

Community Environmental Improvement Action Plan

Drongan Revised Action Plan



November 2006

1 Background

Drongan, a former mining village, is situated on the western edge of Ayrshire, some 6 miles from Ayr and 10 miles from Cumnock and has a population of 3168. The earliest references to Drongan lands are to be found in documents dating to the 14th Century. In the 1390's these lands were granted to the Craufurds whose stronghold for 250 years was Drongan Castle. The remains of the Castle can be seen on Drongan Mains Farm. In 1946 it was proposed that Drongan should be developed as a "new town" and families from various small mining communities were also re-housed there. Like many other villages in this part of East Ayrshire, Drongan saw prosperity when the Killoch and Barony pit mines were operational.

The Drongan Centre, opened in 2002, provides Health, Local Authority and Police services within a modern purpose built facility and received funding from the Scottish Executive Health Department's Primary and Community Premises Modernisation Fund.

2 Local Members

The local member Councillor Thomas Farrell was interviewed on 20th September 2006.

Drongan is comparatively well served for housing and other facilities and has a one stop Council office. Being close to Ayr, the bus service runs every 15 minutes, unemployment is not a major issue. The meat factory currently employs 50 to 60 people and hopes to employ 80 by Christmas. There are five small industrial/ business units, fully utilised. The factory and the Council are the main employers. £1 million has been spent on an all weather pitch in the school, £3million on a library and there were computer suites in the centre. There are five or six football teams.

The community is served by a good community association and community council. The community centre is quite well used and Community Learning and Development staff from East Ayrshire Council support local groups and assisted with a full programme of activities for young people over the summer. It is important to keep residents involved and active and this is happening.

Specific issues and opportunities cited were;

- Youth disorder. There has been spells of vandalism but the community police work well with the community council and community association and any problems are effectively managed
- Substance misuse. There is no significant problem at the moment and even the incidence of young people's drinking is low
- Environment. A new fishing club has been established after three weeks of cleaning the river. The community is very active. Recycling has also been well received and supported
- East Ayrshire Council invested £60,000 on improving the burn three years ago, but there is still some fly tipping
- Tree planting completed has had very little damage. There are leisure seats and bins, that are emptied regularly
- Some of the older footpaths may need maintenance and repair work
- Some housing scheme footpaths where young people sit, need attention
- There is a shortage of shops in the village
- Sectarianism. A significant number of complaints relate to flags (orange) which some residents display out all year long
- The community has a strong spirit. Unveiling the miners' monument demonstrates that they remember their industrial past. After the closures people stayed and they

still stay, with young people staying as well which keeps a balanced community. Incomers are also welcomed

- Community organisation. There are a number of groups, mums and tots, heart group, happy hens, scouts/ girl guides, football teams and an amateur football team, after school groups, orange lodge and the tenants association. They are very involved and quite skilled at attracting investment. The Council's local committee meetings are held locally with the general public welcome for the first 15/20 minutes to raise questions
- Supported housing. There has been investment in sheltered accommodation of good quality with warden and alarm services.

3 Focus Group

The community in Drongan felt that the burn should be an asset and that was being allowed to run into disrepair through neglect. One of the groups represented had ideas to both dredge and re-instate the whole burn area. There would be a major renovation of the burn with new gardens and walks being put in to landscape the surroundings. There would be local information available on the local heritage of the site. Finally there would be an effort to join up to other walks in the outlying areas, to bring in new visitors.

There was felt to be a strong community spirit in Drongan. There is felt to be no major crime the only issue being some youth disorder.

Drongan - Flip chart issues, eyesores and opportunities

- Burnside Park is now residential housing. The shops at the top beside the takeaways is where the kids congregate
- We need to put in older, more mature trees this time, so they can survive
- Vandalism at both the BP shops and the old garages
- Youth Disorder. Teen shelter would be a good idea for older young people
- Sewage pipe in Carston Drive area floods every time there is heavy rain
- Maybe an Adventure Playground would be good for the area
- No litterbins
- The burn is cut off by concrete posts. It is not accessible to even cut the grass and maintenance. Need a new Footbridge
- No signs
- Lots of litter at the shops (the wind blows the litter out of the bins)
- Two dog fouling bins not working – not getting emptied. None in Rankinston
- Play area was never done up. It was resurfaced and then taken away. There could be a garden there, with a new footbridge

4 Questionnaire Survey

Twice as many respondents cited the Hannahston Woodland as something they liked about the community than anything else.

