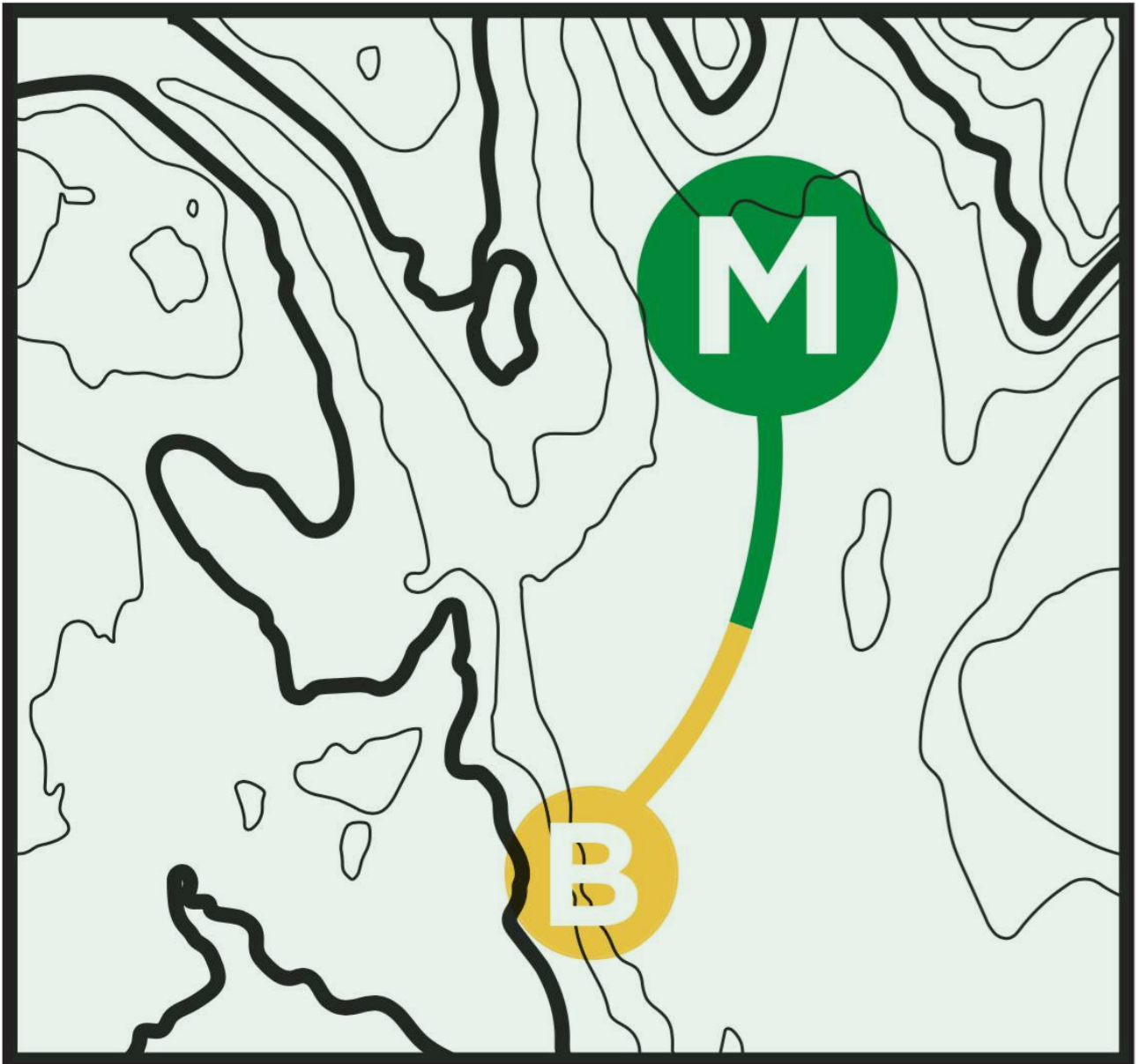


MOFFAT AND BEATTOCK COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



December 2016



nick wright planning



Foundation
Scotland

Acknowledgments

Commissioned by:

Moffat and District Community Council
Kirkpatrick Juxta Community Council

Prepared by:

4-consulting
Icecream Architecture
Nick Wright Planning (lead)
WMUD

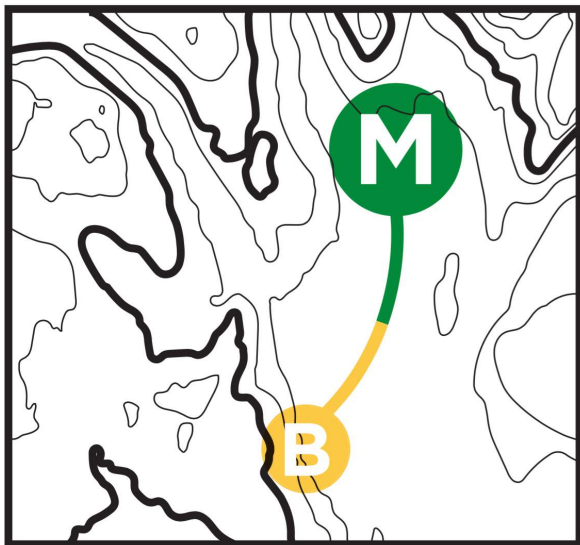
Thanks to the residents, community groups,

businesses and organisations who gave so freely of their time to assist with this work.

Executive summary



MOFFAT AND BEATTOCK COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



MOFFAT 2026

A community that supports itself.
Tourism - the economic mainstay.
A place to do business.
Education that's second to none.
Healthy lives, healthy living.
Scotland's best High Street.
Connected by rail.

BEATTOCK 2026

Hub for the area - including rail station.
Safe and pleasant to live.
A growing community.
Local people leading.

Executive summary

Moffat and Beattock have a long history as vibrant communities. The 2016 Community Action Plan creates a framework for future community action over the next decade.

The Plan describes a **vision** for each community in ten years (see top right) and **game-changers** to turn those visions into reality.

It is based on comprehensive community engagement in the second half of 2016, and was commissioned by the two local Community Councils with Scottish Government funding.

The full Plan can be downloaded from www.facebook.com/MoffatBeattock2016. It is also available from Moffat Library.

The Plan should be of use to:

- **Community organisations and businesses** to pitch for resources and work collaboratively with each other and public authorities.
- **The local authority and other public services** to better understand community aspirations and target their services and policies accordingly, from health care to public transport and land-use planning.
- **External funders and investors** to maximise the positive impacts of their investments.

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

Delivering the visions will not be achieved by one organisation on its own. It will require collaborative action by community groups, businesses, landowners, residents, the local authority and other public / third sector agencies. In short, everyone who has an interest in the future of the communities, working together in genuine partnership.

To deliver the vision for each community, a number of game-changers are identified in the Plan: eleven for Moffat, and five for Beattock. Each game-changer is rooted in aspirations expressed by the local communities. All will be challenging to deliver, and may take a number of years. The details should be regarded as flexible, to adopt to changing circumstances.



MOFFAT GAME-CHANGERS

1. Local people leading
2. Scotland's best High Street
3. New life for Ladyknowe and Station Park
4. South-west Scotland's outdoor capital
5. Sport and play
6. Arts and culture for everyone
7. A great place to do business
8. Education at the heart of the community
9. Homes and health
10. Tell the world!
11. Re-open Beattock station

BEATTOCK GAME-CHANGERS

1. Re-open the railway station
2. Revitalise the Heritage Park
3. Sports and recreation
4. Improve the cycle path to Moffat
5. Quality of life



Each of these game-changers comprises a number of actions. These are explained in the full version of the Plan, with graphics.

The Plan can be immediately put to good use by community groups, the public sector and funders, as described on the previous page.

To achieve the bigger visions described in the Plan, the Community Councils who commissioned this plan cannot do everything on their own. The graphic at the bottom of the page shows some of the organisations who will need to be involved. Forging productive working relationships amongst community groups, and between the local community and the local authority / Community Planning Partnership, will be particularly important.

The Plan must not gather dust. The community has spoken; what's needed now is action. The first step should be a discussion specifically to agree priorities for action and to commit to initial steps, however small, over the following six months. This should involve all those identified in the graphic below. The discussion should include who should lead and monitor implementation, which may involve establishing a new community organisation or structure.

The hard work involved in turning the plan into reality should not be underestimated. It will rely on things money cannot buy: continued hard work, persistence, dedication and forward thinking by the Community Councils, community groups, businesses, other local people and partners.



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Appendices (bound separately)

1	Moffat Initiative 1999-2011
2	Facebook comments
3	Beattock Primary School pupils' presentation
4	On-street comments
5	Workshop outputs
6	Exhibition content
7	Exhibition comments
8	Moffat 'Your Town Audit' 2016
9	Moffat pedestrian and disability access review 2016
10	Moffat town centre study 2015
11	Flood prevention report 2016

1 INTRODUCTION

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the center, there is a town with a dense cluster of buildings. Surrounding the town are large green fields, some of which are divided into smaller plots. A road or highway runs diagonally across the lower left portion of the image. The overall scene is a mix of natural greenery and human-made structures.

This chapter explains the purpose of the plan, who commissioned it, and how it was prepared.

What is a Community Action Plan?

This Community Action Plan is a flexible framework to guide collaborative action by all who have the communities' interests at heart: residents, community groups, businesses, landowners, the local authority and other public / third sector agencies.

It contains a vision of what Moffat and Beattock could be like in 10 years' time, together with a series of priority actions - which we have called 'gamechangers' - to turn those visions into reality. The visions and actions are based on the local own communities' aspirations, gleaned through a period of engagement with local people during summer and autumn 2016 to find out what they wanted for their communities in the future. The Community Action Plan is both a record of those aspirations and a package of actions to achieve them, based on experience from elsewhere.

Preparation of this Plan was triggered by the likely availability of 'community benefit' funds from possible future windfarms in the area around Moffat and Beattock over the coming decades. Other sources of funding may be available for each community, and private investors and businesses may also wish to invest in the communities.

The Plan is designed to encourage all of those potential sources of investment and funding to invest in Moffat and Beattock in the future, to help them understand how best to do that for the good of the communities, and to act as a guide and support for the communities themselves to access investment.

The Plan is not simply about money, however. It should also be of use to public services and others to inform how they deliver services and decide policy in the future, from health care to public transport and land-use planning.

Importantly, the Plan is also about how people and organisations work together for common cause. Delivering the visions 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, businesses, landowners, the local authority and other public / third sector agencies - in other words, everyone who has an interest in the future of the two communities, working together in genuine partnership.

Who is behind this Plan?

The Plan was commissioned by the two local Community Councils: Moffat & District and Kirkpatrick Juxta (Beattock). Both wish to support community-led activity that improves the area as a place to live, work and visit.

The two Community Councils worked together to source the funding for the Plan from the Scottish Government, through Local Energy Scotland. With support from Foundation Scotland, the Community Councils commissioned an independent team to prepare the Plan: Nick Wright Planning (lead consultant), 4-consulting, Icecream Architecture and Willie Miller Urban Design. Together, the team combines skills in community engagement, planning, economic development and socio-economic research.

The Community Councils were clear that the content of the Plan should be based on engagement with the local communities. Whilst providing vital support to help the consultant team engage with the local community, the Community Councils took great care to avoid influencing the content of the Plan. The people behind the Plan, therefore, should be the communities of Moffat and Beattock who generated the ideas that it contains. And it will be their energy and enthusiasm that will turn it into reality.

The communities of Moffat and Beattock have proven over many years to be very capable of successfully taking on major responsibilities, as can be seen from the number of successful voluntary organisations currently operating in the town (not just the Community Councils but also Beattock Station Action Group, Moffat

Promotions, Moffat Town Hall Trust, Moffat Museum, Proudfoot Institute, Old Well Theatre and many others too numerous to mention).

A flavour of what the local community has achieved in recent years is contained in the chronology of achievements of the Moffat Initiative, a community partnership which operated locally from 1999 to 2011 (see Appendix 1).

How was the Plan prepared?

The process of preparing the Action Plan is shown in the diagram on the right.

