<u>APPENDIX A:</u> <u>CATALYST</u> <u>PROJECT SHEETS</u>

From the development framework, we have selected a series of catalyst projects which, if implemented, could become key drivers to unlock Kirriemuir's potential. Each catalyst project refer one or several action plans & projects.

The Den Keeper's House The Gairie Works The Kirrie Den

The catalyst projects should be reviewed as a suite before priority is assigned to a specific project as the detail in each section, demonstrates the interrelation between small, medium and large scale interventions, and suggestions of how implementation, phasing and sense of ownership is critical to project sustainability.



Kirriemuir 2026, Catalyst Projects Map

CATALYST PROJECT: THE DEN KEEPER'S HOUSE

Below, from top to bottom: 1970's Image of The Den Keeper's House (Source: www.vintagekirriemuir.com) The Den Keeper's House , 2016 The Den Keeper's House , 2016







CHARRETTE PROCESS: REINVENTING THE DEN KEEPER'S HOUSE

Charrette workshops and discussions with the students of Webster's High School identified the vacant Den Keeper's House as a key opportunity within Kirriemuir.

Situated within the heart of the Kirrie Den, the Den Keeper's House has lay vacant for a number of years. The students proposed a youth initiative to reinvent the Den Keeper's house as a community asset, which could act as a catalyst to the wider regeneration of the Kirrie Den.

The initiative would seek to integrate a live project within the educational curriculum, whilst working in collaboration with local groups and individuals. The proposal is to create a hub at the heart of the Kirrie Den that is accessibility and usable during the day, evening and throughout the year.

Key Points

- Prominent location within the Kirrie Den, possibility to become a catalyst for the regeneration of the park.

- Opportunity to provide a multipurpose space for a range of users groups, including links to the local educational facilities.

- A manageable scale of development that could be coordinated by a dedicated group

- The existing building appears flexible to reconfiguration, allowing short, medium and long term interventions to commence.

- A wide community appreciation of the Den House and Kirrie Den heritage gives the project a tangible connection between regeneration and community ownership. Below from top to bottom:

1. Design sketch for Den Keepers House

2. Art Warehouse, Boeotia by A31

3. Art Warehouse, Boeotia by A31







CATALYST PROJECT: THE GAIRIE WORKS

Below, from top to bottom: The Gairie Works, Aerial Image The Gairie Works, West Elevation, 2016 The Gairie Works, Aerial Image

CHARRETTE PROCESS: REINVENTING THE GAIRIE WORKS

The Gairie works, previously a jute mill, constructed in the late 19th century occupies a prominent position in the town centre. Following a series of planning proposals, the assumption is the site has capacity to be re purposed for other uses. Multiple uses were discussed, and to determine the appropriate blend further investigation is required to access existing provisions and future requirements. However, the charrette process identified a series of options of how to approach this significant development, from an architectural perspective, to accommodate mixed activity to enhance Kirriemuir attraction as a destination, locally and nationally.

Key Points

- Opportunity to create an exemplar mixed use project within the heart of the town to support existing business and community groups

- Prominent location within Kirriemuir town centre
- Distinctive roof form
- Flexible to re configuration

Options:

Option 1: Installation of modular work/live space 'pods'

Option 2: Adaption of existing structure to introduce light, open space and routes through the site.

Option 3: New build that captures the character of the original building.















From top to bottom: Warehouse, Santa Ana, Orange County, USA Sketch plan proposal by FPA Sketch plan proposal by FPA



From top to bottom: Coal Mill, Libčice nad Vltavou, Czech Republic AU Office and Exhibition Space, Shanghai, China Three Courtyards Community Centre, China



CATALYST PROJECT: THE KIRRIE DEN

<u>Adjacent page:</u> The Kirrie Den Existing Masterplan

Below:

Diagrammatic section through The Den highlighting its dramatic topography.

TRANSFORMING THE KIRRIE DEN

The following section identifies The Kirrie Den's assets and challenges and proposes solutions transform this underrated open space into a **visitor's destination and strong community hub**.

The Kirrie Den is the name given to the Gairie burn valley running from Lochmill Road to Marywell Gardens (past the Gairie works).

It is divided into three areas:

- **The Den**, a formal park delineated by Lochmill Road to the north-west and Knowehead/Tannage Brae to the south-east which comprises a wooded area, a waterfall, a bandstand, a play area, public toilets and an extensive network of paths;

- The Commonty, a sloping park adjacent to the Gairie Works at the east of Bellies Brae;

- A third area (the **Missing Link**) formed by two car parks, a windy path (The Zig-Zags) connecting Webster's High School, Southmuir Primary School and the Sports Centre to the Town Centre and two underpasses linking The Den to The Commonty to the Town Centre.

Throughout the charrette, The Kirrie Den was referred to many times as "run-down", "dangerous", "a place for antisocial behaviour", especially by Kirriemuir young people. When asked what she thought of The Kirrie Den, a student from Webster's High School said that she "wouldn't show it to anyone". Older members of the community, who knew The Kirrie Den in its heydays, still have fond memories of The Den and wish "it could become a destination again".







Adjacent page:

Picturesque view of the Gairie Burn running towards the The Den's Play Area and the former "Den Keeper's House", known locally as "The Denny's House"

Below, from top to bottom: The Den with crowds around the Gairie Burn, around 1900 The Den's Woods, 2016 The Commonty, 2016







Below, from top to bottom: Park entrance from Bellies Brae, 2016 Damaged path in The Den, 2016 Park entrance from Lochmill, 2016







CATALYST PROJECT: THE KIRRIE DEN

THE KIRRIE DEN ASSETS

As mentioned previously, two established parks are located within The Kirrie Den: **The Den** [Fig.1-D] and **The Commonty** [Fig.1-C].

The Kirrie Den is a deeply eroded valley with gives The Den and The Commonty its **picturesque character and rich variety of atmospheres**:

- The Den's Woods [Fig.2-W] with its mature trees and extensive network of paths,

- The Heart of the Den [Fig.2-H] with its amphitheatre-like green slopes, play area and bandstand,

- The Den's Promenade [Fig.2-P] with its path winding along the Gairie Burn

- The Commonty [Fig.2-C] with its countryside feel and views onto the iconic Gairie Works.

Whist The Kirrie Den is quite narrow, the beautiful private gardens and woodland areas surrounding it gives the overall park a **strong visual impact** [Fig.3].

The Kirrie Den is only a two minute walk from the Town Centre which makes it **Kirriemuir most central green space** [Fig.4].

The Gairie Burn, which flows directly through The Den and Commonty [Fig.5], connects The Kirrie Den to Kirriemuir wider landscape with an excellent core path network running along the burn [Fig.6].





THE KIRRIE DEN CHALLENGES

In spite of its various assets, it was highlighted during the charrette that The Kirrie Den had a few issues to address before becoming a successful park again.

Two major roads, Knowehead/Tannage Brae and Bellies Brae, cross The Kirrie Den and **physically disconnect The Den from The Commonty** [Fig.7].

The leftover space between the two roads, a narrow triangular area indicated in red on Fig.8 (the Missing Link), is not perceived as been part of The Kirrie Den and creates **an unpleasant approach to The Den and Commonty** with damaged paths, overgrown vegetation and unsafe looking underpasses.

It was flagged up many times by Kirriemuirians that access to The Kirrie Den was generally an issue because of the lack of signage and clear park entrance features [Fig.9].

The extensive path network is both an asset and a challenge as most of the **routes are in very poor condition** and make the park **unsafe to explore**, especially for less able members of the community [Fig.10].

