

# DUFFTOWN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2021-2026

## 2022 REVIEW



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## **INTRODUCTION**

This document sets out the 2022 review of the 'Dufftown and District Community Action Plan 2021-2026' carried out by Dufftown and District Community Association (DDCA). The review is based on one community action plan meeting held in July 2022 as well as follow-up consultations with various community groups.

### **ACTION PLAN 2021-2026**

In 2020-2021, led by Dufftown and District Community Association and prepared by STAR consultancy, community groups, individuals and businesses took part in creating a Dufftown and District Community Action Plan 2021-2026. The Plan summarises views and information about the community, our vision for the future, main strategies and priorities, as well as an action plan. The plan is our guide for what Dufftown and District - as a community - will try to make happen over the next 5 years.

Groups and stakeholders involved in the preparation of the Action Plan acknowledged the importance of working together and sharing resources to get things done. In 2021, it was hoped that communication will continue throughout the 5 year life of this plan.

It was at the time acknowledged that DDCA would take the lead on keeping the Action Plan under review, ensuring that actions are progressed, and groups are supported and kept informed. It was decided that DDCA will convene regular forum meetings of community organisations and stakeholders to get updates, and bring new ideas to the table.

### **2022 REVIEW**

A lot has happened since the Action Plan was prepared over one year ago. The country has been in and out of various lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Community groups have had to focus their efforts to fill the most urgent and essential needs of the community. Furthermore, there has been a restricted ability to have face-to-face meetings and open events.

DDCA remains committed to making sure the Action Plan remains a relevant and living document for the whole community. This review demonstrates both the successes and challenges to-date, and how our values remain aligned with the initial Action Plan.

## ACTION PLAN REVIEW MEETING

For the first time in over two years, in-person meetings are now possible again. An Action Plan review meeting was organised by the DDCA with the purpose of providing a platform for groups, businesses and individuals to come together and share their experiences from the last couple of years with unprecedented circumstances, opportunities and challenges. Furthermore, the purpose of the meeting was to remind ourselves of our shared values for Dufftown and District and review our vision for its future.

The meeting took place at the Glassworks Cafe July 20th 2022 5-7pm. DDCA advertised the event via social media and to community groups directly. A local facilitator led the meeting and a committee member from Speyside Youth was responsible for taking minutes.

22 individuals attended the meeting. Representatives from the following groups attended the meeting:

- Dufftown and District Community Association
- Speyside Youth Committee
- Keith and Dufftown Railway Association
- Dufftown 2000
- Mortlach Memorial Hall
- Horticultural Society
- Dufftown in Bloom
- The Cabin
- Speyside Youth
- Dufftown and Mortlach Development Trust
- Dufftown Bowling Club
- tsiMoray
- Dufftown residents
- Dufftown business owners



## MOTIVATIONS FOR ATTENDING THE MEETING

Attendees were asked about their motivations to take part in the review process. Some of the themes that came up were:

- Curiosity

Dufftown residents not representing any particular groups attended the meeting to see what is going on in the community and how they can get involved.

- Find solutions and resources

Some participants came to the meeting to find solutions to issues they were particularly passionate about, such as Dufftown's environment and litter. Representatives for some community groups felt motivated to attend the meeting to find ideas for fundraising and increasing their memberships.

- Collaboration

Several participants attended the meeting as they are keen to see more collaboration and joined-up thinking in the community. It was felt that most community groups face similar challenges and that we will all benefit from working together.

## WHAT HAS WORKED WELL?

In small groups of 3-4 participants, we discussed what has worked particularly well in the last couple of years. Some of the themes that came up were:

### COVID-19 community response

- The community food larder was a much appreciated service, especially during Covid.
- Dufftown and District was a good place to spend lockdown in. We have good nature walks in an accessible environment.
- The pandemic highlighted our community support and generosity.

### Community facilities

- Many community spaces have been renovated with funding received from Dorenell windfarm.

### New and existing community events

- Groups have collaborated to run successful events together, such as the Santa Run.
- The Stramash is back up and running and working well.

- Dufftown now has a monthly Farmer's market where local businesses can showcase their products.

## WHAT HAVE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES BEEN?

In small groups of 3-4 participants, we also discussed what some of the challenges have been in the last couple of years. Some of the themes that came up were:

### Loss of services

- We have lost key services such as the post office, shops, evening eateries and the butcher.
- Lack of transport makes it difficult for individuals without their own car to travel in the area.

### Fundraising and capacity-building in a pandemic

- Ceilidhs, soup and sweets, tombolas all stopped due to Covid and have not resumed in the same capacity.
- Many groups have found it difficult to get help and support from Moray Council.
- It has been difficult to engage new people to join community groups as members, committee members and volunteers.

