

# MEIGLE AND ARDLER COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

## STAKEHOLDER VIEWS REPORT

February 2021



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**Meigle and Ardler Community Council**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### Background

1.1 This report summarises the findings of the **Stakeholder Conversations** carried out as part of the participatory process designed to inform the preparation of the Meigle and Ardler Community Action Plan.

1.2 Meetings and interviews were organised and carried out by Caroline Ness, Community Development Worker (Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust) on behalf of the local Community Action Planning Steering Group with support from Caroline Lawrie (Active Schools Blairgowrie).

1.3 Conversations were arranged with Meigle Primary School, Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, Meigle Cricket Club, Meigle and Ardler Community Council, Meigle Primary School Parent Council, pupils from Meigle Primary School, Kinloch Memorial Hall, Active Schools Blairgowrie, SOEC Belmont, Care & Welling CIC, Meigle Toddler Group, Ardler Book Club, Tuesday Club, The Ardler Tavern Ltd, GrowBiz, Strathmore Event Services Ltd, Menzies Engineering Limited, the transport sector, NHS and numerous Perth & Kinross Council Services. Many local residents also shared their knowledge, involvement and/or views on community groups, the church, local history and heritage and generally on village life in both communities.

1.4 This report summarises the findings of these conversations but it should also be noted that it was not possible to consult with some key services or stakeholders in the area due to the current pandemic. A very small selection of sample stakeholder quotes are used throughout the report.

## 2. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

### HOUSING

The Meigle and Ardler area offers a mix of traditional and new housing with some council tenants in both communities and areas of Housing Revenue Account land. Approximately 30 new builds are also progressing on the Ardler Road with sales expected to bring in new residents in the near future.

#### 2.1 Positive features included:

- Potentially up to 30 new families will move into the new builds and bolster local services
- Council tenant needs are considered and factored into future local authority housing budgets
- Regular engagement opportunities are offered to council tenants through coffee mornings and forums
- PKC Tenant participation team broker conversations for council services such as roads, repairs and concerns. They also provide digital inclusion and free Ipads/Chromebooks with internet to those struggling to afford these, as part of the Connecting Scotland Project
- Great opportunity for local clubs to grow with new people moving into the area
- Long term history that residents are happy in Meigle and Ardler and don't move away

#### 2.2 Concerns included:

- New housing on Ardler Road has caused a few problems for nearby residents
- Residents living in new houses or moving into the community in general are not integrating with the villages which means that the true sense of a community feel is lacking
- There is a sewage constraint in Ardler with no further capacity for new builds without major alterations to sewage and drains, however, although not in the local plan, it is thought a strip of land has been retained and identified as a potential future development site. There is a similar limitation on development in Meigle.

### COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

#### 2.3 Positive features included:

- The community provides for people and is friendly and welcoming
- Community clapping together for NHS
- Stakeholders want to develop stronger community relationships in parallel with their core activities
- Anchor organisations have been established as the vehicles for change and to bring everyone who works and lives in the area together
- Some local businesses integrate themselves very well into the community
- Real community efforts for tasks like snow clearing, litter picking
- Great momentum with the new community resource (Smart Village)
- A significant number of people from Meigle and Ardler registered on the Perth & Kinross Volunteer page during Covid-19
- Grewar's donate the Ardler Christmas Tree each year
- Knowing that the community is there to support people when needed

#### 2.4 Concerns included:

- The use of grant funding to people who don't need it
- Perception that people who live in rural, leafy green places such as Meigle are wealthy and can afford to drive to access services and amenities

- The issues of social isolation and loneliness in the community existed before the pandemic and will continue afterwards – what happens to those members of our community when the majority of residents return to normal work routines etc
- The sense of community that existed in the past has deteriorated
- Some areas of food poverty were identified during the pandemic

## 2.5 Proposals and ideas to improve

- Join up some committees as they generally all want the villages to prosper in a similar way
- Host an informal drop in event twice a year for the various local government services to share information, learn more about community needs and understand what would improve quality of life
- Share volunteer opportunities, especially those looking for more young people
- Lots of opportunities are available for volunteers to get involved if groups listen to what residents value; empower individuals to make decisions on behalf of their communities
- Connect those people who can help with those who need help
- A basic level operational resilience plan with the key people in place to build upon and thus the ability to respond to incidents
- Keep plans and projects relevant to the community and their needs to ensure long-term sustainability
- Encourage local people to consider what they can bring to a community for the benefit of the community and to feel confident their ideas will be welcomed
- Practical support for community groups and organisations seeking solutions should be available to help them negotiate challenging situations at any level

### Sample Stakeholder Quotes

*"It is a nice village to live in. As a community we look after our surroundings"*

*"There's more of a connection starting to build with Ardler feeling part of Meigle a bit more than it was before"*