Finally, one of The Kirrie Den's biggest issue is its **bad reputation** [Fig.11] which has led locals to stop using the park, contributing to the **unsafe perception** of this open space.

CATALYST PROJECT: THE KIRRIE DEN

CHARRETTE PROCESS: REINVENTING THE KIRRIE DEN

Charrette workshops and talks were used as a platform to define a shared vision for The Kirrie Den 2026.

Students from Webster's High were particularly active in formulating aims and programmes for the park.

They also mentioned parks they go usually go to in Dundee and Arbroath (all outside of Kirriemuir).

To the question "what would it take for you, your friends and family to spend more time in The Kirrie Den rather than other parks?" they answered:

- More lighting to feel safer

- More exciting and challenging play equipment (e.g. trampolines, trim trail, maze, climbing wall...)

- A cafe with wifi, a place where we can all gather
- More events and festivals (e.g. Easter Egg Hunt)
- More places to sit, an amphitheatre
- An ice skating rink
- Better paths
- An art trail
- An outdoor cinema

Other Kirriemarians also contributed to the conversation and a wish list was compiled to then inform an **action plan for The Kirrie Den 2026**. Below, from top to bottom: West Links Fun Park, Arbroath (40min away from Kirriemuir) Teen Ranch Scotland (45min away from Kirriemuir) Camperdown Park, Dundee (35min away from Kirriemuir) are three of the parks that Webster's students frequently visit.







<u>Below:</u> Charrette workshop with a group of students from Webster's High.



CATALYST PROJECT: THE KIRRIE DEN

KIRRIE DEN 2026: ACTION PLAN

The Kirrie Den would undeniably benefit from some improvement works, especially its path network and access, an issue that the Kirriemuir Regeneration Group have started tackling. However, when listening to Kirriemarians, it becomes clear that the most pressing problem at the moment is the park's bad reputation.

Before undertaking any major physical works, Kirriemarians need to reconnect with their park by creating positive memories associated with The Kirrie Den and taking ownership of their park again, especially the young generation.

2016-2018: RECREATING POSITIVE MEMORIES

As shown in the previous section, during charrette's workshops and talks Kirriemarians compiled a list of projects that they would like to see happening at The Kirrie Den; some of medium and long term projects (see following section "2018-2016: Building a new identity") and some short term interventions and events including:

- A zip wire & trampolines
- A spooky Halloween walk
- A temporary Maze
- A Light Festival
- New natural play equipment
- Temporary art installations
- More musical events
- A treasure hunt/Easter egg hunt
- Open air cinema

- Light Improvement works at The Zig-Zags with the creation of an outdoor learning space/seating space in collaboration with Webster's High and Southmuir Primary

- Light improvement at The Old Den Keeper's House to turn it into a Youth Hub (Young Kirriemarians to become The Kirrie Den's keeper)

- Light improvement works (new murals at underpasses, temporary signage, light gardening...) that could be done together with Webster's High, Southmuir Primary and Northmuir Primary (building on the Price in Place award they just received for carrying out a range of outdoor maintenance activities including litter picks).

Those various events and installations would be used as a way to test ideas which could then be reused to create more permanent structures and interventions within The Kirrie Den.

Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017 and Year of Young People 2018 are two major milestones in the upcoming years and could act as strong catalysts for funding and enabling these projects.

Recreating Building a new identity **Positive Memories** 2018 2026 <u>From top to bottom:</u> Zip wire Natural Play area made from felled logs Gardening workshop







<u>From top to bottom:</u> Seating /Play area Temporary collective art Light Festival Installation







CATALYST PROJECT: THE KIRRIE DEN

2018-2026: BUILDING A NEW IDENTITY FOR THE KIRRIE DEN

Building on an exciting two-year succession of festivals, events and small interventions, more ambitious **long-term transformation works** could begin.

The main four **Kirrie Den 2026 programmes**, defined with Kirriemuir Community, are as follow:

- Transforming the "Missing Link" area between Tannage Brae and Bellies Brae into an **the new Park Gateway** [Fig.1]

- Improving the path network, creating better access to The Kirrie Den and developing a coherent signage & interpretation strategy [Fig.2]

- Re-establishing the park as a **destination** by providing **more activities** and **quality amenity spaces** [Fig.3]

- Making The Kirrie Den **safer at night** by developing a lighting strategy around the main activity hubs whilst retaining light-free wildlife corridors closer to the Den's Woods and along the burn. [Fig.4]

The vegetation palette should also be diversified, especially along the Gairie Burn to attract more wildlife. The Kirrie Den has the potential to become an **exemplar sustainable & educational park** with strong links to Webster's High and Southmuir Primary.

In the following pages, The Kirrie Den is divided into five character areas each comprising a short description of potential driving projects and peripheral interventions.







<u>Adjacent page:</u> The Hillside Eco Park

From top to bottom:

Cabin in the Woods - The Good Wood Would Schoeneberg-Sudgelande West Foundry Park, USA

Driving project : The Falls Hut [Fig.1]

The Den Woods is a stunning area within The Den with its beautiful mature trees, wild feel and Gairie Burn Falls at Lochmill. A small hut (or series of small huts) could be built into the slope at the Waterfall becoming a prime location to observe wildlife and accommodate outdoor classes.

Peripheral interventions:

- Paths and bridges improvement [Fig.2 & 3]
- Redefinition of the southern edge of the park (car parking)
- Signage improvement
- Entrances improvement
- Creation of Picnic Area











THE HEART OF THE DEN

Many times throughout the charrette process, Kirriemarians, especially younger members of the community, expressed their desire to see more exciting activities happening at The Den. The Heart of The Den could become an exiting activity hub for all generations.

Driving project 1 : The Dennies' House Gardens

The Old Park Keeper's House could be turned into the new Kirriemuir Intergenerational Centre: The Dennies' House. The Dennies' House Gardens could feature a large bridge which would also be used as a small stage. The garden at the front of the house would be turned into a stepped, south-facing seating space and a level community garden will be create at the back of the house, overlooking *The Bird Play* Archipelago.

Driving project 2: The Bird Play Archipelago [Fig.1]

The Birds Play Archipelago refers to both J.M. Barrie's Bird Island (earlier version of Neverland mentioned in his novel '*Peter at Kensington Gardens*') and to the nearby RSPB Natural Birds Reserve at Loch of Kinnordy, creating a **poetical link between the park, Kirriemuir cultural heritage and Kirriemuir wider context**. This new Play Area would consist in:

- Exciting and challenging play structures for all ages [Fig.2 & 3]
- A water play area created by locally widening the Gairie Burn [Fig.4]
- Various climbing and natural play equipment and mounding
- Birds play sculptures
- A climbing wall at the red sandstone outcrop
 A Canopy Walk running along the edge of the climbing wall through the trees, connecting back to the exiting path network and allowing locals and visitors to experience the Den from above [Fig.5]

Peripheral interventions:

- Amphitheatre [Fig.6]
- Raising of the Band Stand area to avoid flooding
- Refurbishment of the Band Stand.
- Paths and bridges improvement
- Sheltered picnic area (see Priority Project 4.1)
- Toilets refurbishment (Play Park Facility)

From top to bottom:

The Bird Play Archipelago - charrette sketch Playground in Belville Park, France - Base Adelaide Zoo Play Area







From top to bottom:

Park du Chemin de l'Ile, France - Mutabilis Canopy walk, China RAAF - Atelier de Lyon







<u>Adjacent page:</u> Andy Goldsworthy

From top to bottom:

Insitu intervention - Michael Heizer

Duck Decoy ERZ



Driving project: Art & Sculpture Trail [Fig.5&6]

The Den's Art Trail would guide Kirriemarians and visitors from The New Park Gateway to The Heart of The Den with a series of contemporary sculptures and Land Art interventions.

