

Kirkcowan Community Action Plan 2020-2025 report

Overview

Kirkcowan village is located in the centre of the old county of Wigtownshire in what is now Dumfries and Galloway region. The parish extends northward into the Moors and the Ayrshire border, and southwards into the Machars with its more fertile land. It has a population of approximately five hundred. The area has experienced enormous changes over the last two hundred years. In the nineteenth century the fast flowing waters of the River Tarf provided the motive power for two woollen mills located close to the village, which were a major source of employment. From the middle of the twentieth century, when the mills closed, and increased mechanisation on farms meant that less labour was required, there has been a decline in employment opportunities in the Community Council area. Many young people left the area to find employment elsewhere. At the same time, there has been an influx of newcomers who appreciate the advantages of living in such an unspoilt rural area. Many of these people are of retirement age. As a result, Kirkcowan has a more elderly population than the national average. This is typical of most rural areas in Scotland where commuting to a large town or city is not an option, and local employment opportunities are limited. In formulating a community action plan for Kirkcowan it is important to be aware of the current age structure of the population, but also to have in mind that providing better community facilities could help to attract and retain young people in the future.

The extensive area of moorland in the north of the parish has historically had little economic potential, and has always been sparsely populated. However, all this changed in the twenty-first century, when the area was identified as suitable for large scale wind farms, to generate electricity. Several windfarms have been constructed close to Kirkcowan Community Council area, the largest of which is Kilgallioch. There are also benefits paid to the community from Velocita Aries and RES Glenchamber. As part of the approval process, the developers of these windfarms offered to make funds available to communities throughout Wigtownshire and South Ayrshire, with a particular emphasis on those communities closest to the windfarms, of which Kirkcowan is one.

To facilitate the distribution of these community benefit funds the Kirkcowan Community Development Trust was set up in 2015 with three Trustees led by the chairman of Kirkcowan Community Council.

This arrangement continued until May 2019 when the Trust became a membership organisation with membership open to permanent residents of the Kirkcowan Community Council area. At the same time the Trust's Board was expanded to include six elected Directors (who had to be members)

and two Directors appointed by Kirkcowan Community Council to provide a link between the two bodies.

In 2016, an open meeting was held in Kirkcowan Village Hall to inform people about the Kilgallioch Community Benefit and to ask them to contribute what they would like the community benefit to be used for. The ideas generated can be seen in Appendix 1. In June 2019 the decision was made to develop a Community Action Plan to establish a working plan for implementing community change by identifying what the community wanted to achieve and what activities would be required to deliver them. Katrina Dick was appointed as Community Development Worker to consult with the community and to gather information to allow for a Community Action Plan to be created for Kirkcowan. She will then be tasked with ensuring the implementation and smooth delivery of the Kirkcowan Community Action Plan.

Survey Method

Kirkcowan is a small and tight knit community with a higher than usual elderly population. This reflected in the choice of surveying methods as it became apparent through talking with people and some business owners in the community that many of the citizens of Kirkcowan do not have an email address or even broadband, neither are they interested in gaining one. Due to knowing about the issue in regards to digital communication as well as wanting to get to know the community better the Community Development Officer spent some time visiting various groups and tried to get in touch with as many people in Kirkcowan as possible to inform them of what was happening.

Pilot Survey

In early December 2019 a pilot survey was sent out to every household in Kirkcowan. The survey was very open-ended and encouraged people to write about their ideas for the village and also what they thought the challenges were. People were also asked about what they value most about Kirkcowan. An identical online survey was also put up on Google Forms to encourage as many people as possible to answer. Survey results for the Pilot survey questionnaire can be seen in Appendix 2.

Some of the ideas people put forward in the Pilot survey questionnaire were then included in the Main Survey in a bid to ensure people's ideas were put out to everyone and to help create a sense of ownership over the Community Action Plan. The Pilot survey was also a great way of understanding and sensing the community's response to being sent a questionnaire to fill in.

In January 2020 a drop-in meeting was held at Kirkcowan Village Hall to help people understand more about how the Trust works, give them a chance to meet the Directors of the Trust and to share ideas. Approximately 50 people turned up and ideas and comments were shared which were later collated and used for the Main survey. A list of the ideas and comments collated at the drop in meeting can be seen in Appendix 3

Main survey

The main questionnaire survey which is considered the most important data collection point for the basis of the Community Action Plan, was sent out at the beginning of March 2020 with a response period of 14 days. Again the questionnaire was sent out to all households with envelopes clearly marked Kirkcowan Community Survey and marked with KCDT logo. The survey could also be completed online via Google Forms to try and accommodate as many different user groups as

possible. Although the survey was quite structured there was an opportunity at the end for anyone to leave comments. These can be seen in Appendix 4

Results

Pilot survey

The Pilot survey was sent out to 267 households within Kirkcowan Community Council area with 47 responses received, which has an answer rate of 18% which is considered good. The survey was written quite openly to allow for different views and perceived challenges to be expressed.

Top 5 things about Kirkcowan

- People/Community
- Quiet rural location
- Lovely surroundings/Scenery
- Post Office/shop
- Park

Top 5 perceived challenges in the community

- Ageing population
- Lack of employment
- Retaining young people in the village
- Ensuring that the whole community gets informed about what is going on with KCDT
- GP shortage

Ideas for using the windfarm money

- Improving play park
- Increase/improve paths
- Improve village hall

There were also a lot of other ideas which were suggested and some of these were included in the main survey as options to get a clearer picture on how the people of Kirkcowan felt about specific ideas & projects.

Main survey Questionnaire Results

The Main survey was sent out to 267 households and saw the return of 118 forms, which is a response rate of 44%. The survey also asked how many people's view were included on the form as it was anticipated that completion of the survey would be something couples and families would do as a household. This concluded that 179 people's views were expressed which equates to 36% of the community.

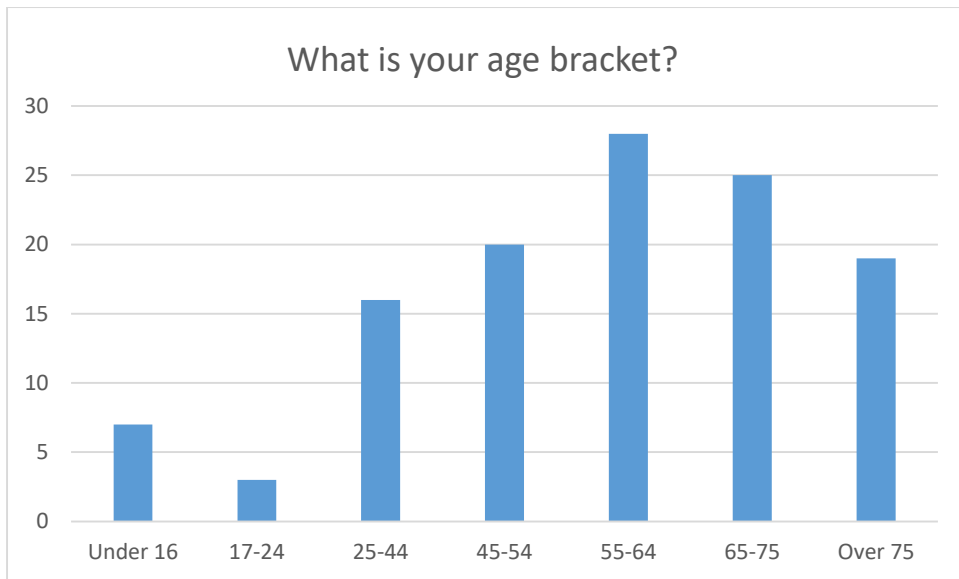


Chart 1 indicates that it was mainly the older generation which took time to answer the Main survey questionnaire.

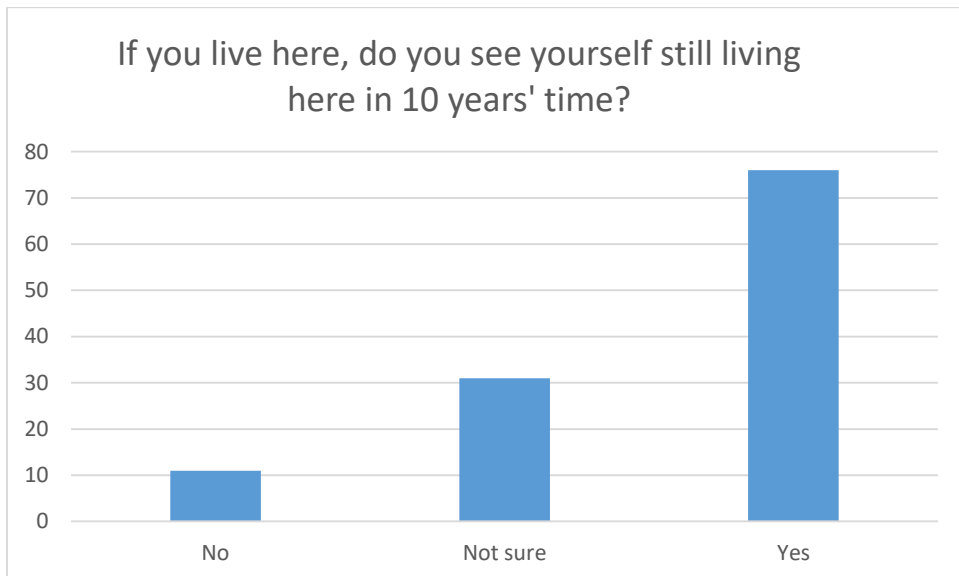


Chart 2 indicates that most people in the village who responded see themselves living there in 10 years' time. The results for this is however slightly skewed as it was apparent that many elderly people might be answering No or Not sure due to their age.