*"Always want to see new housing in an area if it's done well and get good people in"*

*"The community of Meigle and Ardler is warm and welcoming. Through the community council, the parent council and Moose; our families feel well supported"*

*"There's so many committees doing different things and it's always the same people that are on all the committees"*

*"From the school's perspective the new houses getting built is a plus point"*

*"Social isolation is a real thing even although we're in a small village"*

*"It's not always easy to find your way into the community to get to know people"*

*"Everybody in the community has got something to contribute and we have a chance to persuade everyone to contribute"*

### HEADLINES

- ➔ New houses generally viewed as positive with hopes that new people will stimulate growth in activities but with a need to mitigate any concerns that arise
- ➔ Good support available for local authority housing tenants
- ➔ The community offers a lot of support and activity for local people but there is not room for complacency moving forwards

### 3. LOCAL ECONOMY

The Meigle and Ardler area has a good range of businesses in a wide variety of sectors, offering local residents most services they need on a day-to-day basis.

#### 3.1 Positive forces in the local economy were seen as:

- Businesses felt well supported by the local community during the current pandemic
- Some businesses have successfully diversified to generate new work streams during Covid-19
- Business expansion plans continue to develop
- Ability to cater for passing trade
- Aim to employ local people for seasonal jobs
- Extensive business support is available to all local businesses

#### 3.2 Concerns included:

- Some service users are classed as vulnerable and are not able to use services as often due to current restrictions
- Due to job losses, local people are spending less money
- A drastic reduction in local services and amenities over the last 20 years
- Immediate challenge is to survive the Covid-19 pandemic
- Clients are nervous about commissioning projects in the current climate
- Some businesses are still not aware of the business support available to them locally
- Facing up to the impact of Brexit from an agricultural labour perspective
- Lack of capital and funding generally prevents business start-ups
- Ardler has lost its shop/post office, school, church and village hall and the last communal amenity left is the Tavern and one which the community must not lose
- The future of the young people in the community has potentially been damaged as a result of the pandemic and there needs to be a focus on helping them to navigate new pathways and direction
- Broadband and mobile phone coverage should be great for everyone and could encourage more people to live and work in the area

#### 3.3 Stakeholder proposals and ideas for the positive development of the local economy:

- Host events across the area using local businesses including one Annual Event where proceeds (after costs) are donated to a local charity
- Grow and encourage a steady footfall all year round and contribute to the local economy
- Raise awareness and visibility of the various business offerings in a range of formats and platforms
- Evolve services in response to community need
- Develop a fit for purpose infrastructure to support visitors to the area
- Establish a business voice to receive better business support from Perth & Kinross Council and Scottish Government
- More employment opportunities to attract people to live here
- Use the external environment as an opportunity to promote local produce, provenance etc.
- A focus on young people to get involved with enterprise
- Create local work spaces/hubs with high-speed connectivity. Working practices are changing and the area could attract businesses/workers to work from co-working spaces if suitable facilities e.g. Belmont could be secured.
- Improved signage at entrances to Meigle to promote local services to encourage vehicles to slow down and make a stop in the village
- Campaign to demonstrate that areas such as Meigle and Ardler are a viable option to deliver care in rural areas and support start-ups to pursue this
- Be a more prominent place for tourism at a sustainable level

- Support more business to explore how they can diversify/adapt in difficult times
- Creative solutions for people working at home to use other business venues e.g. cafes with high speed broadband that workers can access whilst also connecting with others around them

### Sample Stakeholder Quotes

*“To see Meigle and Ardler develop in term of its local economy, have vibrant businesses based in the area whilst at the same time maintaining the village ‘feel’ of both areas”*

*“Our long-term vision is rebuild of facilities ... in order to meet the needs of future generations of young people and provide year round employment opportunities locally”*

*“Engagement with the farming community is always an issue”*

*“Our Company is based in Meigle and we would be very keen to investigate how the Smart Village portal could assist with our Business development and Business promotion”*

*“We are an asset to the community and the community is an asset to us”*

*“We can’t be complacent about what we think we’ve promoted what we’re doing, we need to keep thinking about the ways we connect”*

*“Little interventions can be so powerful and have such an impact”*

### HEADLINES

- ➔ Local businesses are diversifying and adapting where possible to the current pandemic
- ➔ More of a voice needed for local businesses to harness support at a national level but there is also a need to raise awareness of local support available
- ➔ Digital connectivity needs to keep improving in the area

## 4. EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE

Meigle Primary School provides education to the children of Meigle and Ardler and the surrounding area. The school offers a curriculum which makes the most of the local community and heritage, through outdoor learning and celebrating historical topics, with the aim of ensuring that all the young people in their care reach their full potential and are successful in their learning. The school roll fluctuates around 38 pupils across P1-P7 and pupils typically transition onto Blairgowrie High School but also to outside the local authority area to Webster's High School, Dundee High School or Harris Academy. There has been a private nursery in the past and a local childminder but after retirement, no-one else has offered this service.