Peripheral interventions:

- Path improvement [Fig.4]











THE NEW PARK GETAWAY

As mentioned in previous pages, one of the main aims for The Kirrie Den is to make it an **easily accessible park**. The current "Missing Link" area has the potential to become a gateway area connecting the Sports Centre, Webster's High & Southmuir Primary to the Town Centre, Den and Commonty.

Driving project 1: The New Zig-Zags

The New Zig-Zags project would be building on the light improvement works done in collaboration with the Schools in 2017/2018 [Fig.1] .

The current deteriorated, stepped paths could be replaced by a step-free ramp [Fig.3] leading from Webster High School, Southmuir Primary School and the Sports Centre to the Town Centre. It would also provide large terraces [Fig.2] with a variety of spaces such as:

- Seating and School Performance Spaces

- Outdoor Educational Spaces encouraging outdoor learning and cross-curricular activities

- Trim Trails
- Edible Gardens & Orchards

- Habitat & Bird Garden making the most of the existing trees

To replace the current "muddies", stairs on either side

of The New Zig-Zags would create a more practical and straightforward link up and down the slope. The Terraces would be stepping all the way down to the Gairie Burn, offering a direct visual and physical link to this important natural feature.

Driving project 2: Bon Scott Square [Fig.4,5&6]

The current Car Park at Bellies Brae could be entirely rearranged to provide a safer, more pleasant and direct access to the Park from The Town Centre whilst retaining parking spaces.

The Bon Scott Statue, currently on the edge of Bellies Brae, could be relocated within this new Square giving this important town feature a more central position.

Peripheral interventions

- Improvement works at Bellies Brae & Tannage Brae Underpasses

- New interpretation boards (see Priority Project 4.1)
- New bridge over the Gairie Burn connecting the Allotment gardens to the Park Gateway

From top to bottom:

Axonometric sketch: light interventions at The Zig-Zags. Axonometric sketch: The New Zig-Zags after improvement works. Volcano Park







<u>From top to bottom:</u> Cathedral Square Mias Square Place de l'Eveche, France - Coloco Paysage









Driving project : The Thrums Gardens

Thrums:

1. Fringes of warp threads left on the loom after the cloth has been removed, refers to Kirriemuir's past as a driving linen production centre.

2. Name given to Kirriemuir by J.M. Barrie in his *Thrums* series novels.

The Gairie Works could be refurbished to accommodate various uses ranging from residential to local businesses (see Priority Project ??? for details). Internal courtyards would be created providing play spaces [Fig.2] and garden areas [Fig.3]. Additional bridges connecting the refurbished Gairie Works to the gardens would also be provided.

The overall design of The Thrums Gardens could poetically reference linen threads (thrums) with lines running though the park [Fig.2], linking the gardens with Kirriemuir industrial heritage.

Adjacent page: Vallon Park, Ilex, Lyon Wildflower mixes could be introduced into The Kirrie Den to create a more diverse vegetation palette

> From top to bottom: HNS Arena, Soesterberg Parc des Fonderies, Play Area, Nantes Parc des Fonderies, Garden Area, Nantes









APPENDIX B: EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH & FIRST PRESENTATION

Austin-Smith:Lord

Kirriemuir – Initial Observations



Austin-Smith:Lord

Kirriemuir – Initial Observations



EIRRIE TALKS

Austin-Smith:Lord



Austin - Smith: Lord

Kirriemuir - Initial Observations



Austin · Smith: Lord

Kirriemuir Design Charrette Aims + Objectives

- Develop a shared long-term vision & strategy for the future of Kirriemuir town centre set within context of the town & surrounding area.
- Build on the agreed assets & strengths of the town & the challenges /opportunities it currently faces.
- Establish a commitment from the local community, businesses, organisations & agencies to deliver the changes required to achieve the vision.
- Establish clear objectives & agreed ten year development framework & action plan for Kirriemuir.
- Charrette outputs to influence future Angus & Kirriemuir Locality Outcome Improvement, Community Planning Partners, Local Development & Housing Plans and other significant local policies & investment proposals.

Austin-Smith:Lord

F & K: Locality Planning Event (October 2015): Priorities

1. Ensuring hard to reach families & individuals have access to services including young people, older people & those without digital access

2. Development of natural spaces, outdoor activities & learning

3= Engaging employers to help increase employment & employability

3= Town centre regeneration in Forfar & Kirriemuir

Development of tourism & accommodation

SURVEYS – September/October 2015

If I could change one thing.....

Kirriemuir – 23 people







Vision > Strategy > Development Framework > Action Plan

Vision

- Address challenges: stronger, more resilient, supportive & inclusive community; future role & function of town centre.
- Integrated: place: local economic & community development projects
- Build on Locality Planning & Community ideas & priorities
- Community/third, private & public sectors: investment in mix of uses/activities

Strategic Themes

- People & Communities
- Health & Wellbeing & Place
- · Economy & Place
- Landscape & Environment
- Culture & Heritage
- Sustainable Development

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Vision > Strategy > Development Framework > Action Plan

Tactical

- · Key spatial interventions: structure & priorities
- · Get basics right: safe, clean & well managed
- Action Plan: short, medium, long term projects: who leads

Deliverable: Market Conditions

- Tough public sector financial climate: alternative funding sources
- Development & investment markets: risk-averse: proven sectors in cities
- Opportunities: CARS: community ownership: independents: entrepreneurship: natural environment





Angus Community Planning & Economic Policy Context

1. Angus Community Plan & Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016

Angus Community Planning Partnership Vision:

"Angus is a place where a first class quality of life can be enjoyed by all".

Current three cross cutting priorities:

- · Sustainable economy & employment
- Poverty & disadvantage
- · Shifting the balance of care
- · more holistic & integrated approach: planning with communities
- linking spatial planning with social & economic planning

Austin-Smith:Lord

Angus Community Planning & Economic Policy Context

2. Angus Economic Strategy for 2013-2020

Priorities:

- Enterprise & Infrastructure: growth within local enterprise, internationalisation
- Pride in Place: marketing & promoting the built/natural/cultural heritage, local events & festivals
- Communities: engagement, equalities, third sector: tackling inequalities
- Skills: needs of local business, employment opportunities, young people entering employment, education, training & volunteering



Kirriemuir: Development Plan

TAYplan (June 2012)

- Strategic to 2032/ 2036
- West Angus HMA 80 houses pa.
- Kirriemuir "fourth tier" smaller town centre:
 - after Dundee/Perth/Forfar
 - mix of uses
 - encourage vitality & diversity of economic & social activity in both day & evening

Modified Draft Angus LDP (Aug 2016) Policies:

- Thriving & connected: housing & services
- · Protected & valued: natural & built environment
- 25% new developments of +10 units as affordable

Kirriemuir Tier 3 settlement:

- reuse, redevelop & regeneration brownfield sites
 W. Angus HMA 1,227 homes to 2026:
- Kirriemuir:
 - > 7 sites with PP or under construction:118 capacity
 - > 1 new allocation: South Of Beechwood Place 100 capacity (50 in 2016-21)
- 2 opportunity sites:
 - Garlie Works: residential, business, retail or community
 - > Land at Cortachy Road: residential or business
- 3.2 ha site Pathhead: pp for retail use
- 2 AC properties identified surplus:
 - > Access Office & Fairlie House

