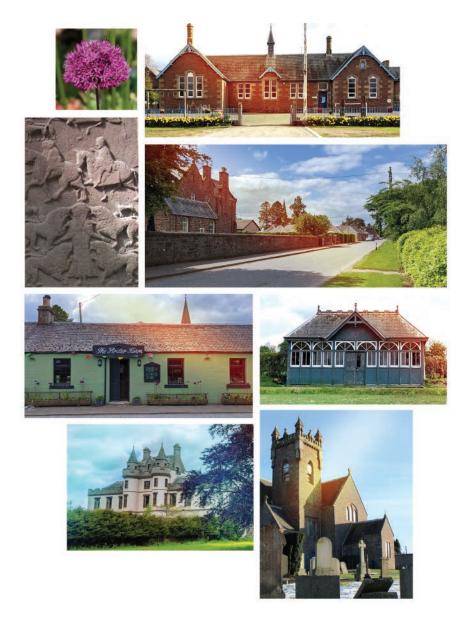
MEGLE ARDER



COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2021-2026

MEIGLE AND ARDLER COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN STEERING GROUP

MEIGLE & ARDLER COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

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DID YOU KNOW?

We have two lead community organisations working for the interests of the whole area – their roles are different but complementary.

Meigle and Ardler Community Council

The purpose of the Community Council is to listen and act accordingly, representing the residents of the area. The Community Council can also act as a consultation group working with the Council and outside agencies.

Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust

Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust has been formed to benefit those who work and live in the Meigle and Ardler area. The guiding principles of the Trust focus on promoting Resilience, Innovation and Sustainability across the local area.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN A PANDEMIC

Meigle and Ardler carried out this work in the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic – rising to the challenge of how we involved the community in preparing our Community Action Plan. We were delighted that so many people and organisations were able to take part in these trying times. A testimony to our community spirit.

Thank you

INTRODUCTION

This Community Action Plan summarises community views about:

- the Meigle and Ardler area now
- the vision for the future of the area
- the issues that matter most to the community
- our priorities for projects and action

The plan will be our guide for what we - as a community - try to make happen over the next 5 years.

WORKING TOGETHER

The preparation of the plan has been organised by the Meigle and Ardler Community Action Plan Steering Group and included representatives from Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, Meigle and Ardler Community Council, Perth & Kinross Council, GrowBiz and local residents.

The community engagement work has been carried out by Caroline Ness in her role as the Community Development Worker for the Development Trust. Technical advice and support were provided by the STAR Development Group.

The work was funded by the Community Recovery Fund, Rural Perth and Kinross LEADER and Perth & Kinross Council.

This plan will help us to develop priority projects in line with the community's needs and aspirations. The plan will also enable the community to work in partnership with other agencies and service providers.

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

The Action Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement carried out over a five-month period from November 2020 – March 2021.

The process involved:

• **stakeholder interviews and online questionnaires** with community organisations, the primary school, service providers and local businesses

- carrying out a **community views survey** of approximately 300 households
- organising an online **Community Futures Week**

86 COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY FORMS WERE RETURNED OR COMPLETED ONLINE SENIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS PARTICIPATED IN A FOCUS GROUP
23 STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS OR ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRES WERE COMPLETED
74 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED DURING THE ONLINE COMMUNITY FUTURES WEEK

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART

OUR COMMUNITY NOW

For more information about the community visit the Smart Village website https://www.meigleardler.smartvillage.scot/

MEIGLE AND ARDLER - COMMUNITY PROFILE

Location

The Meigle and Ardler Community Council area is shown in the map below and it includes the villages of Meigle and Ardler and the surrounding rural area.



Population and Housing

The Community Council area has 444 houses recorded within its boundaries – 206 in Meigle, 79 in Ardler with the remaining 159 properties lying outwith the villages. There is planning consent for thirty-three new houses at Glenluie Green, Ardler Road in Meigle with 14 built at April 2021 and the village is likely to grow further in the future with a site identified on Forfar Road in the Local Development Plan.

