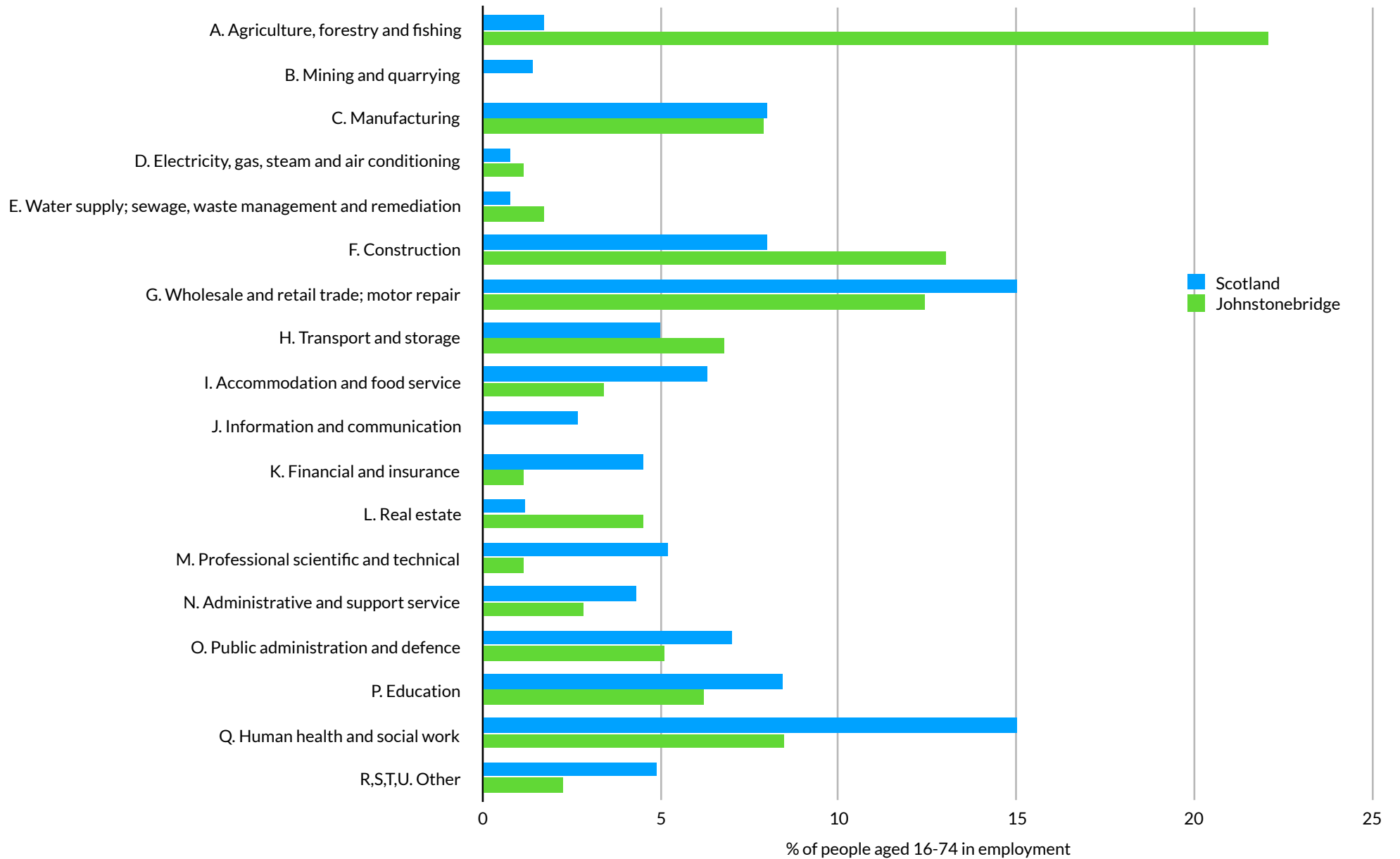
### Transport



### Occupation



### Employment sector



# 3 STRATEGY

Johnstonebridge is the local service centre for the Community Council area, with a primary school, Community Centre, post office, play park and a bus service to local towns.

But, like many small villages, sustaining these local services is a challenge. The school roll has declined in recent years. The Community Centre is new and well-equipped, but faces a significant challenge in securing sufficient income to be financially sustainable. The local surgery closed in 2018 due to retirement, and finding replacement GPs to reopen it is proving difficult.

There are no easy or quick solutions to these challenges. They reflect long-term economic and social changes which are having impacting similarly on rural communities throughout Scotland and the UK.

Johnstonebridge does, however, have one important asset: it is adjacent to a motorway junction on the M74. This offers accessibility for both residents (who can travel easily by car to employment and services in Moffat, Lockerbie and Carlisle) and business investors (on the strategic motorway corridor linking Scotland and England).

Sensitive growth of Johnstonebridge to provide more family homes and employment is a sensible response to the challenge facing the community. Put simply, more families means more children in the school, more people to use buses and health services, and more activity in the Community Centre.

The village's strategic location means that there is a realistic chance of securing housing development (as suggested by current housing proposals by Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership and planning policy in the Dumfries

and Galloway Local Development Plan). In order to support the community's long term sustainability, it is vital that new housing development focuses on family housing - as current work by Dumfries and Galloway Small Communities Housing Trust for Johnstonebridge Community Trust is emphasising.

In addition the community enjoys excellent public facilities - the school, Community Centre, play park and (until recently) surgery. Retention of these services is a priority for the local community, which in turn relies on making more of their potential so that they are more sustainable.

Since they operate at less than full capacity, making more of their potential is important to ensure that these essential and valued local services are sustainable and viable into the future (see page 24 for more information). We hope that windfarm funding can be channelled to supporting the Community Centre and any activities using it, the school and other local services.

The diagram below summarises the strategy that lies at the heart of this Community Action Plan.



# 4 PLAN

How will the village look when the strategy has been successfully implemented?

The plan on the next page shows how the village could look with new family housing and all of the other proposals contained in chapter 6 (priorities for action). These proposals are all achievable within 5 years, depending on the viability of development proposals and the willingness of landowners and developers to invest and implement the plan.

The proposals shown in the plan overleaf are a direct response to the issues and aspirations of the local community, and have been publicly reviewed and refined at the community events and online in November 2018 (stages 2 and 3 of the action planning process described on page 6).