Austin-Smith:Lord

Kirriemuir: Socio-Economic Profile Summary (2013)

Kirriemuir Town Population: 6,112 (5,693 in 2001+7.3%) Kirriemuir Landward: 2,758 Angus Glens: 3,617

Tayside Businesses Birth Rate per 10,000 adults (2012)

• 31 against Scottish average of 33/ UK average 42



Area	Total Population Mid-year estimates 2013	Child Population 0-15 % Mid-year estimates 2013	Working age Population % Mid-year estimates 2013	Pension Age Population % Mid-year estimates 2013	% Population Aged 75+	16-24 JSA Claimants % 2012 Q4	Business Sites
Kirriemuir	6,112	16.57	57.40	26.03	7.44	5.6	170
Kirriemuir Landward	2,758	15.30	60.88	23.82	6.93	4.3	155
Angus Glens	3,617	16.01	59.8	24.19	6.19	1.7	295
Angus	116,240	17.00	59.17	23.83	7.02	5.7	4,350
Scotland	5.23m	17.11	63.08	19.81	5.89	5.7	NA

SIMD: Kirriemuir One datazone in 20% most deprived for crime & income



TALKS

Austin-Smith:Lord

TALKS

DataShine Scotland Commute: Kirriemuir (2011 Census)



Austin-Smith:Lord

Kirriemuir– Emerging Issues

1. Existing Assets: Unlocking Economic Development Opportunities

- Town Centre: sustaining improvement & momentum : beyond Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme
- Maximising visitor potential of the town e.g. building on of DD8 Music & JM Barrie heritage & choice of visitor accommodation
- · Enterprise: local entrepreneurs: local employment & employability
- Voluntary & third sector opportunities
- Local housing need & demand
- · New futures for vacant heritage properties: new & mixed uses
- Vacant & underused property/brownfield sites: proactive planning


2. Community & Third Sector: Older People & Youth

Resources devoted to prevention & early intervention: health & wellbeing e.g.

- > KirrieConnections
- Volunteering
- Sports hub
- > Older people remain safely own home: exclusion/isolation
- Inclusion/inequalities
- Need for youth facilities & local sports facility: Vault & Community Sports Hub
- Pride in place activities: build on the strong local interest in making more use of green/natural & public spaces like Kirriemuir Den
- Capacity building: actively involving local people & establish a network of residents' & business action group/s: coordination & delivery (Leader, Trust, BID)
- Community Planning: Kirriemuir focus: leading partnership: driving pace of change: priorities, targets, milestones

Austin · Smith: Lord

3. Improving Access & Connections

- Access to services including retail, public & community run services, banking/financial services
- Information sharing across the community
- Broadband speed/reliability & internet use
- Further Path Network improvements:
 walking/cycling network
- Joint promotion & marketing Kirriemuir

Kirriemuir Path Network







Kirriemuir - Charrette Venue



<text>

TALKS



Briefing Sessions: Discussion

- Any other plans/proposals?
- Any other issues?
- Spread the word & bring a friend/colleague!



KIRRIEMUIR DESIGN CHARRETTE

BRIEFING NOTE 3: 2 September 2016

'Kirriemuir Talks': Update

The conversation begins in earnest in Kirriemuir next week on **Thursday 8 September**, as a design charrette seeks to draw on local ideas and inspiration to shape the town centre's future. A design charrette is an intensive consultation and design programme through which designers, architects and other specialists gather opinions, wants and wishes, to help distil a clear vision of what people want for their own communities. Similar events have already been held in Arbroath, Brechin, Carnoustie, Forfar, Montrose and Monifieth and prompted a host of ideas to enhance their local communities.

The charrette events and 'Kirriemuir Talks' team will be based at the KirriemuirConnections Community Hub, 5 Bank Street, Kirriemuir. As well as a place to develop and work on ideas and options, the KirrieConnections base will serve as a drop-in centre. So pop by during the four-day charrette. The team wants all members of the community, as well as local businesses, public sector partners and other interested parties to get involved. It is an opportunity to have your say.

Day one of the charrette is on Thursday 8 September, with days two and three on Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 September. There will then be a presentation of the emerging development framework and action plan on Tuesday 27 September. See the full programme of events below.

Pre-Charrette Activity: 24 & 25 August

In preparation for the Kirrie Talks charrette community activities were organised by a team from WAVE*particle*, in Kirriemuir on 24 and 25 August. WAVE*particle* is an art organisation who specialise in developing and delivering effective community engagement and treat engagement as a creative process and artform.

Day 1: 24 August

The WAVE*particle* team arrived in Kirriemuir in glorious sunshine. WAVE*particle* Lead Artist and Director, Peter McCaughey, along with artist Rae-Yen Song and film-maker Basharat Khan, walked the town, with a large vinyl map that shows the town and its surrounding environs, filming the streetscapes and meeting / interviewing townsfolk, and letting everyone they met know about, and invited them to, the up and coming Kirrie Talks charrette and related events.



KIRRIE TALKS In the evening of Day 1, in the Three Bellies Brae, the WAVE*particle* team met with some of the people who have agreed to contribute to a *pecha kucha* evening, as part of the Kirrie Talks launch event, next Thursday 8th September. A range of local people were in attendance at the Three Bellies Brae, including representatives from Kirriemuir Community Council, Angus Council, Voluntary Action Angus and Kirriemuir Heritage Trust.



The short pecha kucha format is where every contributor presents 10 images 20 х seconds. WAVEparticle piloted the use of the pecha kucha event with great success at the launch of the Monifieth Charrette. The format is a great vehicle for exchange celebrating the existing activities and efforts in the area, but also stimulating exciting new opportunities inscribing local knowledge at the heart of the charrette process, right at the very start. Next Thursday's pecha kucha is already lining up to be a great evening - participants already

confirmed include Kirsty Macari of Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS), Graham Galloway from DD8 and Heidi Findlay of Kirriemuir Heritage Trust.

The evening covered wide-ranging conversations from the opportunities to deepen the culture of volunteering within the town to the challenges of strengthening connections within the community. Significantly (and unusually for the pre-charrette stage), the focus of the conversation was exclusively on the social structures and ideas and possibilities for sustaining and strengthening these, and at this point in time, not upon the roads infrastructure/built environment issues.

The WAVE*particle* team stayed overnight 10 minutes out of town at The Stables, in Meigle, and the host, David, generously offered insight into the potential of social enterprise initiatives in Kirriemuir and the surrounding area. David has written courses on this subject and generously offered the Team an electronic copy of his full course for distribution.

Day 2 - 25 August

The WAVE*particle* team began with workshop in Webster's High School, with pupils from the high school and from Northmuir Primary and Southmuir Primary.

With the aid of the large vinyl floor map of Kirriemuir and its environs, along with the pre-printed Postcard From The Future, the pupils were encouraged to envisage Kirriemuir in 2026.



The pupils and students visualised their comments through the placing of the coloured dots on the big map.

- A Red dot for an area that needs improving, where might that be?
- A Gold Star to mark a significant place, organisation or something in the town that works particularly well. Where / what might that be?
- A White dot for a place in the town that has a local dialect / nickname?
- A Green dot to mark where you live or a place that connects you to the town.



There were 23 pupils in total, with ages ranging from six to sixteen years old (which was a nice hook for Kirriemuir's **Postcard From The Future**, which asks pupils to imagine themselves in 10 year's time - and gets them to describe the changes that they identify should happen have been implemented). Video portraits were taken of the pupils reading their **Postcard From The Future**.

The age range was a great dynamic in the workshops with the younger children reminding everyone of how to draw from your imagination!