Local Economy

Farming still makes a significant contribution to the local economy and a wide range of trades, businesses and services also play a valuable role in the area. There is one convenience store (including post office services), a gift shop, a pub and two coffee shops in Meigle. There is one pub in Ardler.

Schools and Education

Meigle Primary School provides education for around 36 children P1-P7.



Health and Care

Nearest health and care services are:

- Health Centres in Alyth and Coupar Angus
- Hospitals in Perth, Dundee and the Community Hospital in Blairgowrie
- Pharmacies in Blairgowrie, Alyth and Coupar Angus
- Alyth & District Patient Transport Service (for patients of the Alyth Health Centre)
- Defibrillators at the Spar Meigle and at The Ardler Tavern
- Dental services in Blairgowrie and Alyth
- Meigle Country House Care Home

Community and Recreational

Community Facilities

- Kinloch Memorial Hall (Meigle)
- Church Hall (Meigle)
- Meigle Bowling Club

Open Spaces

- Victory Park Recreation Ground (Meigle)
- Community Garden (Meigle)
- Belmont Park (Meigle)
- Play Park (Ardler)
- Community Greenspace (Ardler)

Churches

Ardler, Kettins & Meigle Parish Churches

Community Groups

- Meigle and Ardler Community Council
- Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust
- Strathmore and the Glens
- Meigle Community Trust
- Pride in Meigle 2015
- Meigle Toddler Group
- Meigle Community Education Group (Tuesday Club)
- Meigle Primary School Parent Council
- Meigle and District History Society

Sports, Arts, Music, Drama Groups and Activities

- Meigle Cricket Club
- Meigle Musicality
- Taoist Tai Chi Society of GB
- Meigle Taekwondo Club
- Pilates
- Masonic Lodge
- Ardler Book Club
- SOEC Belmont
- Active Schools Blairgowrie

Environment

Strathmore is known for its intensive arable farming and soft fruit growing. The beautiful countryside is great for cycling and walking, with many quiet roads and paths.

Our environmental assets include:

- Community Garden, Meigle
- Old Maggie, Belmont Estate
- Ardler-Newtyle Railway Path
- Belmont Woodlands and Estate
- Cateran Ecomuseum

Heritage

The ancient, historic and picturesque village of Meigle lies in the Vale of Strathmore on the Eastern edge of Perthshire and is claimed to be one of the oldest villages in Scotland. Meigle was an important Pictish settlement with pre-Christian roots and the Meigle Sculptured Stone Museum houses one of the most important collections of early medieval sculpture in Western Europe.

Ardler, a small village surrounded by farmed land, is located between Meigle and the market town of Coupar Angus. Ardler was a 19th Century planned village linked to the arrival of the railway and was originally named Washington then renamed Ardler in 1880.

5

Heritage assets include:

- Meigle Sculptured Stone Museum
- Vanora's Mound and Tomb
- Arthurstone House
- Belmont Castle and MacBeth's Stone
- Meigle War Memorial Arch
- Ardler War Memorial
- Meigle Bowling Club Pavilion

OUR COMMUNITY NOW

COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY (LIKES AND DISLIKES)

Results from the 86 responses received with some illustrative comments

Like	% of Responses	
Nature of the place	67%	
Environment and Open Spaces	49%	
Community Spirit and Friendliness	48%	
Location	36%	
Services and Transport	35%	
Community facilities, activities and even	nts 14%	

