



Alyth Community Action Plan Community Event Report October 2021



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Acknowledgements

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This report is adapted from templates provided by STAR Development.

The cover photograph has been provided by Steve Taylor.¹

¹ Taylor, S., 2021. *View From The Top of Alyth Hill* [accessed 6 December 2021]

Introduction

This report summarises the findings of the Community Event held in Alyth on 25 September 2021.

The event was held as part of the CAP engagement process and will inform the preparation of the finalised Community Action Plan 2021-2026.

Several other methods of engagement were also utilised, including:

- Community Views Survey
- Young People's Survey (12-17 years old)
- Children's Survey
- Pop-up Stalls
- Travelling Tea Party
- Focus Groups
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Social Media Engagement
- Visitor Survey

Organisation

Planning and promotion of the event was led by Jennifer Devaney of the CAP Steering Group, with support from other members and the Community Connector. Guidance provided by STAR Development influenced certain aspects of the event.

The event was an opportunity for the community to discover findings from the engagement process. There were stalls for the six key themes, various community groups and entertainment. Refreshments were also available in the form of the Macmillan Coffee Morning which also took place on the Square, raising £614.50.

Attendance

Using a variety of methods including signing-in book, click-counter and coffee morning attendance, a minimum of 250 people were recorded as having engaged in the event in different ways. However, we estimate that the actual number may have been closer to 400. Additionally, 77 people provided contact details in order to receive future updates regarding the process.

Voting:

Attendees were given three tokens each to vote for the theme/themes which were most important to them. They could vote for three different themes or place all three votes on one theme. This was not restricted.

This method was used in order to establish the three key themes which the community felt should be prioritised first. This does not imply that remaining themes are passed over: it is a means whereby the various community groups can address the themes which they know the wider community view as the most important first. It is paramount that the wider community see that their voices have been listened to.

Theme 1: Built Environment***Subthemes: Derelict Land, Roads and Parking, Street Furniture and Appearance***

<u>Vote Percentage</u>	<u>Project Examples</u>	<u>Feedback/Additional Ideas</u>
17.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make shop frontage more attractive. • Repurpose derelict sites (e.g. Old Sawmill as an entrance to the Den). • Improve parking (e.g. timed parking, identify site for new car park) • Better street lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a men's shed. • Develop the old mills to preserve heritage and history. • Adventure Centre development. • Hostel or cheap accommodation. • Dedicated long-term parking. • Art exhibition space for artists. • Trailer in big park should be redecorated (mural?). • Public toilets. • Fire-damaged building on Airlie Street is a danger and needs to be sorted.

Theme 2: Parks, Recreation & Heritage

Subthemes: Recreational Spaces and Facilities, Skatepark, Museum and Playparks for Children

<u>Vote Percentage</u>	<u>Project Examples</u>	<u>Feedback/Additional Ideas</u>
27.9%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More accessible community spaces. • Building a skatepark. • Better facilities at park for children of all ages. • Heritage trail (using plaques). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More facilities for kids. • Family History group • Area next to the fire station could be a potential location for a skatepark. • More support needed for Alyth in Bloom. • Photographic history exhibition. • Historical stamps. • WWII History in Alyth - Polish/Italian POWs.

Theme 3: Community & Culture***Subthemes: Activities, Groups and Events, Community Spirit***

<u>Vote Percentage</u>	<u>Project Examples</u>	<u>Feedback/Additional Ideas</u>
10.6%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for those dealing with social isolation. • A volunteer hub for casual volunteering. • Bring back community events (e.g. Gala Day, Jam in the Den, Markets). • Hot-desking space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love the community spirit and information on the Facebook page. Keeps people up to date with what's going on, good or bad. • Put public toilets in the Square.