Following the schools workshop the team attended the Charrette Briefing Meeting at the Kirriemuir Connections Hub in town, and then set up in the Square beside the Peter Pan Statue and engaged passers-by in conversation around the large map.



The response from the people that the WAVE*particle* team met over their two days in Kirriemuir has been terrific, and a 10-minute video has been edited to reflect this precharrette stage. This will be screened at the Kirrie Talks launch event next Thursday and uploaded online. *Postcards From The Future* will also be on display at the event.

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'Kirriemuir Talks: Programme (8, 13, 14 & 27 September)
The charrette offers a number of opportunities for YOU, the public to get involved and have
your say about the future of Kirriemuir Town Centre.
All the charrette events are open with no need to register in advance.
The Design Studio and all Charrette events will be based at, or start from:
KirrieConnections Community Hub, 5 Bank Street, Kirriemuir, DD8 4BE.
                         KIRRIE TALKS Events Programme
     Thursday 8 September - Setting the Agenda
     12 noon - 5.00pm
                           Drop-in Design Studio
     1.00pm - 2.30pm
                           Schools Workshop
     3.00pm - 4.30pm
                           Transport Walk & Talk (meet @ KirrieConnections)
     Thursday 8 September - Launch Event
     5.30pm - 6.30pm
                           Community Networking
     6.30pm - 7.30pm
                           Community Pecha Kucha - Presentations
     7.30pm - 7.45pm
                           Break/Entertainment
                           WAVEparticle film - "48 Hours in Kirriemuir"
     7.45pm - 8.00pm
     8.00pm - 9.00pm
                           Setting the Agenda - Agreeing Areas of Focus
     Tuesday 13 September - Gathering Ideas
     12 noon - 5.00pm
                           Drop-in Design Studio
                           Intergenerational Storytelling - Kirriemuir Tales
      11.00am - 12.00pm
                           Futurewalk to Camera Obscura (meet @
      1.00pm - 3.30pm
                           KirrieConnections)
     4.00pm - 5.30pm
                           Youth Workshop - What do young folk want
                           in Kirriemuir
     6.00pm - 8.30pm
                           Business/Community Networking Workshop -
                           Making Connections
     Wednesday 14 September - Testing Ideas
      10.30am - 1.00pm
                           Drop-in Design Studio
      10.00am - 1.00pm
                           Agencies/Angus Council/Stakeholders Workshop -
                           Including Showcase on Conservation Area
                           Regeneration Scheme (CARS)
      1.30pm - 4.30pm
                           Drawing-up time
     4.30pm - 6.30pm
                           Drop-in Design Studio
     7.00pm:
                           Work in Progress presentation
     9.00pm:
                           Close
```





From top to bottom:

Kirriemuir Large floor map Mapping exercise at school workshop Postcard from the Future

PRE-CHARRETTE ENGAGEMENT

WAVE*particle* visited Kirriemuir on Wednesday 24 and Tuesday 25 August to deliver pre-charrette activities ahead of the official 'Kirrie Talks' Charrette launch. During the two days in Kirriemuir WAVE*particle* met with local residents, community stakeholders and local initiatives and organisations to **discuss the future of Kirriemuir**.

WAVE*particle* used a variety of **creative tools**, including a large floor map used as a conversation trigger [Fig.1], to engage communities in Kirriemuir in discussing **existing** local assets, the specific identity and character of Kirriemuir, as well as highlighting issues in the area and gaps in resources.

School Workshops

As part of the visit, the team also delivered a creative workshop to school pupils in the area, bringing together pupils from Northmuir and Southmuir Primaries and Webster's High School. Pupils engaged with the large floor map [Fig.2] on to which they could place a series of coloured dots:

• A red dot for an area that needs improving;

• A gold star to mark a significant place or something in the town that works particularly well;

• A white dot to make a place that has a nickname or local name or perhaps an unusual story attached to it that only a Kirriemarian would know;

• A green dot to mark where you live or a place that connects you to the town.

They also completed *"Postcards from the Future"* [Fig.3], a creative exercise, which asks pupils to write back to themselves from 10 years into the future, detailing how their town has changed and what their aspirations for the area are.

During the workshop, **pupils discussed the character of** Kirriemuir, places they were connected to or proud of, as well as discussing places that could be improved and identifying future opportunities in Kirriemuir and the Den in particular.







Double Page:

Postcards from the Future completed during the school workshop

POSTCARD FROM THE FUTURE Imagine how Kirriemuir will look in 2026 It's huge nc How do you imagine the town will have changed? What changes would you like to see? Send yourself this postcard from the future, using drawings & words to describe the changes you see in Kirriemuir.

POSTCARD FRO Kirrie has a Second Music festival Imagine how Kirrier that has includes a wide variety of Music It also encarrages young artists to fedorm.	M THE FUTURE nuir will look in 2026 —The bown has many many restaviants what cover a range of cutsines (italian, chinese Inclian, French etc) these places
In Kirne there is now a walking treasure hunt nonce in June & once in December, A summer themed one and a Christmas one these bring Deople from all over the country for one weekend	are always will and sell great jocct. There is now a job centre aimed at teems to help teens in the area find part time jobs during their school career.
I went to the cinema yesterday and watche a new released. The anema is really affordable and helps the youth in hirrie rather than	
· Kirrie has some really good areas in the town that allow people to sit around with hiends in a scile relaxed environments. They are foused at beens with sojas, games and acress to listen to mubic & charge phones.	

How do you imagine the town will have changed? What changes would you like to see? Send yourself this postcard from the future, using drawings & words to describe the changes you see in Kirriemuir. Completed Postcards, which were displayed at the charrette, showed a strong sense of investment in the future of Kirriemuir and the community, particularly in relation to improvements at the Den. Waveparticle found it a pleasure to work with staff and pupils and particularly fruitful to work across a variety of age groups.

Kirriemuir Charrette Film

The WAVE team took the Postcard From The Future and large floor map out and about in Kirriemuir, getting to know the town by moving through it and speaking directly with local people about their experiences of living in Kirriemuir. Lead artist Peter McCaughey, along with artist Rae-Yen Song and film-maker Basharat Khan captured the opinions, insights and anecdotes of Kirriemuir in a series of filmed interviews, some conducted in the open as people were passing by, others inside shops and institutions such as the 88 Café or the Gateway to the Glens Museum, where they were warmly welcomed.

In addition to filming **interviews with Kirriemarians**, the team also captured the town in a series of streetscapes and stills, **observing the town with the fresh eyes of a visitor**. The film *Forty-eight Hours in Kirriemuir* is currently available to watch on the WAVE*particle* Vimeo stream: <u>https://vimeo.com/181905956</u>.

A new version of the film, which incorporates the additional charrette days was screened on the final Reporting day on 27th September and will shortly be available to watch online. Below & adjacent page: Extracts from the short film 'Forty-Eight Hours in Kirriemuir''



















ENGAGEMENT DURING THE CHARRETTE

Pecha Kucha Presentation

As part of the Kirrie Talks launch event, WAVE facilitated a Pecha Kucha style presentation inviting a diverse range of individuals, local businesses and organisations within Kirriemuir and its environs. The aim of the event was to raise awareness of the incredible talent and efforts of local endeavours and projects, install a sense of pride and ownership of the town's activities, and stimulate new partnerships and connections. The event was a great success with 13 different speakers, including two school pupils from Websters High School, who shared some exciting ideas, which emerged during the group workshop at the school on 24th August. A further Pecha Kucha presentation event was scheduled there and then for the final charrette evening on 27th September.

Cartoonist Franck Boyle at the charrette