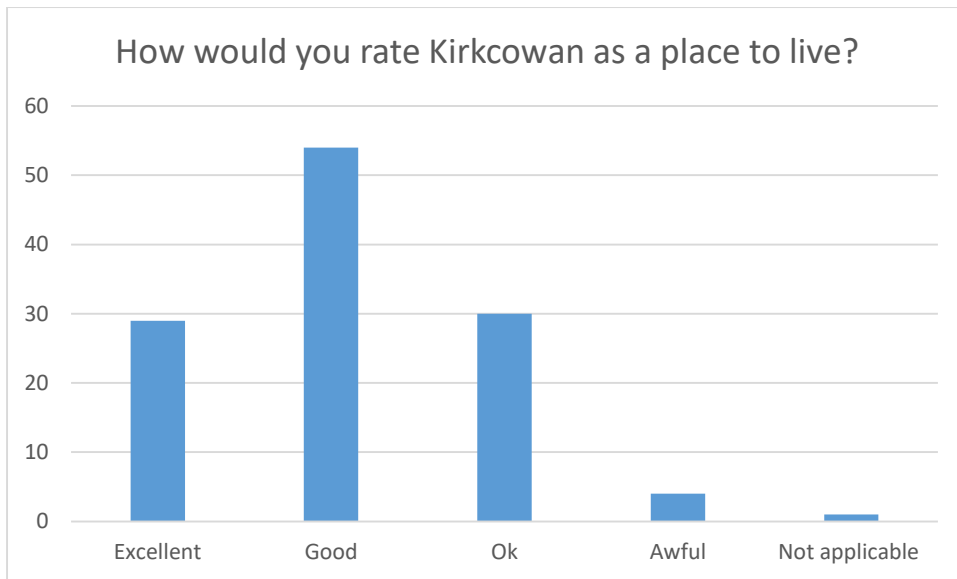


Chart 3 shows that the majority of responder's rate Kirkcowan as an Excellent or Good place to live.

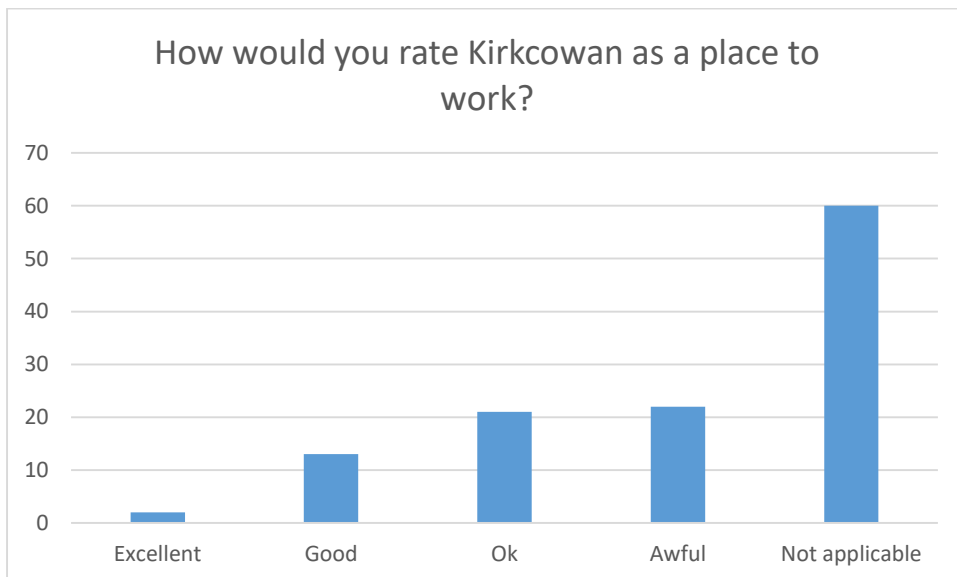


Chart 4 indicates that most people considered this question to be 'Not applicable' to themselves, although it does indicate some people's opinion that Kirkcowan is an 'Awful' place to work. It is also possible that people are referring to the job availabilities in Kirkcowan when answering 'Awful'

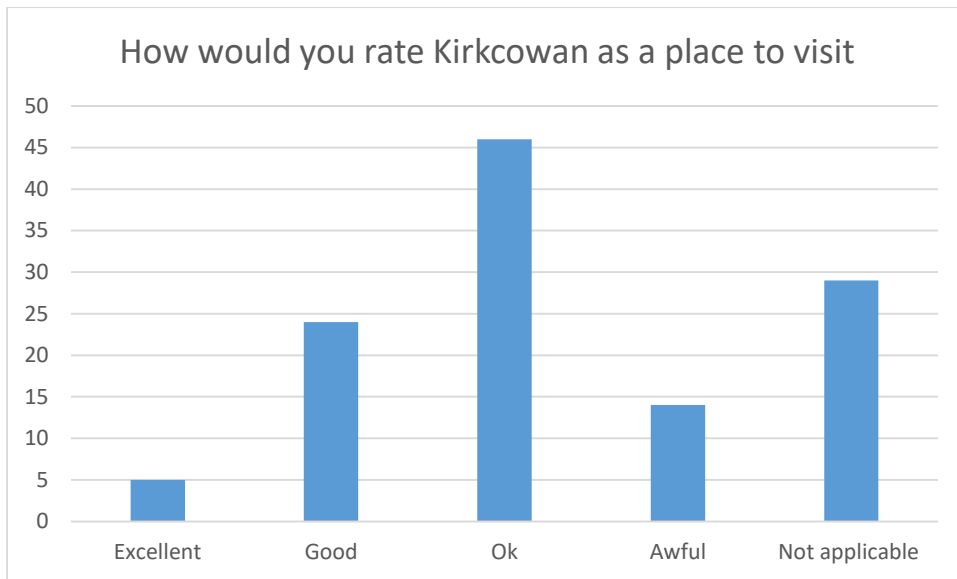
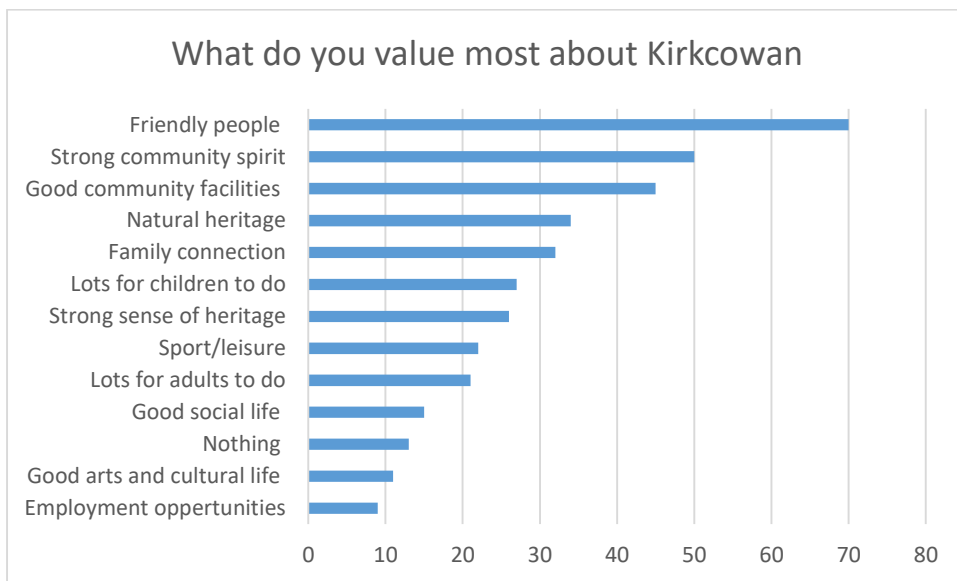


Chart 5 shows nearly half of the responses gathered are of the opinion that Kirkcowan is an OK place to visit. There is also a substantial amount of views that this question is Not applicable to the answerer.



The question 'What do you value most about Kirkcowan that we should build on?' was an optional question where people got a chance to choose from options as to what we should build on for the future. There was no limit to how many options people could choose from. As Chart 6 indicates 'Friendly people' is the most valued asset that the people who answered the survey would like to build on.

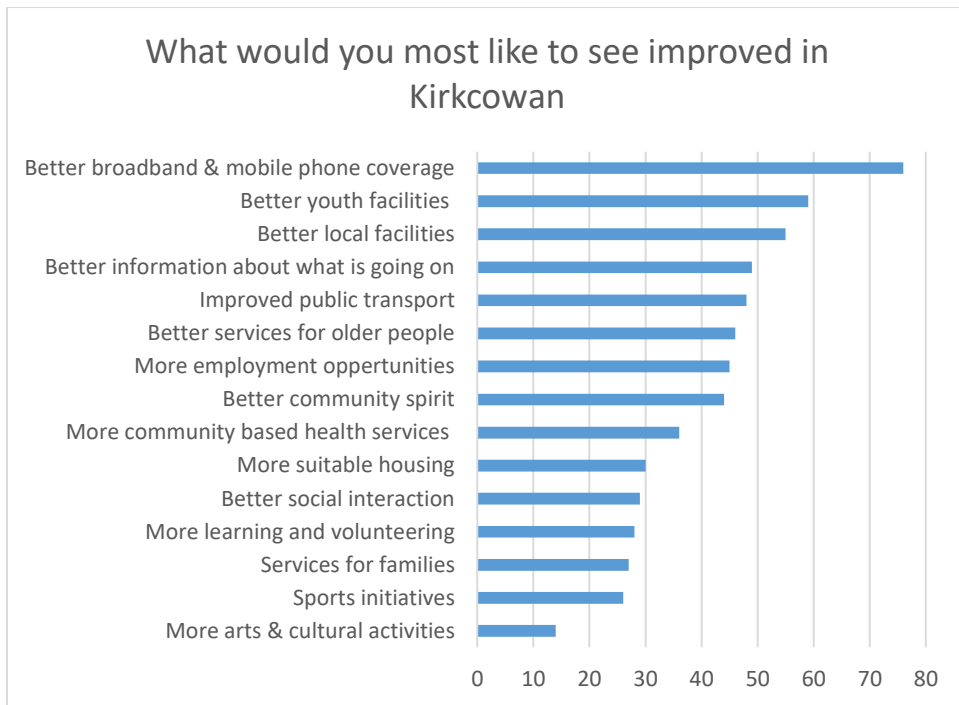


Chart 7 shows the results of the question ‘What would you most like to see improved in Kirkcowan?’ which indicates that ‘Better broadband & mobile phone coverage’ is the topmost thing that people who have answered the survey would like to see for the future. People had the opportunity to tick as many boxes as they wished.