Stage 1

Stage 1 saw the team undertake a number of parallel activities, as summarised in the following paragraphs.

Firstly, a comprehensive programme of **community engagement** gathered views from the two local communities in a number of different ways (see images overleaf):

- An active **Facebook** page (www.facebook.com/MoffatBeattock2016) with 210 'likes' and plenty of discussion (see Appendix 2).
- **School classroom sessions** with pupils in each of the three local schools (see Appendix 3).
- **On-street presence at busy local events** including Gala Day and the Sheep Race (see Appendix 4).
- One-to-one **discussions with community groups** (including arts, culture, sport, recreation, civic and community facilities), residents, businesses and other organisations.
- **Discussions with local authority and Community Planning Partnership officers** covering education, planning, transport, community planning, health and social care.
- **Surveys** in visitor accommodation, beer mats in pubs and a door-to-door survey in Beattock.





Action plan to shape Moffat's future

THE future of Moffat and Beattock is being put into the hands of locals thanks to the creation of an action plan.

By Amanda Kennedy
akk@drjonline.co.uk



MEET NICK... Nick Wright is working with communities to create the Moffat and Beattock Community Action Plan.

The plan, which is set to help the communities prosper and successfully boost over half a million pounds, will be completed by October.

First year SSE Renewable Infrastructure Fund awarded a £400,000 commercial loan funding to Moffat to re-use the town on a 125-acre site for their Castle Extension, Windfarm.

Funding from the Scottish Government, was also made available for the two communities to employ a professional to create a plan to utilize the cash.

And following interviews the group have hired Nick Wright, of Nick Wright Planning, to lead the project and develop the Moffat and Beattock Community Action Plan.

The plan will be a six term plan containing actions and proposals to improve Moffat and its surrounding villages. Looking ahead to working with the community, Nick said: "We want there to be selected to do the work."

opportunities for local people to think about how else Moffat and Beattock could be better places to live to work and to visit."

Nick and his team will visit the communities repeatedly over the next five months, attending the gala, the local shop, visiting schools, meeting local groups and businesses and learning how the area works.

He said: "When we finish in October, we will have produced an action plan that maps out a long term future for each place. It will need to be supported and in the future, how, when, and who should be responsible."

"Then it's over to the community councils and everyone else in each community to make things happen - which is why it's important that the action plan must be the communities' plan, not our plan."

He added: "The big question is what will the plan include? The answer is, we genuinely don't know yet. We are starting the work with a very open-minded mind. We want to hear what the people in Moffat and Beattock want."

Nick has experience of creating action plans, having

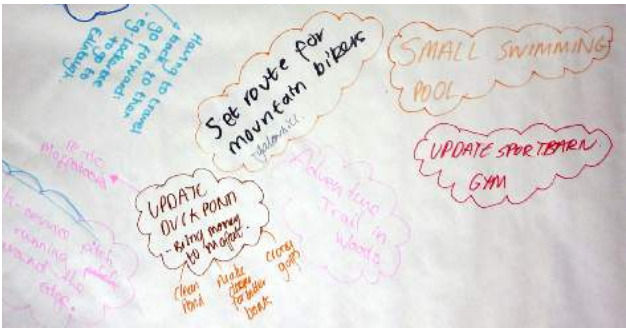
completed a plan for Haddington previously.

He said: "Haddington immediately set up a community development trust which is now working jointly with the local council, to redesign their high street as 'the best town square in Scotland' - a campaign Moffat might equally lay claim to."

"Local schoolchildren in Haddington, in partnership with their own project, taking over a local cafe for themed six dinners, renovating a disused basketball court, and setting up a cinema club."

"And, just as importantly, the energy and conversations around the action plan, reinforced people's enthusiasm to make their town better and get more people active in the local community. Let's see if we can achieve the same in Moffat and Beattock."

Nick is keen to get feedback from as many locals as possible and has set up a Facebook page: Facebook.com/MoffatBeattock2016. He can also be contacted by email: nick@nickwrightplanning.co.uk or calling: 07500334110.



These discussions helped the team to glean an understanding of what it is like to live, visit and work in the two communities; the patterns of community, business and public sector activity in each community; and their aspirations for the future. Speaking to a cross-section of interests and ages in each local, through a variety of communication channels, helped the team to build up a good picture of each settlement. The main points are summarised in chapter 2.

Secondly, **socio-economic research** was undertaken to understand key trends in the two communities. The team's own research was complemented by a 'Your Town Audit' commissioned by Moffat and District Community Council during summer 2016 from Scotland's Towns Partnership). This combination of research created a solid base of socio-economic data and analysis to inform the Community Action Plan. Again, the main points are summarised in chapter 2.

Finally, this was accompanied by **study of previous work and projects**, such as the work of the Moffat Initiative between 1999 and 2011, Moffat Town Centre Sub-Group report 2015, Moffat Town Centre Accessibility Study 2016, and many other initiatives and studies; and **desk research and site visits** to understand how Moffat and Beattock have developed over time and the physical characteristics of the two communities and their surroundings.

Stage 2

Stage 2 of the work programme brought together these various strands at two evening **community workshops** in September 2016. The workshops were promoted through flyers, posters, Facebook, email circulation around local networks and word-of-mouth.

The workshops acted as a focus for all the work done to date, and were opportunities for local people to come together and explore the future of their communities. Each workshop consisted of a combination of presentations and interactive discussions (see below).

125 people participated in the workshops (see photos on previous page).

They produced clear agendas for the Community Action Plan. The outputs that people produced at the workshops were circulated on the Facebook page so others could see and comment. They are reproduced in Appendix 5.

Stage 3

Stage 3 of the process was the preparation of a **staffed exhibition** showing an initial outline of the Community Action Plan. This was held in Moffat Town Hall on the afternoon and early evening of Saturday 15 October, and posted online later that same day on the Facebook page for display and comment.

A picture of the exhibition can be seen on page 10 (bottom left image). The exhibition content is reproduced in Appendix 6.

Over 165 people attended the staffed exhibition in the Town Hall, and over 310 people looked at (and clicked on) the exhibition online.

People were encouraged to leave comments about the exhibition: it was made very clear that its content was a draft for discussion, not cast in stone. Many people did leave comments (see Appendix 7). These comments, together with comments made online via the Facebook page and discussions at the exhibition, were invaluable in refining the outline content of the Community Action Plan.

Stage 4

Stage 4 was to refine the content of the **Community Action Plan** and bring it together in this document.

2 MOFFAT & BEATTOCK TODAY

This chapter summarises a number of key characteristics of Moffat and Beattock as they are today. The contents draw on:

- **Local aspirations** as understood from community engagement undertaken by the project team in summer 2016 in Moffat and Beattock.
- **Socio-economic desktop research and analysis** undertaken by the project team and a 'Your Town Audit' undertaken at the same time for Moffat and District Community Council by Scotland's Towns Partnership.
- **Audits, proposals and plans** already in existence including flood prevention in Moffat, pedestrian and disabled access in Moffat town centre, other improvements to the town centre, Beattock station reopening, and the Local Development Plan.

After a summary introduction to the two communities, this chapter explores each of the three areas referred to above in more detail.

The two communities in summary

Moffat and Beattock are located in upper Annandale, a rural area in the eastern part of Dumfries and Galloway.

Both settlements are close to junction 15 of the M74. The two communities lie approximately 15 miles north of the slightly larger town of Lockerbie (where the closest railway station is located), 20 miles north of Dumfries (the regional centre), and 50-60 miles south of Glasgow and Edinburgh. There are regular bus connections to Dumfries, Lockerbie and Glasgow (up to 10 services per day) and less frequent services to Edinburgh. Although the West Coast Main Line runs through Beattock, the station there closed in 1972.

Moffat is the larger settlement with a population of just over 2,500. It has a range of shops, businesses, health provision, elderly care,

primary and secondary schools, sports barn, library and other services. For a town of its size, it has a substantial amount of tourist accommodation and related businesses, and a busy programme of events throughout the year; major draws include the annual Gala Week, Sheep Races and Christmas Lights. The town centre is focussed on the wide High Street, effectively a large historic central square lined with many attractive buildings.

Beattock is a much smaller community. It has around 400 inhabitants with a shop, primary school, pub and a small number of businesses. A caravan park on the southern edge of the village offers visitor accommodation, a shop and bar-restaurant. Other local services are available in Moffat, approximately 2.5 miles away by car, bus (normally 2 per hour), walking or cycle path.



Whilst both settlements have strong active Community Councils, Moffat has a much larger community sector beyond that.

The town has a long tradition of community activity in many areas. Prominent facilities like the Town Hall, Museum and Old Well Theatre are all managed by community groups. But there are many other things too, such as sports facilities for golf, tennis, football, rugby, bowling and pétanque, plus a number of other sports clubs; musical, arts and cultural organisations; nature reserves and other environmental organisations; and civic organisations such as Moffat Promotions, Visit Moffat Facebook page, annual What's On guide for Moffat, Gallowhill Community Woodland Trust and the Beattock Station Action Group, which is supported by residents of both Moffat and Beattock.

Taken together, the range and depth of community activity in Moffat in particular is, in the project team's experience, the equal of any town of its size in Scotland. The community is immensely active and makes a huge contribution to the quality of life in the town.

Both Moffat and Beattock benefit from active Community Councils. Moffat and District Community Council has a number of sub-groups which focus proactively on specific issues such as flood prevention. Kirkpatrick Juxta Community Council (incorporating Beattock) has over the years invested in community assets, particularly the Village Hall and Heritage Park (the public open space to the rear of the Village Hall) both of which it effectively owns through the Beattock Initiative.



Local aspirations

During an extensive programme of engagement with local residents in both communities during the summer of 2016 (see chapter 1), a huge range of views were heard. These are summarised in the commentary and graphics¹ on this page and overleaf. The graphics show comments grouped together into themes.

The aim is to provide a snapshot of what people of all ages think about life in Moffat and Beattock in 2016, as heard by the project team. They do not pretend to be a statistical survey.

Moffat

People love the community spirit - and all the great things that local people do for the town including events, music, theatre, civic pride, sports, nature conservation, the what's on guide and many other things besides.

But there are worries about a lack of investment in sports facilities and public buildings, organisational governance, volunteer capacity, and community access to school facilities. There is also a widespread belief that the communities are short-changed by the local authority.

Moffat: what's good?

Summary of local peoples' views



¹ Courtesy of www.wordle.net

The High Street is seen as a wonderful focus for the town and a great draw for visitors, along with shops, the museum and local heritage, although there are serious concerns about crossing the street and the quality of pavements. The quality of the visitor experience is also an issue, particularly inaction to improve the area around Ladyknowe.

Other environmental concerns include prominent vacant buildings (particularly the former Mercury Hotel, the Black Bull and the former Moffat Academy), flooding, Station Park, and the safety of the cycle path between Moffat and Beattock.

There are lots of walks and bike rides for locals and visitors alike, amidst excellent scenery. But people feel that what Moffat, in particular, has to offer could be marketed much better.

The quality of the schools is excellent, as is the motorway access north and south. However, there is a lack of premises for businesses, especially for new or growing small businesses.

Moffat: what's less good?
Summary of local peoples' views



Beattock

What do village residents think of Beattock? Altogether the picture is simpler, as one might expect of a smaller community.

