

Community Environmental Improvement Action Plan

Rankinston Revised Action Plan



November 2006

1 Background

Rankinston village is situated south east of the town of Ayr on the B730 approximately 12 miles from the town. Rankinston is an ex-mining village, and, due to its altitude, has beautiful views. Facilities include church, Post Office, bowling green, bar, community centre, grocer and school. Since the closure of Littlemill pit in 1974 the local people have had to travel to the local towns for work mostly by public transport. The Community Centre and the Primary School are the focal points of the village. Rankinston has a population of 339. Rankinston was a quarry that sent red sandstone to Glasgow, hence the name.

2 Local Members

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

Rankinston has one way in and one way out. The area had done well before the reorganisation of local Government, with strong investment in housing. They have a strong community council, gala committee, a good playing field and new Health Service provision, albeit a cabin, where before they had had a room in the community centre. There is a good bus service, unemployment is higher than Drongan and there is a comparatively high proportion of older people. There's one small shop but it's not viable for another.

While there are concerns and possible improvements there were no major specific issues or opportunities identified.

3 Focus Group

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

Rankinston - Flip chart issues, eyesores and opportunities

- Viaducts completely unsafe. Should be removed
- Poor drainage
- The play area was neglected. Rankinston needs a play area
- Co-op closed. Area could be developed
- Car park needs upgraded/ grass verge needs attention there is a safety issue
- No walks! One derelict the other non existent.
- No additional car parking in the Coyle area. Safety issue for children.
- Walks need to be developed to link with other areas
- Lighting at school not adequate, it is quite isolated
- The local Pub closing will affect the community
- Play area at the other end of the village needs re-instated
- Youngsters have nothing to do. Only 12/15 teenagers. There are more younger children
- Panoramic view needs to be exploited
- Should tell the story of the history and heritage
- There is no planting on waste ground
- Tree shelter belt has not been achieved
- Bus shelters are needed as the area is very exposed
- Develop walks towards Old Pit
- Develop the old viaducts. (Owned by British Rail) Both still there but in a very poor state of repair

- Children causing problems in the Coyle Crescent area. Parking and deliveries are difficult

4 Questionnaire Survey

The key aspects contributing to the quality of life in Rankinston are the environment and the atmosphere in the community.

Rankinston likes in rank order

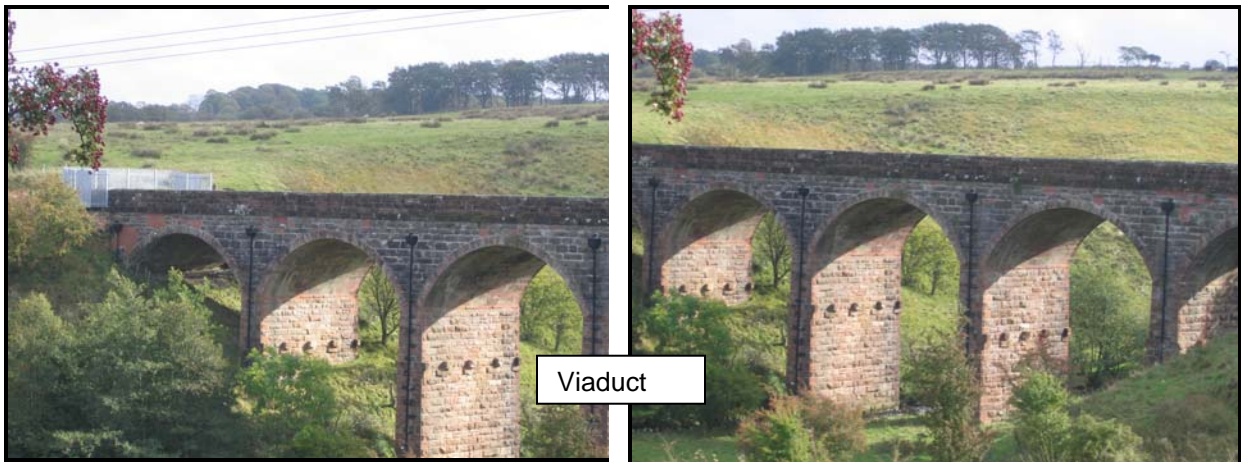
1	2
The quietness Surrounding scenery/ walks	The people The area Fresh air There is plenty of trees and plenty of places where you can go walks The environment is a safe, clean and usually crime free environment I like the idea of the recycling which is now in place (coloured bins) Car parking facilities Quite a close-knit community