% of Responses

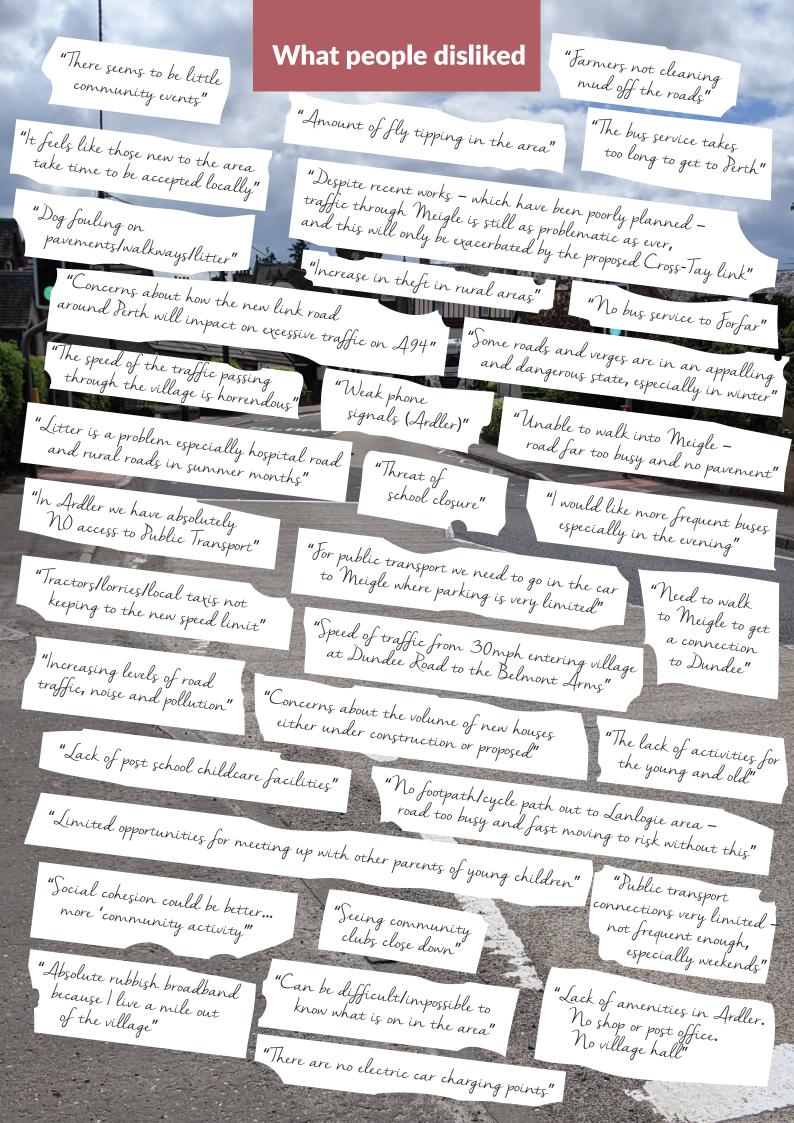
40%

Dislike Roads, Traffic and Parking

Nature of the place	30%
Environment and Village Appearance	24%
Transport	22%
Amenities and Services	14%
Community Facilities and Activities	8%



"The local fairs and What people liked "Safe, low crime" fetes (when they return)" Charles Street "Excellent GP practices and access "You can step out your door and be a short walk to the to Ninewells and PR!" peace and tranquility of nature" 'Amazing range of landscape types within easy access" "Plenty of walks all around as well as Victory Park which is always kept in good nick" "The garden in the centre of Meigle" ALL RAD "Friendly community of mixed age groups of families, young and older" "Cultural attractions" "Lots of walks, the railway walks" "Quiet roads round about for walking/running/cycling" "Good local shop and cafes/restaurants" "The play parks and fields, the Belmont Centre for walks, red squirrels and birds" "Top cricket "Close to major traffic routes and well placed team!" for reaching other parts of Scotland" "Central location for Dundee, Perth and Angus" It is a quiet little village not built up (yet). "The Covid response was exceptional where the community pulled together Has character." and ensured that everyone was supported and safe that was a moment to be proud to live in our local area" "The Tavern being a central hub!" "Excellent primary school" "Lovely social amenities - church, village hall" "The recycling point and kerbside recycling collection and compost collection" "Fantastic sense of community e.g. village garden, work at bowling green, Xmas lights etc" "It's not far to the mountains and glens, the sea, cities etc" "| like the fact it's a friendly, small, close community, where most people look out for each other" "The bus service is very good if you time them" "We like having a local shop and "Excellent amenities for such post office within walking distance" a relatively small community"



MEIGLE AND ARDLER OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

This statement has been prepared using local resident and organisation answers to the question...