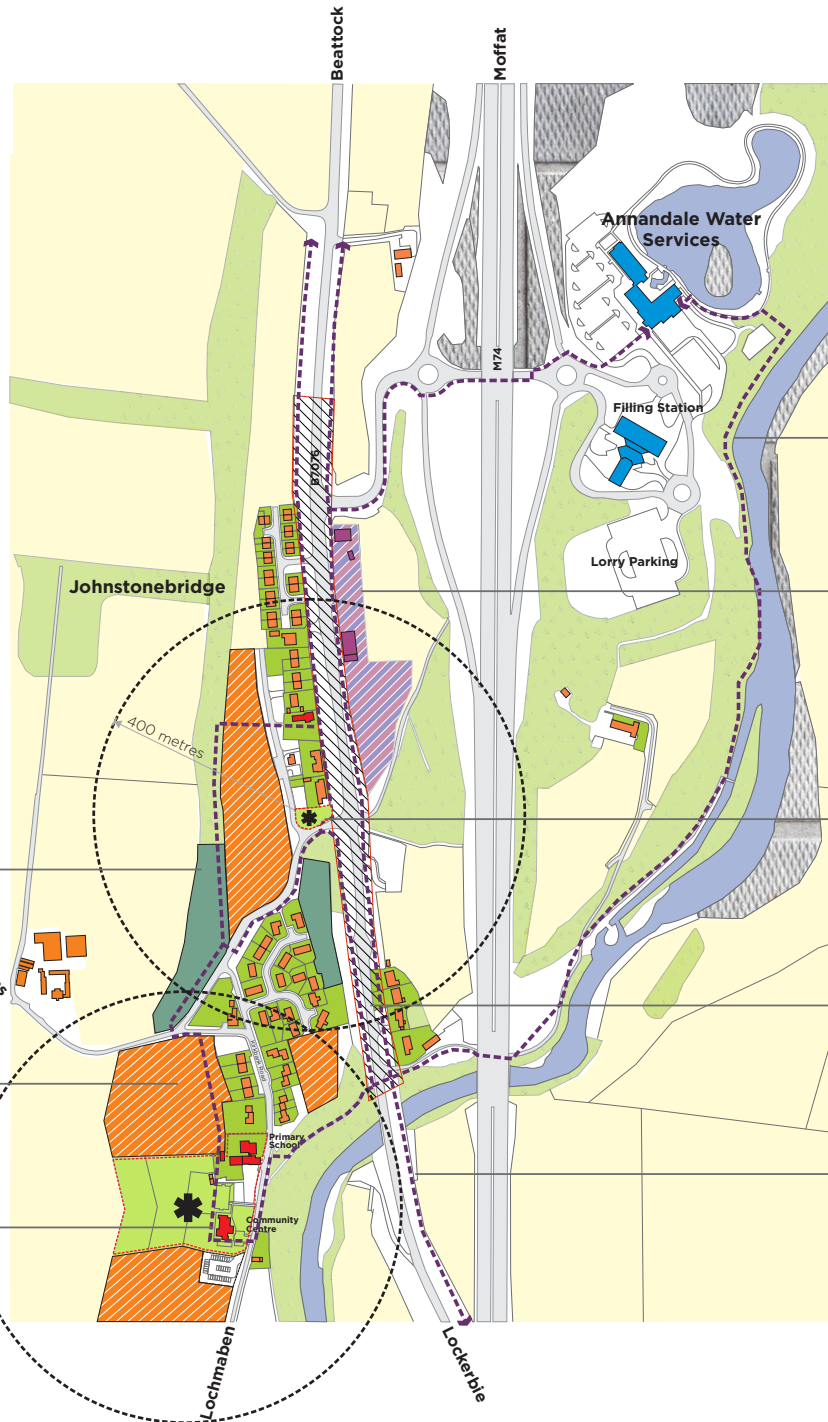
In addition to new family housing and employment opportunities, the plan delivers on a range of other community aspirations including linking the two halves of the village, new paths and outdoor learning/recreation areas, and improved road safety on the B7076.

As well as illustrating how the village could look, the plan should:

- Guide the local community in how to prioritise its own actions (in conjunction with the 'priorities for action in chapter 5).
- Help the local community to respond to planning applications from developers, such as housing proposals from DGHP.
- Assist DGHP and other developers/landowners to see how their development proposals can be designed to best support and integrate with the local community.

# FUTURE PLAN

-  existing residential
-  proposed residential
-  existing employment use
-  proposed employment use
-  services buildings
-  agriculture
-  woodland
-  community woodland garden
-  community hubs
-  road safety initiative
-  footpath loops



riverside footpath



business centre



village green



road safety



cycle routes



community woodland garden



new houses



more use of the community centre

# 5 PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

This chapter provides more information on the priority action areas for the local community. The local community can lead on all of these actions, but will need support from others for many of them - for example, the Council on road safety and windfarm community benefit funds on financial resources.

Each of the five priorities for action are explained in detail on the following pages:

- **Road safety** (page 23)
- **Community facilities** (page 24):  
school | community centre | health care
- **The great outdoors** (page 25)
- **Jobs and business** (page 26)
- **Community action** (page 27)

The priorities are rooted in local issues and aspirations, as understood from the community engagement undertaken in stages 1 and 2 of the Community Action Planning process (see page 6). They were then presented in draft form and publicly reviewed at the second public event and online in late November 2018 (stage 3 of the process).

Each of the five priorities is in effect a set of smaller linked projects.

## ROAD SAFETY

Implement **30mph limit** through village on B7076 (a Strategic Timber Route) with associated speed control measures as indicated on adjacent plan.

Create **pedestrian crossings on B7076** to access bus stops, service station and homes. NB: school pupils travelling by bus to Lockerbie and Moffat cross the road twice daily.

Repaint or upgrade **B7076 cycle lanes** and improve safety for pedestrians & cyclists (see image on right), including beyond the village boundary.

Introduce '**quiet lanes initiative**' (as in Renfrewshire) with speed controls, signage and other safety improvements on minor roads used by pedestrians and cyclists - especially school children getting to school/buses in village (e.g. along road past Community Centre).

Create **wheelchair access** to service station from adjacent roundabout, enabling step-free access from the village (e.g. new ramp by existing steps).

### Key players?

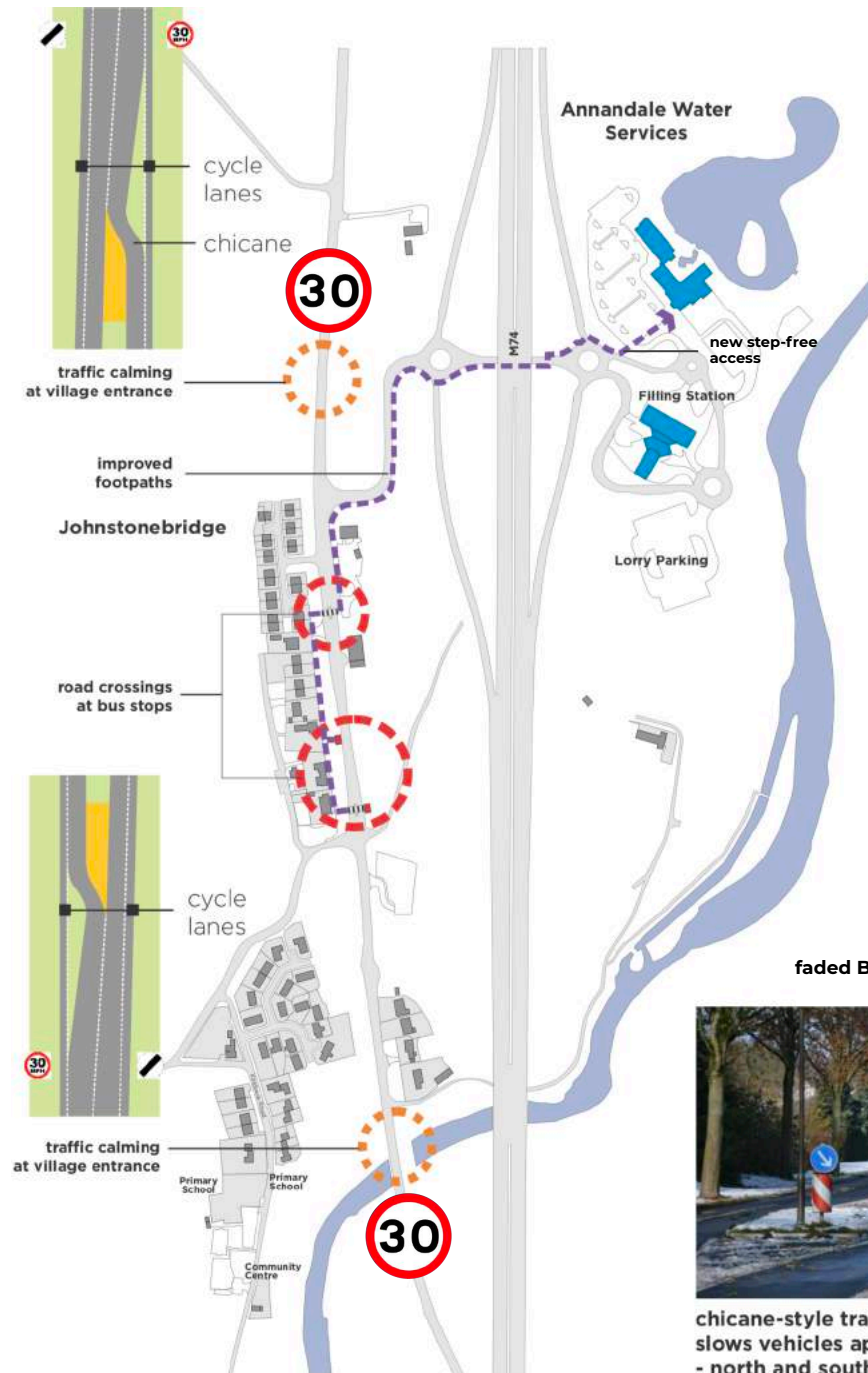
Community Council  
Dumfries & Galloway Council  
Sustrans  
e.on Stevens Croft  
James Jones & Sons  
Roadchef

### First steps?

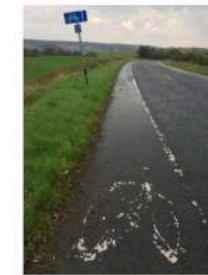
Ask local authority & SWestrans to implement these proposals.