Theme 4: Nature & Environment***Subthemes: Biodiversity and Wildlife, Flooding, Becoming a Greener Community***

<u>Vote Percent age</u>	<u>Project Examples</u>	<u>Feedback/Additional Ideas</u>
15.8%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting more wildflowers. • More recycling points around town instead of bins. • A car-sharing/carpool scheme to reduce carbon emissions. • More allotments so people can grow their own food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments at Catholic Church - new person in charge has set rules to 'tidy up' the site. Veg in straight lines and a grass area at church entrance. Plot-holder has to move kale and blackberries from site. She is welcome to move them to community garden on Chapel Street. We also need alternative allotments to Catholic Church ones. • Dead red squirrels on Bamff Road - install a rope bridge over road between tree canopies. Successful example at Spean Bridge. • Very supportive of #noMowMay and very supportive of no mow areas to be introduced at the Muir and Jubilee Park. • Flooding - approx 10-12 people specifically concerned about flooding and supportive of all measures to combat it including natural flood management (NFM) study and resulting work. • Need zero-waste shop.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-owned electric vehicle with wheelchair lift for use by community groups and individuals. • Couple only eating meat when it is available in community fridge in Dundee (ie otherwise thrown in landfill). This helps reduce food waste • Community electric car could be used by volunteers to help elderly to medical appointments or other activities/services. • Resident very knowledgeable on birds - we need more swift boxes around Alyth. • Community Garden on Chapel Street. Couple of residents asking if they can take produce from here - Yes!
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Theme 5: Local Economy & Tourism***Subthemes: Local Economy and Employment, Tourism and Activities***

<u>Vote Percentage</u>	<u>Project Examples</u>	<u>Feedback/Additional Ideas</u>
11.8%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives to encourage residents to shop local. • More signage to increase local visibility of what Alyth has to offer. • A web directory of things to do in Alyth • Have a visitor information centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motorhome/Campervan facilities. • Day and night parking. • Public toilets. • Emptying points. • Community craft workshops, - Alyth Creates Returning! • Town-wide promo campaign to attract more visitors and investment. • Waymarked paths around Alyth. • Skill-sharing workshops. • Adventure centre - Alyth could expand on MTB area, other road routes, walks, other 'adventure' areas. • Would need improved infrastructure and possibly government support to encourage more businesses to start up here in Alyth. • More activities to attract families and kids.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident interested in cycling but lacks confidence to start. Interested in using the Thrifty One bike but not sure about doing this on her own. I offered to go on a cycle ride with her - she took my email address. Buddy scheme to pair up existing cyclists with those wanting to try? Potential for increasing cycle network - suggestion of using the old railway line north of Meigle for off-road route? • do this - workshops on this? Opportunities to help at Community garden and learn from others? • Community garden on Chapel Street • At least four individuals or couples new to Alyth since first lockdown. This event has been a great way to find out what is happening - keen to get involved. • More recycling bins in the Square needed. At moment cans and plastic bottles just thrown away in general.
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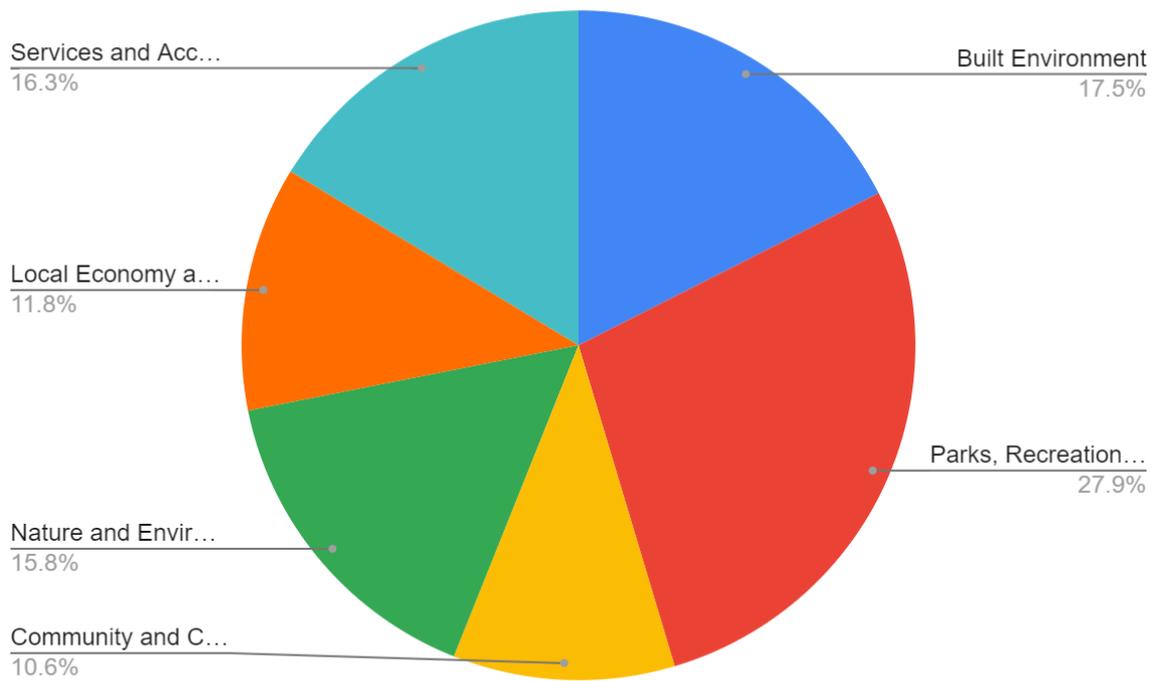
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Bike a great idea and will there be more of these?• Growing food - would love to learn how to.
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Theme 6: Services & Accessibility***Council and Government Services, Accessibility Within the Town***