What would you wish the area to be like in 20 years' time?

A good place to live and a lively, strong, resilient community

"A strong, cohesive community that thrives on togetherness"

"A greater sense of community and shared ownership"

"A place that strives to look after all of its residents"

"A thriving community where people are encouraged to take an interest in their community and each other"

An attractive small, green and sustainable community

"Just the same, quaint small villages"

"Not over developed! Village life is the charm to Meigle and Ardler"

"Meigle/Ardler to be progressive villages in terms of environmental sustainability"

"To be a leader in carbon reduction and 'green' expertise"

"Retain unique character, history and identity whilst controlling housing developments to fit in with existing character"

A good place to visit and enjoy the beautiful environment and fascinating heritage

"A paradise for walkers and cyclists" "There will be a thriving tourism hub across both villages" "More tourism/heritage opportunities developed"

Well connected, with good services, local jobs and businesses

"A mixed economy of sustainable small businesses, services, light tourism" "Improved digital connectivity" "Belmont Estate secured for community with business opportunities and spaces"

"Better bus service would encourage people to live here as would facilities"

"Sustainable school roll"





MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

THEME 1: Community Organisations, Facilities, Activities and Events

There was some uncertainty about re-starting groups or activities following lockdown due to the Covid pandemic – and a need for support to assist with this opening up again.

Lots of suggestions were made about facilities and activities that people felt would improve their experience, their social connections and encourage children in particular to be physically active.

Local people were eager for community events to happen and look forward to meeting old and new friends.

There was seen to be a need to upgrade the Kinloch Memorial Hall to help cater for the needs of existing and potential new users and to make it a great place for activities and events that brought the communities together.

Recent activity at the Bowling Club by local volunteers appears to have stimulated a lot of interest from local people, who now, seeing it return to some of its former glory, are keen for something positive to happen with it.

Main priorities

- Support community organisations to restart groups and activities
- Improve outdoor recreation facilities park, play park
- More activities, especially for young people and for other age groups as well
- More community events to bring everyone living in the area together
- Modernise and improve the Kinloch Memorial Hall
- Develop the grounds of Meigle Bowling Club for community benefit
- Regular communications

THEME 2: Local Economy

<u>People identified the opportunity to create more local jobs and enterprises with more people wanting to work</u> Wind to be a set work remotely and from home.



The also be an opportunity to make more of the area's environmental and heritage assets to stors an exact ase the tourism and hospitality sector. This could be done at a local level and also by ider area initiatives like the Cateran Trail and Cateran Ecomuseum.

> hought to be value in exploring the community's role in developing Belmont Castle and munity and recreational use. The Estate is currently owned by the Belmont Estate Dundee City Council Charitable Trusts. The Belmont Estate is also home (on a C Belmont, one of three Scottish Outdoor Education Centres situated across Scotland.

nt Estate/Castle for community benefit shops and hospitality sector on/signage to local amenities, visitor attractions, walks e businesses to the area/provide more business support

THEME 3: Environment and Heritage

Meigle and Ardler's location in the 'Vale of Strathmore' makes it an ideal base for exploring the Sidlaw and Southern Grampian Hills as well as the local walks in the valley. It was felt that more could be done to promote this aspect of the area, and to develop and make more of our local paths network for walking and cycling. It was felt that this should also include improving pedestrian and cycle links between Meigle and Ardler – and the opportunity to build connections through Belmont Estate Woods.

The fascinating and contrasting histories of Meigle and Ardler – one the oldest villages in Scotland and ancient power centre of the Picts, and the other a relatively new (19th Century) planned village – are also worthy of a wider audience. Not surprisingly, people felt there was more that could be done to promote this local heritage and develop its contribution to the local sense of place and economy.