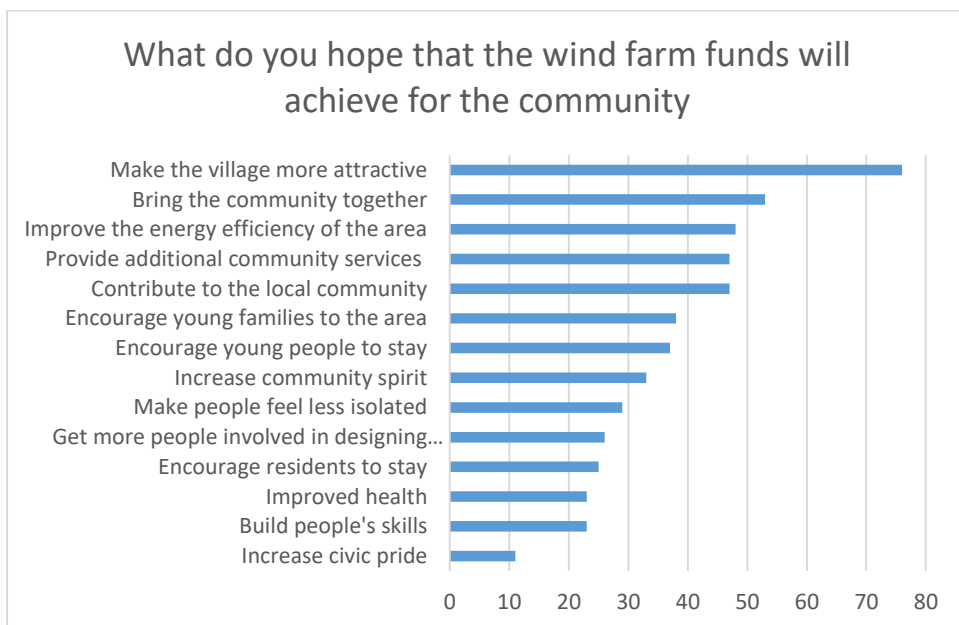


Chart 8 above shows what the people who filled in the survey hope that the wind farm funds will achieve. People were asked to only pick five options so as to encourage people to really consider the choices instead of ticking all the boxes. As seen over half of the people are keen in making Kirkcowan a more attractive place to live.

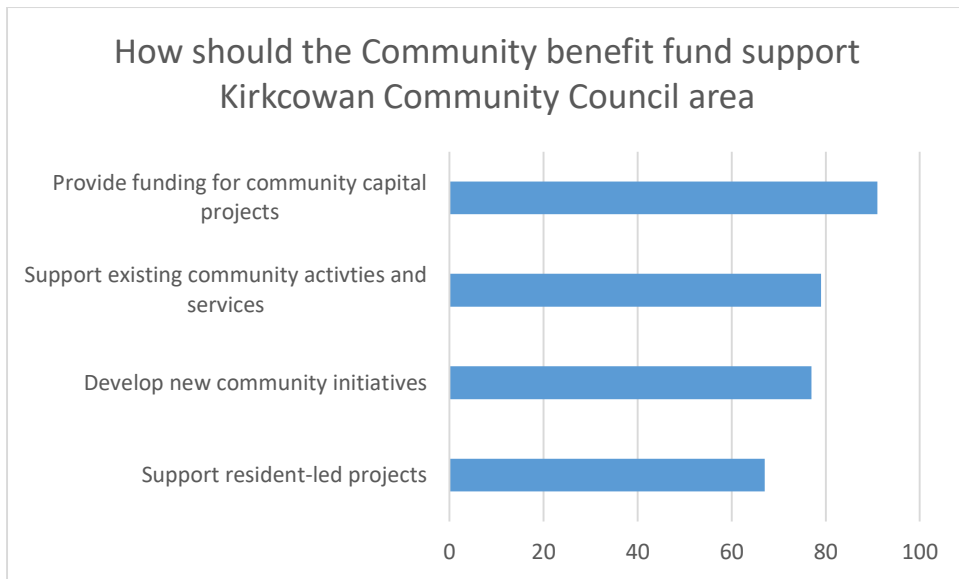


Chart 9 indicates most people are keen to see the Trust providing funding for Community capital projects, although all of the suggested categories were well represented. People were encouraged to tick all boxes that they wished, resulting in many participants ticking all the boxes.

The Community Benefit Funds are designed for the local community. What does 'local community' mean to you in terms of miles away from Kirkcowan village?

118 responses

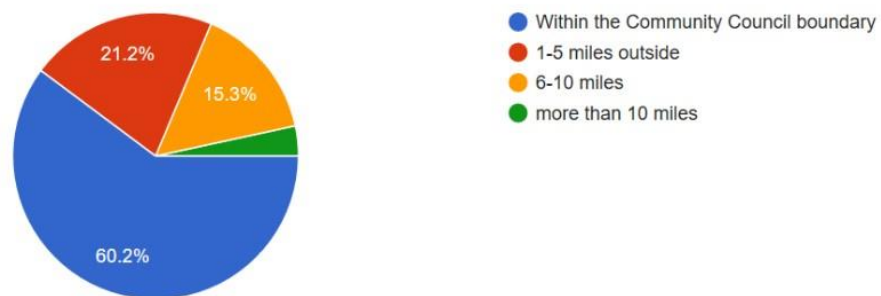


Chart 10 shows people's view on what a local community is in terms of miles away from Kirkcowan village. It is clear that over half the people who answered the survey are of the opinion that local community is defined by being within the Community council boundary. There were also some comments regarding this such as "local community cannot be measured in miles"

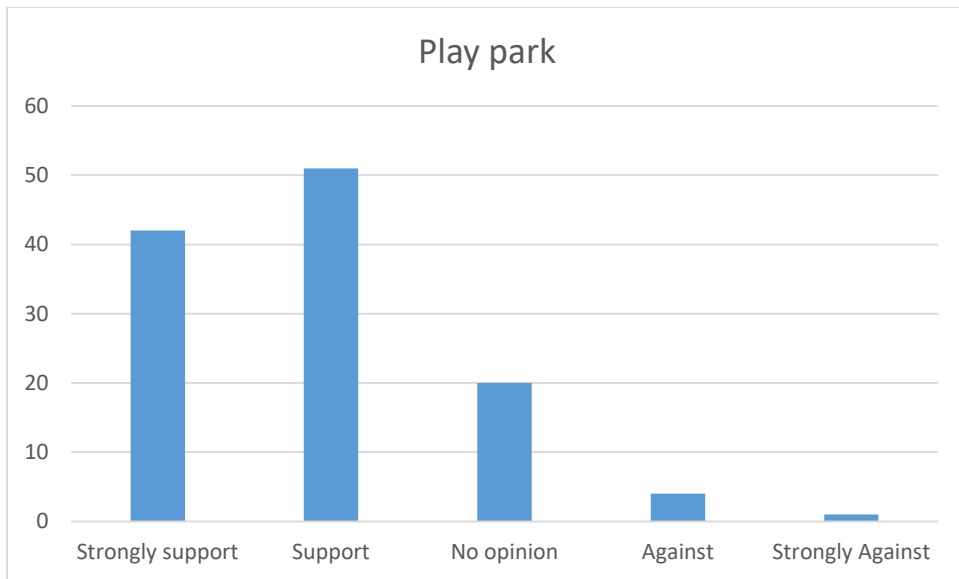


Chart 11 shows that a very high majority are in support of spending wind farm funding on the play park. (Strongly support 42 & Support 51).

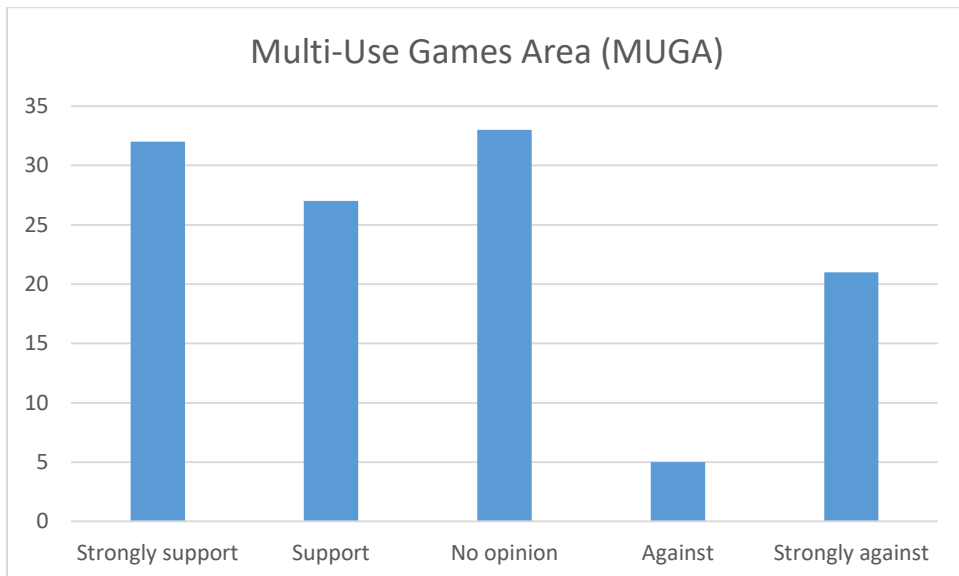


Chart 12 shows a majority of support (Strongly support 32 & Support 27) for a MUGA within Kirkcowan, although there is a fair few who are Strongly against (21).