### 4.1 Positive features highlighted:

- Visitor Enterprise discussions occurred with full participation and enthusiasm by the young people
- Successful fundraising themes across the year to support school activities
- Proposed community projects to create/develop accessible outdoor spaces will benefit school activities
- Permanent Head Teacher now in post and offers stability
- Active Pupil and Parent Councils
- There is a service (MOOSE – Meigle out of School Experience) that parents run on a rota basis for pre-school care
- After school care has been provided by transporting children from Meigle Primary School up to Alyth but this is dependent on the good will of school staff to keep an eye on children until the minibus arrives

### 4.2 Concerns included:

- Stakeholders felt the small school roll was a big concern, particularly as the school has hosted around 80 pupils in the past
- Typically the school fluctuates between 2/3 classes
- School isn't big enough to have its own gym hall
- Impact on local suppliers if school was to close
- More volunteer parents to support the Parent Council on a regular basis would be beneficial but there are plenty parents who are happy to support one off events/projects
- Sustainability of Moose, especially as parents move on when children transition to secondary school
- Sustaining a young community in Meigle to support a healthy school roll
- Reservations about the level of education that children receive at Blairgowrie High School
- There are no pre/post Childcare or Nursery services in the Meigle and Ardler area
- Typically, there are not enough children in the village to make childcare a viable service
- If the school is closed, the community may also lose one of the vital links for connecting with others and this could have a negative impact on community spirit

### 4.3 Stakeholder proposals and ideas for further positive development:

- Meigle Primary School could be an Enterprising Primary School
- Modernise the general purpose/dining room, install toilets etc so that it can be used as an area to support additional activities and in particular out of school care
- Support local people to develop childcare opportunities as a small business

### Sample Stakeholder Comments

*"Our vision for Meigle and Ardler; would be a community that continues to provide and build on skills for life, learning and work"*

*"It is important for me to be at school and get to know people and to build up skills for life"*

*"We would like to have a lot more community involvement and support the young people in the local areas in relation to outdoor learning"*



*“Hope to see more young people interested in business and enterprise even if they didn’t want to set one up themselves”*

*“Longer term, the focus is on generating a greater interest in coming to the village to attend the school to address the decrease in school roll and class sizes in the last year”*

*“We are very happy and also live here as a family attracted initially by Meigle Primary School”*

*“There was a concern a few years ago the school would be on the P&K hit list for closing”*

*“The area itself was a draw but having a school right on our doorstep and a rural school where children were not going to be in a big class of 30 was certainly a draw”*

## HEADLINES

- School actively engages with the community
- Need to support a healthy school roll and work towards improvements to the school estate
- Lack of childcare is an ongoing issue

## 5. HEALTH, WELLBEING AND CARE SERVICES

Alyth Health Centre and Coupar Angus Medical Centre service the catchment area of Meigle and Ardler and offer a wide range of healthcare services. Blairgowrie Community Hospital is relatively close by with a local patient transport service available for use by Alyth Health Centre patients. The Strathmore Older People's Community Mental Health Team offer support in the area as do various other services. Meigle Country House is a care home situated on the periphery of Meigle and currently offers modern facilities and a range of services to over 20 residents. The Care & Wellbeing CIC supports care and wellbeing practitioners living and working in Perth & Kinross and although there doesn't appear to be member businesses operating in the area, there are many who work relatively close by.

### 5.1 Positive features highlighted:

- Services that were previously inaccessible are now available online and this removes geographic barriers
- Business support is available locally to care and wellbeing professionals
- Social prescribers can support people who are experiencing loneliness, isolation etc to access community groups

### 5.2 Concerns included:

- Lack of understanding about what the care and wellbeing needs are in the Meigle and Ardler area
- Lack of volunteers to deliver support groups in the area
- A lack of face-to-face connection with service users can be a challenge
- Residents can be reluctant to access services to reduce social isolation as they don't want other local people to become aware of their needs

### 5.3 Stakeholder proposals and ideas for improvement:

- Men's Shed for the numerous men in the villages who have lost their wives and experience isolation/loneliness
- A more accessible and affordable service for transporting patients to doctor and hospital appointments
- Identify and support a range of services/small businesses/start-ups from the area so that Meigle and Ardler residents can access services that matter to them

### Sample Stakeholder Quotes

*"For those who are isolated and needing support, how do we find those people?"*

*"There's a fantastic opportunity around wellbeing tourism that we're not capitalising on"*

### HEADLINES

- ➔ Raise awareness of where services are and how to access them
- ➔ Capitalise on Wellbeing Tourism
- ➔ Develop opportunities to reduce social isolation and improve mental health

## 6. COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

There is a reasonable level of community provision that delivers a range of activities in normal times but stakeholder insight suggests a much higher level of opportunities has been available in the past.