Ask **Sustrans Community Links** & major timber companies to assist.

Ask Roadchef to create wheelchair access to service station.



'quiet lanes' initiative to improve safety for school children, pedestrians & cyclists



faded B7076 cycle lanes repainted and upgraded



chicane-style traffic calming slows vehicles approaching village - north and south approaches



## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Primary School is an important facility operating below capacity. Increasing the roll will help to maintain quality and avoid risk of closure.

#### Objectives:

- Retain as essential local service.
- Increase school roll.
- Encourage daily programme of after-school activities/childcare so parents who work outwith the village can use the school.
- Bring school house back into school use.

#### Actions:

- Encourage all local parents to use the school.
- Encourage local authority & relevant Community Planning partners to support provision of “wrap-around” before/after school childcare in Community Centre or school.
- Ask DGHP to allow school house to be used for educational/community related purposes. Support development proposals for more family homes and employment opportunities as shown on village plan (page 20).



### COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Community Centre and play park are top quality facilities. There is ample scope for greater use of these excellent facilities for local activities (as the new Youth Club and the annual Show demonstrate) and activities serving mid and upper Annandale (witness the success of the Lunch Club and Fundays). From Lockerbie and Lochmaben to Moffat, over 10,000 people live within 15 minutes drive time.

#### Objectives:

- Retain as essential local facility.
- Increase use and range of activities.
- Draw people from wider area.
- Ultimately, extend opening hours/days.

#### Actions:

- Implement planning consent for car park extension and associated new storage space.
- Encourage and support community activities in the Centre, particularly for young people (e.g. the new Youth Club) and families (e.g. childcare/after-school activity).
- Use windfarm funds to support groups, activities and investment in the Centre.
- Ask local authority for official signage from Junction 16 of the A74(M) and B7076.
- Update business plan to research and identify new users and markets - with reference to community buildings elsewhere such as St Brides Centre Douglas with gym/cafe and Birnam Arts with regional events & activities, and local expertise from Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway and The Stove in Dumfries.

### HEALTHCARE

At the time of writing, the NHS and Health & Social Care Partnership are consulting on the future of GP services provision in Johnstonebridge. This has been prompted by the closure of the branch surgery in the village, following retirement from the GP practice in Moffat which owns the surgery.

The local community has a strong aspiration for primary health care services to continue to be available in Johnstonebridge for local residents - remembering that the population is planned to grow with the proposed new family housing.

#### Objective:

- Maintain local access to primary healthcare services for new and future residents, potentially through new models such as increased use of the Community Centre for peripatetic or mobile services.

#### Actions:

- Work with NHS / Health & Social Care Partnership to maintain primary healthcare services in Johnstonebridge, potentially through new approaches.



## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

### Upgrade park by phone box

- Create an attractive focal point with new planting and a nice place to sit and meet.
- The visualisation shows some how this could be more attractive. Schoolchildren suggested a sculpture and fountain for cyclists.

### Maintain paths & green spaces

- Keep public spaces, planting & paths within the village tidy and maintained.
- This should include the small park by the phone box, the bench and path opposite, foot paths, grass verges and hedges.

### Improve path network

- Signpost and maintain the existing footpath opposite Centre to the river & old church.
- Create new path loop upstream along river as shown on village plan (page 20), with new pedestrian crossing over B7076 (see page 23).

### Create new woodland learning/activity space

- Create in existing woodland to west of proposed housing (see village plan on page 20).
- Explore potential for incorporating informal adventure play opportunities like mountain biking / BMX skills track.



### Key players?

Community Council  
Community Trust  
Primary School  
Annandale Estates  
River Annan Trust  
Roadchef  
Sustrans Community Links  
SWestrans

### First steps?

Continue to maintain greenspaces & paths.  
Key players meet to start planning park upgrade, path network improvements, & new woodland learning / activity space.  
Seek funding from windfarms etc.



## JOBS AND BUSINESS

### Objectives:

- **More start-up business premises** will support business startups and relocations, new jobs, new housing, encourage more families to move here and support local services. Proximity to the A74(M) means is good for business from rural office space to haulage-related operations.
- **Faster broadband** for businesses as well as residents, particularly in parts of the Community Council area further from the A74(M) which have poorer connections. Solutions could relate to better broadband infrastructure and/or cheaper 4G mobile access.

### Actions:

- Lobby broadband/4G companies and public sector for cheaper access / faster connections / more bandwidth or investigating community broadband.
- Develop appropriate rural business space alongside B7076 in village (see village plan on page 20).
- Convert underused rural steadings to create high quality workspace for small businesses / rural co-working.

### Key players?

Community Council  
Community Trust  
Landowners (e.g. Annandale Estates)  
Developers (e.g. DGHP)  
Dumfries & Galloway Council  
Scottish Enterprise / proposed South of Scotland Enterprise Agency  
Business Gateway  
Telecoms companies

### First steps?

Organise meeting of key players to agree how to take forward actions together.  
Bid for windfarm funds for feasibility studies and delivery as appropriate.



## COMMUNITY ACTION

Delivering the strategy, plan and priorities for actions in this document will need concerted leadership and action from the two main civic organisations in Johnstonebridge: the Community Council and the Development Trust.

Collaborative leadership and working between these two organisations is a pre-requisite to take forward projects and encourage other relevant organisations to play their part.

In addition to the priorities for action described on pages 23 to 26, there are a number of specific things that the Community Council and Community Trust can do to make sure that reflect the aspirations of the local community and keep a flow of volunteers to share the work. This should include:

- **Paid support** Implementation of the priority actions in this plan will be beyond the number and capacity of local community volunteers; there is every likelihood that there will be more funding potentially available from windfarm community benefit monies than the community is able to spend through its own voluntary efforts. Sourcing of paid support, either on a consultancy or paid time basis, to take forward delivery of the plan should therefore be a priority.
- **Youth representation** Encourage young people to participate in discussions about the community, for example by inviting local schools and the Youth Club to nominate representatives for the Community Council and Development Trust. What's important is to welcome the representatives to meetings and give them an equal voice in discussions; formal voting rights are less critical.
- **Succession strategies** Put in place a simple succession strategy for each organisation to encourage new members to join, with the aim of having a membership base that is demographically representative of the local community. Office-bearers in particular should not feel that they have to carry on in their roles indefinitely.
- **Community contact** Keeping in contact with the local community is essential: Johnstonebridge may be a small community, but not everyone will automatically know what is happening or how to get involved. Community contact should include:
  - \* Update [@JohnstonebridgeCentreTrust](#) Facebook page with day-to-day local information and opportunities for people to get involved in community activities.
  - \* Distribute summary of this Community Action Plan to every household and publish on the Centre's [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page.
  - \* Organise a joint Community Council / Community Trust meeting to launch the Community Action Plan and seek volunteer support with specific priority actions (many people prefer to be involved in a specific project than the plan as a whole), with similar joint meetings annually thereafter to celebrate success and update this plan's priority actions for the subsequent year.
  - \* Consider re-introducing a monthly or quarterly community newsletter with door-to-door delivery.
  - \* Update the [Johnstonebridge Centre website](#) with marketing information about the Centre's facilities etc (once the updated business plan has developed, see page 24).