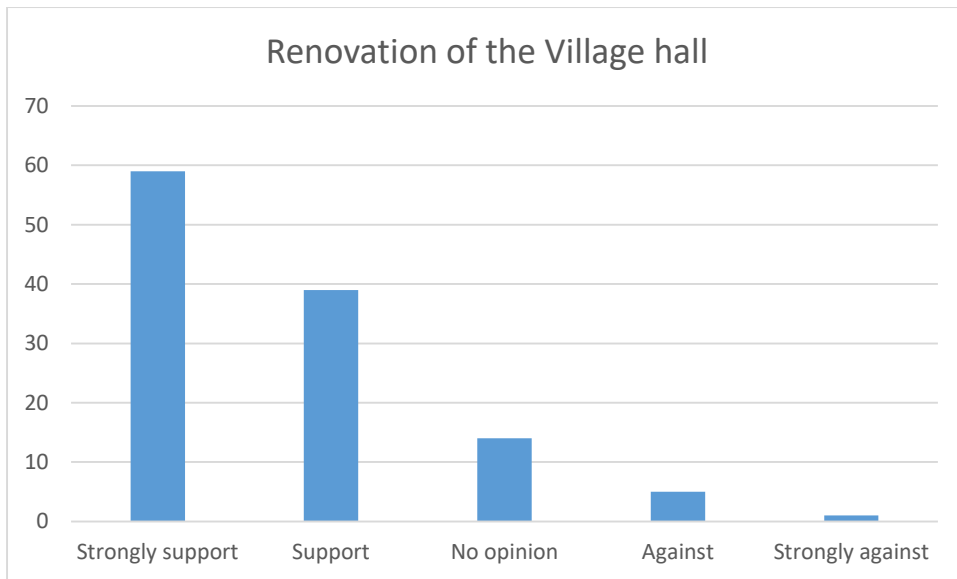
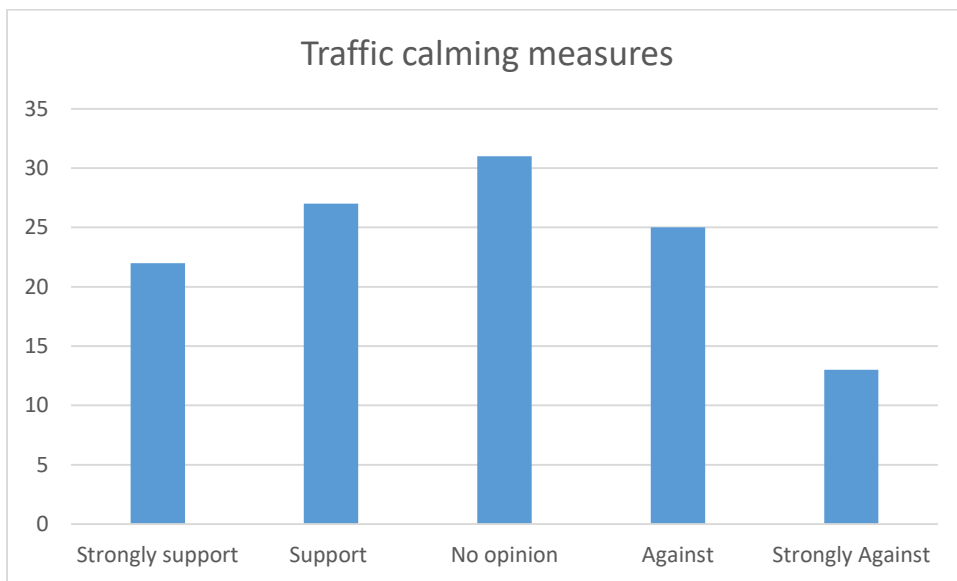


Chart 13 shows a majority of support for spending wind farm money on a renovation of the Village Hall (Strongly support 59 & Support 39). There are few people Against it (Against 5 & Strongly against 1).



As Chart 14 indicates the suggestion of traffic calming measures such as for example speed bumps has quite a varied response from the people who answered the survey.

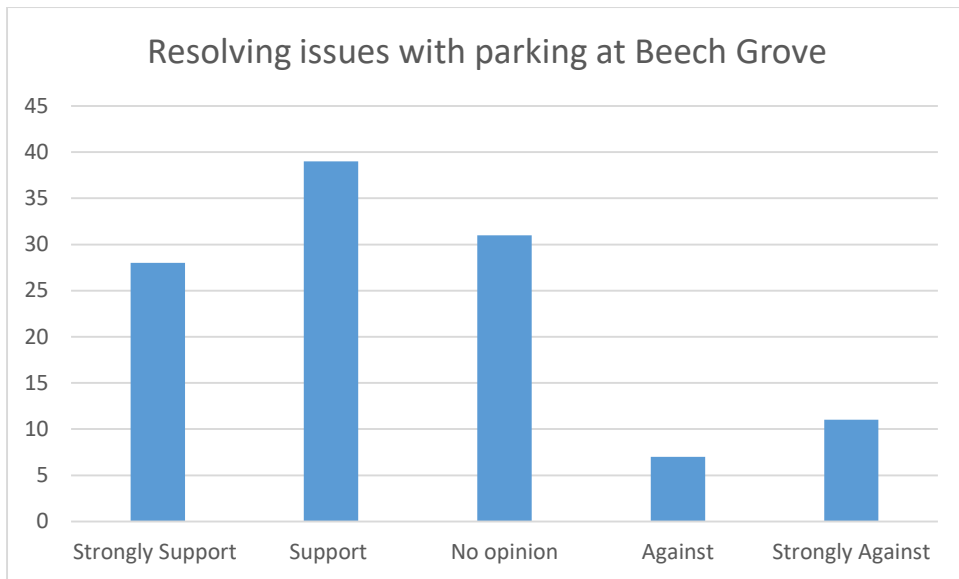


Chart 15 shows that resolving issues regarding parking at Beech Grove is supported by around 75% of respondents, although less than 20% of respondents are against this.

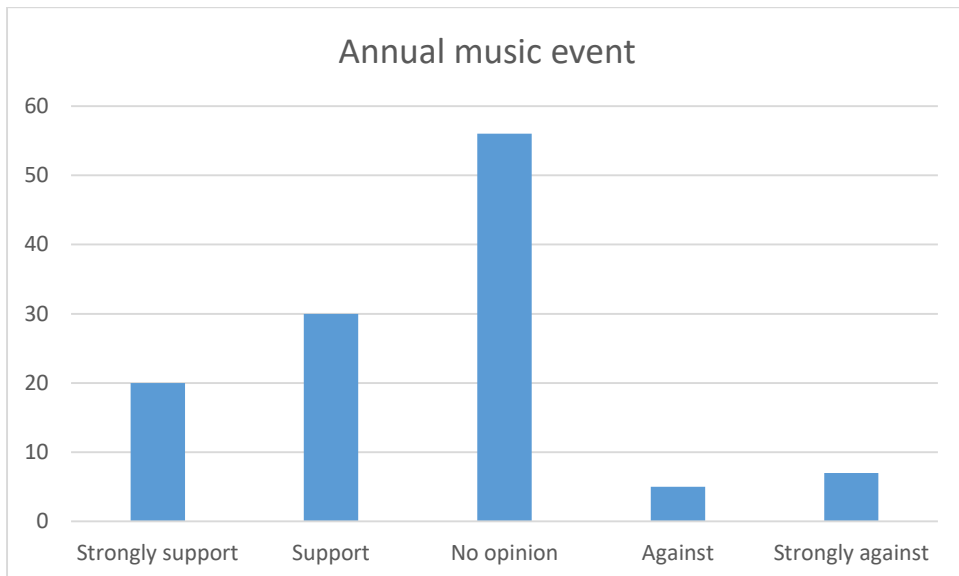


Chart 16 indicates most people had No opinion (56) in regards to having an annual music festival but there are more people in support of it than Against it.