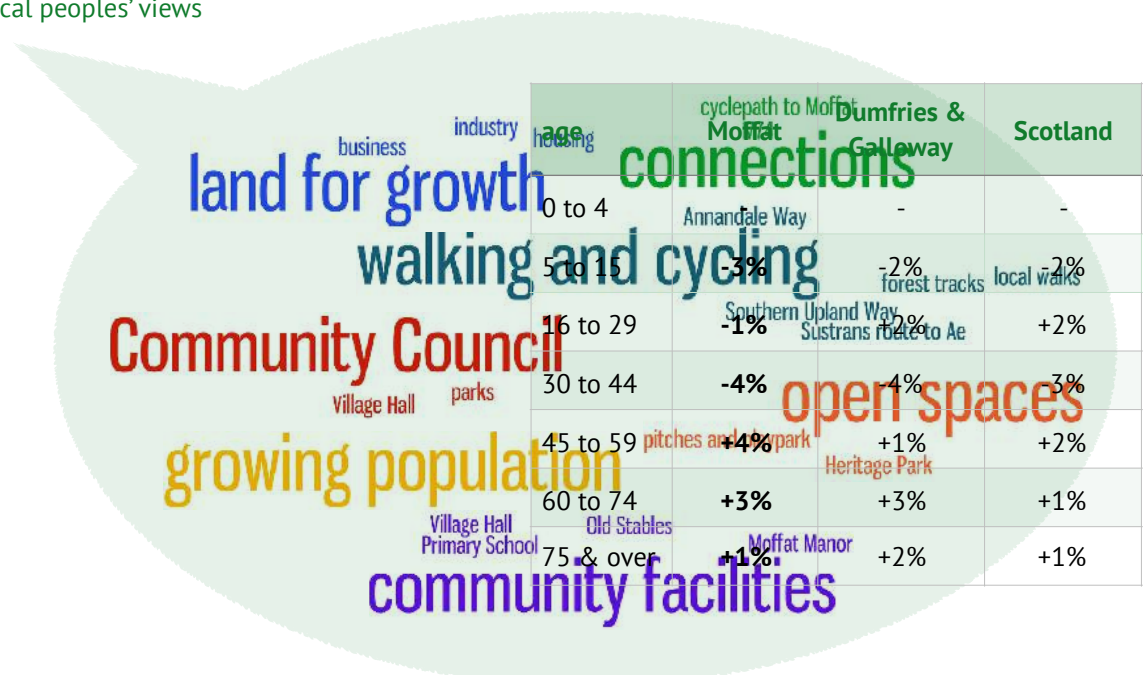
Essentially, it's a friendly but quiet place to live with open space, a proactive Community Council, good connections, good community facilities, good for walking and cycling, and plenty of land for growth.

The negatives are easily listed:

- Lack of maintenance of the public realm (particularly pavements and verges).
- Lack of things to do for young people.
- Fewer jobs than there used to be.
- The cycle path to Moffat needs an upgrade.
- Speeding traffic along the main street.

Beattock: what's good?

Summary of local peoples' views



Socio-economic profile

(NB: the small size of Beattock's population means that data is less readily available and less reliable than for Moffat. Wherever possible, we have provided data that covers both settlements.)

Moffat is the more mixed of the two communities in terms of demographics. In comparison with other towns in Scotland (see www.usp.scot) there is a wide range of people, housing and activities. The number of older couples with no children is higher than average. Socioeconomic status is higher than in many other towns. There is a mix of professional and non-professional jobs and of those with higher and lower educational attainment. Part-time and self-employment are important for many residents.

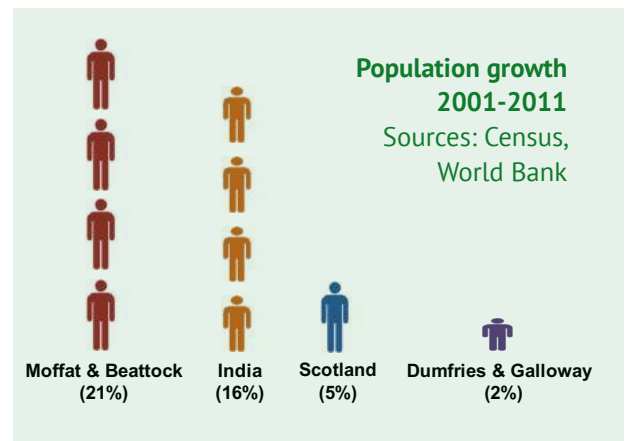
Population has grown quickly across both communities in recent years, according to census data - far quicker than elsewhere in Dumfries and Galloway or indeed Scotland as a whole.

The percentage increase in residents in Moffat (21%) is over ten times that of Dumfries and Galloway (2%) as well as over four times that of Scotland as a whole (5%).

The local population is generally ageing, but not as quickly as across Dumfries & Galloway as a whole. In fact, both Moffat and Beattock are less "retirement settlements" and more commuter places: the biggest population growth has been people in their 40s and 50s. Most recent census data shows that the most significant age groups residing in Moffat were the 44-59 and 60-75 age groups, together accounting for 19% of the town's population.

Across the two communities, **tourism accounts for more than one third of jobs**. Around 8.5% of jobs in Scotland are in 'sustainable tourism businesses'.² Using this definition, sustainable tourism accounts for about 36% of tourism for Moffat. This is more than three times that the proportion in Dumfries and Galloway or Scotland as a whole.

² www.visitscotland.org/business_support/sustainable_tourism/what_is_sustainable_tourism.aspx



Percentage point change in population by age group 2001-2011

Source: Census

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Moffat	12.0	13.3	6.7	5.3	2.7	2.7
D&G	7.2	7.3	8.0	7.7	8.3	7.4
Scotland	10.3	9.9	11.1	10.8	11.4	10.9

Sports	
Moffat	2.4
D&G	5.3
Scotland	7.4

Tourism share of all jobs

Source: Office for National Statistics

Child day care	
Moffat	0.3
D&G	2.2
Scotland	2.9

Residential care	
Moffat	4.0
D&G	16.5
Scotland	11.7

Tourism is clearly the major employment sector in Moffat. Hotels and other accommodation account for more than two-thirds (69%) of Moffat’s tourism jobs. Nearly one-third (30%) are found in restaurants, cafes and bars. Indeed, Moffat has long been supported by tourism: its growth from small village in the 17th century to fashionable resort in the 19th century was largely thanks to its development as a spa town in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Equivalent data is not reliably available at the scale of Beattock. Anecdotally, there is clearly some tourism-related employment (e.g. the caravan park); other prominent sources of employment within the village relate to agricultural services and mechanical engineering. To some extent this reflects Beattock’s history as a key stopping place along major lines of communication: the Roman road from the Solway to the Clyde, Telford’s new Carlisle-Glasgow road in the early 1800s, and the Caledonian Railway route from London to Glasgow from the mid 19th century, as well as local and regional trading routes.

More people commute out than there are local jobs. There around 400 to 500 jobs based in Moffat but around 1,100 residents hold jobs, suggesting that around at least 600 people commute outside of Moffat. (Reliable figures are not available for Beattock, but anecdotal evidence suggests that a similar situation is likely to prevail.) This level of out-commuting reflects relative proximity to Dumfries and Lockerbie in particular, plus also the accessibility offered by the M74 (including to the Glasgow conurbation and England) and the attractiveness of the two communities (such as excellent education and the range of housing available across the two settlements).

However, the number of jobs in Moffat did not grow as quickly between the 2001 and 2011 censuses as did the number of people living in Moffat or the number of people commuting from Moffat. This suggests ‘leakage’ of employment opportunities to other areas through increasing out-commuting, which in turn implies that there may be opportunities to increase employment locally by tapping into the growing population.

Hotel rooms per 1,000 people

Sources: 4-Consulting, Colliers

Manchester	31
Moffat	30
Edinburgh	27
UK average	15
Beattock	11
Sheffield	6

Arts, entertainment & recreation jobs per 1,000 people

Jobs per 1,000 people in other sectors

Source: Business Register & Employment Survey

Existing audits, proposals and plans

In such active communities, it is no surprise that a considerable amount of community action has been taken in recent years both to campaign for and implement future community improvements.

This section identifies some of the key areas of action, and also summarises future planning policy for the settlements.

Please note that this section focusses purely on activity related to the future of the physical environment of the wider town; we do not attempt to cover the many outstanding examples of individual organisations or individual buildings (such as Moffat Promotions, Moffat Town Hall Trust, the Proudfoot Institute and many others).

Moffat 'Your Town Audit'

The 'Your Town Audit' commissioned by Moffat and District Community Council in 2016 provides a general baseline of data and information about Moffat. It was prepared by Scotland's Town Partnership and EKOS from a variety of data sources.

The Audit should be seen as a sister document to this Community Action Plan. It provides background information and analysis on the current state of Moffat, and is a useful supporting document to this Community Action Plan. The scope of the audit was tailored to dovetail with the socio-economic research and analysis undertaken for this Community Action Plan.

In summary, the Audit contains information on:

- Moffat in comparison with other similar towns in Scotland.
- Planning and building conservation.
- Transport, access and parking in the town centre.
- Digital infrastructure.
- Population and housing, particularly in the town centre.
- Business, retailing and leisure.
- Heritage.
- Events.

The Your Town Audit is reproduced in full in Appendix 8.

Pedestrian and disabled access in Moffat town centre

Moffat and District Community Council commissioned an independent review of pedestrian and disabled access in Moffat town centre in 2015, prepared by Alex Thorburn (a specialist consultant).

The review identified significant issues with the standard of roadways and pavements at points throughout the town centre which causes difficulties particularly for older and less physically able people, and creates a negative impression of lack of care amongst visitors. There are also issues with the width of pavements and stepped access to a significant number of business premises that cause access difficulties.



The only pedestrian crossing in Moffat is located on the A701 at Station Park about 300m to the south of the town centre. The review describes Moffat town centre as “unsafe” in many places for pedestrians, elderly people, wheelchair users, people with visual/ mobility impairments and people with young children. It identifies an urgent need to improve the quality of roads/ pavements and install new crossing point(s) in the town centre.

The review is reproduced in full in Appendix 9.

Moffat town centre study

Another important piece of work about the future of Moffat town centre was produced in 2015 by members of Moffat and District Community Council.

The purpose of the work was to prepare a long-term plan for improving and remodelling the town centre for the benefit of residents and visitors, also identifying short and medium term projects that achieve any improvements to our buildings and environment to help deliver the long-term plan. The proposals aimed to take advantage of future funding opportunities available from various sources, and to be delivered in partnership by members of the local community with support from local, regional and national organisations.

The key actions contained in the report were:

1. High Street accessibility: bring about a permanent improvement to our High Street.
2. High Street crossing points: improve pedestrian safety and accessibility.
3. High Street care & maintenance: take action to bring about the improvements needed.
4. Well Street: identify potential for improving the street for residents and shop keepers.
5. Accessible shops and accessibility audits: improve accessibility to shops and services.
6. Wider town issues: continue discussions with members of the community.
7. Scotland's Towns Partnership: bring resources and expertise to support Moffat town improvement.
8. Wider research: to understand barriers to accessibility.
9. Surveys and follow up: to ensure the community's input is fully taken on board.
10. Empty properties and sites: to help tackle the problem of empty properties in the town.

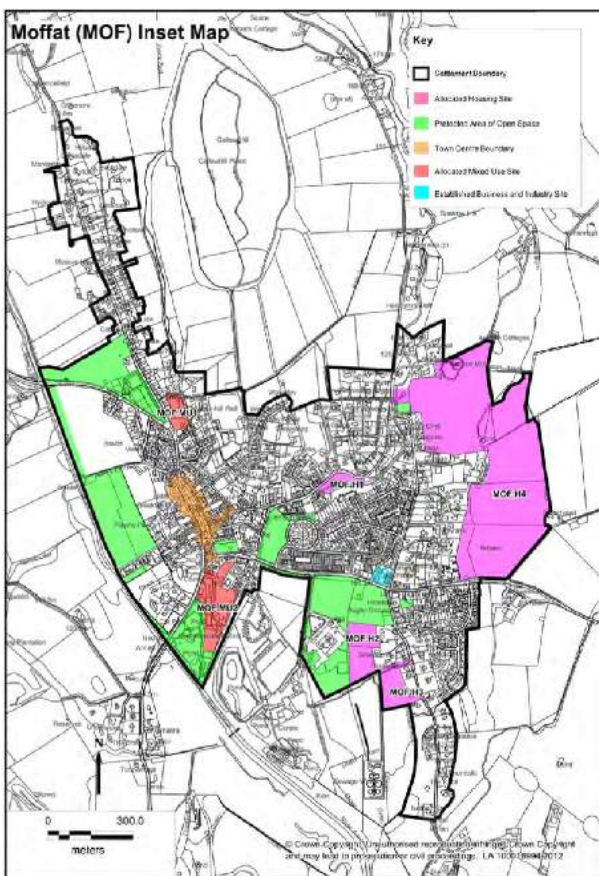
The study is reproduced in full in Appendix 10. Its main elements have been incorporated into this Community Action Plan.