Drongan likes in rank order

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|--|--|---|--|
| The Hannahston Woodland | Library/ Games Hall for children | Nothing | The amount of space and grass areas Friendly people | Village community gives access to more rural areas | Freedom and safety of known local community Close proximity of open countryside and views of the sea | There is a half decent play park by community centre but for older children only Streets are clean Access to local facilities School The scenery Local library Friendly, helpful and a safe place for the children |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | | | I like the fact that there is always someone looking out for you New children's play area Child orientated activities Fairly well maintained Learning Centre Plenty of amenities Landscaping The local primary school promotes a very positive sense of community |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|

Drongan least attractive in rank order

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------------|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Dog fouling | Litter i.e. empty beer can left lying around after a football match | All the broken glass lying around, even in the school grounds, swing park and community centre Continual all year round display of Orange order flags outside houses | Swing park does not facilitate the needs of children | Village suffers badly from graffiti The state of footpaths, roads/ carriageway in Drongan are in a very poor state for a modern village like ours Nothing for the kids to do - The fact that there is so many houses and no facilities for the kids no wonder they get into trouble Vandalism | The shopping area is not as clean | River area (dangerous for kids) / burn Busy streets where children are that do not have 'sleeping policemen' The amount of houses being built Fly tipping Drug users Bigotry/ sectarianism Gangs of teenagers Poor amenities | No bus shelters Old or disused buildings in need of repair Untidy No community feel Toddlers and teenagers have to play at same area Graffiti Play areas |

Dog fouling and litter rank high in the frequency of aspects of Drongan life which people find least attractive.

The top 10 topics which respondents are dissatisfied with are; play areas, facilities for teenagers, graffiti removal, artwork, monuments, litter/ fly tipping, street furniture, environment around shops, parks and public open spaces and the condition of footpaths/ pathways. The most frequently listed as aspects with which people are satisfied are sports/ leisure facilities, woodlands, street lighting, landscaping; trees, shrubs, flowerbeds, public buildings, industrial premises, community facilities (access to and quality of), local heritage/ culture and signage; directional and information signs.

In terms of the frequency of suggestions for improvements, 18% put forward a safe play park for pre-school children. Better footpaths and roads were favoured by 5% of respondents.

The following group of suggestions was next in frequency;

- Would like to see the burn tidied
- More frequent clearing of broken glass by council i.e. public footpath access to school and Mill O'Shield Road entrance
- Improvement of car park area at Drongan Primary

- Indoor evening facility for teenagers – not necessarily linked to sports activities – youth club/café type atmosphere
- Graffiti

The final 2 groupings are those that in occurred with 2.5% frequency and individual suggestions.

- A swimming pool
- A school crossing patrol at Mill O Shields Road, Dromgan
- Improved parks and play areas
- More seating i.e. picnic benches etc
- Better doctor service
- Woodland walk
- Litter
- Facilities for young people

Single suggestions

- Road safety around Dromgan Primary School
- Improved street lighting
- A skate-boarding area
- Cycle path in/around the village
- Bank
- More speed ramps on long streets
- More flowers around shops
- Local schools to make more use of Community facilities e.g. Library, Games Hall,
- More litter bins at shops
- Safe post to tie dogs outside shops
- Vandalism
- More dog litter bins
- Removal of dog litter bins which are a target for vandalism
- More drug awareness sessions for teenagers
- Improved industrial areas
- Increase police presence
- Better child friendly areas
- Bus shelters
- More plants and trees at the entrance to Dromgan
- Landscaping
- More walk ways
- A general clean up for this tired, old, tatty, run down community
- New shops with pitched roofs
- Exterior of school and community centre to be improved and well maintained thereafter
- New swing park at community centre to tidied and done properly
- Financial support for groups (voluntary) who create outlets for 7 – 16 year olds e.g. fishing club

When asked directly to prioritise the following list was generated;

1. Facilities for young children i.e. play area (with swings)
2. Facilities for teenagers
3. Litter
4. The burn to be cleaned and tidied
5. Footpaths

6. Dog fouling
7. Graffiti
8. Fly tipping
9. Pathways along river (woodland)
10. Upgrading shops surroundings
11. Broken glass



Drongan
Library



All of the information collected from the local members, focus group and survey was analysed and generated lists of issues, priorities and possible projects on the basis of their frequency of occurrence. These were discussed at the public meeting. This was re-enforced by the post-its and comments on the exhibition and made at the meeting.