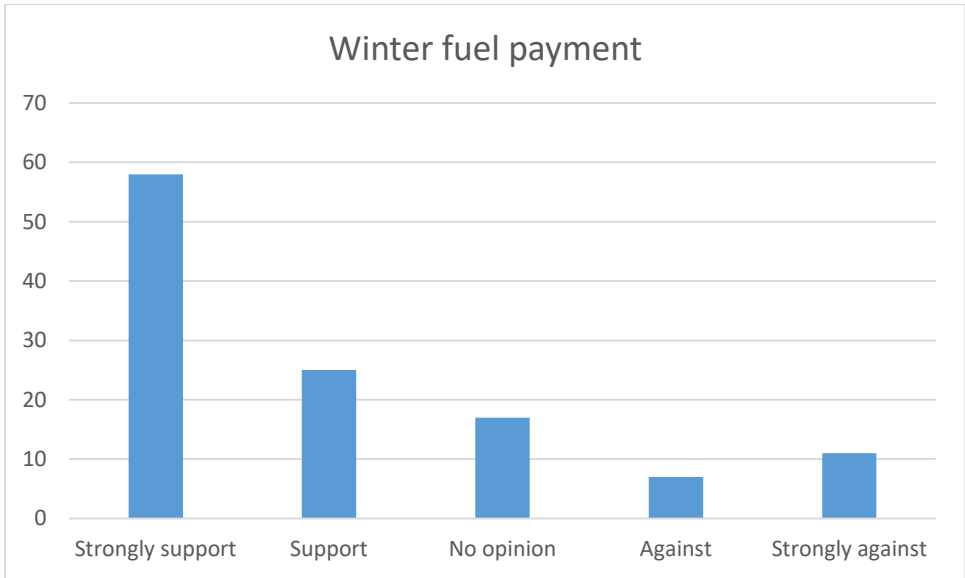


Chart 17 shows that nearly 75% of people asked were in Strong support (58) or Support (25) of an annual Winter fuel payment.

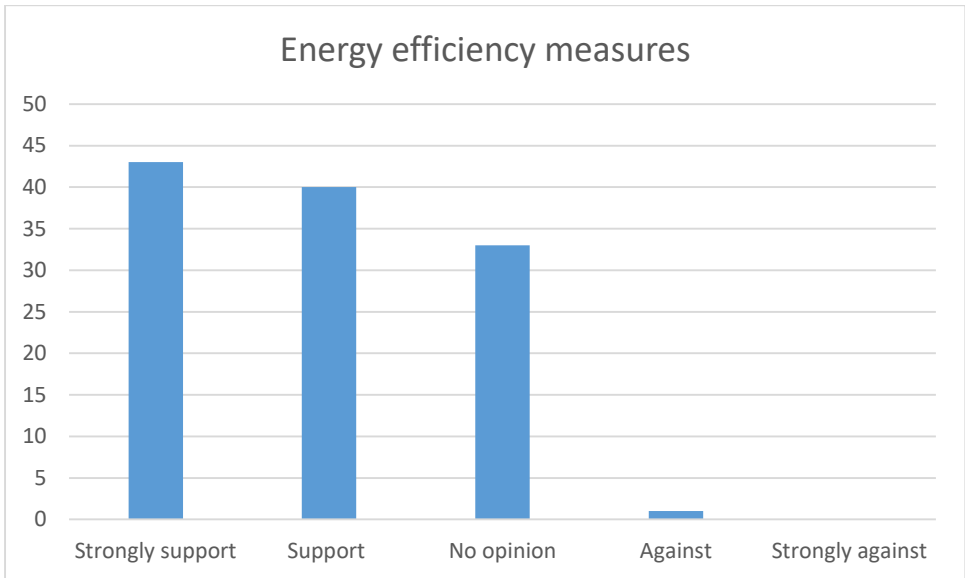


Chart 18 indicates over 80% of the community who responded are interested in looking into energy efficiency measures.

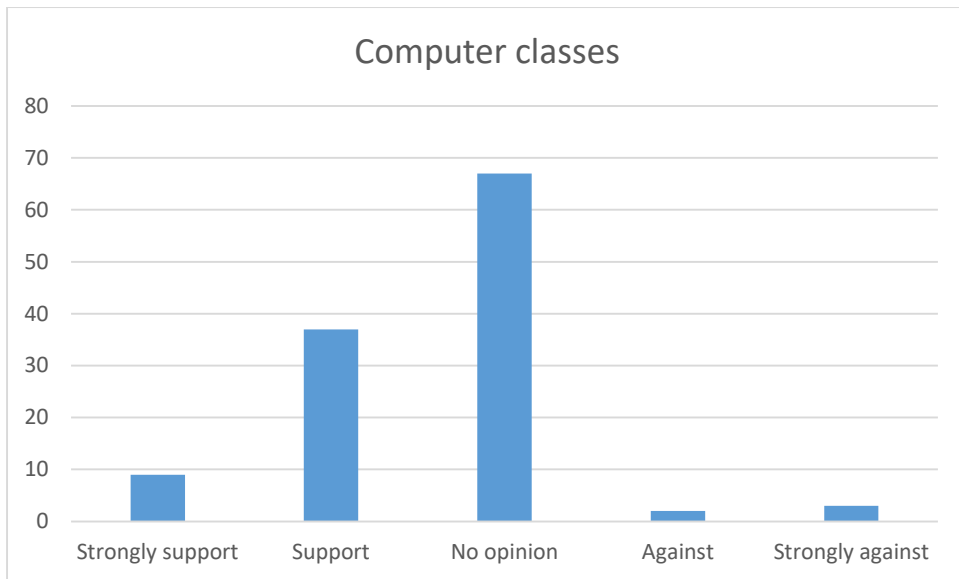


Chart 19 shows that over 50% of the people consulted had No opinion in regards to arranging computer classes in the community.

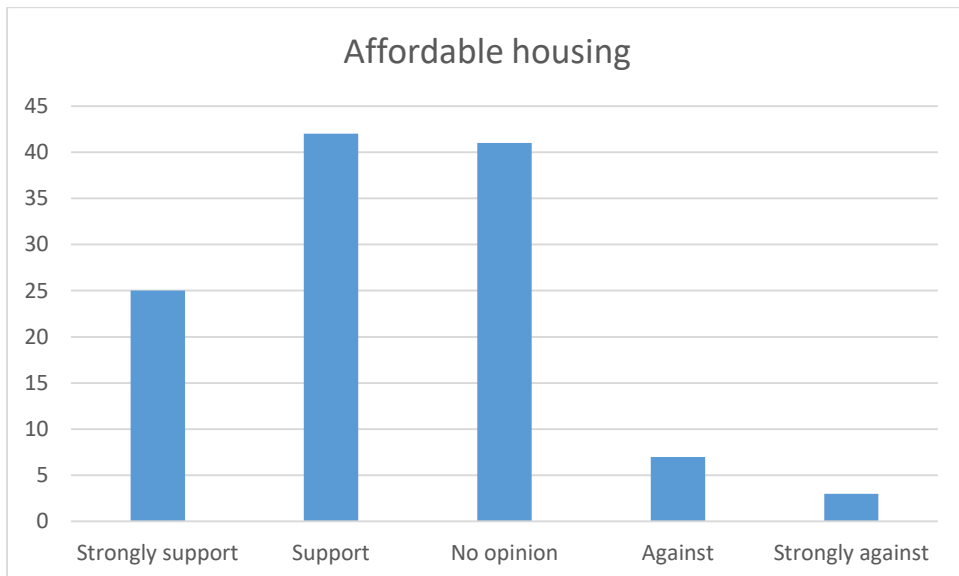


Chart 20 indicates over half of the respondents Strongly supported (25) or Supported (42) the building of affordable housing in the village.

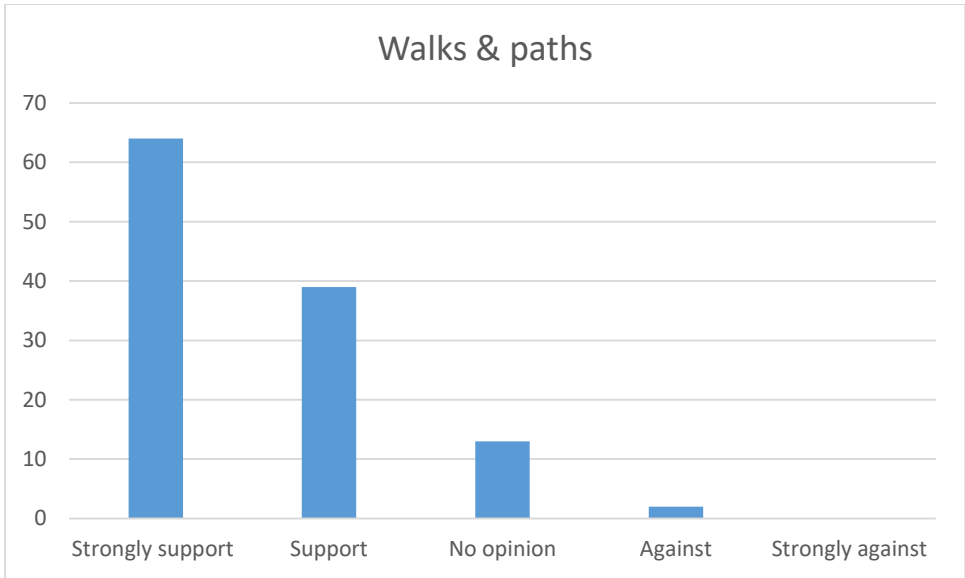


Chart 21 shows nearly 90% strong support (64) or support (39) for working on creating more walks and improving paths within Kirkcowan Community Council Area.