People liked least;

- Drug users that are bringing the village a bad name
- Volume of traffic
- The lack of activities for children in the village to do

Then below that in rank;

- There are no bins for litter so it is dropped on the ground
- It is dull and boring to look at and nowhere for a safe or interesting walk with children
- Trees planted at the bottom of my garden
- Don't feel safe letting kids out and about to play
- Neighbours





Community Centre



In terms of aspects which people were dissatisfied with the top in terms of their frequency in order were facilities for teenagers, sports/ leisure facilities' litter/ fly tipping, street furniture, local heritage/ culture, condition of footpaths/ pathways, play areas, community facilities (access to and quality of), parks and public open spaces, landscaping; trees, shrubs, flowerbeds and public buildings.

People were satisfied with; signage; directional and information signs, street lighting, condition and availability of car parking, graffiti removal, woodlands, community facilities(access to and quality of), artwork, industrial premises, monuments and public buildings.

When asked what improvements people would like to see a sports and leisure facility for young people '*as there is nothing for them to do*' was the most frequent response followed by traffic calming, speed ramps in village and car parking spaces in Coyle Crescent

Rankinston individual suggestions

More play areas
Footpaths/pathways
Make use of the community centre
Maybe some flower beds or flower boxes to brighten up the village
Bins in the street then there will be less rubbish thrown on the ground
Maybe a woodland walkway as there are no places to take young children a walk away from traffic
I think some kind of recycling for plastic would be great
Playground at top end of village as the council took swings away

When asked directly to prioritise the following list was generated;

1. Something for teenagers/ children
2. Dealing with substance misuse
3. Traffic speeding/humps
4. Car parking spaces in Coyle Crescent
5. Promoting local heritage
6. Better housing lets
7. Sports facilities
8. Make better use of our community centre
9. Woodland walkway
10. Flower beds or flower boxes
11. After school clubs egg gymnastics, dance etc
12. Plastic recycling

5 Public Meeting

In Rankinston with the exception of controlling speeding traffic there was general agreement on the issues. While 11 felt speeding an important issue, 6 individuals were in disagreement which would put it at the bottom of the list.

Rankinston main issues list

Issues	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Car parking spaces in Coyle Crescent	38	-	-
2. Something for teenagers/ children	15	-	-
3. Traffic speeding/ humps	11	6	-
4. Sports facilities	11	-	-
5. Make better use of our community centre	11	-	-
6. Woodland walkway	11	-	-
7. Plastic recycling	10	-	-
8. Promoting local heritage	9	-	-
9. Flower beds or flower boxes	7	-	-

Rankinston priority project list

Projects	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. Upgrade the car park and grass verges	12	-	-
2. Restore walks and develop to link with other areas	11	-	-
3. Develop more facilities for children and young people in the area egg renovate play area(s)	11	-	-
4. Develop the area where the former Co-op was sited	10	-	-
5. Improve street lighting especially around the school	9	1	-
6. Fix drainage system	8	-	-
7. Panoramic views and local heritage needs to be exploited (egg old pit and viaducts)	5	-	-
8. Provide bus shelters	4	2	-
9. Remove or develop unsafe viaducts	3	11	rejected
10. Plant more trees and Shrubs on waste ground	1	4	

In Rankinston there was more people disagreeing with the proposed projects to plant more trees and shrubs on waste ground and remove or develop the unsafe viaducts than in agreement. Projects 9 and 10 are therefore rejected. There was also some disagreement on the provision of bus shelters.

6 Projects

1. Upgrade the car park and grass verges
2. Restore walks and develop to link with other areas
3. Develop more facilities for children and young people in the area e.g. renovate play area
4. Develop the area where the former Co-op was sited
5. Improve street lighting especially around the school
6. Fix drainage system
7. Panoramic views and local heritage needs to be exploited (e.g. old pit and viaducts)
8. Provide bus shelters

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

More lighting for the school

More facilities and activities needed for teenagers

Re-instate the viaduct, for local use and interest

Parking at Coyle Crescent needs to be addressed

Local people need a bus shelter