### 6.1 Positive features included:

- Stakeholders want to actively support each other to develop
- Parental involvement in creating fun activities for children
- Key people in the area have contributed many voluntary hours to provide a wide range of services for local people
- Kinloch Memorial Hall offers the biggest space across both communities and provides space to numerous groups
- Fundraising and donations have been very successful and regular in the area
- The hall facility in Meigle has improved over the years, much more modern
- Cricket is a key sport for the area and offers a great service to local people and also attracts players from further afield
- Healthy membership of The Tuesday Club with around 25 ladies attending each week
- Several activities are still available but more could be organised
- A Toddler group established just before Covid-19
- Successful Book Club with a core attendance of 8-10 people
- Kinloch Hall has capacity for additional daytime and evening activities
- Good groups for all ages are available close by in Alyth

### 6.2 Concerns included:

- Stakeholders who have lived in the area for many years reported a significant decrease of local opportunities for both children, young people and adults
- Too many rules and regulations for voluntary groups act as a barrier to starting up again or improving governance as is time/enough volunteers
- Minister position is vacant and it can be difficult to secure a supply Minister each week
- Immeasurable impact of Covid-19 on groups (particularly unregulated), facilities and activities
- Some residents live in the area and commute to work, but are not actively involved in village life
- Some evening groups have closed due to worries about walking home in the dark/entering a dark house
- Covid-19 health and safety guidelines make it difficult for some facilities to re-open
- Cannot currently visit the congregation which is a concern for older church members
- Closure of the church – there are more churches than ministers in Scotland
- Families who already live in the area feel they haven't necessarily been captured in terms of planning because they live in houses traditionally occupied by older adults
- Difficult for young people to fill their leisure time if nothing structured is available for them to do
- Unable to raise funds to develop or cover core costs during the pandemic
- No indoor sports facility available so need to use other facilities in Perth & Kinross, Angus or Dundee. So much travel can be an issue
- Unclear how many groups will emerge after the pandemic
- Delivery of regular extra-curricular sports provision can fluctuate due to young volunteers moving on and availability of local sports club volunteers
- Belmont Park is used by the school but is very uneven in places plus there are safety issues crossing the road
- The physical condition of the bowling club pavilion is of particular concern

### 6.3 Suggestions for improvements and new provision included:

- More community-based initiatives to bring people together
- Secure a long-term future for Belmont Castle and grounds for community benefit
- Meigle Bowling Club used as a venue for community activities, events, outdoor gym, PE, sports clubs.
- Future proofing activities for the younger generation, more activities for teenagers to access relevant to their interests e.g. rotating youth club across a few local villages
- Keep fit for over 60's/knitting/sewing groups/social walking
- Explore the connection between the Kinloch Hall and Bowling Club
- More awareness of what is available both in digital and poster/flyer formats
- Lunch club/afternoon tea once or twice a month for older residents
- Small village hall in Ardler. Alternative suggestions focus on a communal green space
- Regular pop-up library
- Ask residents if they would like financial/other support and not assume they need it
- Flexibility on arrangements to hire hall e.g. to only access toilets, drop-in to use various resources
- Work together to maximise the use of each facility in the area
- More structured activity and working in partnership with Live Active Leisure on an outreach basis
- Improved cricket facilities/equipment including working floodlights to remain a focus to ensure the excellent pathway from juniors to seniors is maintained and premier league status sustained
- Virtual after school events organised and families can 'attend' in their own time
- Reinstate the rail lines and create a miniature railway to serve locals and attract visitors

#### Sample Stakeholder Quotes

*"We should pick a day every year to celebrate the history of the village as a community. A town march or a parade would be pretty cool"*

*"Look to work in partnership with local groups to access funding that will benefit local community groups e.g. for summer activities or similar"*

*"I would love it if there were lots more clubs so we have plenty to do as 20 year olds"*

*"Community spirit has fallen by the wayside and people expect the council or government to provide everything"*

*"We got really good summer packs with colouring books during lockdown"*

*"Where you are always going to fall down is people to manage these things"*

*"Try and keep the cricket facilities high, try to keep our level of play high and get the kids in, then hopefully through that, you are relevant because the kids are happy"*

#### HEADLINES

- ➔ Cricket club is vibrant with great participation by boys, girls and men with plans to grow girls and women and a focus on inclusion
- ➔ An indoor sports facility/barn in the area could enhance existing provision and encourage new sports and opportunities to develop. Alternatively, a MUGA would be welcomed as an all-weather facility
- ➔ A sense that the area is more suited to older people than younger people