Flood prevention

Flooding has been a concern to the local community for a number of years. Flooding problems are related to storm water flows overtopping the River Annan, and particularly impact the lower lying areas of the town such as Annanside.

In view of the strength of local concern, the Community Council has recently commissioned a report from independent engineers which contains a series of costed options for flood prevention works totalling £50,000 which could reduce the town's flood risk by 80% (see Appendix 11).

Moffat inset map from Dumfries & Galloway Local Development Plan 2014



Local Development Plan

The Local Development Plan (LDP) for Dumfries and Galloway (adopted 2014) contains planning policy for Moffat and Beattock for the next 5-10 years.

For Moffat, the LDP defines the settlement and town centre boundaries (see accompanying map extract) and identifies a number of development opportunities for future housing, mixed use and business over the next 5-10 years. Moffat is one of 16 'District Centres' identified across Dumfries and Galloway, the level immediately below the 'Regional Capital' (Dumfries) in the settlement hierarchy.

For **Moffat**, the LDP establishes five planning objectives:

1. Consolidate and enhance Moffat's role as a District Centre within the settlement hierarchy.
2. Protect and enhance the conservation area and the landscape setting to sustain and encourage tourism and for the benefit of residents.
3. Support in principle the redevelopment of brown-field opportunities.
4. Focus development towards the east of the settlement which offer suitable areas for growth.
5. Identify land to accommodate the medium-long term provision of enterprise/ small business start-up units at the former academy.

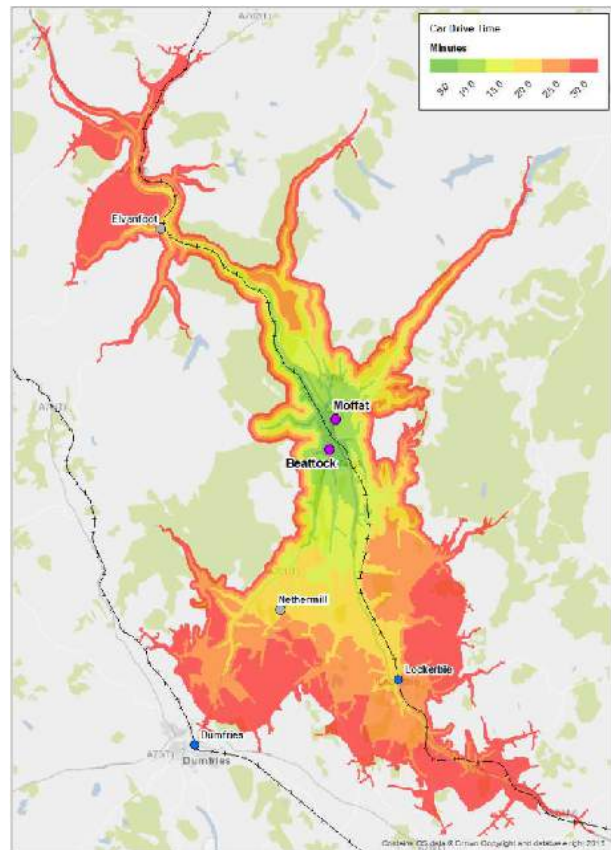
Beattock is referred to as a 'Village' in the LDP. The plan contains no specific actions or development opportunities in the village for the next 5-10 years, meaning that any development proposals which come forward during that period would be assessed against the general planning policies in the LDP.

Beattock station reopening

The Dumfries and Galloway Regional Transport Strategy, published in 2010, proposes the re-opening of Beattock railway station as a Priority Intervention in its Delivery Plan. The document notes that the 48 mile stretch between Lockerbie and Carstairs is the longest section of railway line in Great Britain without an intermediate station.

The local community (through Beattock Station Action Group) and SWestrans (the Regional Transport Partnership) have been working hard to progress the case for reopening of the station.

Following a 'STAG' (Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance) Stage 1 study (Strategic Business Case) of the station reopening undertaken earlier in 2016, SWestrans agreed to progress the station reopening through the next stage of the STAG process in relation to the development of a potential bid to the Scottish Stations Fund.



**Extract from Beattock Station Reopening
STAG Stage 1 Study**
morning peak drive times to proposed station

3 MOFFAT IN 2026



Clear visions for both Moffat and Beattock emerged through the community engagement process, crystallising at the September 2016 workshops into a number of strategic objectives for each community.

This chapter contains the 10 year vision and strategic objectives for Moffat.

MOFFAT IN 2026

Moffat would be a younger town than it is now, with more residents in their 20s, 30s and 40s: former students returning to the town after a few years away, and young couples and families settling down in the area because of quality of life, accessibility and economic opportunity. The town would also be a supportive home to its elderly population, who would have more choice of residential accommodation, lots of community activities, and good access to health care.

The town would be bigger than it is now. The business base would have expanded beyond its current tourism to include more new and varied small businesses serving the local area and further afield (many of them based in new small workspaces or in people's homes).

Beattock railway station would have re-opened, with a safe and comfortable cycleway/footpath from Moffat and good public transport connection. There would be good rail connections to Glasgow, Edinburgh and the south.

The town centre would be a source of pride for the local community, and one of Scotland's top visitor destinations for day trips and short stays. At its heart, the High Street would be a refreshed, attractive and busy space, comfortable for all who use it.

The community would be even more vibrant than it is now: a Scottish exemplar of community activity, management and ownership in culture, sport, recreation, health and civic activity, with a trusting and mutually supportive relationship between the local community, the local authority and Community Planning partners.

Community activity would not only be rewarding for those involved, but of maximum benefit to the wider community. Community action would be co-ordinated by a new partnership organisation (or organisations) with the ability to run services, buildings and events.

This would be achieved by focussing on a number of objectives over the next decade, as described below. Chapter 4 outlines the actions needed to achieve these objectives.



Objective 1

A community that supports itself

- Co-ordinated activities & spaces: arts, culture & sport.
- Resources targeted to maximise wider community benefit.
- More community-led initiatives like flood alleviation, community asset transfer and greenspace maintenance.
- Community & government working for common cause.



Objective 2

Tourism - the economic mainstay

- Maximise potential: arts & culture, heritage, cycling, walking.
- Market more widely.
- Refresh the 'offer' for families & younger people.
- Lengthen visitor stays.



Objective 3:

A place to do business

- More premises for small businesses.
- Good business facilities, including excellent broadband.
- Wider choice of jobs



Objective 4

Education that's second to none

- Better non-university opportunities.
- More young people staying and returning.
- Even better links between schools & community.
- Education and intergenerational activity at the heart of the local community.



Objective 5

Healthy lives, healthy living

- More affordable housing for young people & families.
- More specialist homes for elderly people.
- More opportunities for outdoor activity and sport.
- Active community sector and more local employment.
- Maximise business & voluntary opportunities linked to health and the ageing population.



Objective 6

Scotland's best High Street

- Attractive, safe and comfortable pedestrian environment.
- A bustling place to visit, meet, shop, eat & drink - at evenings and weekends.
- Make more of quality, character and history.



Objective 7

Connected by rail

- Beattock railway station re-opened.
- Excellent rail connections to Edinburgh, Glasgow and the south.
- Safe and convenient cyclepath/footpath and public transport from Moffat.

4 MOFFAT GAME-CHANGERS

This chapter outlines the actions over the next decade to make the vision for Moffat 2026 become reality. Eleven action areas have been identified, termed 'game-changers'. Each will have a positive impact for the local community on its own; delivering all eleven would be transformational for Moffat.

Each game-changer is rooted in aspirations expressed by local people and organisations through the engagement aspects of the work, and takes account of the context described in chapter 2.

The game-changers will of course be challenging to deliver, and may take a number of years of effort. They are designed to be realistic in current circumstances; the details should be regarded as flexible, as changing circumstances and funding requirements may mean that specific elements need to alter over the coming years.

Every game-changer will require partnership working between members of the local community, businesses and the public sector.

Game-changer 1

LOCAL PEOPLE LEADING

- Focus resources on key community 'venues' and groups.
- Easy-access small grants open to all local organisations.
- New community structure to lead delivery of this Plan.
- Genuine partnership between community and local authority.
- Community management of Station Park to enable additional investment and local maintenance.
- Locally employed 'town caretakers' for Park Circle, parks, green spaces and paths.
- Implement community-led flood prevention scheme.

The bullet points above summarise a number of actions, most of which are self-explanatory. This commentary will focus on three particular action areas: venues, access to funding, and community empowerment.

Firstly, **venues**. Support for and co-ordination of key community venues which host (or could host) a variety of activities is vital to support community activity. Moffat has a number of such venues (see table). It is important that they complement rather than compete, co-ordinate their collaborative offer, and become financially sustainable. Potential complementary roles are suggested in the table for discussion amongst the various organisations.

Secondly, **access to funding**. Moffat's community groups have great scope to benefit from potential 'community benefit' money from proposed wind farms. Additional funding will help build the capacity and impact of existing community organisations - community spaces, sports, indoor and outdoor recreation, music, arts, theatre, etc - to do what they already do better, as has been highlighted throughout this chapter.

key indoor community spaces	potential roles	investment needed
Town Hall (and Police Station if vacated)	key civic building for public events (with Police Station used for storage, police, Council outreach etc if vacated)	internal modernisation, new outdoor stage
Proudfoot Institute	meeting spaces, rooms for hire for clubs & classes, IT equipment, youth club/facilities	internal modernisation
Old Well Theatre	drama, cinema & music group rehearsal and performance	
Academy campus	hall, specialist teaching, sports & technical facilities	
Sports Barn	sports facilities	
St Andrews Church/Hall	range of spaces for hire	internal remodelling
former Annanside Depot	business & environmental hub	major internal & external investment
Youth Theatre	youth/arts activities	

Although funding should be open to all local organisations (see chapter 7), there should be a particular focus on:

- Key venues which host a range of activity (see table).
- Civic groups which have obvious wider benefits for the community as a whole (e.g. Community Council, Moffat Promotions, Gala, Moffat Civic Pride and Visit Moffat).
- Activities which benefit both residents and visitors.

Chapter 7 contains proposals for how funding should be disbursed.

Finally, **community empowerment**: Moffat is a community itching to do more itself, whether it be taking over Station Park or selling itself to the world. The current political focus on community empowerment is an opportunity Moffat should seize.

To achieve this, the community will need to take the lead, organise itself appropriately, demonstrate to the local authority and other partners that it means business, and secure resources and responsibility.

This would require a new community structure to lead delivery of this Community Action Plan, and realise the Plan's full potential for the community. That organisation must:

- Be accountable for implementation, monitoring and review of this Plan.
- Be able to employ staff, hold land and buildings, trade, deliver services, co-ordinate and assist community groups (e.g. to source funding and organise marketing, see game-changer 10).
- Focus on delivery and action.
- Not be a brake on volunteer time and resources, but a boost. It has to support the work of existing community groups by increasing the resources available to them.

³ www.dtascot.org.uk/

⁴ www.dtascommunityownership.org.uk/

⁵ thirdsectordumgal.org.uk/

- Have a positive relationship with the local authority and Community Planning Partnership, focussed on achieving partnership action and delivery.

The nature of the organisation should be determined by what is most suitable for the purposes outlined above.. This could be a development trust or community interest company. Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS)³, the Community Ownership Support Service⁴ and Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway⁵ are good sources of advice on the most appropriate model.

Critically, all community groups need to unify around this Community Action Plan and the new structure in delivering it. Too many communities experience corrosive tensions with community groups undermining each other, and so diminishing everyone's positive impact on the community.

examples from elsewhere



Game-changer 2

SCOTLAND'S BEST HIGH STREET

New pedestrian crossings.
Disability-accessible and dementia-friendly pavements.
More space for people, benches, cafes, outside activity.
Advisory 10 mph zone.
Better walking connection to Ladyknowe & Station Park.
Free wifi.
Digital “what’s on” information.
Popup shop scheme.
Make Well Street more prominent & attractive.