During the charrette, WAVE was joined by cartoonist Frank Boyle, who developed a series of drawings in response to the various discussions taking place at the public events. Frank also created initial drawings for a new idea of a Treasure Trail for Kirriemuir, put forward by Webster's High School pupil Victoria Johnston and inspired by Kirriemuir's own J.M. Barrie. Victoria presented her idea at the Pecha Kucha event. Another presenter, Kirsty Macari of the CARS regeneration scheme, was very impressed by Victoria's idea and has pledged funding to help get this idea off the ground, a great example of how a charrette catalyses new and exciting partnerships.

Intergenerational Storytelling session at Lyell Court sheltered housing

This event brought together young people, including pupils from the schools workshop, and older Kirriemarians, in a session that shared stories and tales between older and younger folk in a relaxed but dynamic exchange that was a truly enjoyable and valuable experience for all involved. As part of this sessions, some stories and anecdotes were captured in audio recordings, and these have been included as part of the extended version of the Kirriemuir Charrette short film. <u>Below:</u>

Pecha Kucha presentations

Below:

Franck Boyle's sketches , Intergenerational Storytelling









[Fig.5]



[Fig.6]



Below and adjacent page:

Franck Boyle's draft sketches of Kirriemuir Treasure Map developed during the charrette.



Next Double Page:

Franck Boyle's final Kirriemuir Treasure Map.







PUBLICITY

The charrette was publicised with articles in the Kirriemuir Herald and Courier & Advertiser and good coverage on the 'Oor Kirrie: Auld n New' Facebook page and the Angus Council web site/social media in the weeks prior to the events. Posters and flyers were distributed to local shops and community buildings. A @KirrieTalks' Facebook page was set up and had 71 'likes' and a Twitter account (@KirrieTalks) was set up that had 54 followers up to the Closing Event. Three Briefing Notes were also e-mailed to more than 240 contacts that included 70 local businesses on a database that was compiled by the Charrette Team.



Calls for more to be made of Kirrie Den and Gairie Works POSITIVE STARS Starse and Gairie Works POSITIVE STARS <td

BY JANET THOMSON jenet.thomsongipress.cs.uk Twitter: gacp.janet

The people of Kirriemuir have taken the opportunity to take part in the Kirrie Talks charrette events in recent days – and have come up with a number of suggestions for the town's future.

As the project enters into its finai days of workshops and drop in sessions today (Wednesday), the design team has reported on a positive start with a number of strengths and weaknesses identified.

On Thursday, a packed programme of events took place at the Design Studio at Kirrie Connections Community Hub at 5 Bank Street.

Bank Street. Today the final series of events will be staged at the hub, with drop-in sessions, workshops with various stakeholders, and a final presentation this evening beginning at 7 pm. Graham Ross, who is leading the charrette, said the first day

the charrette, said the first day on Thursday had been 'really positive' with a number of issues raised. These include a desire for

These incruoe a cesar to the younger generation to have an attractive and exciting space tohost a range of activities, and alot of discussion about anti-social behaviour in the Den and how the Den, kirrie Hill, paths and play spaces in the town can be improved. The number of prominent

The number of prominent vacant buildings, including the Post Office and the Gairie Works, was also discussed, with the charrette looking to consider how these buildings can be adapted for new uses.

FULL STORY: PAGES 6 & 7 ->



DAY BY DAY SUMMARY & OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT MEETINGS

The Design Studio was set up in KirrieConnections Community Hub at 5 Bank Street and was operational from Thursday afternoon: 8 September. The town centre location proved very popular with a significant number of locals and interested parties 'dropping in' during the four days to have their say about the future development of Kirriemuir. Public presentations were held in KirrieConnections Community Hub and these 'milestone' events included the launch on the Thursday, Work in Progress Presentation on 14 September and the final report back presentation on Tuesday 27 September. In addition twelve targeted working sessions were organised through the four days. At the end of the process the Design Team presented a comprehensive Development Framework and Action Plan that included a series of development option plans for the agreed main opportunity sites.

Thursday 8 September

Prior to the Launch event 8 pupils attended an interactive discussion KirrieConnections Community Hub. As part of the Pre-Charrette Animation the pupils also completed 'Place Standard' sheets. This group and through discussions as part of the Pre-Charrette animation, highlighted **ten 'big ideas'**/thought bubbles and these were used to structure part of the exhibition in the shop from day 1. More than 20 people dropped in during the day and contributed comments and other ideas onto a series of additional 'thought bubbles'. The big ideas/ thought bubbles identified opportunities to improve:

- Community Action
- Access to Services
- Open Space/ Access to Nature
- Community Sports Hub
- Youth Facilities & Activities
- Inclusive Kirriemuir
- Vacant Buildings & Sites
- Routes & Paths
- Visitor Economy
- The Den

The Traffic + Transport Walkabout led by TPL and was attended by 5 people. Among the issues discussed were:

- Footway widths in town centre
- No shelter at main bus stop
- Bus service connections
- Slippery conditions for cycling when its wet
- Parking enforcement
- Poor signage
- Coach parking

The Launch Event was held at 6.30pm in Kirrie Connections Community Hub. Around 42 people attended the event. After a short welcome from Councillor Ronnie Proctor, the Design Team introduced the quick fire and concise pecha kucha style presentation (based on 20 images with 20 seconds on each image). The presentations came from:

- Kirrie Connections (Dementia Friendly Kirriemuir): Maureen McGinlay

- Kirriemuir Heritage Trust : Heidi Findlay
- Tayside Police Museum : Hamish Gray
- Thrums Art Group : Muriel Farquharson
- Angus Trading Standards : John Dillon
- Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme : Kirsty Macari
- Perthshire Wildlife: Swifts Project: Danielle Muir
- DD8: Graham Galloway
- Voluntary Action Angus Gary Malone
- Kirriemuir Gateway to the Glens Museum Rachel Jackson

- 2 pupils from Websters High School: Victoria Johnstone & Caitlin Robb presented creative ideas for the town

- Kirriemuir Community Sports Hub : Scott Nicoll
- Community projects: Derek Smith

See outline of presentations in Appendix D.

The presentations were well received and acted as a an up to date snapshot and 'exchange' of the range of community activity in Kirriemuir and the surrounding rural area, highlighting existing cultural, social and natural assets of area. The presentations helped generate further discussion about gaps and overlaps, better links or relinking / making connection and some of the emerging priorities for community investment as a foundation and focus for the Kirrie Talks Charrette.

After a short presentation from the Design Team highlighting the ten 'big ideas'/thought bubbles that had emerged so far, the plenary session focussed on initial reactions and in summary these included:

- Community networking & coordination
- Informal volunteering
- Facilities for young people
- Open space & natural heritage: opportunities
- The Den overlooked + great (forgotten?) asset
- Pre-school facilities & involvement
- Need for employment space: local jobs
- Business association/KALBA: has just been established
- Visitor economy
- Choice of accommodation
- Events
- Gateway to Glens Police Museums: significant potential
- Community Sports Hub

- Fairlie House: Community Asset Transfer Stage 1 has been successful

- Transport issues: footway widths, signage, coach parking
- Housing: quality / affordable / adaptable

Individuals also completed 'Place Standard' sheets.

Tuesday 13 September

More than 20 people dropped in during the day or attended the open air discussion session in the public space opposite Bank Street with the large floor map when initial ideas were discussed. The early focus was on strategy and the emerging development framework themes were covered. The Design Team were able to visit the Den and Fairlie House that is soon to be vacated by Angus Council.

A successful Intergenerational Storytelling session was held at the Lyell Court retirement/sheltered housing complex with 7 residents and 5 pupils from Webster's High School. The session was also attended by Frank Boyle who provided pen portrait illustrations of a number of residents. The session proved very useful in highlighting the rich history of Kirriemuir and some of the rich personal memories. The material proved useful for Victoria Johnstone who was developing an idea for a heritage trail for Kirriemuir that celebrates both the history and individual stories of Kirriemuir. This trail would be presented as a digital app for a phone or tablet.