## 7. ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

### 7.1 Positive features and opportunities identified included:

- Encourage Active Travel by improving local path networks
- More renewable technology used and reduced reliance on carbon technologies
- Good infrastructure for electric vehicles
- Encourage local people to take small step changes to improving the environment
- Improve the core path surface in both communities
- Improve the rail path network to enable full accessibility by all members of the community and visitors, by working in partnership with the neighbouring local authority
- Traffic is predicted to increase by 25% through Meigle as a result of the Cross Tay Link Road – capitalise by improving Village signs to welcome visitors, promote heritage
- Maintain original charm and character of the existing Victorian Pavilion when converting use of the bowling club
- Work with local gardener to upskill local people to maintain paths
- Historical interpretation on the complex of railways in the area
- The remarkable Pictish Stones have a story to tell, are of real academic interest, linked to the development of christianity and have lots of mythical connections
- Remains of stories about local people and places of significance should be recorded/readily available for reference
- Installation of boards about the history and heritage of the area
- The area is a great place for wildlife and nature
- Design a walking map with areas of interest for the community and visitors to use
- Identify funding to purchase rechargeable bikes for farms to loan to farm workers instead of using a farm bus

### 7.2 Challenges and concerns included:

- Small businesses don't always know what they can do in practical terms to support climate change and the green economy
- Planning permission was granted for 32,000 hens at Ardler and although nothing has progressed, it is still a concern for this community and would be a blow to the village if it was revived
- Issues with flooding plains north of Meigle caused by beavers
- Heritage features of interest across the area have degraded and disappeared, even in recent years
- Insufficient recording of accurate records of heritage features
- The huge potential that exists for Belmont is in perpetual limbo
- Historically incorrect information is becoming accepted as the truth in the area
- Historic Environment Scotland is constrained by national policy and unable to support local input
- The Bowling Club Pavilion is a listed building and is at risk if not preserved in the very near future
- Concerns that the last two mile posts in the area will disappear
- Ensure that any projects/work undertaken are of benefit to the eco-system

### Sample Stakeholder Quotes

*"A Community heating facility would be good"*

*"EV points need to be put in by the council and subsidies for electric cars provided by the government"*

*"Everyone can do little things to make a difference"*

*"No real link from crossing the Meigle-Newtyle Road to get down to Meigle unless you walk along the road"*

*"For things that are going to change to be recorded as well as possible before the opportunity to do it goes"*

**HEADLINES**

- Make the most of the area's heritage assets including preservation and accurate record keeping
- Actively encourage visitors to visit both communities
- Support residents and businesses to make small step changes towards being an eco-friendly community including Active Travel

## 8. TRAFFIC, ROADS AND TRANSPORT

### 8.1 Positive features included:

- Good location for onward travel to larger cities for businesses requiring to mobilise quickly across the country and travel to other parts of the world
- Current provision includes a private hire service aimed at supporting people in wheelchairs, people with a disability and elderly people.
- Local bus service that provides a reasonable timetable to/from Meigle
- Stakeholders are keen to support a safer traffic management infrastructure in both villages
- Acceptance that you do have to travel for larger type amenities but the pay off is a quiet village life
- Secondary pupils at Blairgowrie High School can access a bus-pass that enables them to travel home on a later bus if attending after school sport

### 8.2 Concerns included:

- Unable to support various client groups to get to appointments safely or see family members during the current pandemic
- Rail connections cannot realistically support the majority of business purposes
- Bus routes and timetables are not in sync with other transport options
- Proposed Cross Tay Link Road and the impact it will have on the volume of traffic passing through Meigle
- Traffic management at Parkside
- Lack of a bus service in Ardler
- Damage to verges by heavy vehicles in Meigle/Ardler/Washie Brae etc
- Small farm growth to industrial farm status does present significant traffic issues in Ardler

### 8.3 Proposals and ideas for improvement included:

- Explore transport options to provide some kind of bus/minibus service to Ardler
- Perth & Kinross Council and Grewars to discuss formal improvements to widen roads around Ardler for safety purposes and prevent muddy roads, damage etc
- Secondary road to Grewar's farm to alleviate challenges associated with large vehicles

### Sample Stakeholder Quotes

*"We should consider how we minimise the impact of increased traffic volume and the resulting increasing noise and pollution levels upon the village"*

*"A bus/transport link between Meigle via Ardler to meet the Nr 57 bus to Perth in Coupar Angus would reduce Meigle to Perth journey by approx. 40 minutes and could also connect Ardler & Kettins residents to the 57 in Meigle for travel to Dundee and in Coupar Angus for travel to Perth"*

*"I feel like we are pretty well connected"*

### HEADLINES

- ➔ Impact of proposed Cross Tay Link Road a significant consideration
- ➔ Inadequate public transport options particularly for Ardler
- ➔ Unable to deliver services to vulnerable clients due to Covid-19 restrictions

## 9. ICT AND SERVICES

### 9.1 Broadband and Mobile Phone

Digital connectivity has improved significantly over the last 15 years but there is still room for improvement to enhance life generally but also to support the local economy further. This would afford more people the choice to work from home and attract new industries to the area. The mobile phone service can also be an issue and impacts on service delivery for some businesses. Outlying houses are the most digitally challenged and this needs to be addressed.