# 6 MAKING IT HAPPEN

This Community Action Plan is a **practical but ambitious five year programme** of community-led action, based entirely on local aspirations. Progressing the plan to reality will need the local community to take the lead, through the Community Council and Development Trust, galvanising support from the various stakeholders noted in chapter 5.

Whilst preparing this plan, at the second community drop-in event in late November 2018, local people were asked to prioritise the emerging priorities for action. The graph on the right shows the results of the 22 responses. Although the numbers are an insufficient mandate to decide which projects should receive funding first, it is an interesting snapshot of community interest.

**Action** is the over-riding purpose of this plan. This document can immediately put to good use by:

- **Community organisations, residents, landowners and businesses** to support and guide their own ideas and initiatives - whether that's a landowner looking to develop their land or a resident wanting to get more involved in community life. Securing paid support for the Community Council and Trust to lead delivery of the plan should also be a priority.
- **The local authority and Community Planning partners** can use better understand community aspirations and target their investment, services and policies accordingly, from voluntary sector support to healthcare and transport. Community Planning partners should use this plan as a resource to inform future plans, investment and service delivery, whether that be healthcare, road safety, housing investment or planning policy.

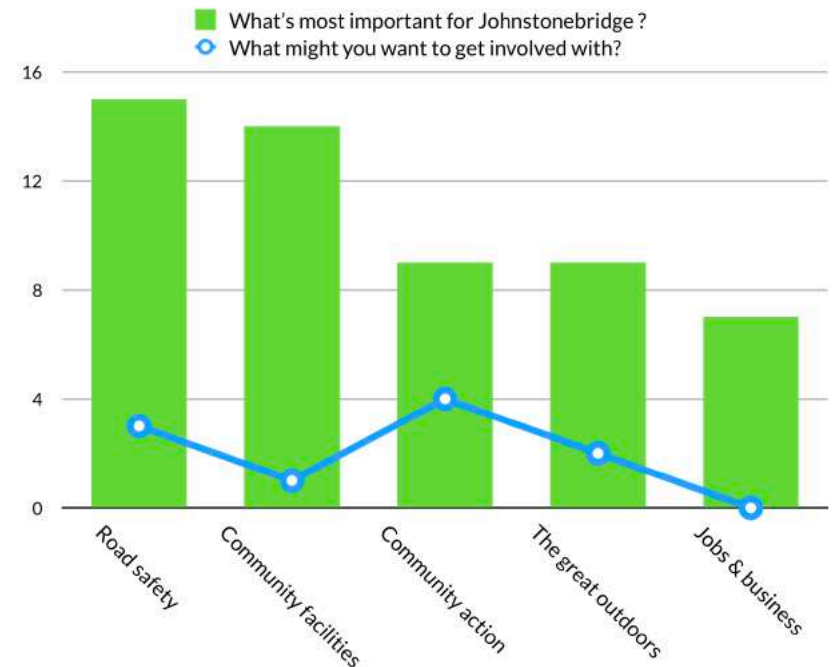
- **Funders and investors** can use this plan to ensure their funding is targeted to maximise positive impact on the local community. The priority actions identified in section 5 of this plan are rooted in community aspirations and are ripe to receive funding.

**Funding support** is of course always uncertain. Johnstonebridge and the local area are, however, in the very fortunate position of being able to tap into community benefit funding from a number of local windfarms, existing and proposed.

Funding may also be available from other sources for specific projects. Relevant current examples include [SWestrans](#), [Sustrans Community Links](#) (further information [here](#)), [Young Placechangers Fund](#) and [Transform Foundation's Website Grants](#),

**Further advice** can be obtained from organisations like [Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway](#), [SCDC](#), [DTAS](#), [SCVO](#) and [Voluntary Action Scotland](#) are excellent sources of information and advice (their websites are all good places to start), and can put you in contact with other community-based organisations for sharing mutual learning and experience. The local authority's [Ward Officer for Annandale North](#) may also be able to assist.

**Community priorities**  
As recorded by 22 participants at public event in November 2018



# APPENDICES

# APPENDIX 1

## **SUMMARY LEAFLET**

A two-page summary of this document can be found overleaf.

# JOHNSTONEBRIDGE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan is a **framework for collaborative action** by residents, community groups, landowners, the local authority, businesses and other public / third sector agencies in Johnstonebridge and the surrounding Johnstone Community Council area for the next 5 years. It was co-produced with extensive community engagement in late 2018.

The **purposes** of the Action Plan are to:

- Help the local community prioritise their energy and tap into windfarm and other funding.
- Guide investment, decision-making and service delivery and investment by Dumfries and Galloway Council, DGHP, the NHS and other Community Planning partners.

This **summary** contains the Action Plan's strategy, plan and priority actions. The **full Action Plan** has more detail (PDF download: [bit.ly/johnst2019](http://bit.ly/johnst2019)).

## STRATEGY

Sustaining the Primary School, Community Centre and other local services is a challenge. Sensitive growth of the village is a sensible response, as proposed in planning policy, and making the most of the M74's accessibility.

New housing should focus on family homes - meaning more school children, more demand for services, and more activity in the Centre.

The plan shows how the village could look in 5 years' time with new family housing and other proposals.



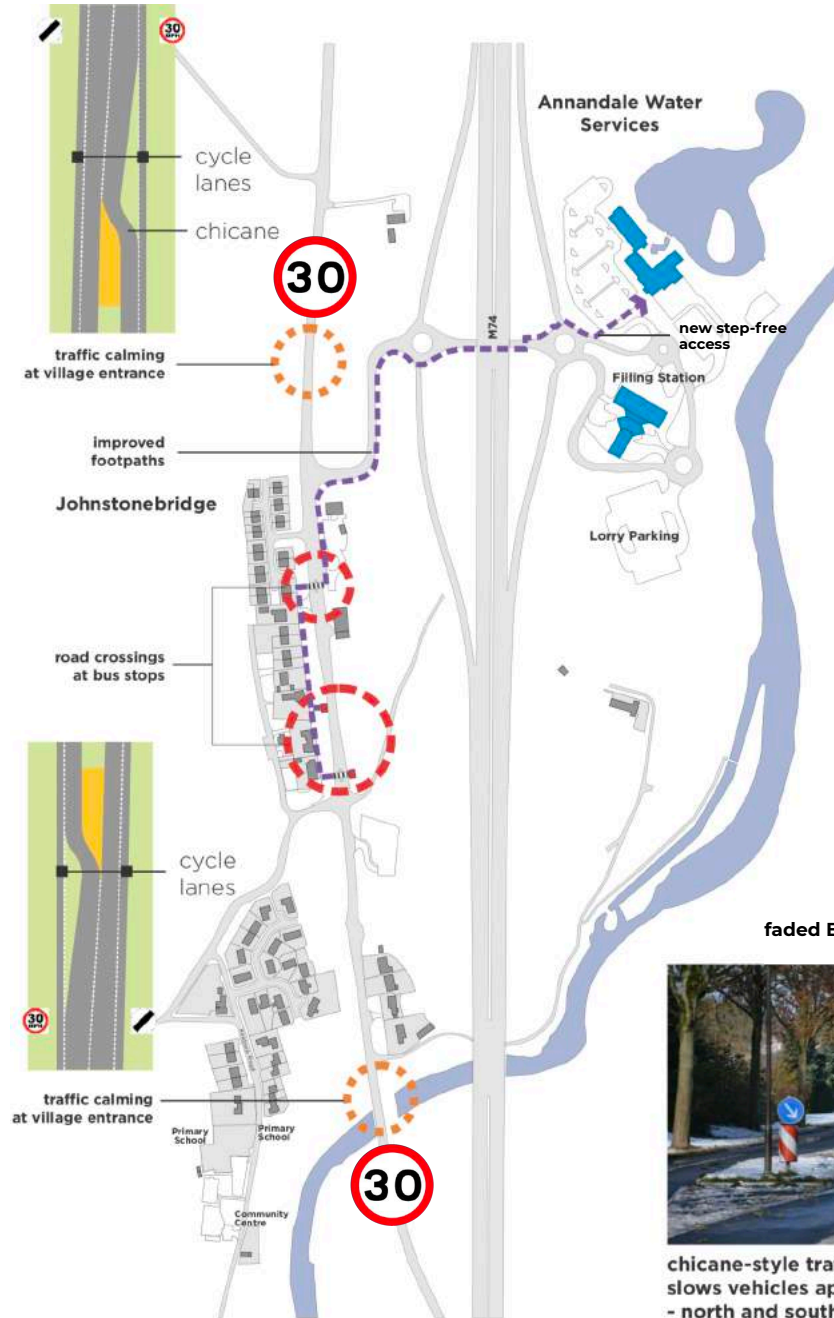
## PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