Moffat High Street is the heart of the town. Three hundred years along and fifty broad, “Beauties of Scotland” (published in 1805) describes the street (or place) as “wide and spacious, handsomely formed and gravelled, exceedingly smooth, clean, and dry in an hour after the heaviest rains, and is a most agreeable walk to the inhabitants, and to the company that comes for goats’ whey or the mineral waters.”

Goats’ whey and mineral waters may have been replaced by more contemporary trade, but that essential value of the High Street remains unchanged, two centuries later: a handsome wide street for locals to meet, visitors to explore, and everyone to mingle and go about their daily business.

Today, the High Street has the potential to be Scotland’s best High Street. A complete redesign and reconstruction of the street and pavements to create a high quality pedestrian-friendly environment⁶, combined with investment in building conservation, would of course be an excellent objective. The Market Square in Keswick, Cumbria (see right) - not dissimilar from Moffat High Street - is a good example of how investment in public space can benefit the local economy.

Such a scheme is an excellent example to work towards, but would cost many millions of pounds and would need to be led by the local authority as the statutory roads authority.



It is, however, hard to imagine such a costly scheme happening within the next 5 years.

The project team has, therefore, put together a series of interventions which can be done much more cheaply and quickly, with less reliance on the local authority, which could still have a transformational impact on the High Street and the town centre.

Some basic things need to be fixed on Moffat’s High Street:

- The **quality of the pavements** needs to be upgraded so that are in a good state of repair and accessible for disabled people and others with mobility or dementia issues (see appendix 7: pedestrian and disability access review 2016). These improvements would benefit not only elderly and disabled people, but all residents and visitors.

⁶ Along the lines of a ‘low speed environment’ or ‘shared space’ such as that found in Poynton, Cheshire: see youtu.be/-vzDDMzq7d0

- The High Street needs to be **easier and safer to cross** for pedestrians, which includes reducing the number of fast moving vehicles in a busy town centre environment. A low advisory speed limit and pedestrian crossings at key locations (see visualisation on right; larger versions overleaf) would improve the situation dramatically.
- The **walking connection from Ladyknowe** (primarily Moffat Mill, a key arrival point for visitors) to the High Street needs to be more welcoming and safer (for pedestrians crossing the bottom of the High Street). See game-changer 2: Ladyknowe for more information.

As well as creating a better pedestrian environment, the High Street needs to be more attractive and welcoming for people generally, including during the evening when it can tend to be quiet. Actions to achieve this include:

- More outdoor activity - such as **regular monthly weekend traffic closures of the east side of the High Street** from Well Street to the Stag Hotel, to allow regular events, building on the success of the Sheep Races and other events. This should utilise a single street closure consent to cover 12 monthly closures spread over a year (see visualisation on right).
- Easily erected **outdoor awnings and improved power** supply in front of the Town Hall for farmers' markets, Gala Day and any other events which would benefit from them. See visualisation on right.
- Continued improvements to **winter lighting** to encourage more evening footfall and activity.
- Businesses should consider **evening opening**.
- **Free outdoor wifi**, particularly beneficial for local young people and visitors, with easy access and a landing page that promotes what the town has to offer visitors.
- **Digital signage** with "What's On" information promoting the many arts, cultural and sporting

⁷ www.popupselkirk.co.uk/

⁸ emptyshop.org/

⁹ www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/townscape-heritage

events that the town has to offer for residents and visitors.

- More **places to sit** outside (benches and cafes).
- More **greenery**, for example moveable planters to define extended pedestrian areas or space reclaimed from the carriageway for outdoor tables and chairs.
- A **popup shop initiative** to encourage landlords of vacant shop units to allow local artists and producers cheap, short term access for display and sale of their products (such as Selkirk Pop Up Shops⁷ and Durham Empty Shop⁸).
- A **Townscape Heritage** scheme⁹ for the town centre Conservation Area to repair buildings and bring them back to life.

The impact of some of these interventions is shown on the visualisations on the following pages. The critical point to remember is that their purpose is to make the High Street more active and welcoming.



High Street crossing: before



High Street crossing: after



Holm Street crossing: before



Holm Street crossing: after



High Street temporary closure: before



High Street temporary closure: after



Town Hall awnings: before



Town Hall awnings: after



Well Street

Well Street lies immediately off the High Street and is the only other street in the town centre which is fronted entirely by commercial premises along both sides. It has a charming character derived from the attractive buildings, the nature of the street and the shops and premises along it. But a number of businesses say that trading conditions are increasingly difficult.

A number of simple interventions could greatly enhance the street's character and its prominence to visitors, so helping businesses and the local economy:

- 'Gateway' treatment at the High Street end, to make the entrance to Well Street more obvious.
- Restrict on-street car parking, to improve visibility of businesses from the High Street and free up carriageway space for outdoor display and sales.
- Encourage more outdoor presence and on-street activity by businesses, such as pavement signage and display.
- Improved lighting to encourage more evening footfall and activity.



Well Street: before



Well Street: after





Well Street: before



Well Street: after

Car parking

Finally, the High Street has the largest area of car parking in the town. It is a valuable resource used by visitors, shoppers, workers and those who live along and just off the High Street.

Anecdotally from what was said during community engagement, it appears that the amount of parking is normally sufficient. There seems to be little need to alter the High Street parking regime at the moment, except that removal of a very small number of spaces adjacent to the proposed pedestrian crossings would help to improve pedestrian access from one side of the High Street to the other and, separately, improve the setting of the Moffat Ram.

When there are big events in the town centre, such as the Gala and Sheep Races, the school car park at Jeff Brown Drive (Hammerlands) should be made available for parking.



Game-changer 3

NEW LIFE FOR LADYKNOWE & STATION PARK

Key visitor arrival point but poor appearance and connections to town centre.

Inaction is frustrating for local community, but any investment has to be financially viable.

Improve walking connection between High Street, Ladyknowe and Station Park.

Redevelop Mercury Hotel for spa facilities.

New development on former gasworks.

Revitalise Station Park and transfer to community.

New green pedestrian route from Station Park to caravan site via Ladyknowe.

Upgrade access to caravan site.

Ladyknowe is arguably the most important arrival point for visitors to the town centre. It contains Moffat Mill, the single largest visitor attraction in the town, arrival point for coaches, and official tourist information point. It is also the access to the town's busy caravan and camping site. In addition, Ladyknowe is the location of the town's only supermarket.

Yet the appearance of this busy and important area does not match its importance. The site of the town's station and related industrial uses until the 1960s, the area has never been comprehensively upgraded to reflect its changing status. It remains a hotchpotch of important visitor destinations, community facilities, small businesses and derelict land and buildings.

The derelict Mercury Hotel is prominently visible from the main road and presents a negative impression of the area, but is an excellent opportunity for re-use or redevelopment. Similarly the former gasworks is an opportunity for new development. Access roads are in a poor state of repair, and pedestrian access around the area is disjointed and unsafe for children and people who are less mobile. The all-important pedestrian connection from Moffat Mill and the coach/car park to the town centre is not welcoming and encouraging to use.



examples from elsewhere

The local community is deeply concerned about the environment of the area and sees 'fixing it' as a priority for the town. But addressing these challenges is immensely difficult. Land and buildings are owned by a number of owners with little public ownership. Responsibility for maintaining access roads is confused. The gasworks site is contaminated and expensive to redevelop. Piecemeal development over the decades has resulted in a patchwork of buildings, car parks and sites which are difficult to integrate.

Perhaps most fundamentally of all, any comprehensive solution to Ladyknowe would be expensive. The extent of private ownership means that a comprehensive solution would need to be financially viable and profitable: otherwise why would private landowners invest? It would also need to be agreed amongst a number of owners, one of whom will need to take the lead.

The project team believes that it would be unhelpful for this Community Action Plan to include an overall 'masterplan' for the area, because the community does not have the ability to make it happen.

Given these circumstances, what can this Community Action Plan realistically hope to achieve?

Firstly, it can make clear to those with responsibilities and interest in Ladyknowe (private landowners and the local authority) the critical importance of upgrading this area for the town as a whole. Given Ladyknowe's significance as an arrival point and as a hub of activity, there is a need for action - to improve the quality of roads and footpaths, to bring derelict land and buildings back into productive use, to create better first impressions for visitors, and to ensure the area works better for residents and visitors alike.

The local authority has a particular leadership role to resolve both immediate access issues and to encourage landowners to work together and bring forward investment plans for the good of the town.



Secondly, a range of individual improvements could be started immediately, without waiting for bigger redevelopment plans.

The improvements described below are shown on the plan overleaf:

- **Better pedestrian connection between Station Park, Ladyknowe and the High Street:** A safer and more attractive walking route to the town centre would help draw more visitors from Ladyknowe, so they enjoy their visit more and town centre businesses benefit from more footfall. It would also help residents get to the supermarket, Post Office and Station Park. The park is a great asset for the town and the local community has plans to revitalise it. It is right next to Ladyknowe and better links between the two would be mutually beneficial.
- **Revitalise Station Park:** the park was historically one of Moffat's gems, but the local community is concerned that it is no longer fulfilling its potential. The community is keen to see better maintenance and investment (for example through a participation request or community asset transfer from the local authority¹⁰), a cleaner pond with new water activities for local young residents and visitors, new improved footpath connections along the riverbank and to the local path network along the riverbank and via Ladyknowe to the caravan site, flood attenuation as part of the wider package of measures outlined in Appendix 9, better lighting and other improvements like an outdoor gym.
- **New business space on the former gasworks site:** The town clearly has a need for modern premises and facilities for small businesses (see Moffat strategic objective 2 in the previous chapter). The gasworks site is an ideal location. Planning for this could start quickly. It is likely to need public sector support for the cost of remediating this decontaminated site, for example from future tranches of the Scottish Government's Vacant and Derelict Land Fund. (In the meantime, it

may be possible to use the site temporarily for car parking.)

- **Redevelop the former Mercury Hotel for spa facilities:** During the public engagement for the Community Action Plan, building on the town's spa heritage emerged as a strong desire. The former Mercury Hotel offers an opportunity as a prominent site close to Station Park. This could happen either as part of a larger scale redevelopment by its owners or as a standalone refurbishment or new build.
- **Upgrade the access road to caravan site:** All owners served by this access road, with support and guidance from the local authority, need to work together to upgrade the access so that it is fit for purpose. In the longer term, the aim should be to create a new vehicular access via the school access road (Jeff Brown Drive), which could also enable an extension to the caravan site. Direct pedestrian/cycle paths to the town centre and Ladyknowe should be retained.