### 9.2 Smart Village

The Smart Village was viewed as a positive contribution to community life but also as a valuable tool for local businesses to trade effectively with each other and potential clients. It was also considered a great way to encourage new businesses to the area by Stakeholders.

### 9.3 Police

Crime was reported as becoming more prevalent in the Meigle and Ardler area and Stakeholders would like to see a better police presence locally.

#### HEADLINES

- Broadband and mobile phone coverage could be better quality in some areas and the Broadband Voucher Scheme to install a super-fast capable connection could be promoted
- Positive support for the Meigle and Ardler Smart Village
- Improved police presence in the area



## 10. PLANS, STRATEGIES, PRIORITIES AND NETWORKS

Stakeholders were invited to make mention of any local, regional or national plans, strategies, priorities or networks that they align to or could be useful to refer to/be aware of when supporting local groups, organisations, businesses, services or sectors. This list also includes suggestions for the future.

- Subsidised, integrated and coordinated transport plans for vulnerable people who struggle with mobility, so they can access the same essential and leisure services easily available to the rest of the population
- Manufacturing, Engineering and Shipbuilding in the UK has been decimated in the last 30 years or more. Opportunities and support for engineering apprenticeships is required so young people can learn skills and gain a trade to fill the gap by an ageing, skilled workforce. This problem also impacts trades such as Mechanics, Electricians, Plumbers, Joiners and Bricklayers etc
- Housing Act and National Regulator guidance for tenant engagement
- Education Policy in terms of school residentials
- Community Wealth Building is a new people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people
- Scottish Futures Trust looks at the concept of driving forwards inclusive economic growth and secures many social benefits
- Safer Streets
- Eastern Perthshire Schools & Community Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2024
- Engage locally e.g. with Active Schools, local surveys to support the community etc
- Align with national governing bodies
- Engaging with and contributing to the local review of Health & Social Care
- Work with Health Improvement Scotland around best practice
- Care Agenda is a significant priority as is the recruitment of new carers
- **sportscotland** priorities including families, additional support needs, SIMD etc

## 11. SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<p><b>Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good support mechanisms for PKC Tenants</li> <li>• New builds in Meigle bring growth potential</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendly and welcoming communities</li> <li>• Formal support groups are emerging</li> <li>• Community effort in times of need</li> <li>• Resources/projects to benefit the community are in development</li> </ul> <p><b>Local Economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Businesses well supported by community during pandemic</li> <li>• Some businesses successfully diversified in response to the pandemic</li> <li>• Many businesses are actively trading across the whole area</li> <li>• Local business support is available</li> <li>• Attractive area and heritage for visitors</li> </ul> <p><b>Education and Childcare</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School has a very good reputation and is cited as a reason why people locate to the area</li> <li>• Good support locally for fundraising initiatives</li> <li>• Local plans for regenerating the Bowling Club would enhance the school estate</li> <li>• Permanent Head Teacher</li> <li>• Active Parent Council and Pupil Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Health and Care Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing resources are accessible close by – doctor surgeries, dental practices, cottage hospital, care home</li> <li>• Business support is available locally for care and wellbeing professionals</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Organisations, Facilities and Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant contribution of voluntary hours over the years</li> <li>• Hall space with capacity is available</li> <li>• Cricket is a great focus in the area</li> <li>• Tuesday Club has a strong attendance</li> <li>• New clubs are developing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PKC housing tenants tend to be long-term so low turnaround</li> <li>• New builds have created road/traffic issues</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of consultation on use of funding</li> <li>• Perception of support needs</li> <li>• Pockets of social isolation/loneliness</li> <li>• Groups working in their own silos</li> <li>• Resilience plan/equipment requires funding/further development</li> </ul> <p><b>Local Economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about businesses etc not always available in various formats</li> <li>• Businesses not aware of support available</li> <li>• Lack of signage and amenities for visitors</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge about funding streams for start-ups</li> <li>• Pockets of food poverty in the area</li> <li>• Lack of services in Ardler</li> <li>• Broadband/mobile phone coverage is weak in some places</li> </ul> <p><b>Education and Childcare</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School roll call fluctuates regularly</li> <li>• After school care provision is available by transport to Alyth but is dependent on Meigle Primary School staff being on site for a period of time</li> <li>• Limited facilities for after school activities, PE etc</li> <li>• Lack of general childcare provision to support working parents</li> <li>• Volunteers unable to commit to more regular activity to support Parent Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Health and Care Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult for local services to access the area frequently</li> <li>• If referred into a service, people tend to only want the information and don't follow through</li> <li>• Patient Transport Service available but it is expensive</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Organisations, Facilities and Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some residents don't integrate with community opportunities</li> <li>• Lack of an indoor/all-weather sports facility</li> </ul>