### Aesthetics of Dufftown

- Vandalism and general littering
- A lot of empty shop fronts

## WHAT WOULD HELP?

- A volunteer pool with a register of skills
- Getting the Clocktower up and running would create a hub for other organisations to become the spokes.
- More signage for walks and cycling.
- Better communication channels between different community groups and projects. Dufftown Speirins is a much valued resource for the community.

## NEXT STEPS

- Majority of the attendees were in favour of quarterly community meetings. DDCA will take on board feedback from attendees and prepare the next community meeting for late October-early November 2022.

## ACTION PLAN STATUS 2022

Majority of the community views expressed in the Action Plan in 2020/2021 were also mentioned this time. As such, our current themes and priorities remain aligned with the Action Plan.

Based on views and information provided at the Action Plan Review meeting, as well as supplementary information provided by community groups and stakeholders, the Action Plan 2021-2026 has been updated with what we, as a community, have achieved so far.

Keeping in mind that the last couple of years have been tumultuous, with a global pandemic and economic uncertainty, an impressive amount of work has been done by individuals and organisations in our community.

### ACTION PLAN STATUS 2022

<b>THEME 1: ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE</b>		
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Walking and Cycling Projects</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Improvements to Dufftown Path network	Giant's Chair path upgrade completed (DMDT)
	Develop cycling tracks/MTB trail around Dufftown & District	
	Deliver bike/eBike hire service for locals & visitors	eBike hire up and running in Tininver Park (DDCA)
	Produce print and digital route maps for both walking and cycling	Printed bike maps at Tininver Park Bike Store (DDCA)
	Work with neighbouring communities on a Dorenell circular route	
	Support Dufftown in Bloom amenity enhancement and paths maintenance	
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Historic Buildings</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Safeguard the Clocktower building and develop its future	Clocktower purchased in 2020 and feasibility/business plan in development (DDCA)
	Renovation and completion of the Dufftown Whisky Museum and Heritage Centre	
	Develop either or both as a locally run Visitor Information Centre	
	Breathe fresh life into other prominent historic buildings	
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Interpretation and events</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>



	Develop new Dufftown story walks	Interpretation boards for walking paths in development (DMDT)
	Launch a Dufftown history app	
	Work with Morlach distillery on Bi-centennial celebrations in 2023	
	Provide events and cultural activities at Whisky festivals	Whisky event at Speyside Whisky Festival 2022 (Dufftown 2000) Ceilidh at Speyside Whisky Festival 2022 (DMDT)
	Christmas light enhancements	
	Further celebrate key events	Christmas lights and tree in 2021 (Dufftown 2000) Queens Jubilee event (RBL) Easter Egg Hunt (DMDT + Mortlach Kirk)
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Keith and Dufftown Heritage Railway</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Continued maintenance of the track	Ongoing weed spraying.
	Development of a run around loop at the Keith terminus	
	Signage to link railway users with the town and vice versa	Bike stands at Dufftown station installed.
	Encourage and attract more volunteers	Increased volunteer numbers

<b>THEME 2: COMMUNITY, YOUTH AND RECREATION</b>		
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Community halls and centres</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Commission a strategic study into halls in Dufftown - to provide a framework for future support and funding - involve all groups	
	Mortlach Memorial Hall - car park resurfacing and general upgrade of hall	Funding for car park resurfacing approved through Dorenell (MMH) CCTV installed (MMH)
	Dufftown Community Centre - upgrade toilets and kitchen, hall floor	Upgrade of toilets, storage space, loft insulation, general decoration, central heating and lighting (DCC)
	Develop a resource database for community facilities, and events calendar	Dufftown Community website created that can host community facilities database and events calendar - ongoing development/organisation work to get all



		community facilities and events onto the website (DDCA)
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Recreation &amp; sports facilities</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Upgrade football club facilities at Westburn Park	
	Upgrade kitchen, toilets and windows at Bowling Club	Upgrade of kitchen and windows
	Upgrade playground facility at Mortlach Primary school	
	Upgrade Tininver Park and Bike Store	Tininver Park Phase 1 upgrade completed (DDCA) New reinforced doors and electrics in Bike Store (DDCA)
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Youth &amp; children's facilities and activities</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Speyside Youth to maintain current youth cafe sessions and encourage community involvement by our young people	Youth Cafe sessions ongoing and well-attended 2021 Santa Run collaboration between Speyside Youth and KDRA
	Continue to engage young people in outdoors and Bike Dufftown	Social media outdoors social media video advert collaboration between DDCA and Speyside Youth
	The Cabin to develop expanded space to provide more time and activities for young children and after school care	