The 2 most important issues identified for Drongan were the burn and facilities for young people. These scored a 10 point differential over the other 9 issues. While the burn being cleaned and maintained came top there were 2 who disagreed bringing it in line with facilities for young children. A further 10 points separates the remaining issues with pathways and facilities for teenagers coming highest and fly tipping and upgrading the shops lowest.

Drongan main issues list

| Issues | Agree | Disagree | No Opinion |
|---|-------|----------|------------|
| 1. The burn to be cleaned and tidied | 48 | 2 | - |
| 2. Facilities for young children i.e. play area (with swings) | 46 | - | - |
| 3. Pathways along river (woodland) | 36 | - | - |
| 4 Facilities for teenagers | 33 | 1 | - |
| 5. Litter | 33 | - | - |
| 6. Dog fouling | 31 | - | - |
| 7. Footpaths | 28 | - | - |
| 8. Graffiti | 28 | - | - |
| 9. Broken glass | 27 | - | - |
| 10. Fly tipping | 25 | - | - |
| 11. Upgrading shops | 22 | - | - |

There were no major disagreements on the projects and their respective priority in Drongan.

Drongan priority project list

| Projects | Agree | Disagree | No Opinion |
|---|-------|----------|------------|
| 1. Provide teen shelter for young people | 52 | - | - |
| 2. Build an adventure playground and skateboard park | 52 | 1 | 4 |
| 3. Undertake renovation of the burn with new gardens and walks being put in to landscape the surroundings | 48 | - | - |
| 4. Regenerate play area for young children | 47 | - | - |
| 5. Provide a community garden with a new footbridge | 46 | - | 1 |
| 6. Renew sewage and drainage pipes in Carston Drive and surrounding area | 43 | - | 2 |
| 7. Install litterbins and more street signs | 35 | - | - |
| 8. Create cycle paths | 33 | - | 2 |

6 Projects

1. Provide teen shelter for young people
2. Build an adventure playground and skateboard park
3. Undertake renovation of the burn with new gardens and walks being put in to landscape the surroundings
4. Regenerate play area for young children
5. Provide a community garden with a new footbridge
6. Renew sewage and drainage pipes in Carston Drive and surrounding area
7. Install litterbins and more street signs
8. Create cycle paths

7 Implementation

It is recommended that the development and implementation of plans and projects, as outlined through the CEIAP, for Drongan, Rankinston and Sinclairston be facilitated by the Community Council in association with other appropriate groups who have been involved in the consultation process. This will ensure full representation from each of the communities.

Comments From Exhibition and Public Meeting

A place for old people like with flowers and benches

A new play area for kids (6)

An area for mini motor bikes

A swimming pool (2)

Lane between Glenraig St & Hannahston Avenue needs a lamp post to stop loitering at night and drinking

The burn needs more than tidied – cleaning out just results in rubbish falling back in – how about piping it – huge pipes underground (2)

A new cycle path

A walk path for elderly people

Nine hole golf driving range

Reduce speed in whole Drongan village to 20mph

A local youth club with facilities for teenagers – for example an alcohol free night club – ice skating, bowling etc – sports activities

We need a games shop and a hotdog stall!

There should be a community garden (2)

River area needs weeds cut back and landscaped

Disused play park at Millmannoch needs either made suitable or some sort of seating area

We should get a better youth club, camera's at the most vandalised places, better police who are at the police station all the time

I think Drongan really needs a play area for younger children, mainly one with safety swings. Drongan's swing park is ok for older children but has no facilities for toddlers. The two safety swings which were in the old swing park were removed. I think that was unfair

I want the bonfire back in Coyle Avenue (3)

Ladies Walk top end needs resurfacing

A wildlife park or animal farm or a thing to learn about animals

There is always a lot of broken glass, litter etc on footpaths and pavements

A youth club at night time for teenagers with internet access MSN Messenger and activities such as sport

Railings and fences all sorted up

Pavements in village need attention badly. You need to walk in road in many streets

Play park is badly needed for toddlers. I have recently moved to Drongan and very disappointed I have nowhere to take my 3 year old daughter

Enjoyed walking round Hannaston woods but found paths a problem with buggy.

Burn could be really nice if cleaned up

I think there should be more bins around Drongan

Wandering dogs and dogs fouling pavements