<u>Vote Percentage</u>	<u>Project Examples</u>	<u>Feedback/Additional Ideas</u>
16.3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a Citizens Advice Service in the town. • Pathway in Jubilee Park. • Improved wi-fi/phone/network connections. • More lowered pavements in town. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scaffolding next to the burnt Chinese takeaway has made it inaccessible for those using mobility scooters, wheelchair users and people pushing prams. • Drive2Swim project - A community bus which could take people to the swimming pools in Blairgowrie, Kirriemuir or Forfar. • Speeding on Airlie Street is a big issue. • Pavement is too narrow on the Lunan's side of Airlie Street. • Volunteer First Response Team - supporting/supported by the ambulance service. • More ramps are needed in the town to help people who cannot navigate steps.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broadband needs to be improved so that people can work from home.• The mobile bank and the chemist are both inaccessible to those who cannot walk. These services should be confidential and not need to be carried out in public on the street.
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Top Voted Themes



The top three themes as voted for by the Community were Parks, Recreation & Heritage (27.9%), followed by Built Environment (17.5%) and Services & Accessibility (16.3%).

Contextualisation and Conclusion

It is important that the results of the Community Event are contextualised. Parks, Recreation & Heritage was by far the most popular theme. Various project ideas fall under this category. However, by far the most talked about project has been the need for the town to have a skatepark. This is something which the community has been trying to get in place for over a decade. Young people and adults alike visited this table to vote for this reason. As such, it is necessary that this project is one of the keynotes of the Community Action Plan.

The second most voted for theme was that of Built Environment. There are many projects within this theme that are of keen interest to many. However, the most prominently discussed idea is that of repurposing or repairing derelict sites. As such, it is paramount that it features in the finalised Community Action Plan. The issue of roads and parking has also come up several times across all avenues of the engagement process. Considering that Built Environment is now the second-top theme voted for by the community, it is crucial that the community looks for ways to address this over the course of the next five years.

The third most voted for theme was Services & Accessibility. Coming just 0.5% behind in the results was Nature & Environment. As such, it is clear that despite placing fourth on the priority list, Nature & Environment is also of key importance to the community. The voting results were exceptionally close between the two. It is important to note that whilst Services & Accessibility came out with the most votes, Nature & Environment had a greater number of individual votes. That is to say that the vast majority of those who voted at the Services & Accessibility table placed all of their tokens into the box. This could be argued to have skewed the outcome of the vote. However, it is pivotal that voter background is taken into account in this instance. The majority of those voting at the Services & Accessibility table had a variety of different accessibility needs or were related to someone who did. The fact that they voted for only this and discounted all others illustrates that the issue of accessibility is something which Alyth as a community needs to address.

Finally, Local Economy & Tourism and Community & Culture placed fifth and sixth during the voting process. This is surprising as both themes were highlighted to be of great importance to the community in all engagement prior to this. Thus, it is important to highlight once

more that while the voting process informs the Community Action Plan, it does not mean that those with fewer votes are not taken into consideration. The voting gives a strong indication of what the community would like to see addressed first, creating an order in which we should tackle the priorities that have come out of the engagement process.

Taking all of the above points into consideration, it is clear that the community has truly engaged with this process and that there will be strong backing for the projects which are taken forward in the Community Action Plan.