

Distinct Character **Section 6**

The Cross & Surrounding Spaces

Community led programme of short term events held around the Cross

Audit current organisations: where they meet and what their aspirations are

Feasibility study for outdoor and indoor public space for community events and activities (see also [Central community hub](#))

Community to apply for funding and create a sustainable business case for the proposal

Develop series of cultural events, for example:
Sculpture trails
Annual Guide Dog Event
Air Guitar Festival!
Car festival

Connect The Meffan Museum and Art Gallery to community activity around The Cross.

Conduct a review of the collection and create an active arts and heritage strategy based on the focus of the collection.

A wide community survey to understand how to attract more visitors.

Focus the Museum's programme to meet the needs and wishes of local community across all generations.

Communicate the programme clearly.

Classy Shopfronts & Streets

Increase activity through pilot shop front schemes such as:

Made in Stirling
www.creativestirling.org/mis/about

Start Up Street
<https://startupstreetstirling.wordpress.com>

Somewhere To
www.somwhereto.com

Living Window
<http://www.pidginperfect.com/index.php/10-participation/32-cumbernauld-living-windows>

Secure regular funding to establish most successful pilots as core initiatives

Restore the old town character of Forfar:

Take inspiration from the Angus Archives

Old Time Festival: stalls, food, entertainment

Support businesses to submit funding applications to improve their shop fronts

Submit funding application for THI/CARS to enhance historic character of buildings and streets in heart of town centre

East High Street

Celebrate East High Street as an important entry point to the town centre.

Extend the Green Pockets initiative to East High Street

Improve the quality of the bus stops on East High Street

Link the transport network to the new Community Campus

Improve the quality of the street scape on East High Street to create small civic spaces

Long-term
5 - 10 years

Local Partners

External Partners

	<p>Angus Events Network/ Tenants Residents Groups/ Identifying Local Champions</p>	<p>Community Grants Scheme Stalled Spaces Programme</p>
<p>Improve the quality of the streetscape environment</p>	<p>Angus Events Network/ Tenants Residents Groups/ Identifying Local Champions CPP, local business consortium, community groups, social enterprises</p>	<p>Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, other grant funders Rotary Foundation Funding</p>
	<p>The Meffan Museum and Art Gallery Forfar Academy Forfar Primary Schools Forfar Elderly Groups</p>	<p>Creative Scotland Visit Scotland</p>
	<p>CPP, local business consortium, community groups, social enterprises, artists, Scottish Wildlife Trust</p>	<p>Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, Scottish Government, Architecture and Design Scotland and other grant funders</p>
<p>Improve the quality of the streetscape and built environment whilst preserving the unique character of the town centre</p>	<p>CPP, businesses, Angus Council</p>	<p>Angus Council core spend on maintenance of streets. Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, THI/CARS</p>
<p>Reconfigure the East High Street roadway to create a single narrower lane in each direction separated by a median strip that would make it easier for pedestrians to cross the street along the examples of Ashford in Kent, Poynton in Cheshire and Fishergate in Preston.</p>	<p>CPP, businesses, Angus Council</p>	<p>Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, THI/CARS</p>

Action Plan

Short-term 6 - 12 months

Mid-term 1 - 5 years

Distinct Character

Green pockets

Map the potential sites for green pockets in the towncentre, using knowledge from Forfar in Flower and the local council planters as a guide for these sites.

Develop and build on Community Growing Spaces initiatives.

Detailed design work for network of pocket greenspaces around the town centre

Run design workshps to include local organisations and volunteer groups that could aid with construction and planting.

Work together to build funding applications

Council to undertake a greenspace audit and strategy as well as an active travel audit and strategy

Make links for walking from housing areas into town centre

Getting about

Identifying communities and walking groups.

Map Community and Heritage Assests.

Organise a Beat the Street where residents get involved in running, walking or cycling.

Upgrading signage with clearer signage that communicates walking distances and times.

Create interpretive signs that link to the built and natural heritage.

For All Generations

Sustain what you have

Maintain support for community groups and social enterprises in town centre more effectively.

Generate more forums for networking sessions. Encourage more local sharing and coordination. (To be read in connection with actions for Better Communications.)

Free indoor youth space

Try out pilot projects for Youth Spaces. (See strategies in Classy streets and shopfronts)

A youth facility open past 8pm there isn't anything else open that late for young people.