A Futurewalk session with WAVE*particle* & A-S:L was held in the early afternoon. This was an ideal opportunity for the five attendees to go on **a walk** and talk tour of Kirriemuir and its past, present and possible. The walk included a visit to the Camera Obscura that is now being operated independently by the Kirriemuir Regeneration Group.

A **Youth Workshop** was held within KirrieConnections Community Hub and outside in the public space across the street. Around 14 young people discussed some of the issues and challenges that face young people in Kirriemuir. In summary the discussion highlighted:

- The need for informal simple indoor space 'just to hang out' that could also be used for arts/crafts, reading, TV/Games, cooking/kitchen: 'The Youth Club'. A space in the town centre that youth from the two close knit communities of North and South Muir can use

- The tremendous potential of the Den and the scope to make much more use of the area: a range of ideas and best practice form other places was discussed including: fitness trail, allotments/growing area, events space, challenging play/high wire climbs, tree house and mixed use in the former 'Dennie's House'. The scope to establish a 'Friends of the Den' was also discussed.

15 people from local businesses and the community attended the **Business/Community: Making Connection Workshop in the evening**. The new business association/ KALBA has just been established and it was agreed that the group was essential and needed wide support to ensure the views of businesses were heard and that local business worked together for mutual benefits. This was also an ideal opportunity to engage directly with individual business owners and representatives, to review emerging projects and to hear first-hand their view of Kirriemuir and the recovering property market.

Ryden also presented a summary of their research on the local property market that highlighted (see appendix E):

- The commercial hierarchy and competition from Dundee

- Problems are national: solutions are local

Kirriemuir has a well-defined and reasonably welloccupied town centre: strong presence of independents
Scope for property projects and interventions: building on "CARS" investment

Pub / rooms requirement & possible mixed use opportunity to service the growing visitor economy
Possible retail 'gap analysis', testing and formal targeting

- Monitor industrial stock/supply & provide analysis

Overall the discussion identified opportunities including:

- Scope to highlight and promote the high quality of life in Kirrie: independent retail offer, open space and good schools

- Talk the town centre up: e.g. 'CARS' has won national awards: change perceptions!

- Need for more affordable social/market rent housing for local people: salary/wages are lower

- Avoid becoming a commuter/dormitory town: town centre businesses need to service commuter (open longer) and market/promote to existing/new residents - KALBA are launching a new web site and a **Halloween** event is planned with a treasure hunt and arts/music performances: annual insurance and 'green tape space' that is easy to get permission to use is essential

- More start up business space in the High Street: a possible enterprise project with the Webster's High school was mentioned

- Scope for an 'artist in residence'

- The scale and sensitivity of the opportunity of **reusing vacant space at the Gairie Works** on the edge of the town centre Conservation Area was highlighted. Possible use included arts, community space, small museum, health centre as well as well-designed housing.

- Opportunities to provide **more choice of visitor accommodation** (B&B and bunkhouse) as well as scope to provide visitor packages that include accommodation, local restaurant/café, natural heritage guided tours and tasters, individual guides and cycle hire

- Coordinating information, using social media & promotion was vital

- **'Shop doctor' initiative** targeted at independent retail/ service businesses could be a piloted

- The reasons for the Vault failing as a 'youth space' and the lessons learned were discussed: building more local capacity in the community with mentoring and directly involving young people over several years was considered crucial

- More volunteering and social enterprise opportunities were also identified

The Design Team continued to prepare plans, drawings and illustrations based on the emerging structuring principles (*see next page*).



<u>Below:</u>

Emerging ideas - sketches



Wednesday 14 September

The morning of the third full day of the charrette involved 7 people attending the Public Agencies and Interested Parties Workshop held in the KirrieConnections Community Hub. The group included the various statutory, voluntary, community organisations that have an interest in Kirriemuir. In the Workshop a number of important community planning initiatives were identified including:

- The Town Hall had been refurbished in 2010 but was now less well used and has considerable spare capacity

- Fairlie House: Community Asset Transfer Stage 1 has been successful and the next step will be to make a strategic business case that takes account of the scale of the spaces other existing buildings (e.g Vault, Town Hall, Connections, Bank, Post Office) and demand/ potential uses

- Building on the successful CARS investment: celebrate achievement and look to get space that is still vacant/ under used back into economic use

- Demand for affordable, adaptable & social rented housing in the town

- Ageing population: challenges & opportunities

- Health & Social Care Integration: focus on care at home, adapted housing, keeping active & well being

- Raising awareness and progressing a Sports Hub in Kirriemuir with Development Officer (Community Sport Hubs) ANGUSalive and the active involvement of local sports clubs.

- Opportunities to improve the visitor offer with a strong focus on natural heritage

- Strategic coordination of the business case for improved community centre and sports hub provision

The Design Team continued to prepare plans, drawings and illustrations based on the emerging structuring principles that were presented at the Report back session later in the evening (see adjacent page).

14 people attended the Report Back on the Wednesday evening. The focus for the discussion was to consider some of the implications of the emerging development framework key spatial moves and action plan structuring principles and including in particular the emerging objectives and programmes in summary:

1. Strengthen Community Connections + Third Sector 2. Celebrate Natural Heritage

3. Unlock Economic Development Opportunities

4. Improve Access + Connections

The discussion focussed on fundamental strategic interventions including the importance of:

- Talk the town centre up: support KALBA and change perceptions!

- Agreeing priorities across the various business and community groups and coordinating the strategic business case for improved community facilities

- Action Plan should include tangible economic and community development projects that can be delivered.

Early studies for the Den and potential development sites were shown. The outcomes from the discussion were used to refine the Action Plan.

Tuesday 27 September

The **'Emerging Ideas' exhibition** was open in KirrieConnections Community Hub from 2.00 pm on the fourth and final day and more than 12 people dropped in during the afternoon to review progress and discuss specific opportunities.

A School Project Review/Youth Follow Up was held in the afternoon and this was an ideal opportunity for the Design Team to explain the emerging proposals for the Den and to receive feedback from the 6 pupils who attended. It was also confirmed that it would be likely that the CARS project could offer £2,000 as a starter pot for the development of a place app by the Webster's High School.

25 people in total attended the Final Presentation. Councillor Iain Gaul provided the words of welcome. Four follow up Pecha Kucha presentations were given by:

- Kirrie Youth FC: Chris Kettles
- Kirriemuir Regeneration Group:Mo Duncan
- Kirriemuir Business Association /KALBA: Tina Williamson
- Angus Council Communities Team: Maureen McGinlay

The film that Waveparticle had produced with interviews with a diverse range of people was shown. The event included an explanation of the Design Team's work and the transformational themes, strategic principles, vision/ values, programmes and delivery circle diagrams.

The Vision and values of a: **community-focussed**, **distinctive**, artisan, connected, caring, enchanting and **memorable Kirriemuir** was outlined.

This was followed by a discussion of the **emerging final Regeneration Action Plan** and **Development Framework** that is summarised and illustrated in Chapter 3.