Main priorities:

- Develop and improve paths and cycle networks
- Village enhancement and reduction of litter/flytipping
- Make more of local heritage
- Develop the community greenspace in Ardler
- Lower carbon footprint

THEME 4: Roads, Traffic and Parking

There is a need to do more to repair minor verges due to damage caused by heavy vehicles and to increase the number of passing places. Further safety measures were still needed on the A94 and more pavements in and between communities would not only improve safety but help to connect communities and enable people to walk or cycle more. There was thought to be a need to improve parking in Meigle including having electric vehicle charging points.

Main priorities

- Improve roads, verges and pavements
- Traffic calming and safety measures
- Improve parking (Including electric vehicle charge points)

THEME 5: Access to Services

Generally, local people were satisfied with the services they have access to but the pandemic has emphasised the need for improved connectivity, particularly with the increase in home-working. Many people also highlighted that super-fast connectivity would support the vision to attract new businesses to the area. The school and its future came through as a genuine concern and local people would like more young families to live in the area to protect its viability. It was also felt the school facility could offer so much more in terms of opportunities for the community if the general purpose room could be developed.

An ageing population in Ardler and the lack of any bus service in the village was felt to disadvantage a lot of residents and decrease social mobility, whilst some improvements to the Meigle service could support busy lifestyles.

Public toilet provision was mentioned when describing improvements to attract visitors.

Main priorities

- Improve broadband/mobile phone signal
- Retain and develop the school/develop childcare
- Improve public transport
- Improve access to public toilets

ACTION

A guide to the first steps to be taken and which organisations might be involved

THEME 1: COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES, EVENTS

PRIORITIES	NEXT STEPS
Support community organisa- tions and activities to start up again after 'lockdown'	 Provide practical support, guidance and advice to help groups update their governance, regulations etc and develop a route to recovery
Action by	Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, Perth & Kinross Council, GrowBiz, local businesses
Improve outdoor recreation and sport facilities – park, play park	 Explore the feasibility of building a wet-weather sports facility Additional play park equipment including outdoor gym equipment in Victory Park, Meigle A wider and sustainable range of play park equipment in Ardler
Action by	Eastern Perthshire Community Sports Hub, sport scotland, Meigle Cricket Club, Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, Perth & Kinross Council
More activities, especially for young people but other age groups as well	 Develop activities suitable for all age groups Community Volunteer Recruitment campaign to be able to deliver community activities Identify other organisations/partners we can work with to enhance provision Apply for funding to support volunteer training and development
Action by	Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, Active Schools Blairgowrie, Perth & Kinross Council, Strathmore Centre for Youth Development
More community events to bring everyone living in the area together	 Calendar of year-round events planned utilising facilities and greens-paces in both communities Launch an events calendar on the Smart Village website Pro-active engagement with new residents to encourage participation Explore opportunities to involve local businesses in organising and sponsoring events
Action by	Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, Meigle and Ardler Community Council
Modernise and improve Kinloch Memorial Hall	 Support the hall committee to develop a long-term action plan of improvements and funding requirements to maximise capacity e.g. internal re-design, external access to toilets/community library, high speed broadband Short term action plan to improve customer experience e.g. heating turned on in advance, USB charging points, equipment available to hire
Action by	Kinloch Memorial Hall Committee, Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust

PRIORITIES	NEXT STEPS
Develop the grounds of Meigle Bowling Club for community benefit	 Present options to the community for use of the grounds If appropriate, commission a feasibility study to progress the favoured option Identify relevant funding streams to re-develop the site
Action by	Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust
Regular communications	 Continue to facilitate sign-up to the Meigle and Ardler Digital News-letter and encourage community contribution Keep the Smart Village relevant and up-to-date Improved notice-board provision at the Spar Encourage public services to set up a stall at community events and share up-to-date information
Action by	Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, Meigle and Ardler Community Council, Digital Champion(s), contributions from other groups