<p><b>Environment and Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent heritage features across the area</li> <li>• Great place for wildlife and nature</li> </ul> <p><b>Traffic, Roads and Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good location for onward travel and accessing the countryside</li> <li>• Good transport provision for people who have additional support requirements</li> <li>• A common goal to achieve a safe traffic management approach</li> <li>• Transport barriers removed for secondary pupils attending ex-curricular sport opportunities</li> </ul> <p><b>ICT and Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadband and mobile phone coverage is sufficient for most needs</li> <li>• A Smart Village for Meigle and Ardler is already considered an invaluable resource</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After school sport is entirely dependent on volunteer availability so isn't always regular</li> </ul> <p><b>Environment and Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient amenities and things to do for visitors</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge to support climate change and the green economy</li> <li>• Insufficient recording of heritage features</li> <li>• Future of Belmont Estate is always uncertain</li> </ul> <p><b>Traffic, Roads and Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ardler lacks a public transport service</li> <li>• Lack of formal arrangements regarding some movement of farm related and heavy vehicles</li> <li>• Rail links, public transport timetables etc are not supportive of rural life/business</li> </ul> <p><b>ICT and Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some outlying houses have connectivity issues</li> <li>• Crime is reported to be on the rise</li> </ul>
<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p>
<p><b>Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help new residents to integrate into communities</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanisms for community feedback</li> <li>• Creative and inclusive solutions for all members of the community</li> <li>• Networking of formal groups to highlight current projects/develop collaborations</li> <li>• Develop a programme to recruit, retain and reward volunteers</li> <li>• Create and promote a robust, effective resilience plan and response</li> </ul> <p><b>Local Economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the Smart Village and newsletter to promote general information</li> <li>• Create maps/boards of walks, points of interest etc across both areas</li> <li>• Establish a local business association</li> <li>• Create working spaces/intelligent solutions for small businesses</li> <li>• Improve the life chances of young people locally with practical support to develop</li> <li>• Discreet services for local people who require extra support</li> <li>• Organise mobile services e.g. butcher etc</li> <li>• Attract new business/industry to the area with high speed connectivity</li> </ul>	<p><b>Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity for housing growth is constrained in both areas (sewage, drains)</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of volunteers to deliver new opportunities</li> </ul> <p><b>Local Economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local people go elsewhere to purchase goods and services</li> <li>• Potential visitors drive past and don't stop to enjoy local attractions and amenities</li> <li>• Lack of care and wellbeing services</li> <li>• Vulnerable people unable to access normal services during the pandemic</li> <li>• Local people spending less money</li> <li>• Impact of Brexit</li> <li>• Connectivity issues are a risk for new and existing businesses</li> </ul> <p><b>Education and Childcare</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If school closes, it could fragment the demographics of the villages</li> <li>• Impact on local suppliers if school closes/roll call continues to decrease</li> </ul> <p><b>Health and Care Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reluctance by some local people to engage with services due to pride</li> <li>• Unaware of what the care and wellbeing needs are in the area</li> </ul>