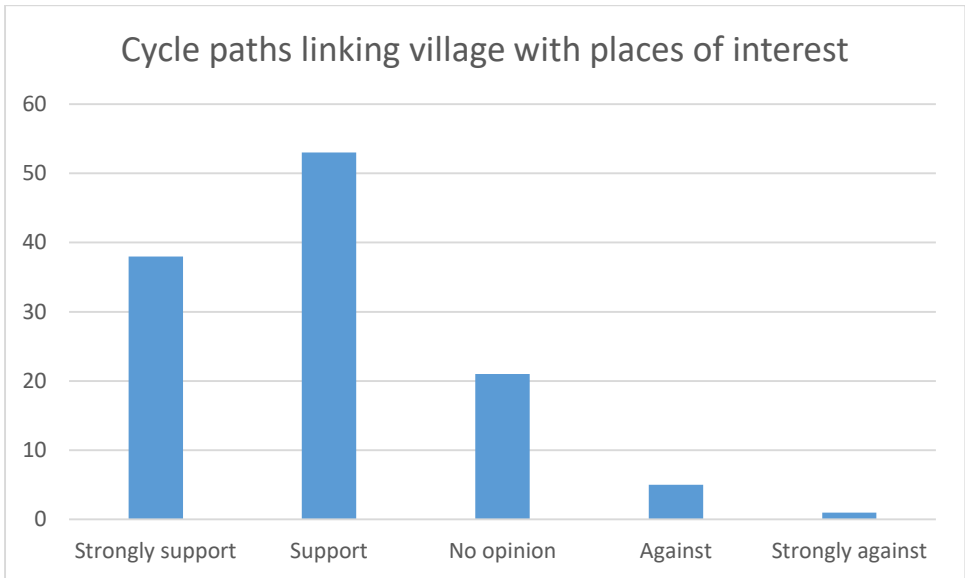


Chart 22 shows that over 75% of the people who filled in the questionnaire were in Strong support (38) or Support (53) of creating or marking up cycle paths which will link with places of interest.

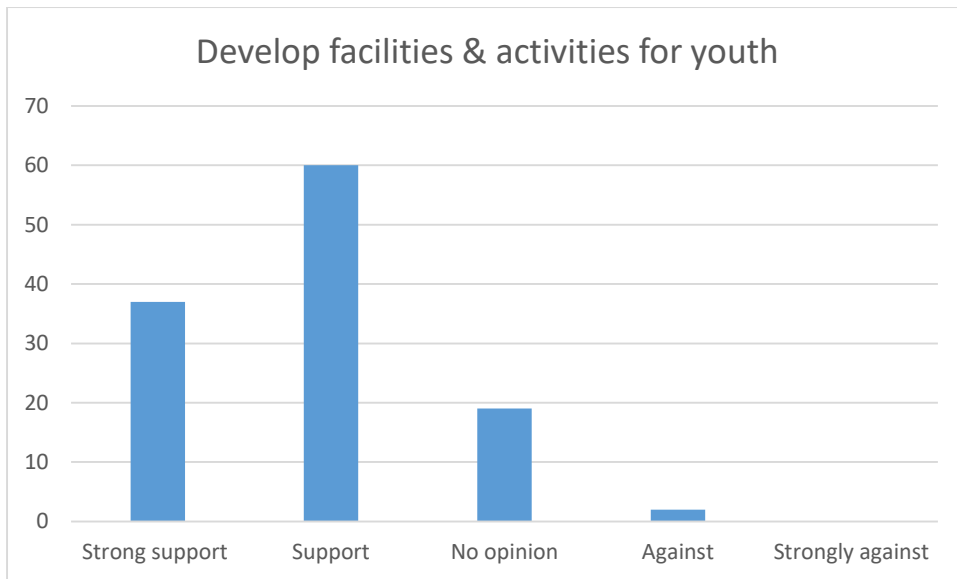


Chart 23 shows over 75% of the answers received show a strong Support (37) or Support (60) for developing facilities & activities for youth within Kirkcowan Community Council Area.

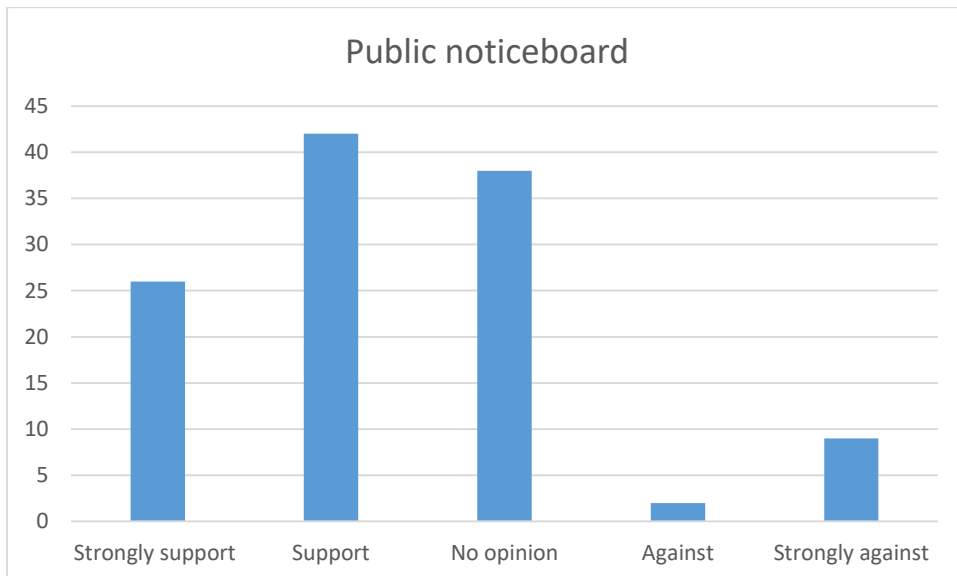


Chart 24 indicates that over 50% of the people who answered the questionnaire are in Strong support (26) or Support (42) in having a public noticeboard in the village.

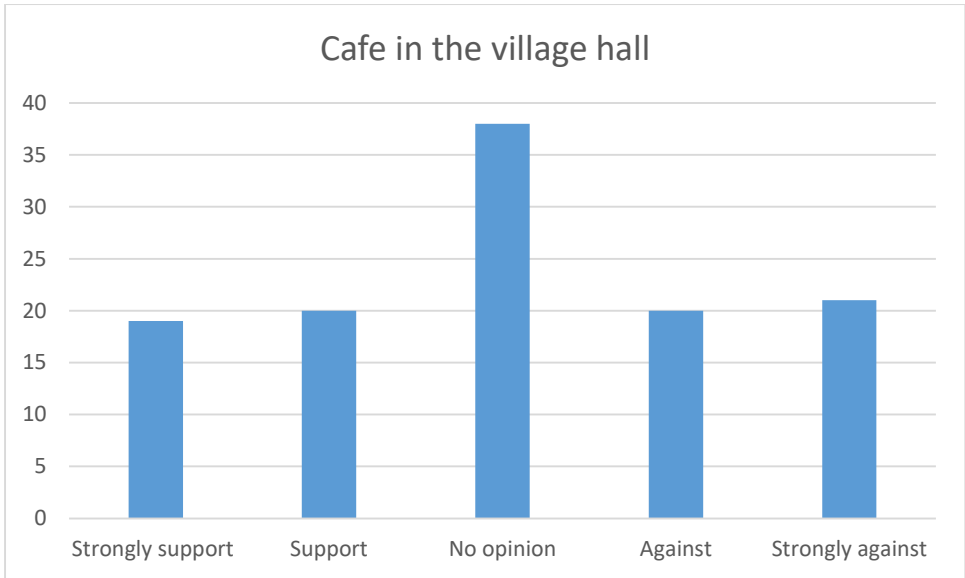


Chart 25 indicates, there is nearly an equal 40% of people who are against (Strongly against 21 & Against 20) or Support (Strongly support 19 & Support 20) of a café in the village hall.

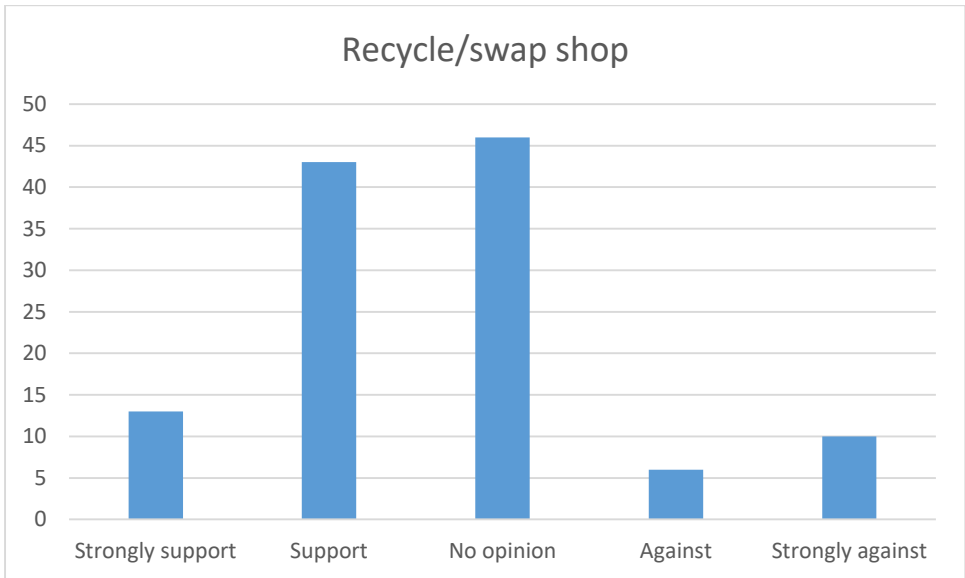


Chart 26 shows nearly 50% of people consulted indicated that they are in strong support (13) or support (43) of a recycle/swap shop within Kirkcowan Community Council area.

