

Community Environmental Improvement Action Plan

Lugar Action Plan



November 2006

1 Background

Located in East Ayrshire, Lugar lies on the Lugar Water, 2 miles (3 km) east of Cumnock. The village was developed in the 1840's by the Eglinton Iron Company, which was originally established in the village though moved to higher ground in the 1860's and was in production up until 1928. The Church (1867) and the Lugar Institute (1892) are the main architectural features of the village, whilst Craigston Square shows examples of the housing available to the foremen of the works.

The village has a population of 211.

2 Local Member

The local member Councillor James Kelly was interviewed on 22nd August 2006.

Councillor Kelly's ward covers Lugar and the neighbouring community of Logan. Logan is predominately a housing estate and has many of the problems and challenges associated with peripheral estates. Lugar and Logan are both associated with mining with Lugar the older and smaller settlement, but both have a transport problem associated with accessing health and other services located in the main town, Cumnock.

With the demise of mining the population has decreased and in Lugar there are a significant number of elderly people. The main employment opportunities are in the service industries

Specific issues and opportunities cited were;

- Environmental improvements have an important part in regeneration
- Key priorities are employment and quality of life issues
- Should integrate thinking and planning on improving Lugar undertaking environmental improvements, while enhancing employment opportunities services, community facilities
- Community Council is making a real difference developing good working relationships between the community and other agencies and organisations
- Local shops tend to be for people who have run out of provisions. Cost means that it is much cheaper to undertake the main shopping at the supermarkets.
- Drug problem and anti-social behaviour is predominately located in Logan. Not really an issue in Lugar

3 Focus Group

The main impression of Lugar was of a comparatively attractive place. The population is ageing. There are no real problems with crime or disorder. What it was felt it lacked was a focus for the community to meet, interact and pursue/ access a range of activities. Transport was also felt to be a problem.

Lugar - Flip chart issues, eyesores and opportunities

- Need to protect heritage buildings, put conditions on development
- Spend finance in communities that are suffering real social deprivation
- Speeding a problem
- Heritage and history – story needs to be told to create its own identity
- Raise awareness of Lugar itself
- Separate facility. Lugar needs a heart - Community Hall, Community noticeboard and Newsletter
- Facilities for disabled people

- Improved transport links (To Cumnock and Ayr)

- Involvement – Use the Bowling Green. Expand its use for the whole community so that all age groups can use it
- Facilities for young people
- Outdoor Activities – Cycling/ walks along the river, join up with other communities walkways i.e. Muirkirk
- Football Ground – improve front and access, provide indoor facilities
- Safe cycle pathway to Cumnock
- Re-instate Institute (Listed Building) Ageing and retired community need health and social opportunities
- Walkway access for all (Health Issue) Could be used by the disabled and visitors
- Along river there are links to Murdoch's Cave and links to industrial heritage
- Provision of nursing/ care home
- Protecting the environment (Conservation Village). Housing developments can destroy
- Heritage focus/ garden – Monument/ Institute/ Website (Industrial and Natural Heritage)

4 Questionnaire Survey

Lugar least attractive in rank order

1	2
Arterial Road, heavily used by artic lorries – speeding Lack of interest in making village attractive – no flower beds, baskets, manicuring of verges – different from Sorn, Auchinleck, Muirkirk Litter Poor walking, paths, pavements etc	Condition of road to church Institute Speeding traffic on main road going through Lugar

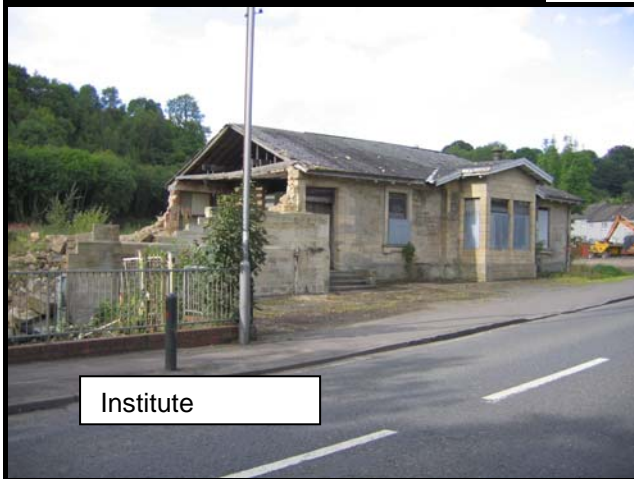
Litter/ fly tipping, condition and availability of car parking, facilities for teenagers, local heritage/ culture, public buildings, condition of footpaths/ pathways, environment around shops, play areas, woodlands, monuments, graffiti removal and community facilities (access to and quality of) are the aspects in frequency order that people are most dissatisfied with. People were satisfied with; woodlands, sports/ leisure facilities, street lighting and condition of footpaths/ pathways



Lugar Football Ground

Lugar Bowling Club





Institute



River walks



The most frequently recorded improvements people would like to see were a clean up of the areas where fly tipping is occurring and greater provision of litter bins.