<p><b>Education and Childcare</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a local infrastructure that is appealing to young families</li> <li>• To be an Enterprising Primary School</li> <li>• Improvements to the school estate</li> </ul> <p><b>Health and Care Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a local Men's Shed and other support groups as demanded</li> <li>• Many services now accessible online removing geographic barriers</li> <li>• Capitalise on Wellbeing Tourism</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Organisations, Facilities and Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the Community Action Plan to identify and deliver activities residents want to take part in</li> <li>• Continue with plans to develop some facilities and green spaces</li> <li>• Consider a community buyout of Belmont Estate etc</li> <li>• Use various platforms to promote what is available</li> <li>• Work with other organisations e.g. Belmont and Live Active Leisure to develop outreach activities</li> <li>• Virtual events/activities</li> </ul> <p><b>Environment and Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capitalise on visitor traffic with signage to attract them into the community</li> <li>• Use local people to upskill others e.g. gardening</li> <li>• Signs/information boards on cycling routes, paths, attractions for visitors</li> <li>• Use the Smart Village to showcase what the area has to offer</li> <li>• Encourage Active Travel</li> <li>• Infrastructure for electric bikes and electric vehicles</li> <li>• Actively support projects that are of benefit to the eco-system</li> </ul> <p><b>Traffic, Roads and Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolve local roads/traffic issues at a community level</li> <li>• Build evidence for a public transport service in Ardler</li> </ul> <p><b>ICT and Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pockets of areas to work together and install super-fast connection services</li> <li>• Continue to promote the Smart Village as a local tool for development</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community Organisations, Facilities and Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local people visit other towns e.g. Alyth to access facilities and activities</li> <li>• Rules and regulations in general are a burden to delivering clubs and groups, particularly regulations around Covid-19</li> <li>• Minister position is vacant and it is difficult to secure supply ministers</li> <li>• Older people are reluctant to come out on dark evenings to attend activities</li> <li>• Very little for young people to do</li> <li>• Travel to other areas to participate in activities is prohibitive for some families</li> <li>• If new facilities are developed, could be to the detriment of existing facilities</li> </ul> <p><b>Environment and Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some paths are at risk of becoming overgrown, surfaces deteriorating</li> <li>• Local stories of significant interest will become lost and diluted</li> <li>• Chicken factory if progressed</li> <li>• The Bowling Club pavilion deteriorating to a state beyond repair</li> <li>• Only two mile posts left in the area</li> </ul> <p><b>Traffic, Roads and Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of access to transport impacts on vulnerable people during the pandemic</li> <li>• Cross Tay Link Road and the projected increase of traffic through Meigle</li> </ul> <p><b>ICT and Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New businesses and those now working at home may move out of or may not move into the area due to unsatisfactory broadband/mobile phone cover</li> <li>• Lack of police presence offers a perceived opportunity for crime to increase</li> </ul>
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## 12. VISION FOR THE FUTURE

### Sustainable Tourist Destination

- Good infrastructure that appreciates and supports visitors
- Make more of the area's attributes to encourage tourists from near and far to visit
- Preserve accurate records of Meigle and Ardler's heritage features

### A Great Place to Live

- Local authority tenants have a voice and Estate Based initiatives are delivering neighbourhood improvements on HRA Land
- New faces, new people and new houses are embraced by the community
- Sustainable growth in population and subsequent positive impact on local amenities/services

### Flourishing & Friendly Community

- More community-based initiatives to bring people together including a central hub where people feel welcomed
- Secure the future of and protect community assets
- Support everyone living in the Meigle and Ardler area with a wide range of learning, recreational and decision-making opportunities

### A Well Connected and Greener Community

- Active Travel options to safely move around and explore the community and beyond
- Good public transport links across both villages
- Individuals to make eco-friendly changes in behaviour, and community support to improve recycling facilities and use of renewable energy

### Vibrant Local Economy

- Improved digital connectivity and access to co-working space to support new ways of working
- Vibrant businesses that remain fresh, relevant and thrive all year round
- Attractive employment opportunities with support networks available for businesses at all stages to grow and develop

## 13. THEMES AND PRIORITIES

### Theme 1 Housing & Community Environment

#### Priorities

- Support traffic management measures to mitigate new builds in Meigle
- Welcome and encourage new people to integrate with community life
- Improve processes when distributing funds or support to community members
- Continue to deliver initiatives to reduce social isolation and loneliness
- Solutions to address food poverty

### Theme 2 Local Economy & Services

#### Priorities

- Make more of the environmental assets and heritage features to attract tourists
- Focus on young people and offer them opportunities to learn new skills
- Create flexible work spaces, creative solutions and high-speed connectivity for home workers and businesses
- Support start-ups in the health, wellbeing and care sector
- Offer a range of business support mechanisms to help them recover and thrive
- Promote the Smart Village as a community resource for individuals, groups and businesses

### Theme 3 Education and Childcare

#### Priorities

- Develop out of school childcare provision
- Modernise the school estate to support out of school activities
- Support from the community for the school to be an Enterprising School
- Sustainable school roll call

### Theme 4 Health, Wellbeing and Care Services

#### Priorities

- Develop affordable patient transport options
- Develop the concept of a Men's Shed
- Support the development of home care services for local people
- Explore and develop the notion of Wellbeing Tourism

### Theme 5 Community Organisations, Facilities and Activities

#### Priorities

- Develop new daytime, evening and weekend opportunities for all ages
- Support voluntary groups to navigate a pathway out of lockdown
- Funding for outdoor, all-weather sports facilities
- Secure and develop community assets

### Theme 6 Environment and Heritage

#### Priorities

- Help businesses to understand practical ways to support climate change/green economy
- Preserve buildings of historical interest
- Protect remaining heritage features and ensure formal, accurate recording of all attributes
- Make more of and develop the paths network, including maps and art installations

### Theme 7 Traffic, Roads and Transport

#### Priorities

- Focus on developing a local solution for transport to/from Ardler
- Conversations between local residents, local authority and farmers to improve road conditions/difficulties caused by large vehicles
- Support changes to the public transport timetable and routes
- Traffic management measures to mitigate volume and speed of traffic on main trunk route through Meigle