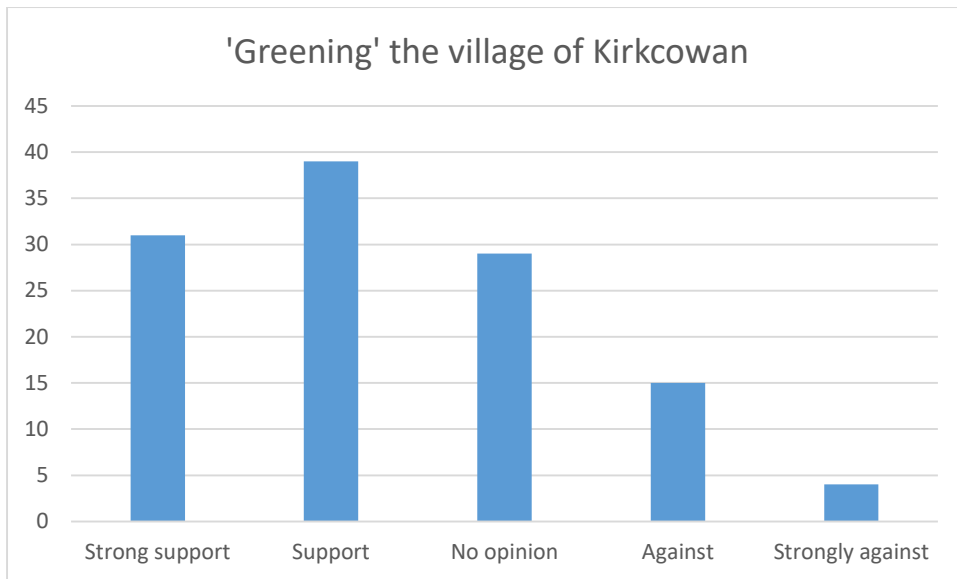


Chart 27 indicates that there is over 50% in Support (39) or Strong support (31) for greening the village with trees and plants etc.

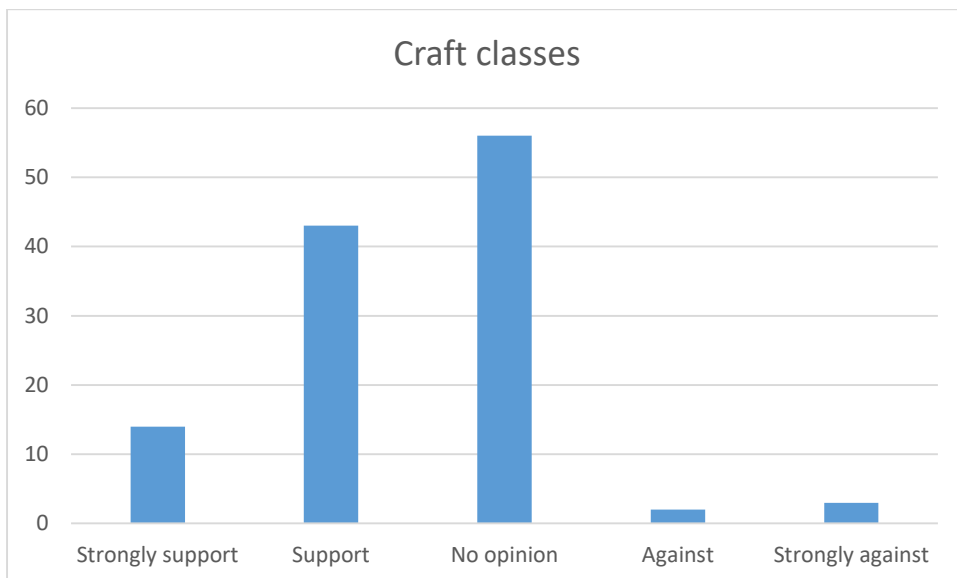


Chart 28 shows that near 50% of people being in Strong support (14) or Support (43) of craft classes

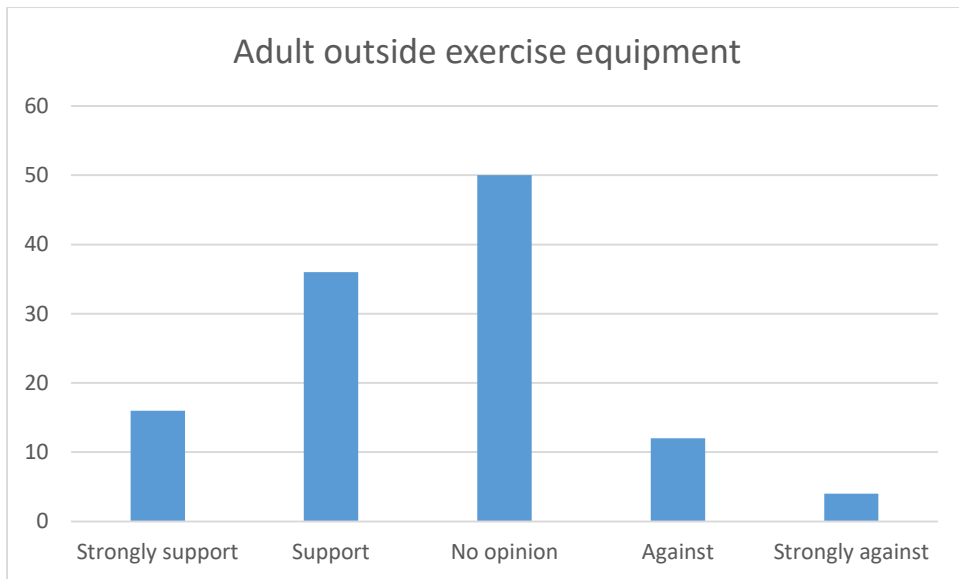


Chart 29 indicates over 40% of the people were in Strong support (16) or Support (36) of installing adult outside exercise equipment in the village.

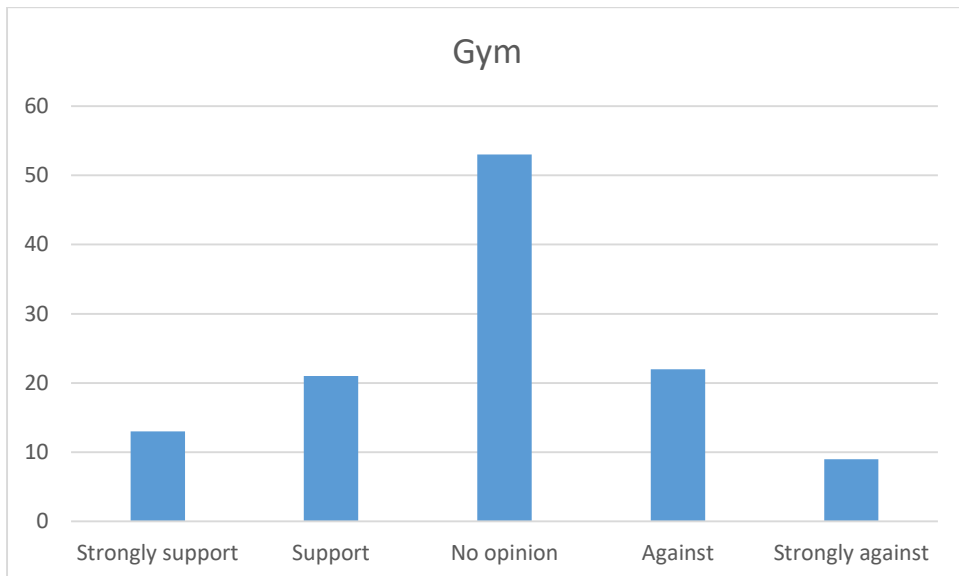


Chart 30 indicates there is an almost equal percentage of people who are either in Support (21) & Strong support (13) or Against (22) & Strongly against (9) the suggestion of having a gym in Kirkcowan.

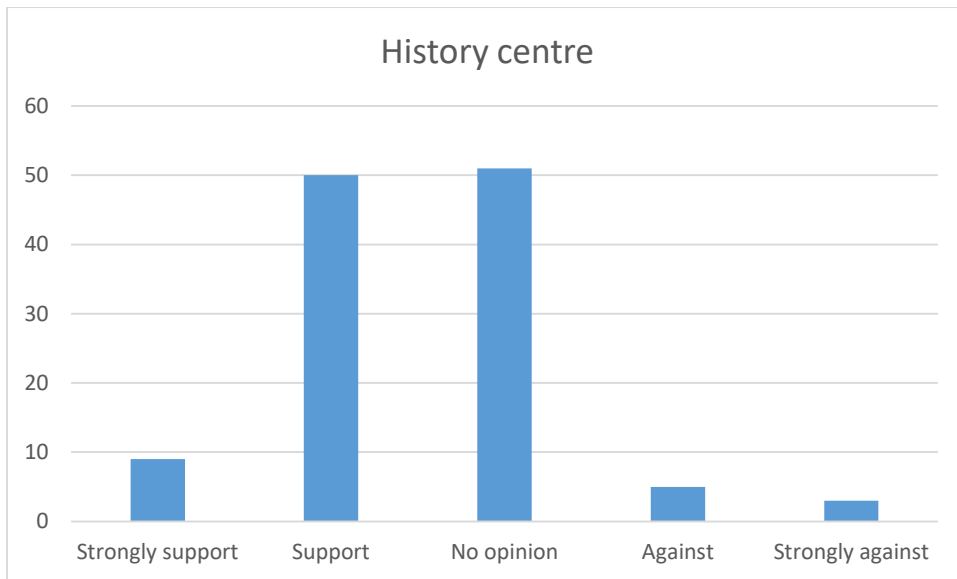


Chart 31 shows that there are more people in Support/Strong support of a History centre (59) than being Against/Strongly against (8) it.