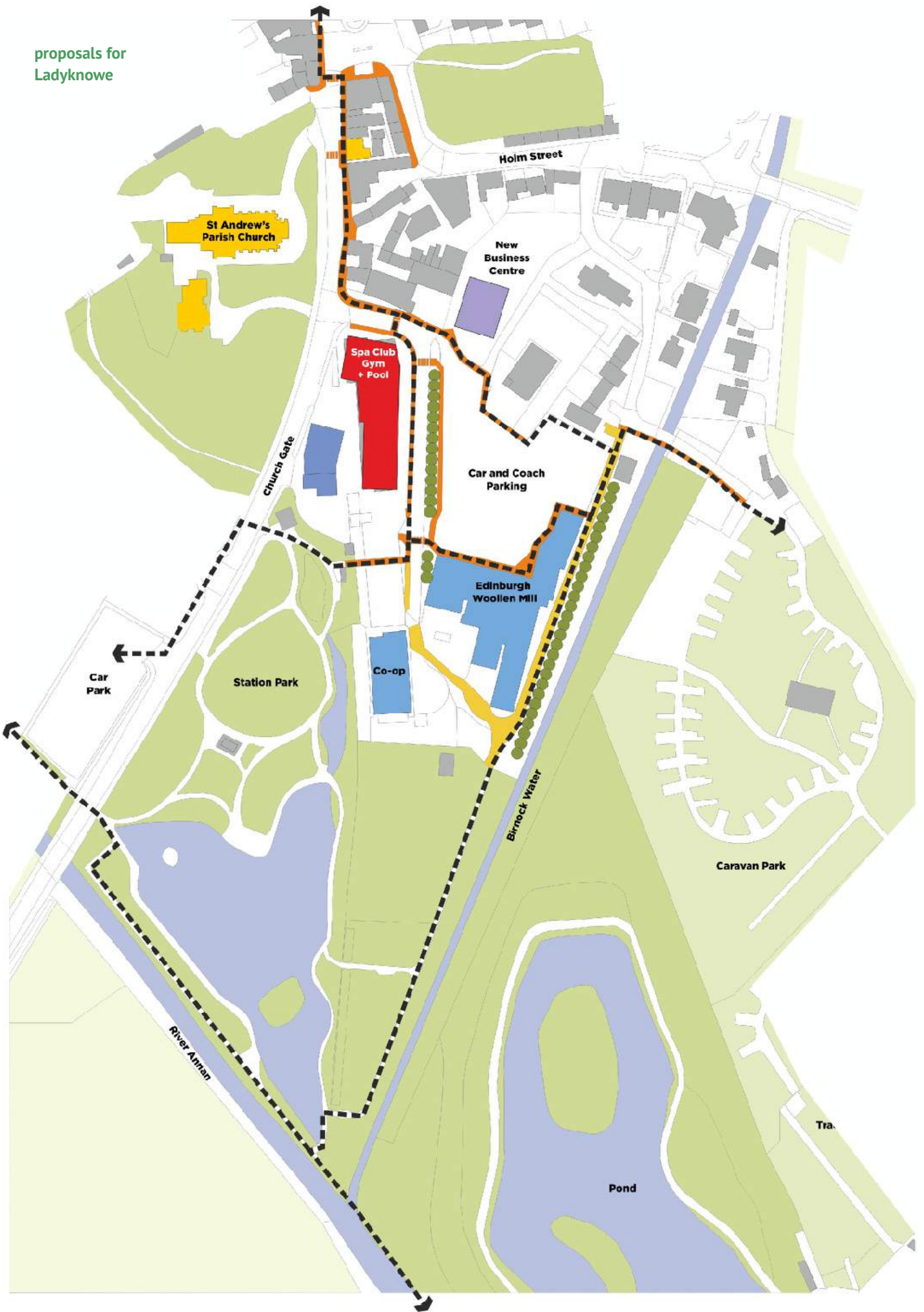
Many of these proposals are low cost. All can start now, even if some will take a number of years to complete. All are carefully conceived to avoid restricting landowners' scope for possible future redevelopment of the area.

(See plan overleaf.)

¹⁰ Under the terms of the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) Act 2015.

For more information, see briefing note at www.scdc.org.uk/news/article/scdc-briefing-community-empowerment-scotland-act/

proposals for
Ladyknowe



Game-changer 4

SOUTH-WEST SCOTLAND'S OUTDOOR CAPITAL

Walking: maintain & promote local path network, Dark Skies waypoints, new off-road walking/cycling route between Station Park/Hammerlands and the Hidden Corner (including bridge over River Annan), promote hillwalking, resuscitate walking festival.

Cycling: new mountain biking pump track / skills track for locals and visitors at Annanside or Gallowhill, promote as hub for forest trails, Sustrans routes to Ae Forest and Lands End to John o'Groats.

History and heritage: create and promote heritage trail based on Museum, support and promote Museum as focus.

Nature and countryside: support and promote local nature reserves, Gallowhill Community Woodland, rewilding of River Annan, Dark Skies initiative.

Motorbiking & classic cars: continue to promote as a welcoming centre.

Moffat's location and setting mean that it is an excellent centre for outdoor activities - from quiet enjoyment of the scenery and heritage to cycling and hillwalking. All these activities can be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

Projects like creation of a mountain biking skills area or pump track, repair of the coachman's memorial near the Devil's Beeftub, ongoing maintenance and expansion of the local path network (as shown on the plan overleaf), signage and leaflets for trails, Dark Skies/health trails and waypoints, graded biking trails for families, and resuscitation of Moffat walking festival would benefit folk of all ages.

Improving the cycle path between Moffat and Beattock is covered in chapter 5 (see Beattock game-changer 4), including a new direct link from the Hidden Corner to Moffat Academy with a new bridge over the River Annan at the Green Frog (see plan overleaf). This would also enable a new footpath loop from the proposed bridge

to the nature reserves downstream and so back to the A701 and cycle path towards Beattock.

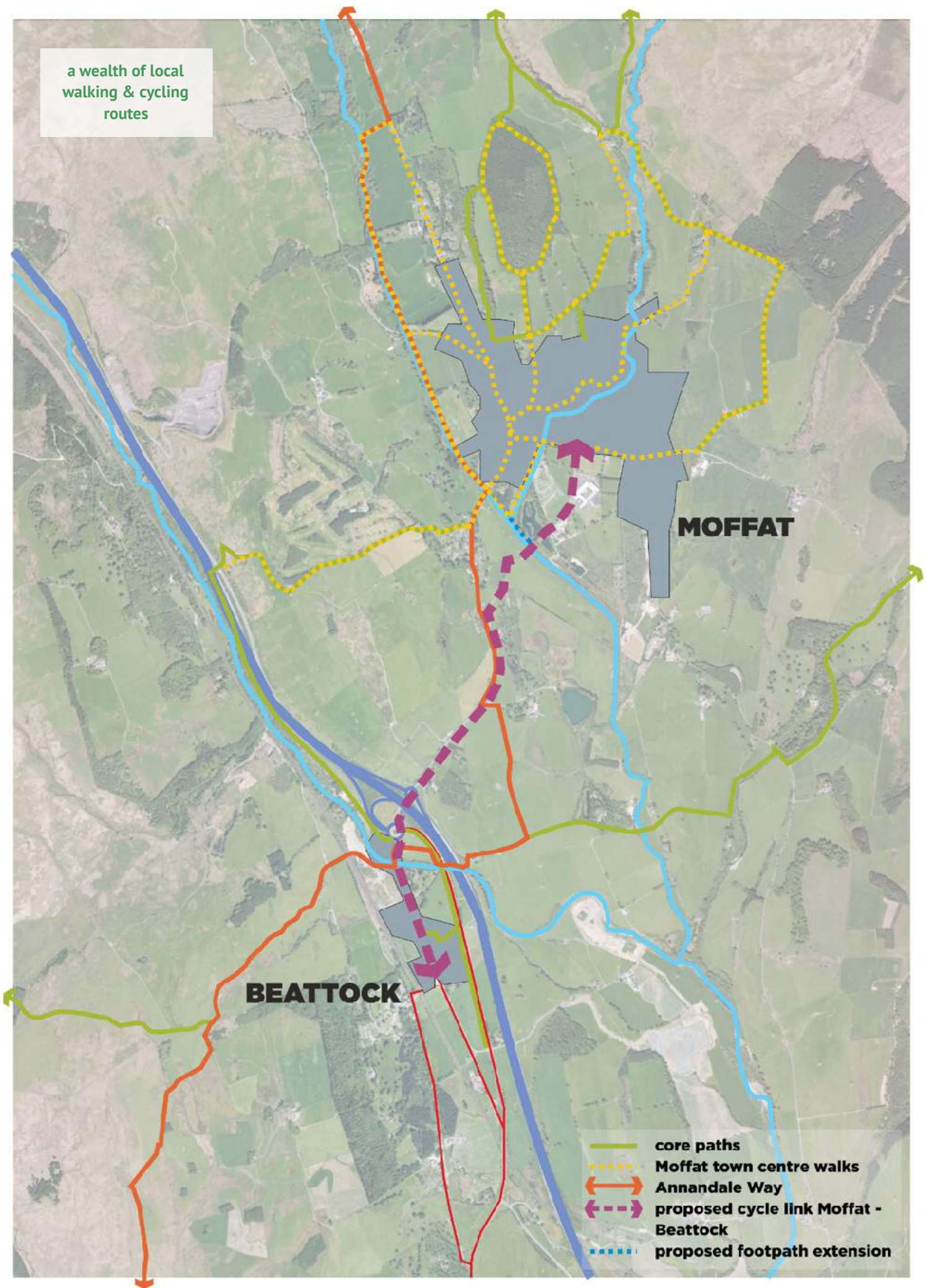
For each of the activities highlighted here, there are local businesses, groups or individuals who are interested in taking things forward - or, in a number of cases like motorbiking and classic cars, already doing these things.

Many of these local activities could be usefully connected to nearby areas to provide more interest to visitors. For example, off-road cycling trails leading to Ae, heritage destinations in Annandale or around Wanlockhead, and motorbiking tours across southern Scotland.

These activities should be supported because of the contributions they make to community life and the visitor experience (see chapter 7 for more on resources).



a wealth of local walking & cycling routes



MOFFAT

BEATTOCK

- core paths
- Moffat town centre walks
- ↔ Annandale Way
- ↔ proposed cycle link Moffat - Beattock
- proposed footpath extension

Game-changer 5

SPORT & PLAY

Invest in new play equipment and a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Park Circle.

Funding support for tennis, football, golf, rugby, jogging and other sports and recreation clubs to invest in facilities, activities and travel costs.

Refresh Beechgrove Sports Barn as a focus for sporting activity.

Grow the number of volunteers, grow health opportunities, increase participation, grow choice and provision.

Better networking and event co-ordination across sports organisations (Community Sports Hub concept).

Moffat has a long history of sporting activity: golf, tennis, rugby, football, table tennis and other sports have a long legacy in the town. In more recent years these have been complemented by newer sports like karate and mountain biking to name but two. Together, all these activities offer a wide range of opportunities for local people of all ages, and visitors, to get involved in healthy activity.

Many of these sporting opportunities are organised by volunteer-led local groups. They face a constant need to replenish their volunteer capacity and financial resources to continue to do what they do so well.

Some clubs have big plans: for example, Upper Annandale FC's proposed improvements to the Annanside pitches, and the Sports Pavilion proposed to be built by Beechgrove Lawn Tennis Club and Beechgrove Bowling Club). Others need smaller amounts of money for travel and equipment. All are important.

Through the Community Sports Hub concept, efforts are already being made to improve co-ordination of sports organisations. The Hub has an important role in addressing the issues faced by sports organisations in Moffat, co-ordinating partnership working and accessing funding. These efforts should continue.

These activities should be supported and helped to expand, because of the contributions they make to community life and the visitor experience (see chapter 6 for more on resource support).

Finally, there is strong demand from young people locally for better play facilities. Following a community survey of young people, the installation of replacement play equipment, lighting and a Multi Use Games Area (see middle image below) at Park Circle seems to be the best way forward.



Game-changer 6

ARTS & CULTURE FOR EVERYONE

Recognise and support the importance of the town's strengths in music, drama, art and crafts for visitors.

Broaden the appeal of arts and culture activities, and the use of halls and venues, to appeal to more members of the local community - e.g. online cultural diary, family cinema clubs, arts and crafts popup shops, craft weeks and courses.

More connections between arts/ culture groups and school to create more employability and intergenerational opportunities (e.g. performance, sound, lighting, international relations).

Co-ordinate and market activities and events as part of increased visitor marketing.

Music, drama, arts and crafts are important not only because participation enriches individuals' lives and the community activity, but because performance, display and sales can make a valuable contribution to the town's visitor offer.

Moffat has a great range of arts and cultural activity - theatres, choirs, musical tuition, painting and drawing, crafts, international cultural associations and so on. The contribution of these for individuals and community life is well known locally.

But much more could be made of their potential contribution to Moffat's visitor offer, in two ways. Firstly, Moffat's rich artistic and cultural life is little known outside the town but would be attractive to many visitors - both participation/ studio and performance/show. Secondly, arts and culture have great potential to broaden the town's evening offer, particularly in the winter.

Regional events and organisations like Spring Fling and DG Unlimited offer support and mechanisms to help the local arts and cultural community make more of what has to offer for a wider audience, for the good of the town. Examples like the award-winning Stove Network¹¹ in Dumfries and Made In Stirling¹² show what can be achieved.

¹¹ www.thestove.org/

¹² www.creativestirling.org/mis/about

The prize of greater promotion of arts and culture to visitors, of course, is to help broaden Moffat's visitor offer, increase the number of visitors and help strengthen the local economy.

Despite the richness of the local cultural scene, the proportion of local people employed in the arts, entertainment and recreation sector has declined massively over the last decade and is now very low compared to Dumfries and Galloway or Scotland as a whole (see chapter 2).