Build on the success and model of Pitstop to create an attractive fun space on the High Street that is open and meets a range of young people throughout the week.

Feasibility study to be undertaken documenting what groups exist in Forfar, and what community spaces are currently available. What would be required to make the space attractive?

Town centre living

Reestablish community council to allow greater input for Forfar residents in planning matters

As part of THI/CARS application, develop incentives for reusing upper floors of shops for housing. Analyse How could they be developed to better suit the needs of people in Forfar.

Encourage and support developers to access funding for new homes in the town centre.

Commission feasibility study on options for collective and co housing to diversify housing options in town centre.

Establish community energy co-op to retrofit and upgrade existing town centre homes

Long-term 5 - 10 years

Local Partners

External Partners

Create a community led network of green pockets

CPP, community groups
The Men's Shed
Boys Brigade
Girl guides

Architecture & Design Scotland Stalled Spaces

Create a strategic links to the network of green pockets

Angus Council

Detailed design work for direct walking routes around town centre, signage, Myre and East Greens car park improvements

CPP, elected members, businesses, community groups

Angus Council core spend on signage improvement.

Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland

CPP, businesses, community groups

Angus Council, CPP, community groups, social enterprises

Angus Council, CPP, community groups, social enterprises

Angus Council, CPP, community groups, social enterprises

To be determined through feasibility study

CPP, businesses, community groups

Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland

CPP, businesses, community groups

The Empty Homes Fund.

Community Council / Development Trust vehicle

AC, DTAS, to be determined through feasibility.

Community Council / Development Trust vehicle

ECO funding, Energy Savings Trust, Retrofit Scotland

Make available more homes in the town centre

Angus Council housing, private developers

Make available a greater range of homes to suit more diverse needs in Forfar

Action Plan

Short-term
6 - 12 months

Mid-term
1 - 5 years

Consolidate the Centre

Central community hub

Identifying the community champions to take forwards a series of events. (See activity map of Forfar for a list community groups.)

Explore the potential for a collective pilot event at the Cross, where the road is closed off. (also see comments on The Cross)

Feasibility study for outdoor and indoor public space for community events and activities (see also [The Cross](#))

Establish a community Steering Group for the Community Hub

Create a sustainable business plan for a Community Hub

Fundraise for the Community Hub

Events programme

Identify the community champions to take forwards a series of events.

(See activity map of Forfar for a list community groups.)

Explore the potential for a collective pilot event at the Cross, where the road is closed off.

(also see comments on [The Cross](#))

Develop and sustain annual events programme

Provide strategic support to key events programme.

Town Centre First

Create Town Centre Planning Strategy

Review Local Development Plan and Community Planning policy

Embed culture of Town Centre First Planning Strategy

Run workshops and CPD's on best practice

Communication

Local sharing and co-ordination

Build a picture of the existing notice boards and social media networks in in Forfar.

Identify the key local champions who are good at using social media.

Create a Forfar informal chat forum. Build on the energy of the people that engaged with Future Forfar.

Build on the now familiar Future Forfar branding and social media database.

Brand and consolidate a clear identity for Forfar that takes the form of an online presence (website/ social media) as well as a presence on the High Street (signs/ notice board/ banners).

This should give a sense of how the town sees it self and how it communicates this to others.

What's on Forfar

Try Forfar FIRST

Initiate shared online calendar, collaborative events/activities marketing, town centre business collaboration

Develop and maintain website and social media, detailed design and locations for noticeboards and signage

Tapping into tourism

Bring back a campsite to provide accommodation for visitors

Identify role and actions for Forfar in wider regional visitor economy

Creation of more bed spaces in the town centre

Coordinate locals to offer and list bed space online through sites such as AirBnB and VisitScotland

Create that buzz!

Get local businesses working together to celebrate the best of Forfar.

Develop and highlight events and festivals identified in the report.

Put everything together and watch it happen!

Long-term
5 - 10 years

Local Partners

External Partners

Establish well used and self sufficient
Community Hub

CPP, community groups, social
enterprise

To be determined through feasibility
study

To be determined through feasibility
study

Long term self sustaining events
programme.

CPP, community groups, businesses,
social enterprises

To be determined through feasibility
study

CPP, businesses, social enterprises,
community groups

CPP, businesses, social enterprises,
community groups
Angus Alive

VisitScotland, CPP, local businesses and
organisations

Development of more hotel
accommodation

VisitScotland, CPP, local businesses and
local developers

Everybody