

Meeting notes

Dufftown & District Community Forum November 2022

November 9th 5-7pm

Royal British Legion, Dufftown

Introduction

On November 9th 2022, organised by Dufftown and District Community Association (DDCA), residents and community groups of Dufftown & District came together at the quarterly community forum. The aim of the forum was to identify priorities and discuss next steps.

The meeting was facilitated by DDCA community development leader Viktoria Eriksson and 32 individuals attended the meeting. A diverse range of community groups and other organisations were represented.

Community groups and organisations represented:

- Auchindoun S.W.I.
- Dufftown Golf Club
- Dufftown 2000
- Dufftown BALL group
- Speyside Youth
- The Cabin
- Dufftown & Mortlach Development Trust
- Mortlach Church
- Keith and Dufftown Railway Association
- Dufftown & District Community Association
- TsiMoray
- Royal British Legion Dufftown
- Dufftown in Bloom
- Dufftown Flower Show
- Moray Council
- Dufftown Bowling Club
- Dufftown Football Club
- Mortlach Primary Parent Council
- Dufftown Fire Service

Community Priorities

During the first half of the meeting, participants were tasked with writing down their top priority for Dufftown & District they would like to see people and groups work together on. Participants were then asked to walk around the room, discuss their priority with others and try to find if someone had written down the same priority as themselves.

Soon, smaller groups had formed with similar priorities. Below is a word cloud created with all the participants' priorities. The larger the word, the more frequent it had been written down as a priority.



The prioritisation exercise shows that topics such as the Dufftown clock tower restoration, shops, the town centre, wellbeing and attracting visitors are some of the topics mentioned most frequently. However, the word cloud contains a wide variety of topics that span across many areas of community development.

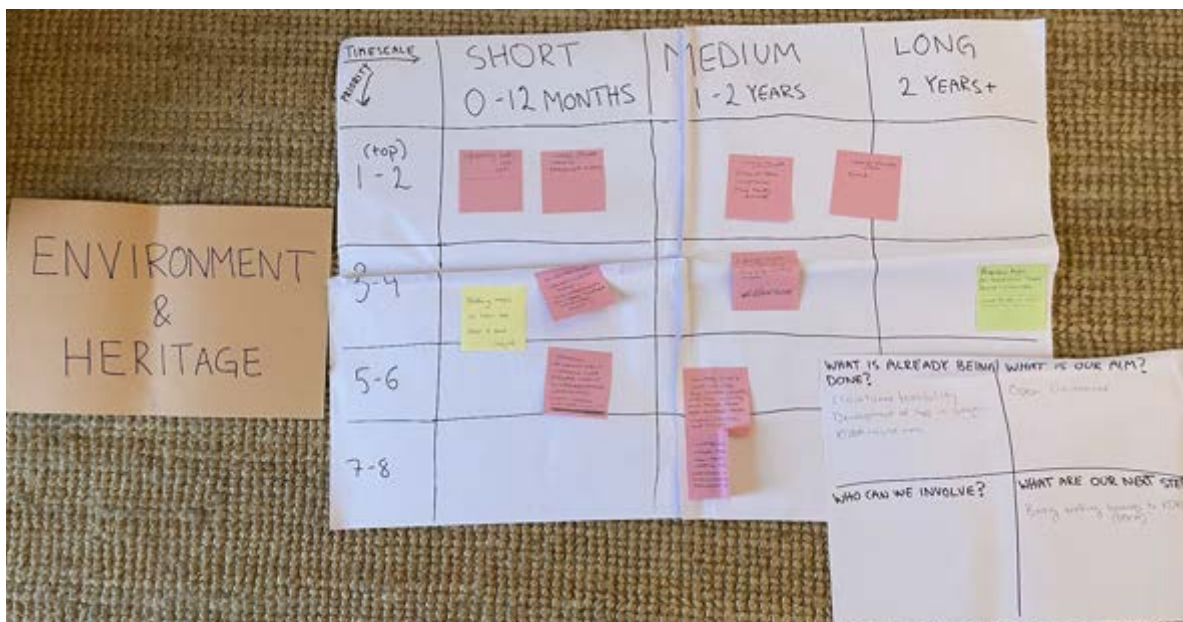
Action plan brainstorming

In the second part of the meeting, the priorities were divided into 5 themes as outlined in the Dufftown & District Community Action Plan 2021-2026:

1. Environment and Heritage
2. Community, Youth and Recreation
3. Local Economy and Tourism
4. Sustainable & Resilient Community
5. Access to Services

Everyone was invited to select a topic they were most interested in. Working in groups, participants were asked to place the priorities in a matrix based on time frame and urgency. It was also encouraged to brainstorm tangible actions and place them in the matrix.

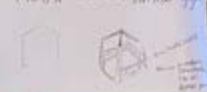
Environment and Heritage



For 'Environment and Heritage', participants identified feasibility studies of the clocktower and map/app signposting of walks and routes as high priority and achievable within the next twelve months. In the medium timescale, participants noted that restoring the clocktower as well as supporting existing heritage museum projects should be prioritised.