<b>ROAD SAFETY</b>	30mph limit Pedestrian crossings Repaint/upgrade cycle lanes 'Quiet lanes' initiative Wheelchair access to service station
<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES</b>	Primary School Community Centre Healthcare
<b>THE GREAT OUTDOORS</b>	Upgrade park by phone box Maintain green spaces Improve path network Create woodland learning/activity space
<b>JOBS &amp; BUSINESS</b>	More start-up business premises Faster broadband
<b>COMMUNITY ACTION</b>	Paid support Youth representation Succession strategies Community contact

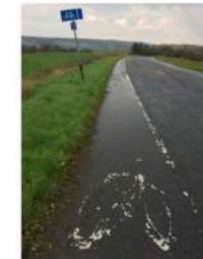
### KEY PLAYERS

Community Council  
Community Trust  
Dumfries & Galloway Council  
Dumfries & Galloway Housing Partnership  
Johnstonebridge Primary School  
Annandale Estates  
River Annan Trust  
local businesses  
Sustrans Community Links  
SWestrans  
Scottish Enterprise  
Business Gateway  
telecoms companies

Community Action  
Plan funded by:



'quiet lanes' initiative to improve safety for school children, pedestrians & cyclists



faded B7076 cycle lanes repainted and upgraded



chicane-style traffic calming slows vehicles approaching village - north and south approaches



# APPENDIX 2

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

This community survey was delivered door-to-door throughout the Community Council area (approximately 170 households), via school bags and online via [facebook.com/JohnstonebridgeCentreTrust](https://www.facebook.com/JohnstonebridgeCentreTrust).

### SHAPE THE FUTURE OF JOHNSTONEBRIDGE

Please complete this survey online at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/johnstonebridge](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/johnstonebridge).  
Or fill in this form & drop off at the Johnstonebridge Centre.  
Thanks!

Your suggestions will contribute to a new community-led action plan for Johnstonebridge. Watch out for community events later in 2018. [@JohnstonebridgeCentre](https://www.facebook.com/JohnstonebridgeCentre) has more information and updates!

1. What's **best** about Johnstonebridge?

2. What could be **even better**?

3. Which local organisation or place makes the **biggest contribution** to the local community?

4. How often do you visit the **Johnstonebridge Centre**, roughly?  
(e.g. for activities, Post Office or play area)

almost daily  
 one or twice a week  
 every month or so  
 hardly ever

5. How often do you visit the **Annandale Services**, roughly?  
(e.g. for shopping, fuel or cafe)

almost daily  
 one or twice a week  
 every month or so  
 hardly ever

6. Where do you live?

in the village of Johnstonebridge

nearby - Johnstonebridge is my nearest village

further afield (e.g. Lochmaben, Beattock or even further away...)