THEME 2: LOCAL ECONOMY

PRIORITIES	NEXT STEPS
Develop Belmont Estate/Cas- tle for community benefit	 Initial conversations with Dundee City Council to explore potential options to secure community access on a long-term basis Investigate Community Asset Transfer Scheme Commission a feasibility study to look at the best options for development Make representation on the future use of the estate/parts of the estate
Action by	Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, Dundee City Council, Perth & Kinross Council, Development Trusts Association Scotland
Develop local shops and hospitality sector	 Create incentives in partnership with local businesses to shop local Regular markets to promote local produce, arts and crafts Promote local hospitality premises and sector providers as venues for events
Action by	Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, local businesses, local farms, local creatives, GrowBiz
More information/signage to local amenities, visitor attractions, walks	• Develop a package of measures to encourage passers-by to stop and visit the area e.g. improved/additional signage, art installation boards, map of local walks
Action by	Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust, Visit Scotland, Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, Perth & Kinross Council, Pride in Meigle 2015
Encourage more businesses to the area/provide more busi- ness support	 Explore the potential to develop business units/IT facilities/co-working spaces for existing/new businesses Encourage all business types to register on the Meigle and Ardler Smart Village website Identify business support needs and organise appropriate training, advice and networking opportunities Establish a Community Business Association
Action by	GrowBiz, Care & Wellbeing CIC, local businesses, Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, Meigle and Ardler Community Council, Perth & Kinross Council



THEME 3: ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

PRIORITIES	NEXT STEPS
Develop and improve paths and cycle networks	 Establish new/upgrade existing walking/cycling routes accessible for all Connect paths within the Meigle and Ardler area where possible to Belmont Woods and other existing networks e.g. Alyth Promote path networks in partnership with other stakeholders
Action by	Strathmore Cycle Network, Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust, Perth & Kinross Council, Meigle and Ardler Community Council, Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, landowners
Village enhancement and reduction of litter/flytipping	 Flower planting across the area including wild flowers on verges Signs to stop littering, additional bins, regular litter picks Links/details on Smart Village on how to report flytipping Identify sponsorship opportunities to support this work
Action by	Meigle and Ardler Community Council, Perth & Kinross Council, Pride in Meigle 2015, local residents and volunteers, Meigle and Ardler Commu- nity Development Trust
Make more of our local heritage	 Develop a local heritage trail and a geocaching trail to promote the area further afield Invite local people to share photographs, stories, facts of interest etc on the Smart Village Encourage regional/national stakeholders to promote the Smart Village and what the area has to offer Formal record keeping process to protect local stories of interest etc. Preservation of Meigle Bowling Club Pavilion
Action by	Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, Cateran Ecomuseum, Meigle and Ardler Community Council, Scottish National Heritage, Visit Scotland, Meigle and District History Society
Develop the community greenspace in Ardler	 Clarify agreed use of the space with Ardler residents Develop and agree proposals to progress the use of the greenspace for community benefit Seek and apply for additional funding if required
Action by	Ardler Village Hall Group, Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, local residents
Lower carbon footprint	 Regular Digital Newsletter articles with example small step changes that can be made in the home Peer learning sessions for businesses to support a green economy All new community projects to offer benefits/consider impact to the eco-system
Action by	Perth & Kinross Council, Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, Meigle and Ardler Community Council, local businesses, residents, community groups and volunteers