The Design Team's initial presentation included town context analysis and fundamental issues, spatial strategy, the four action plan programmes, illustrated development framework, schematic and layouts and diagrams that highlighted proposals to improve the Den, connectivity and proposals to reuse key building and develop key sites. This was also a final opportunity for one to one discussions with the Design Team.

Final comments included:

- A concern that local people had an expectation that Angus Council would not deliver on outcomes and proposals. The Design Team made clear again, has was done throughout the Charrette, that this will not be the case and that it will be about collective effort and a range of alternative funding sources had been identified.

- It was confirmed that it would be likely that the CARS project could offer £2,000 as a starter pot for the development of a place app by the Webster's High School. This will however require agreement from the Kirriemuir CARS Steering Group who have final decision on any agreed expenditure. In order to meet the criteria under the grant funding as provided by Historic Environment Scotland as part of education, training and awareness raising and also as part of the legacy of the CARS scheme. The first stage of the app should seek to map out information on buildings which have received grant funding from CARS and give insight into the history of Kirriemuir.

- **Community Networking:** Online + Offline: How best to support and strengthen the extensive network of community groups and voluntary organisations active in Kirriemuir to help to continue to improve and promote the town was again discussed. This could include a coordinated community / town website and physical space in the town to showcase projects and events, and to encourage participation.

- Inclusive Kirriemuir: A number of people reflecting on the success and ambition of the 'dementia-friendly town' and the scope to improve accessibility for those with mobility and sensory impairments as well as promote the KirrieConnections Community Hub for a wider range of uses.

- Continuing The Restoring Kirriemuir's Built Heritage: Included lessons learned from the CARS and scope to continue to maintain and celebrate Kirriemuir's built heritage and social history (including J M Barrie and Bon Scott). Clearly there are several existing vacant or under utilised buildings (incl. Post Office, former Bank, Gairie Works) and others such as Fairlie House that are surplus to the Council's requirements. A more coordinated and strategic approach based on a clear business case is essential.

- Events / Visitor Economy: People spoke fondly of the importance of Bonfest and the work of DD8 and others to organise excellent events. Scope to maximise the potential benefit to attract visitors to spend more time and money in Kirriemuir is seen as vital. There was an agreed desire to promote Kirriemuir as a quality destination and Gateway to the Angus Glens and Cairngorms National Park.

- **Community Sports Hub:** The formation of a Community Sports Hub was welcomed. There is a need to raise awareness and spread the word about what the Hub is and how it works.





<u>From top to bottom:</u> Transport 'Walk & Talk' Example of existing footpath condition The 'Zig Zag' path







<u>From top to bottom:</u> Existing of cycle parking provision Discussions continued at Kirrie Connections Example of existing signage









NAME / SITE	EXISTING SITUATION	CHARRETTE PROPOSAL	
Accessibility Audit	Some missing dropped kerbs Narrow footway	Illustrate area to be assessed.	
Signage review to include directional signage for those on foot / parking locations / toilets / local attractions / links to core / cycle path network etc.	Signage in town poor. Parking signage disjointed. Core path gaps.	Carry out local signage review and replace signage to help wayfinding. Review parking directional signage to give better definition of town car parks.	
School Path at The Den	Path 'zig zags' to cater for gradient. Path is signed as closed at certain times of day	Identify area on plan.	
Review cycle parking in town.	Parking present but poorly provided and poorly defined.	Identify cycle parking in town as existing (and proposed?)	
Parking Decriminalisation	Parking Decriminalisation - AC are taking this forwards - enforcement is a recurring issue	N/A	
Coach parking	Lack of coach parking to cater for visitors	Note coach parking options to be pursued	
Bus shelter in square	No formal shelter at main stops in square (but shelter possible in nearby doorways etc)	Illustrate possible intervention locations.	



JUSTIFICATION / ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	Priority
Audit should be carried out including local access groups. Should encompass the entire town centre in the first instance and extend thereafter in consultation with those with impaired mobility or sensory impairments. Could also include tactile wayfinding and involve discussions about enhancements to public transport etc.	High
	High
Potential to provide stepped access together with enhancement of existing link to provide a 24hr route.	High to define / Medium to provide
	Medium
AC are considering this in the context of the County.	N/A
 Identification required of possible coach parking locations and set down / pick up.	High
Provision should be seen in the context of the visual impact of this item on the streetscape.	Medium







- Upper floors in the town centre and in retail frontages
- Occupiers : solicitors, accountants, property firms
- 1 office available (u/o) Bank Street
- Gairie Works
- Muirhead Industrial Estate
- Logie Business Park
- · Motor trades, construction trades, engineering, textiles










Leisure

- · JM Barrie's Birthplace museum
- Gateway to the Glens museum
- Tayside Police museum
- Kirriemuir Camera Obscura
- Accommodation:
 - · Two hotels in the town centre
 - · One in the Southmuir area
 - B & B's
 - · Self catering cottages
- · Pubs / restaurants / cafes
- Two pubs for sale
- · Former Buddies nightclub, for sale





Ryden

Opportunity Sites

- Gairie Works:
 - · residential, Class 4 (business), Class 1 (retail) or community uses
- Land at Cortachy Road:
 - · residential or Class 4 business use
- Proposed LDP Allocation at Beechwood Place residential use
- · Brownfield / Infill development opportunities











- · Commercial hierarchy and competition
- · Problems are national: solutions are local
- · Kirriemuir:
 - Well defined and reasonably well-occupied town centre
 - Projects and interventions: "CARS"





Emerging Opportunities/ Gaps

1.Pub / rooms (requirement & possible mixed opp.)

2.Identify leisure/ tourism site (better links with accommodation)

3.Retail 'gap analysis', testing and formal targeting

4. Monitor industrial stock/supply & provide analysis



Austin-Smith:Lord





BACKGROUND OF DEMENTIA FRIENDLY KIRRIEMUIR

- Life Changes Trust funding projects for dementia friendly communities and young carers
- Kirriemuir and Dean Area Partnership applied to Life changes trust for funding
- The partnership was awarded £275,000 over 3 years













WHY POSITIVE CONNECTIONS ARE IMPORTANT

- Positive connections improve physical and mental health
- Positive connections produces oxytocin hormone which is known a love or healing hormone
- 90% of a babies brain develop before the age of 3
- Another growth development as a teenager
- Most importantly- Our brain is constantly developing-neuroplasticity is where the brain has capacity to re learn after broken connections
- We need to connect as a community in more ways than one



































































































Saving our Swifts – Kirriemuir Swift Conservation Project



- Not related to swallows & martins
- Feed on flying insects /airborne invertebrates and can fly hundreds of miles per day
- · Feed, sleep, drink & mate on the wing
- Only stop to breed no roosting on wires
- Migrate to/ from Southern Africa every year
- Young swifts breed at 3 or 4 years old won't stop flying until finding a nest site

- Loyal to same nest site, returning every year
- Loyal to same mate (in same nest site)
- In Scotland for just over 3 months early May to mid Aug
- · Nest high up to get easily airborne
- Apus apus means no feet!
- Swifts are the only species of bird whose young can survive a period of torpor during food shortages
Swift numbers have dropped by 62% over 15 yrs – BTO surveys



Main reason for drop in numbers is loss of nest sites.





- Raise awareness of swifts across area & undertake Citizen Science swift surveys through working with groups, schools, churches
- Use this info to update Swift Priority Area map; conserve existing nest sites & recommend new nestbox locations
- Provide advice & 100 nestboxes to residents; ensure nestboxes are monitored
- Work with Planners, developers & contractors
- Work with schools/ groups to start Swift Twinning Project with a school in Southern Africa







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