7. Please tell us your age:

under 16  
 16-24  
 25-34  
 35-44  
 45-54  
 55-64  
 65-74  
 75 or older

8. How would you describe your gender identity?

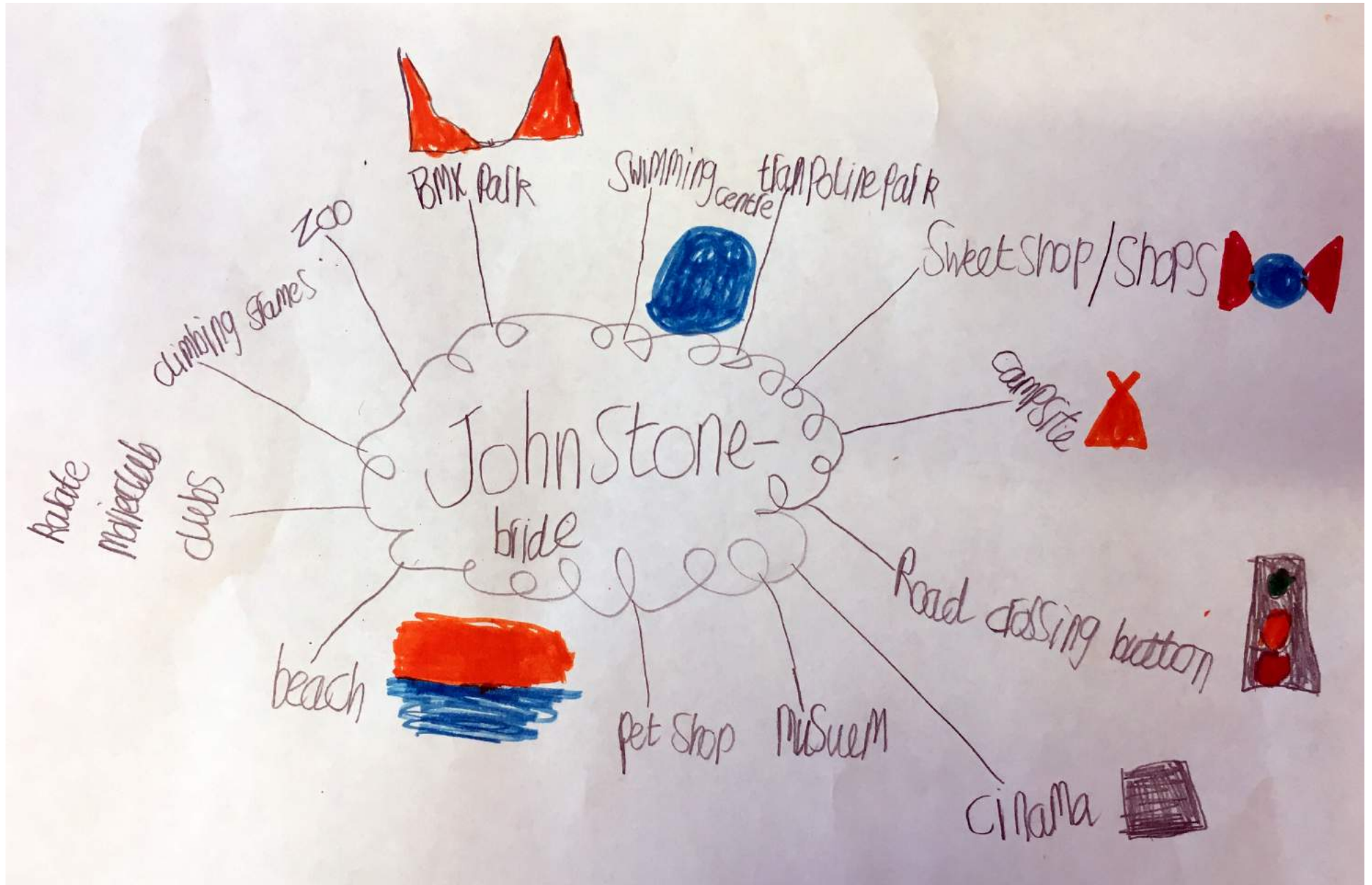
Female  
 Male  
 In another way

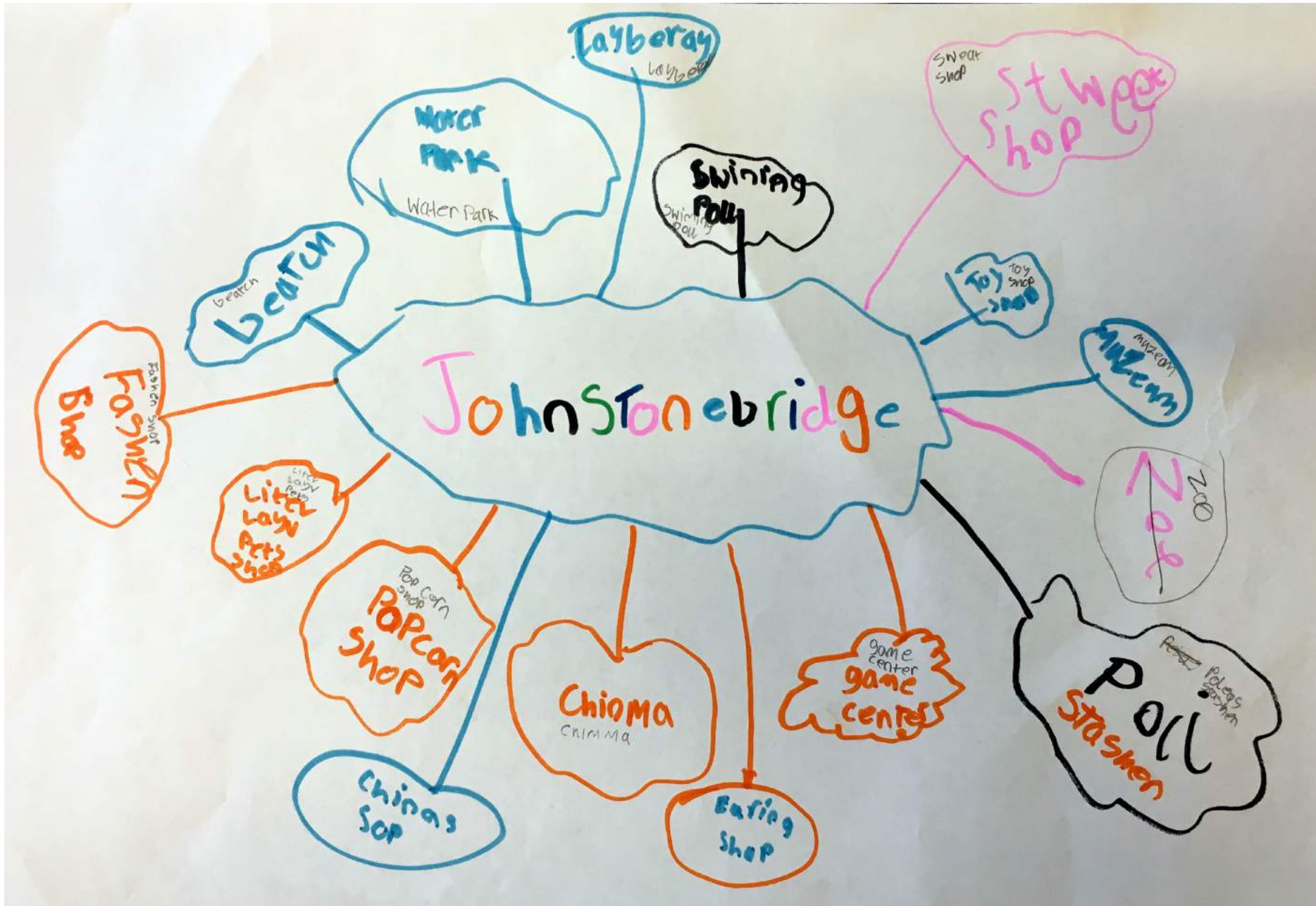
If you would like to, please tell us what other words you use to describe your gender identity:

## APPENDIX 3

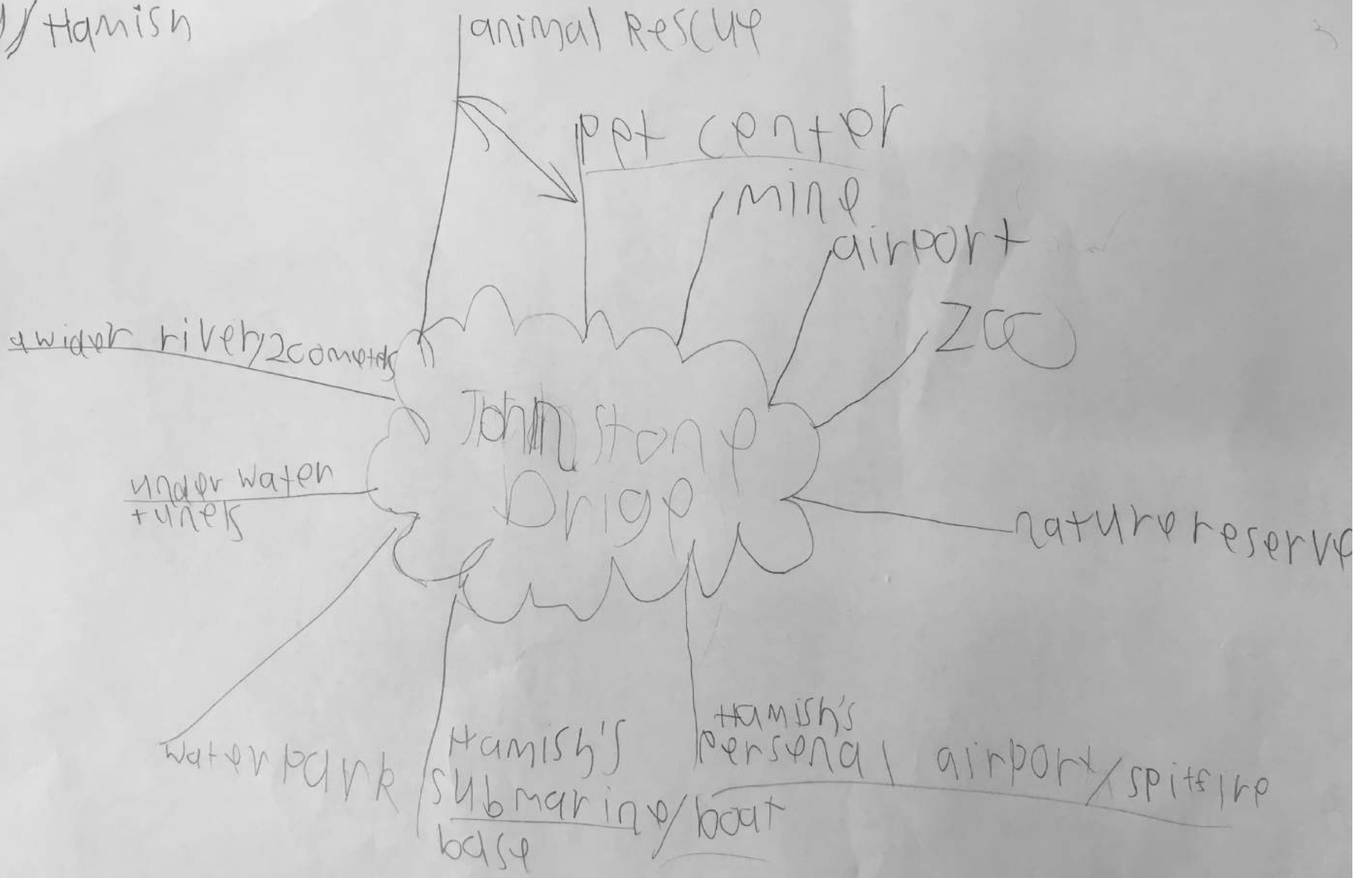
# **JOHNSTONEBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS' SUGGESTIONS**

Ideas proposed by Johnstonebridge Primary School pupils for the future of their community are shown overleaf.