THEME 4: ROADS, TRAFFIC AND PARKING

PRIORITIES	NEXT STEPS
Improve roads, verges and pavements	 Investigate feasible options to improve local access to East Ardler Farm and agencies who can progress Passing places created in narrow sections of road between (a) Meigle and Ardler and (b) A94 and Ardler Local discussions with farmers to agree a strategy for clearing exces- sive mud Develop a programme of action to repair damaged verges Review options with relevant agencies to develop footpath/pavement provision (a) between Meigle and Ardler and (b) Meigle to Langlogie
Action by	Meigle and Ardler Community Council, Perth & Kinross Council, land- owners
Traffic calming and safety measures	 Enforceable one-way system to/from A94 to East Ardler Farm Campaign to install appropriate traffic calming measures on A94 through Meigle to reduce speed/control traffic flow Request improved and regular police presence at key times and locations in Meigle and Ardler
Action by	Meigle and Ardler Community Council, Perth & Kinross Council, Police Scotland, landowners, Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust
Improve parking (Including electric vehicle charge points)	 Signage and delineated areas for parking in the centre of Meigle Explore development of a small formal car parking area using the section of land in front of Meigle Bowling Club Establish a parking area specifically for visiting coaches Consider 3 x car charging options (rapid, fast, slow) to accommodate local residents and visitors and install in Meigle and Ardler
Action by	Meigle and Ardler Community Council, Perth & Kinross Council, Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust



THEME 5: ACCESS TO SERVICES

PRIORITIES	NEXT STEPS
Improve broadband/mobile phone signal	 Identify problem hotspots and discuss solutions with providers Investigate Broadband Voucher Scheme to install super-fast connection capability
Action by	Perth & Kinross Council, utility providers
Retain and develop the school/develop childcare	 Strategies to attract young families to live in the community Upgrade school general purpose room to be fit for purpose to accommodate ex-curricular activities including childcare Develop additional childcare provision as a small local business opportunity
Action by	Meigle Primary School, Meigle Primary School Parent Council, GrowBiz
Improve public transport	 Collect evidence to campaign for public transport provision in Ardler Research options for community transport for Ardler Liaise with Stagecoach to review and improve the existing timetable for Meigle e.g. alternative and shorter route options
Action by	Meigle and Ardler Community Council, Perth & Kinross Council, Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust
Improve access to public toilets	 Perth & Kinross Council mobile toilets for community events Encourage local businesses to become a Perth & Kinross Council Comfort Scheme Partner Explore practicalities of re-opening the toilets in Belmont Park
Action by	Local businesses, Meigle and Ardler Community Council, Perth & Kinross Council
Post Box, Ardler	 Contact Royal Mail to discuss solutions for alternative provision
Action by	Meigle and Ardler Community Council, Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust



MAKING IT HAPPEN

The priorities in this action plan will be taken forward by our local community groups working with a range of public, private and voluntary sector partners. We will also need to grow our capacity, volunteering and resources as a community to help deliver some of the important projects in this Action Plan.

Meigle and Ardler Community Action Plan Steering Group

The Steering Group of local organisations that came together to prepare this Plan will continue to meet 2-3 times a year to share information on how priorities are being progressed and to maintain a shared ownership of the Plan.

If you would like to join the Steering Group, help take action in developing any of the priorities, or just find out further information please email the Secretary, Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust at macdt.secretary@gmail.com

Keeping the Action Plan Up to Date

We will organise a Community Action Plan Annual Review meeting once a year to report back to the Community on how the plan is progressing and to see what progress is being made.



COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2021 - 2026

This Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of the Meigle and Ardler area over the next 5 years as determined by the community through an extensive process of community engagement carried out over a five-month period from November 2020 - March 2021



The Plan contains

A summary profile of the community now Our main likes and dislikes as identified in our Community Views Survey Our Vision Statement for the future of the Meigle and Ardler area The main themes and priorities for action Information on how you can stay in touch and get involved

The 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 next 5 years.

This Community Action Plan and all community engagement documents are available online

https://www.meigleardler.smartvillage.scot/cap

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Rural Perth & Kinross LEADER and Perth and Kinross Council for funding the Community Action Plan (CAP) programme.

STAR Development Group provided specialist Community Action Plan training, mentoring and support.







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Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust's Community Development Worker helped to carry out all the community engagement work. The Community Development Worker was funded by the Community Recovery Fund with the support of GrowBiz.