Community, Youth and Recreation

For 'Community, Youth and Recreation', participants identified safe spaces for teenagers as a high priority achievable within the next 12 months. The group acknowledged that Speyside Youth is already providing indoor space for youth but that it would be useful to have alternative spaces. Children, families, Dufftown & Mortlach Development Trust and other interested groups were identified as useful stakeholders to involve. Some of the next steps noted were exploring allocated areas and a multi-use games area.

COMMUNITY, YOUTH & RECREATION	TIMELINE	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG
	PRIORITY	0-12 MONTHS	1-2 YEARS	2 YEARS+
(top) 1-2			WHAT IS ALREADY BEING DONE? Inside soccer spaces/clubs SY (reading etc)	WHAT IS OUR AIM? Alternative spaces/ Things to do Engaged people all ages
3-4			WHO CAN WE INVOLVE? Parents? Children / YP / families DMT / Speyside Youth / interested groups	WHAT ARE OUR NEXT STEPS? ALLOCATED AREA MUGA → + outdoor gym 
5-6				
7-8				

Local Economy and Tourism

For 'Local Economy and Tourism', participants acknowledged Dufftown Farmers Market as a positive activity. The group discussed how it would be good to have other events on at the same time to maximise footfall in the town. Other suggestions to improve the local economy included; weekly pop-up charity shop run by volunteers and individual charities; amateur dramatics to put on shows; showcase local artists' work in shop windows. Improving transport was also discussed as key to get more visitors to the town. It would be useful to involve Moray Council's new Bus Revolution initiative and Stagecoach for this. Lastly, some next steps suggested by the group were creating a general tourist information leaflet and organising organic events that bring in the wider community.

	SHORT 0-12 MONTHS	MEDIUM 1-2 YEARS	LONG 2 YEARS+
1-2	WHAT IS ALREADY BEING DONE? Farmers Market - school other events 2 weeks there 1st November for 1st November to 1st November	WHAT IS OUR AIM? Improve transport weekly pop-up shop run by volunteers Charity Shop individual charities - showcase local artists work in shop windows	
3-4	WHO CAN WE INVOLVE? Bus revolution 47 56 945	WHAT ARE OUR NEXT STEPS? Create a general tourist information leaflet and organising organic events that bring in the wider community	
5-6			
7-8			

Sustainable and Resilient Community

For 'Sustainable and Resilient Community', participants identified CCTV, a shared diary, external funding opportunities and sourcing trustees to community groups all as high priority actions that are achievable within the next 12 months. Councillor David Gordon is already aware of the desire for CCTV in Dufftown and a community diary is available on the Dufftown Community website (administered by Dufftown & District Community Association) but needs to be advertised more. Lastly, the group acknowledged that partnership working between groups to act as one voice for the community is a long-term priority that will be ongoing throughout the next couple of years

SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT COMMUNITY	TIMELINE →	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG
	PRIORITY ↓	0-12 MONTHS	1-2 YEARS	2 YEARS+
(top) 1-2	<p>Security within the area</p> <p>Shared diary</p> <p>Estimated funding opportunities</p> <p>CCTV</p>			<p>Reduce the security (e.g. CCTV) in the area</p>
3-4			<p>WHAT IS ALREADY BEING DONE?</p> <p>CCTV?</p> <p>Community diary on CCTV camera</p>	<p>WHAT IS OUR AIM?</p> <p>Camera on 4 main streets</p> <p>Shared community diary on groups etc</p>
5-6			<p>WHO CAN WE INVOLVE?</p> <p>David Gordon (Council)</p> <p>Frances McCall (Council)</p>	<p>WHAT ARE OUR NEXT STEPS?</p> <p>Identify funding</p> <p>get quotes</p>
7-8				

Access to Services

For 'Access to Services', participants identified CCTV on the main streets, post office access with regular hours, car parking space and a shared diary/advertising space as high priorities achievable within the next year. As such, some of these priorities overlap with other themes.

ACCESS TO SERVICES	TIMELINE →	SHORT	MEDIUM	LONG
	PRIORITY ↓	0-12 MONTHS	1-2 YEARS	2 YEARS+
(top) 1-2	<p>CCTV on main streets to deter vandalism</p> <p>Post office access regular hours</p> <p>Shared diary and advertising space</p> <p>Car parking - 10 spaces</p>			
3-4				
5-6				
7-8				

Evaluation and concluding remarks

Anonymous feedback was collected on post-it notes at the end of the meeting. Overall, a large majority of participants were satisfied with the meeting. Some of the positive comments said it was great to connect with different people from the community, hearing a wide range of ideas, continuity in planning, as well as time and length of the meeting.

Feedback on how to improve the community forums was also sought from participants. Anonymous comments suggested more structure, more time, clearer goal setting, a summary of previous discussions, and information on funding opportunities. In response, a list of upcoming local funding opportunities was sent out via e-mail to participants two days after the meeting. These comments will all be taken into consideration for the next meeting, which is aimed to take place in February 2023.

In conclusion, the Community Forum in November 2022 showed that there is a wealth of ideas among the community on community development in Dufftown and District, as well as an impressive list of projects and services already taking place. This meeting further identified the top priorities and highlighted the collaborative spirit among community groups and residents.

For more information and to get involved, contact Dufftown and District Community Association on:

hello@dufftowncommunity.co.uk