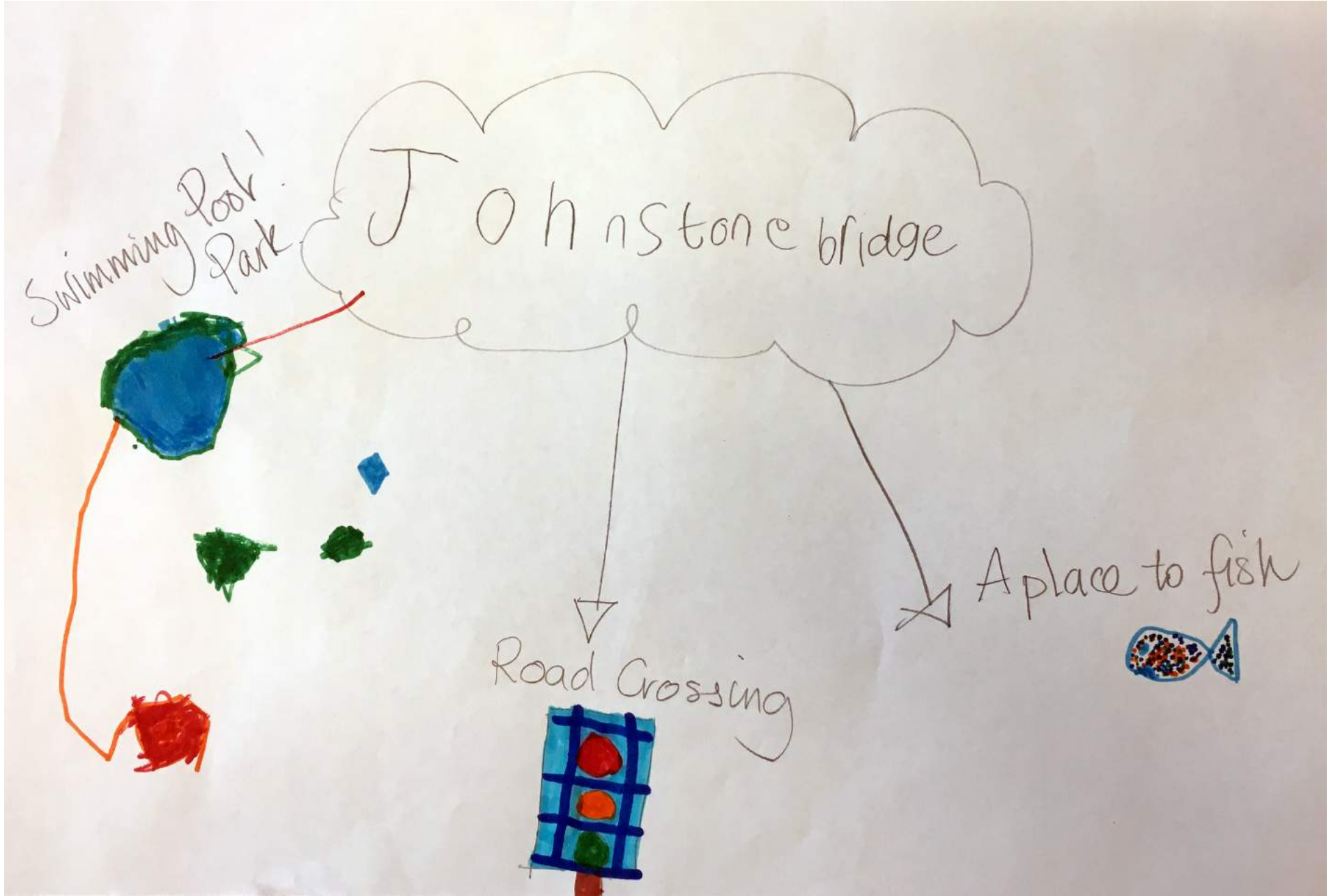




Riley / Hamish

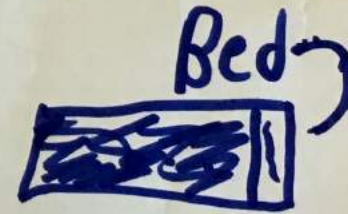
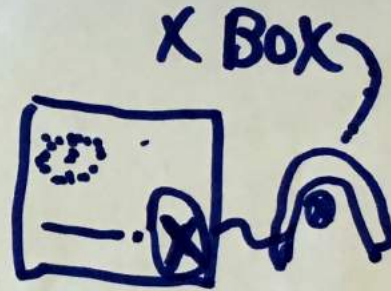