These activities should be supported and helped to expand, because of their contributions to community life and the visitor experience (see chapter 7 for more on resources).

examples from elsewhere



Game-changer 7

A GREAT PLACE TO DO BUSINESS

Information technology 'centre for excellence' for young people, business and community groups with tuition, IT facilities, and free broadband access for all.

More premises for new and growing enterprises: workshops, offices, meeting space and business facilities.

Options for both of these developments include refurbishment of former Academy, Ladyknowe redevelopment, Moffat CAN building and St Andrews Church/Hall (in part).

At first glance, Moffat is a thriving small town. There are plenty of signs of affluence in the town, the High Street has relatively few vacant units, socio-economic deprivation is low compared to many other places in Scotland, and educational achievement is good. But delve deeper and it is clear that the economy is dominated by tourism and the low-wage jobs that are associated with that, there are few premises available for new or growing businesses, many school-leavers move away to study and don't return, and those who don't go to university have limited opportunities.

Making Moffat more of a place to do business is one way to begin tackling this set of challenges. As explained in chapter 2 of this Community Action Plan, the town has many things going for it, including a growing and generally well-educated population and good accessibility. What it lacks, however, are space and facilities for new and growing small businesses to move into.

Recent research¹³ by the Scottish Government underlines the importance of micro-businesses to the economy.

Yet if existing or new Moffat residents wish to start a new business or grow beyond their study or garage, the immediate constraint they face is a lack of premises. Where would they go?

examples from elsewhere



¹³ Recent research by the Scottish Government [blogs.gov.scot/scotlands-economy/2016/09/21/report-opens-door-to-home-based-biz/] underlines the economic importance of home-based businesses:

- 70% of all enterprises in Scotland are sole traders, and 55% of these were home-based.
- Almost half (46%) of the Small-Medium Enterprises (SME) population were home-based – and 24% of firms with employees operate from their home.
- 65% of home businesses were more than 10 years old.
- 94% of home-based businesses grew or maintained employment in the past 12 months, and 97% expected to grow or maintain employment over the next 12 months.
- Amongst the SME population, a similar proportion of home-based as businesses with separate premises exported. 48% of home-based businesses indicated an intention to grow overall sales over the next three years.

This could be addressed by the development of a building, or buildings, with desks or workshop space for flexible rental by small businesses, a makers' market for sculptors, pop-up sales space, meeting and networking spaces, and/or technical facilities for homeworkers.

There are various examples of this kind of development:

- Third sector led: delivered through a non-profit organisation such as a development trust or other form of social enterprise. **Example: The Melting Pot, Edinburgh (Scotland's Centre for Social Innovation)¹⁴.**
- Public sector led: led by the Council or a partner organisation. **Example: Berwick Workspace.¹⁵**
- Private sector led: delivered and operated by a commercial developer. **Example: The Toffee Factory, Newcastle.¹⁶**

The exact combination of premises and facilities will depend on the developer, the building and the delivery model.

The location depends on the availability of premises: it could be one or a combination of the former Academy, the gasworks site at Ladyknowe, the former Annanside depot, and/or refurbishment of St Andrews Church and hall.



¹⁴ www.themeltingpotedinburgh.org.uk/

¹⁵ www.berwickworkspace.co.uk/

¹⁶ www.toffeefactory.co.uk/

Game-changer 8

EDUCATION AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

More mentoring and training opportunities linking businesses, community groups and school - particularly for the 40% of students who do not go to university.

Maximise community access to school facilities at evenings and weekends.

Use of school car park for major community events (e.g. Gala, Sheep Races).

Strengthen relationship between young people and the Community Council.

Moffat Academy is ranked in the top 40 in Scotland and is the second highest rated in Dumfries in Galloway: over 20% of students leave with 5 Highers or more. The school's impacts are felt beyond its pupils. It attracts families to the area, the facilities are accessible to the community, and there are volunteering links with the community.

In 2013, the school and community developed an action programme of how they could work together. A 'community hub' group now meets regularly comprising the school, local authority and community groups. Many actions have been delivered including pupil volunteering, a minibus, co-ordination of sports activities, and employability initiatives.

The community hub group is now keen to refresh the action programme. There are three particular areas that they wish to explore.

Firstly, **improving opportunities for the 40% of school leavers who do not go to university** and have difficulty accessing vocational college courses in Dumfries. There are two elements:

- More pupil mentoring opportunities with local small businesses (e.g. photography, hospitality, hairdressing, mechanical engineering,).
- Work with other secondary schools to improve access to vocational courses such as early years care, elderly care, hospitality, food hygiene and so on (a number of these sectors are under-represented locally in terms of employment; see data on page 18).

Secondly, **more events for community groups and pupils** to explore opportunities of mutual benefit, for example stage management or sports coaching experience.

Thirdly, **better community access to school facilities** at evenings and weekends. This needs to address community perception and reality that access and lets, for example to sports facilities and lifelong opportunities, are difficult and expensive. In addition, community groups are keen to secure use of school car parks for overflow parking during major town events like the Gala and Sheep Races. The 'community hub group' is an important way of taking these things forward and ensuring communication between the school and the local community.

A final proposal related to the school is that **pupils wish to secure a stronger voice on the Community Council**. Although there is already connection between the school and the Community Council, this is currently based on school representation rather than on behalf of the wider interests of young people generally. The pupil representative position on the Community Council could be recast as a wider 'youth voice' role, as well as to encourage more young people generally onto the Community Council (using the school as a way of promoting that). If over 16 years of age, those young people would enjoy voting rights, but younger people could still be encouraged to join Community Council meetings and discussions.

Game-changer 9

HOMES & HEALTH

Smaller, affordable homes particularly for younger people and families.

More specialist accommodation for older people, e.g. more care home places and sheltered housing.

Accessible and dementia-friendly High Street.

Update primary health care provision through merger of surgeries to provide single health centre.

Recognise role of voluntary sector in supporting healthy lifestyles and providing healthcare provision.

Making Moffat a healthy place to live emerged as an important aspiration from the public engagement. There are a number of aspects.

Firstly, the town has a significant and growing number of elderly people, in common with many other Scottish towns. **Residential accommodation for elderly people** is a specific need. There is a lack of affordable smaller homes, specialist sheltered housing etc and care home spaces. Proposals to provide these types of additional residential accommodation should be promoted, such as an extension to Bankfoot Care Home and new sheltered housing as part of a larger residential development off Selkirk Road.

Secondly, residents of all ages would benefit from (a) more **affordable housing** and (b) rationalising **primary health care**:

- A significant number of new affordable homes are proposed as part of the larger residential development off Selkirk Road. In addition, future housing growth in Beattock could also help to satisfy this demand because of generally lower housing costs there.
- Local primary health care is currently provided locally through two doctors' surgeries and the community hospital. There are difficulties in attracting GPs to the practices, and concerns about the ongoing viability/sustainability of all of these local facilities. Rather than risk losing vital services in a piecemeal fashion, now is the moment for the Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership to plan ahead and create a single health

centre with a greater range of services to patients.

The local Health and Social Care Partnership is currently considering how to provide more integrated health and social care support, including potentially a new health centre and more integrated health and social care support

examples from elsewhere



Thirdly, **making the town centre accessible** for people with mobility impairments and those with dementia. The need for accessibility improvements is covered under game-changer 2 and Appendix 7. Dementia-friendly design includes not only physical design and signage, but also the behaviours of those working in shops etc (Alzheimer Scotland can provide further information on this, including experience from Motherwell, Prestwick, Stirling and elsewhere¹⁷).

Fourthly, the importance of the **local voluntary sector** should be recognised in supporting healthy lifestyles for residents of all ages. Volunteering opportunities, befriending, indoor and outdoor recreation and cultural activities all help to prevent and address mental health conditions. This is another reason to support Moffat's vibrant community sector, a theme which runs throughout this Community Action Plan. More health-related voluntary groups which serve Moffat but are based elsewhere, such as Dumfries and Galloway Blood Bikes for example, are also valuable in complementing NHS healthcare.

Finally, health and wellbeing present **economic opportunities**. Employment in these sectors is well below the average in Dumfries & Galloway and in Scotland as a whole (see data on page 18) despite the amount of voluntary activity in these sectors and the relative affluence of the local population. The economic opportunity for local business connects with a lack of business premises and school/community connections (see game-changers 6 and 7).



¹⁷ http://www.alzscot.org/dementia_friendly_communities

Game-changer 10

TELL THE WORLD!

Funded marketing strategy and ongoing delivery support.

Develop and implement in partnership with businesses, Moffat Promotions, Visit Moffat, Moffat Online, What's On Guide and Community Planning Partnership.

Extend visitor stays, expand reach beyond local market and existing audiences.

7 day-a-week visitor information on High Street.

Free town centre wifi with "what's on" landing page.

Moffat 'brown signs' on M74.

Set up dedicated local marketing organisation to take forward marketing activity.

Marketing is critical for everything in this Community Action Plan. Tourism, arts, culture, outdoor recreation, sports, business development, investment... if people don't know what Moffat has to offer, however good those things are, how would they know to come?

The town needs a professionally developed marketing strategy and ongoing funding to deliver that strategy - in other words, paid support rather than relying on the goodwill of local folk in their spare time, however capable they might be. Funding would need to be sourced from local business sponsorship, grants and the public sector. The strategy and implementation should be developed in partnership with local businesses, community groups, the tourism sector and the public sector. There are already excellent local success stories to build on, such as the Visit Moffat website, What's On and the Buccleuch Arms Hotel's Motorcycle Scotland initiative.

The aim should be to extend visitor stays (e.g. a 'Stay Put in Moffat' campaign to encourage visitors to eat, shop and visit locally) and expand reach beyond Moffat and existing audiences. Traffic on the M74 is a huge potential resource to be tapped into; new brown signage on the motorway should be an immediate priority. Potential growth sectors include outdoor recreation, arts & culture, heritage and

conferences (using the town's range of visitor accommodation and venues as a collaborative offer) - with corresponding improvements to the visitor offer in many of these sectors as outlined elsewhere in this Community Action Plan.

Marketing on this scale is a big long term task. In the absence of any serious ongoing support for that at the national or regional level, local partners will need to organise themselves to do it.

A new structure will be required to source funding and co-ordinate activity. This could be a dedicated Moffat tourism Business Improvement District (BIDS Scotland¹⁸ would be able to provide information and support on setting this up) or another form of local partnership organisation such as a trust or community interest company (see game-changer 10 and chapter 6).



¹⁸ <http://bids-scotland.com/>

Game-changer 11

RE-OPEN BEATTOCK STATION

Re-open the railway station, in line with aspiration of Beattock Station Action Group and SWestrans.

Transformational impact on both Beattock and Moffat.

Would bring new business, new jobs and new people.

Better access for work, study, families, friends and visitors in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Carlisle and elsewhere in UK.

The public engagement aspects of this project revealed very strong support across all ages in both Moffat and Beattock for the re-opening of the railway station.

Beattock Station Action Group has been very effective at progressing this proposal through the necessary stages and channels. The current position is that the regional transport partnership for Dumfries and Galloway, SWestrans, is progressing the station reopening through stage 2 of the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) process to develop a potential bid to the Scottish Stations Fund.

Re-opening the station would be transformational for Beattock and Moffat, and also for the wider rural area. It would bring new businesses, jobs and people and transform access for the local communities to work, study, families and friends elsewhere. As one primary school pupil during the engagement for this Community Action Plan: "It would mean I could see my dad in Glasgow more often". Access to Edinburgh would be even more significantly improved, given the inferior public transport links and slower driving time than Glasgow.



5 BEATTOCK IN 2026



Clear visions for both Beattock and Moffat emerged through the community engagement process, crystallising at the September 2016 workshops into a number of strategic objectives for each community.

This chapter contains the 10 year vision and strategic objectives for Beattock.

BEATTOCK IN 2026

Beattock will continue to grow over the next decade, not only with more new houses between the village and A702, but also boosted by the reopening of the railway station. This will bring new life and activity to the village, encouraging more businesses to invest in the area around the station.