When asked directly to prioritise the following list was generated;

1. Walkways with access for all
2. Speed restriction on A70 – speed cameras
3. Access to war memorial improved
4. Access to Logan (nearest shops) improved for disabled
5. Institute
6. Village landscaping
7. Road to church improved
8. Youth facilities
9. Better community centre
10. Environmental makeover

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Lugar individual suggestions

Restoration of original Institute
 Speed restriction on A70
 Walkways with access for all
 Heritage Site
 Improved bus shelter
 Council offices not accessible to disabled unless they have a car

Street furniture (somewhere to sit) provided
 Flower beds provided
 Important heritage recognised (Murdoch, industrial heritage etc)
 Access to war memorial improved (visitors who visit have to travel on disgraceful road)
 Access to shops at Logan impossible for disabled (unless they have a car) steep, badly lit and poorly maintained.
 Resurfacing of all street in Logan
 Street Lighting in Glen Av is very poorly maintained including the two lights that was installed 3 months ago and there is no light in this area to this day the 17.9.06
 Improved play areas for children for safety reasons
 Better community facilities
 Water well in Lugar updated

5 Public Meeting

The only disagreement on the Lugar main issues came with the lower ranks where youth facilities and improvements to the community centre had detractors. The main issues; more and improved walkways, the condition of the Institute, speeding vehicles on the A70, disabled access to shops at Logan and village landscaping all came in the top half.

Lugar main issues list

Issues	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Walkways with access for all	7	-	1
2. Institute	6	-	-
3. Speed restriction on A70 – speed cameras	5	-	-
4. Access to Logan (nearest shops) improved for disabled	5	-	-
5. Village landscaping	5	-	-
6. Access to war memorial improved	4	-	-
7. Road to church improved	4	-	-
8. Environmental makeover	4	-	-
9. Youth facilities	3	-	1
10. Better community centre	3	-	1

Lugar proposed projects list

Projects	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Traffic calming measure required for the Main Road through Lugar	8	-	-
2. Expand use and involvement of the bowling green for the whole community and for all ages	8	-	-
3. Create walks along the river to join up with other communities' walkways	7	-	-
4. Create a Lugar heritage and history project to tell its story, re-create its identity and to attract visitors	6	-	-
5. Ageing and retired community need health and social opportunities so provide facilities for disabled people	5	-	-
6. Develop river walkways/ heritage with links to Murdoch's Cave and to industrial heritage	5	-	-
7. Create more access to outdoor activities, for example, safe cycle pathway to Cumnock	5	-	-
8. Lugar needs a heart through the development of a community facility. A community hall, notice board and/ or newsletter	4	-	1
9. Provide facilities for young people	4	-	-
10. Improve the frontage and access of the football ground and provide indoor facilities	3	-	-
10. Re-instate the Institute (listed building) and protect it by putting conditions on development		-	-
11. Create a website with an industrial and/or natural heritage theme		-	-

This is reflected in the priority projects list where traffic calming and walks feature in the top 3. Despite it being identified as the second most important issue the condition of the Institute does not feature in the agreed projects. The feeling was that the scale of the task was too great and that other projects might benefit more residents.

There is also a feeling expressed in the suggested projects that Lugar needs a better community facility. The general consensus is that this might best be achieved by expanding the use and access to the bowling green which has a substantive building attached.

6 Projects

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12. Create a website with an industrial and/or natural heritage theme

7 Implementation

It was agreed that the best method of the community leading the CEAIIP process is through the Community Council with the assistance of the Bowling Committee.

Comments From Exhibition and Public Meeting

More physical than just a website. Plaques to show heritage, maybe make up a booklet with local information and history

Project like Muirkirk? A taped history plus leaflet to guide through

Footpath at Bellamill needs to be attended to

Road at the Institute, near the war memorial needs attention

Develop river walkways. Heritage trail

Sleeping Policemen needed to control speed through village

Lay-by at the Institute and between river and football park

Buildings up at the council offices for development for ironworks history

Bowling Green could be asked if building could be used for other groups

Notice board at the fresh spring and bridge

Coffee mornings and quizzes could be held at the Bowling Green so as to involve residents of the village coming together

Swing park could be better, needs more facilities. Just four swings in park

Need indoor changing facilities for football. Fencing needs to be upgraded or changed

Institute cannot be developed as it is privately owned and being built upon

Walkways from Lugar to Cumnock. Beautiful scenery used by film companies for screen footage

Cycle paths need developed. Use rail lines and river to Muirkirk and Auchinleck

Village not maintained, needs cosmetic attention i.e. hanging baskets