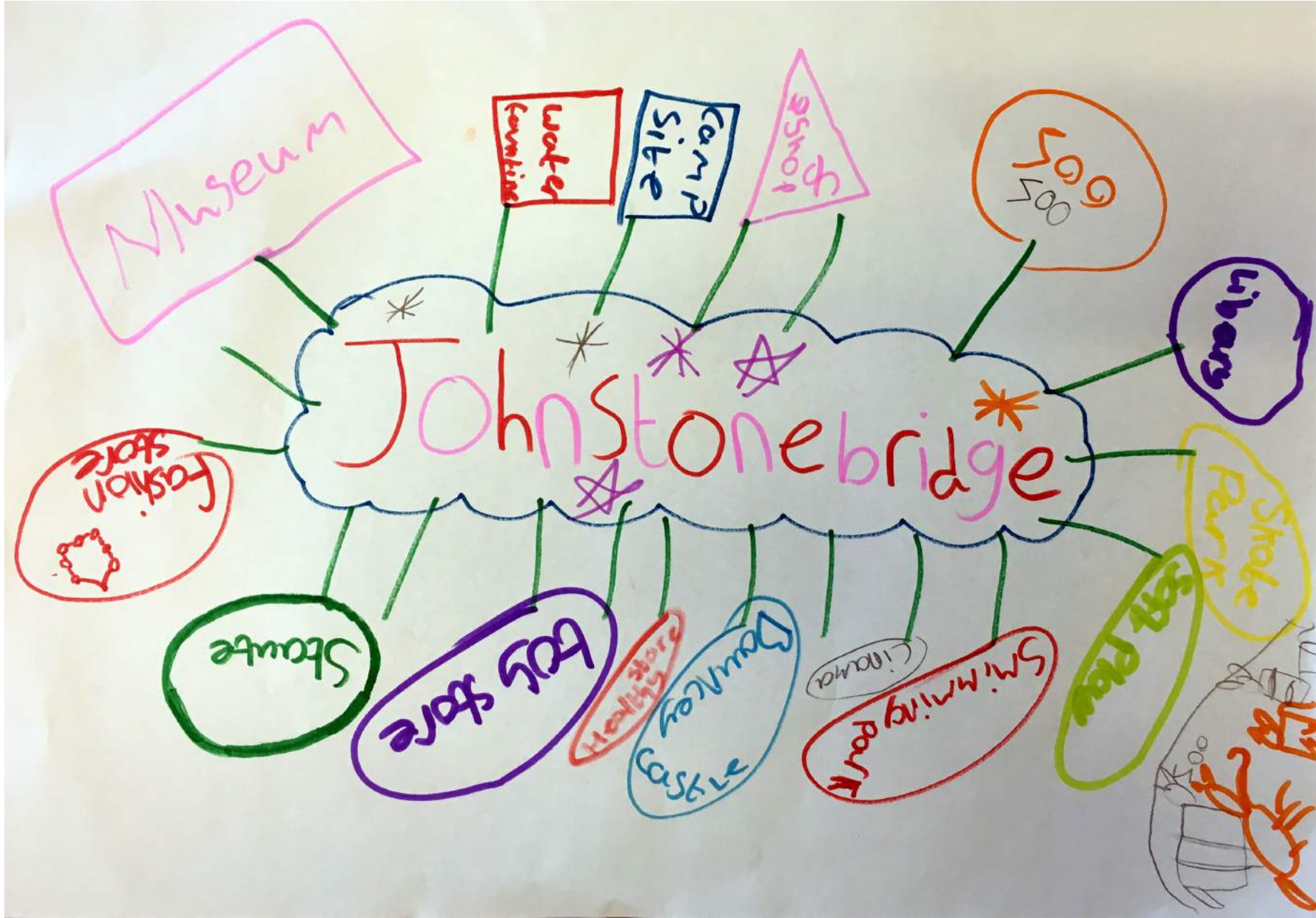


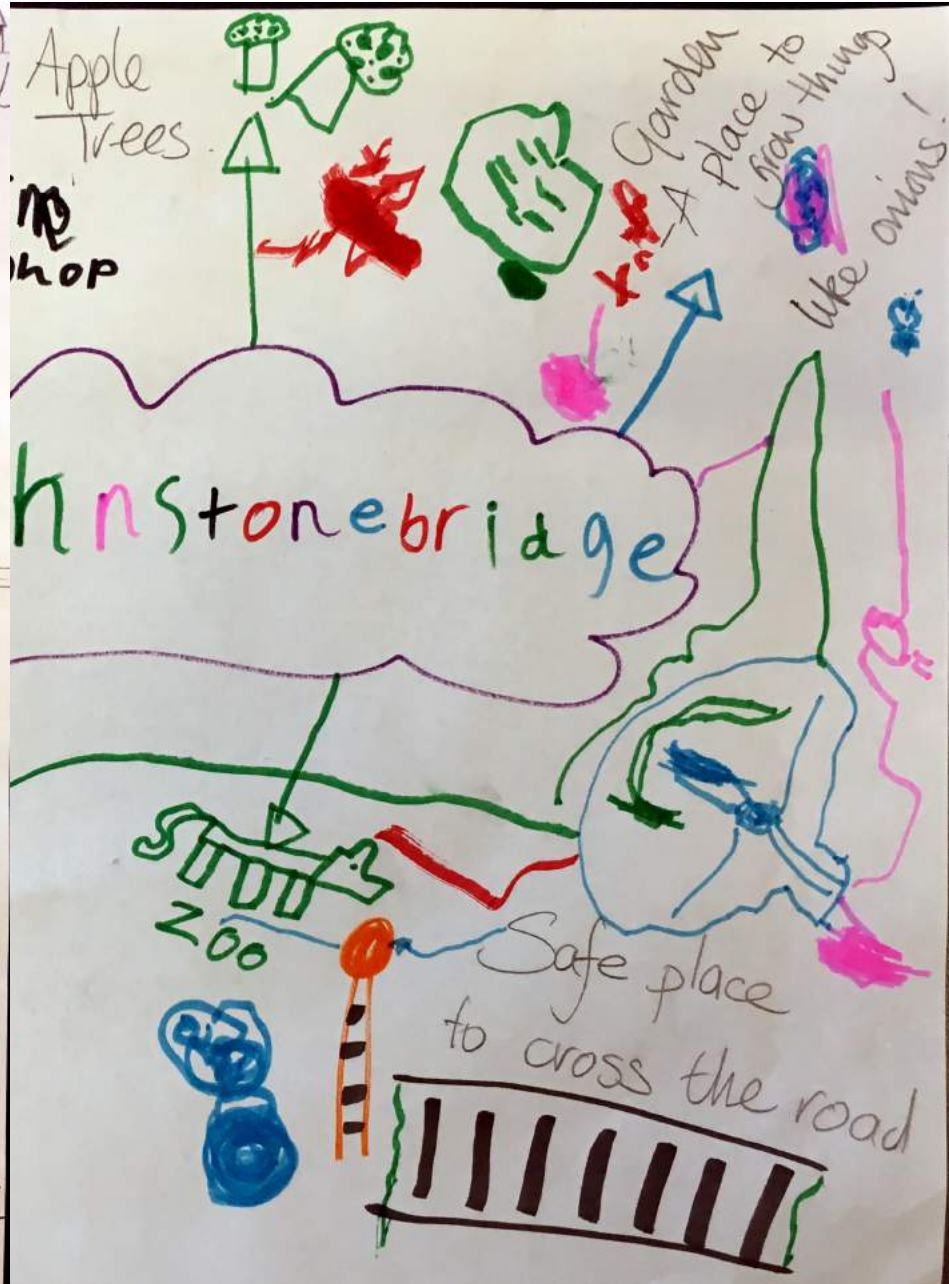
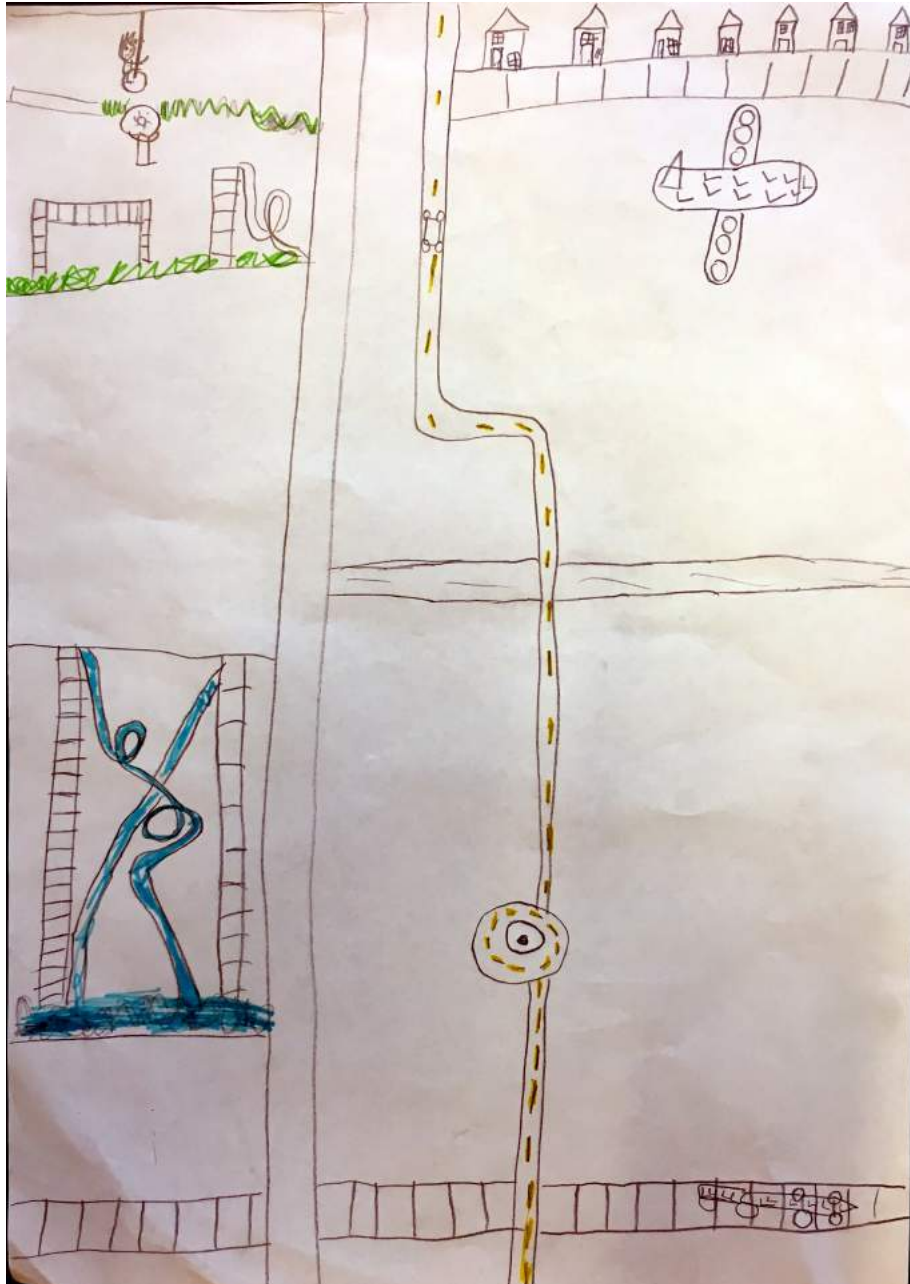


Cands Shop | Foot massege | Johnstone stach | cat Shop |  
 water slide | Bedland | xBOX land | playstation | puppy sale |  
 Bike land | icecream land | verte reality land | phone land | Cinnamon.

goost train







Sweet shop

Local Library

Water slide

Petting area

MaZa station

Johnstone Bridge statue

Map of Johnstone Bridge

taxi station

scooter park

sand pit

hair salon

Rugby area

cinema outdoor

bumper cars

video maker

Arkade

Arkade

garage

Kitten shop