The school, parks and village hall will continue to be the focus of community life for existing and new residents alike. The hall will have more community activities, and both parks will be

revitalised with new investment and more activity. This means that there will be more things for young people to do.

But Beattock will, of course, remain a village: a pleasant community, tidy and well-maintained, with housing that is generally more affordable than in Moffat, and still relying on Moffat for many facilities and amenities.

This would be achieved by focussing on a number of objectives over the next decade, as described below. Chapter 6 outlines the actions needed to achieve these objectives.

Objective 1:

Hub for the area - including rail station

- New station bringing in people, investment and jobs.
- Housing, employment and community facilities for the wider area.
- Well-lit, comfortable cyclepath/pavement to Moffat.



Objective 2:

Safe and pleasant to live

- Tidy and well maintained public spaces and paths.
- Safe and friendly to walk and cycle about.
- Nice parks with more activities for young people.



Objective 3:

A growing community

- More community facilities and activities, especially for young people.
- More new housing, more new people.
- More business and industry, more jobs.



Objective 4:

Local people leading

- Locally employed 'village caretaker' to maintain public spaces.
- Make the most of community-owned assets: Village Hall and parks.

6 BEATTOCK GAME-CHANGERS



This chapter outlines the strategic actions over the next decade to make the vision for Beattock 2026 become reality. Five action areas have been developed, termed 'game-changers'. Each will have a positive impact for the local community on its own; delivering all of them would be transformational for Beattock.

Each game-changer is rooted in aspirations expressed by local people and organisations through the engagement aspects of the work, and takes account of the context described in chapter 2.

The game-changers will of course be challenging to deliver, and may take a number of years of effort. They are designed to be realistic in current circumstances; the details should be regarded as flexible, as changing circumstances and funding requirements may mean that specific elements need to alter over the coming years.

Every game-changer will require partnership working between members of the local community, businesses and the public sector.

Game-changer 1

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also for the wider rural area. It would bring new businesses, jobs and people and transform access for the local communities to work, study, families and friends elsewhere. As one primary school pupil during the engagement for this Community Action Plan: "It would mean I could see my dad in Glasgow more often". Access to Edinburgh would be even more significantly improved, given the inferior public transport links and slower driving time than Glasgow.

The plan overleaf shows how Beattock could change with the re-opening of the station, including opportunities for new businesses and housing. The plan also incorporates other game-changers referred on subsequent pages.



BEATTOCK.COM

overall plan of Beattock showing station reopening and other improvements



Beattock Station Business Hub + Park and Ride



Beattock Station Square



Community Orchard



New Skatepark/BMX track



New MUGA and Climbing Wall



Low Speed Areas

Sports Area

Craiglelands Country Park



Game-changer 2

REVITALISE THE HERITAGE PARK

- Upgrade bike park.
- Adventure play equipment.
- Community orchard.
- Restock pond.
- New community garden / allotments.
- Community-led design involving young people.
- Paid worker to maintain.

The Heritage Park is one of Beattock's two public green spaces (see plan on page 57). Lying behind the Village Hall, it was developed a few years ago with allotments, bike track, pond and paths. The park is in community ownership through the Beattock Initiative (a community body established by the Community Council)

Unfortunately the Heritage Park has become tired and it has been difficult for the community to keep up with maintenance. There is however a strong desire from local children and others to see it refreshed and updated.

Suggestions include a new bmx/skateboard track, adventure play equipment, community orchard, restocked pond and community garden. The exact combination should be developed through a community-led design process, with close involvement of the school.

The plan on the previous page shows how a refreshed heritage park could also provide walking links to the re-opened station.

Ongoing maintenance could be the responsibility of a 'village caretaker', along with other spaces and paths around the village (see game-changer 5).



examples from elsewhere

Game-changer 3

SPORTS & RECREATION

Refresh play equipment with climbing wall, MUGA, lighting etc - design and operate in consultation with young people.

More community activities in Village Hall and elsewhere.

Potential location to invest in sports facilities (e.g. sports hall, 3G pitch, swimming pool).

Paid worker to maintain the park.

Complete and maintain local path network.

Beattock's second park is also in need of a refresh. With existing sports pitches and fewer adjacent residential properties, it lends itself more to sports activities than the heritage park.

The play equipment in the park is in need of a refresh: a climbing wall as well as kick-wall, Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and better lighting would be all be beneficial and are specific requests from local young people. They should be designed in conjunction with local children and teenagers.

Ongoing maintenance could be the responsibility of a 'village caretaker', along with other spaces and paths around the village (see game-changer 5).

Along with more activity in the park for young people, there is also a desire to see more use made of the Village Hall for youth activities in particular. Resuscitating the youth club that used to meet there would be a big bonus for young people in the village. So, more volunteer support and small-scale funding would to enable this kind of activity would be welcome.

The road past the park is a well-used part of the local path network, but lacks a dedicated footpath for a distance of about 400 metres from the park to the next road junction to the south (from which point there is a path alongside the A701 and back into the village). A path could be created along this 400 metre section, either by constructing a path along the verge or by reallocating part of the tarmac for walking with sensitively designed lining.

The pitches are well-drained and a potential location for further investment in further sports facilities, even a 3G pitch, sports hall and/or swimming pool should sufficient capital and revenue funding be available. A major investment like this would ideally have the involvement of a sports club to share responsibility for management and upkeep.

Such investment should be accompanied by improvements to the cycle track to Moffat (see game-changer 4) to improve accessibility for young people from Moffat.

examples from elsewhere



Game-changer 4

IMPROVE CYCLE PATH TO MOFFAT

Make safe for people of all ages, all year.

Separate path from road with planters, lighting, benches etc along kerb - community-led design with young people's involvement.

Reduce speed limit to 40 mph.

Remove old abutment at Hidden Corner.

Regular maintenance.

Long term: new cyclepath from Hidden Corner to school campus.

The walking and cycling path between Beattock and Moffat is a great facility, particularly for young people who don't have access to a car, but could be much safer and comfortable to use with some simple improvements.

More separation between traffic and walkers/cyclists through attractive planters, reduced traffic speeds, removal of the old bridge abutment where the path narrows dangerously, and regular maintenance to keep it clear of grit and shards (another potential task for the proposed 'village caretaker').

In the long term, a new off-road route from the Hidden Corner to Moffat Academy campus would create a shorter and more direct link to the Academy for Beattock pupils.



examples from elsewhere

Game-changer 5

QUALITY OF LIFE

Re-open 20mph zone on Main Street with speed controls.
No overnight lorry parking on A701 near village.
Local community-employed 'park keeper' to maintain parks and paths.

Last but not least is a collection of improvements to community life by making the village cleaner, safer and quieter at night.

Two key priorities that emerged from the public engagement for this Community Action Plan were:

- Reducing vehicle speeds on the Main Street, which could simply be a case of electronic speed control equipment being installed (see plan on page 57). The school and parents might wish to complement this with their own activities (see for example the resources suggested by Brake¹⁹).
- Keeping the village clean and tidy, including maintenance of parks, open spaces, verges, the old graveyard and paths. With appropriate partnership working with the Council and funding support, a 'village caretaker(s)' could be employed with this responsibility. The Beattock Initiative is already constituted as a potential employer.



example from elsewhere

¹⁹ See, for example, www.brake.org.uk/schools-communities/resources-events-for-schools-communities

7 FROM PLAN TO REALITY

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the center, there is a town with a dense cluster of buildings. Surrounding the town are various green fields, some of which are divided into smaller plots. A road or railway line runs through the landscape, curving from the bottom left towards the center. The overall scene is a mix of natural greenery and human-made structures.

This final chapter outlines what's needed to take this plan to reality over the next decade: partnership, a new community structure to lead action, and an immediate start.

Recommendations on disbursement of potential 'community benefit' windfarm funds are also included.

From plan to action

The over-riding purpose of this plan is **action**.

The Plan can immediately put to good use by:

- **Community organisations and businesses**, to pitch for resources and work collaboratively with each other and public authorities.
- **The local authority and other public services**, to better understand community aspirations and target their services and policies accordingly, from health care to public transport and land-use planning.
- **External funders and investors**, to maximise the positive impacts of their investments for the local communities.

The vision, strategic objectives and game-changers for Moffat and Beattock will, however, only happen with collaborative action. The Community Councils who commissioned this plan cannot deliver that alone, although they should be commended for taking this first step.

Realising the Plan's full vision will need many people and organisations to play their part. The graphic at the bottom of the page identifies some of the organisations who should be involved.

Those partners can be divided into:

- **Community groups** in Moffat will need to work together to co-ordinate calendars, resources, volunteer capacity. They should also establish a new partnership structure to lead, monitor

and be accountable for delivery of this Community Action Plan will help to bring more resources and make this plan a reality over the next decade (see Moffat game-changer 1).

- Securing genuine partnership with the **local authority and Community Planning partners** is absolutely critical, as so many of the game-changers depend on their support - the High Street, Ladyknowe, the cycle path, the school, Station Park, Beechgrove sports barn and Beattock station re-opening to name but a few. Support does not necessarily mean money, but a commitment to the Scottish Government's agenda of community empowerment. The public sector should also see this document as a resource to inform future plans and service delivery, whether that be community access to school facilities or the review of the Local Development Plan.
- Local **businesses** may wish to come together with relevant community groups and the public sector to take forward marketing.
- Potential **funders** (not shown on the graphic).

The hard work involved in turning the plan into reality should not be underestimated. It will rely on the things money cannot buy: continued hard work, persistence, dedication and forward thinking of the Community Councils, community groups, other local people and partners.



Start now!

It's important to keep momentum that began with the public discussions that helped prepare this plan in September and October 2016. This Community Action Plan must not gather dust.

Firstly, the **Community Action Plan should be published widely** amongst the two communities, including through local community groups and the wider public via [facebook.com/MoffatBeattock2016](https://www.facebook.com/MoffatBeattock2016) and the local press.

Secondly, one or more **half-day or evening workshops** should be organised in early 2017 for all those identified in the graphic on the previous page (including representatives from the local authority and Community Planning Partnership). The aim should specifically be to agree priorities for action and to commit to initial steps, however small, over the following six months. By the end of the session(s), participants should have:

- Agreed how best to co-ordinate partnership action to lead and monitor delivery of this plan over the next decade.
- Committed to specific actions within the next three to six months.
- Committed to reconvene at a set point to review and refresh their commitments (e.g. a First 100 Day Summit).

Those discussions in the first half of 2017 should consider the nature of the structure required to lead delivery of this Plan - such as a Development Trust, Community Interest Company or looser 'town team'. Also of importance is the question of whether Moffat and Beattock would be best served by a single partnership organisation covering both communities, or separate structures for each community. Although Moffat and Beattock are inextricably linked in terms of education, facilities, recreation, jobs and housing, it may be more efficient for the two communities to manage implementation of their aspects of the Community Action Plan individually.

Community benefit funds

This Plan was triggered by likely future 'community benefit' funds from proposed wind farms locally. Although not all of the actions in the plan need money, extra funding will help to deliver many of them.

To maximise positive impact, we suggest:

1. Provide **ongoing support to deliver this Action Plan** - such as establishment of a partnership structure to lead delivery (see above and Moffat game-changer 1).
2. **Easy-access <£500 micro-grants** for ideas which support implementation of this Plan:
 - Open to anybody: individuals, community organisations (constituted or unconstituted) or private businesses.
 - Groups of linked applications welcome.
 - Priority to new applicants.
 - One page application form, quick decisions.
 - Consider Participatory Budgeting to give more local control of funding to each community.
 - Frequent new releases of funding, e.g. every 3 months.
3. **Bigger grants** for projects which support implementation of this Plan:
 - Priority to cross-cutting community groups/venues highlighted in this plan (see Moffat game-changer 10; and the Beattock Initiative or any successor organisation).
 - Preference for projects which contribute to multiple game-changers in this plan.
 - Preference for 25-50% match funding, to make funds go further.
 - For capital and revenue funding.
 - Open only to constituted organisations who must actively demonstrate good governance.
4. **Easy-access low-interest loans** for private and social enterprises who have projects or ideas which support this Plan.

**MOFFAT AND BEATTOCK
COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