<b>THEME 3: LOCAL ECONOMY AND TOURISM</b>		
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Improve IT connectivity</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Deliver IT from Connecting Scotland project	IT equipment delivered (DDCA)
	Develop a community internet hotspot	Funding secured from Dorenell for Clocktower internet hotspot (DDCA)
	Support the 'district of Dufftown's approach to connectivity	
	Continue to develop digital champions - supporting groups and residents to	Internet training event delivered through tsiMoray (DDCA)

	embrace digital	
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Develop tourist hospitality, accommodation and infrastructure</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Progress plans for a community campsite facility	Community survey completed (DDCA)
	Carry out study into community asset transfer of woodland for bike trails etc	Woodlands Management Report by Woodlands Community Association completed (DDCA)
	Investigate development of a community owned hostel	
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Develop and promote tourist attractions and events</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Improve Keith & Dufftown Railway links and infrastructure - aim for steam!	Second line at Dufftown terminus installed (KDRA)
	Develop and support the Whisky Heritage Museum & tourist information centre	
	Support all groups developing and promoting events	
	Improve signage and storyboarding for all attractions	
	More use of the Speirin's Newsletter to publicise activities and events	Ongoing promotion through the Speirins - online and quarterly print version
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Support for existing and new businesses</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Develop a stronger business community which leads with a common voice	Monthly local farmer's market (DMDT)
	Attract support for current businesses to adapt to an everchanging economy	
	Hold regular open forum sessions to develop the sense of community between synergistic businesses	Quarterly open forum sessions to be organised(DDCA)
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Develop local skills and training</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Promote evening classes, and school pupil mentoring programme	Wellbeing and skills events delivered with funding from Moray Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund (DDCA)

	Develop and offer a CV writing service	
	Develop and promote training and education bursaries	
	Provide enhanced opportunities and training for young people through skills development, new experiences, learning, groupwork, and volunteering	3 placements provided to young people through the Scottish Government Kickstarter scheme (KDRA) Volunteering and skills development provided through Youth Committee and youth cafe (Speyside Youth) Kids football camp 2022 (Dufftown FC)

<b>THEME 4: A SUSTAINABLE &amp; RESILIENT COMMUNITY</b>		
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Housing for all</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Explore and launch a Community housing model	Communities Housing Trust commissioned to carry out a Housing Needs Analysis and develop a business plan (DDCA)
	Community housing provision for older people	
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Local food provision</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Establish and grow the local food larder	Community food larder set up (DDCA, with space provided by RBL)
	Advocate home food growing and local food production	
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Community fuel poverty reduction and energy optimism</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Explore potential for community renewables, and energy efficiency in community facilities	
	Develop home insulation and fuel saving expertise	
	Lead the Dufftown and District approach to Net Zero	
	Lead the Dufftown and District approach to a Just Transition	
	Secure funding and employ a	

	Community focussed Development Office	
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Community development</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Encourage and support volunteering across all groups	
	Enable sharing of community resources	
	Look at creating an “amenities group” of volunteers to offer community support	
	Secure funding and employ a Development Offices to focus on community and economic development	Community Development Leader 2 year post funding secured from HIE/Dorenell, with start February 2022 (DDCA)
	Ensure DDCA delivers for Dufftown and District on area wide projects	
	Develop partnerships with Moray Council and other organisations	

<b>THEME 5: ACCESS TO SERVICES</b>		
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Sustainable transport provision</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Support community transport initiatives	Community e-car hire ready to be launched (DDCA)
	Lobby for improved and integrated transport provision	
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Improve access to childcare and educational opportunities</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Support for more childminders in the area	
	Develop wider provision of afterschool activities	
	Enable enhanced provision of services for families and very young children	
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Post office and financial services</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>

	Explore ways of reinstating these vital services in Dufftown - through a community initiative or providing support to a local business initiative	
	Promote and encourage use of existing Credit union facilities	
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>Roads and Safety</b>	<b>2022 Status</b>
	Safer Crossing Project	

# SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

The Community Action Plan is for the whole community and is jointly owned by all the organisations and individuals that took part in its preparation. We will be working together to ensure its implementation over the course of the 5 years.

## COMMUNICATION

It is hoped that communication will continue throughout the 5 year life of this Plan. DDCA have developed a new hub website to host the Community Action plan, and to promote projects and opportunities in the wider community. The Dufftown Speirin's is also an invaluable mechanism for communicating with the wider community of Dufftown.

## GET IN TOUCH AND GET INVOLVED

Although we have named the main groups that will lead on projects and initiatives, there is plenty of room in this Plan for every group and individual in Dufftown to play their part. If you are interested in getting involved in any of the projects or groups mentioned, or would like more information, please get in touch.

Email: [hello@dufftowncommunity.co.uk](mailto:hello@dufftowncommunity.co.uk)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to everyone who took part in the action plan review and shared their views.

Thanks to tsiMoray and the Community Priorities fund for their financial support towards continuing evaluating our Dufftown and District values and priorities.

Dufftown and District Community Association led the process to prepare this Community Action Plan review on behalf of everyone in the community.

[www.dufftowncommunity.co.uk](http://www.dufftowncommunity.co.uk)