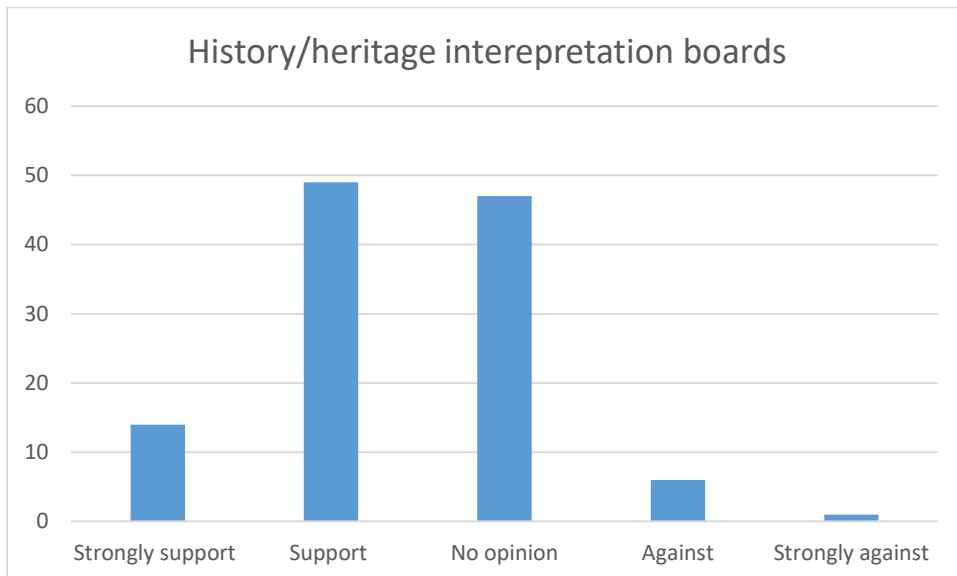


Chart 32 shows that more people are in Support/Strong support (63) of installing history and heritage boards in Kirkcowan Community Council Area than Against/Strongly against (7).

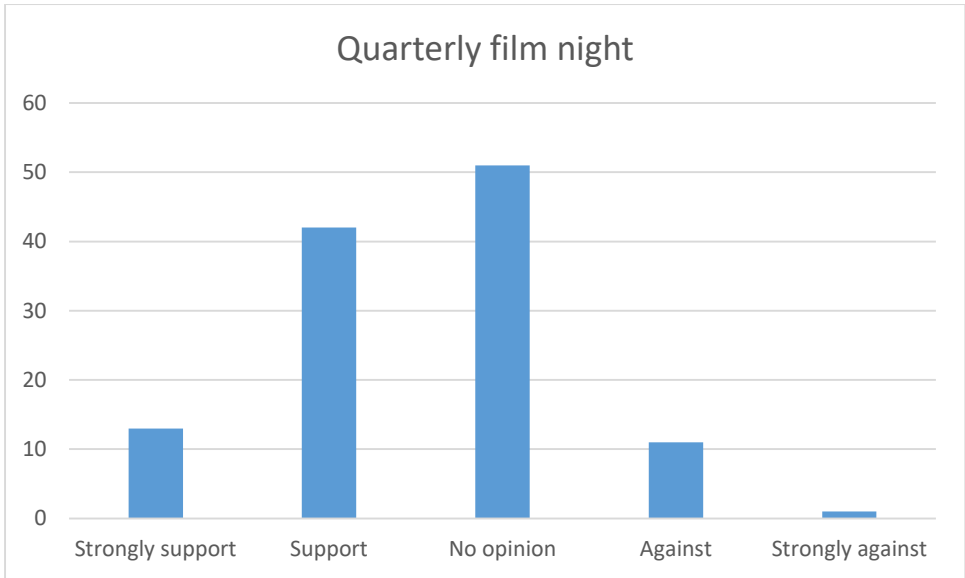


Chart 33 indicates there is more Support/Strong support (55) for holding a quarterly film night in Kirkcowan than people being Against/Strongly against it (12).

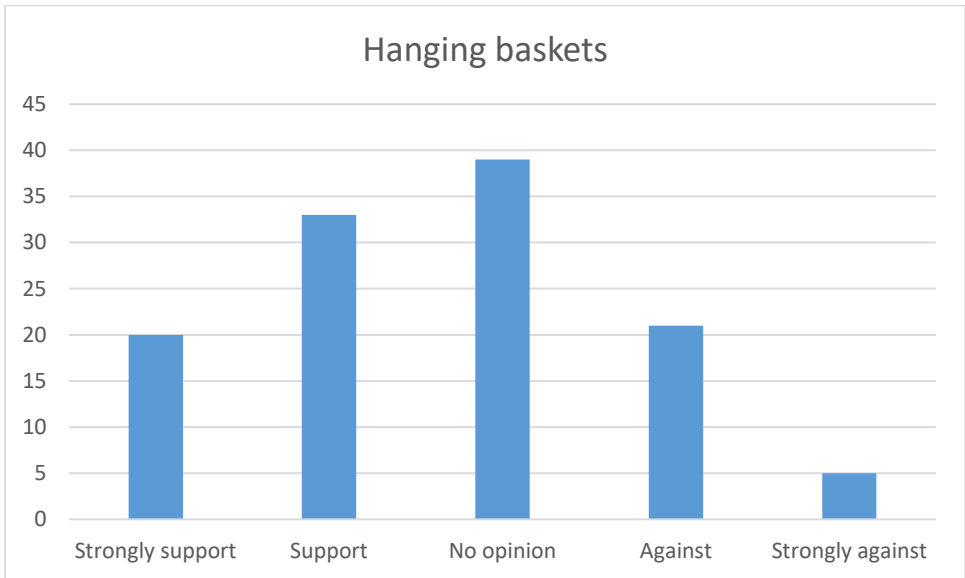


Chart 34 shows that over 40% of the people were in Strong Support (20) or Support (33) of the project of having hanging baskets along Kirkcowan village.

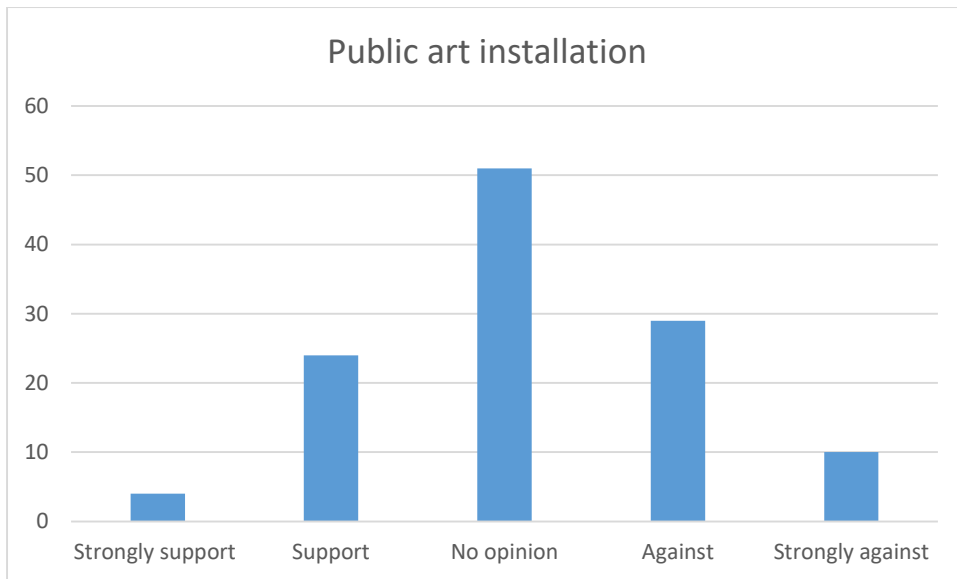


Chart 35 indicates that there was a generally higher proportion of people Against (29) or Strongly against (10) the idea of putting in a Public art installation in the Kirkcowan Community Council Area as opposed to being in Support (24) or Strong support (4) of it.

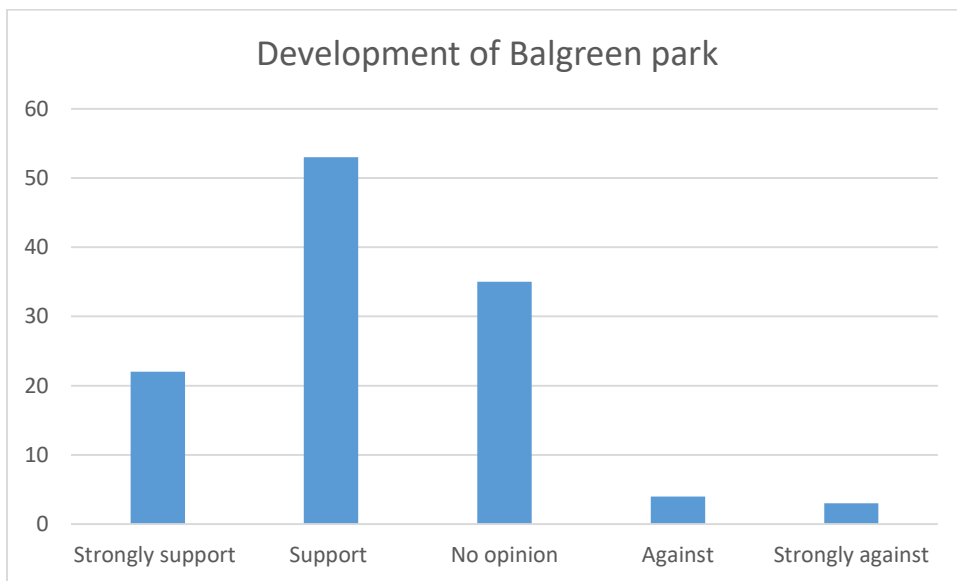


Chart 36 shows that over 50% of the people who answered the consultation questionnaire were in Strong support (22) or Support (53) over a development of Balgreen park.

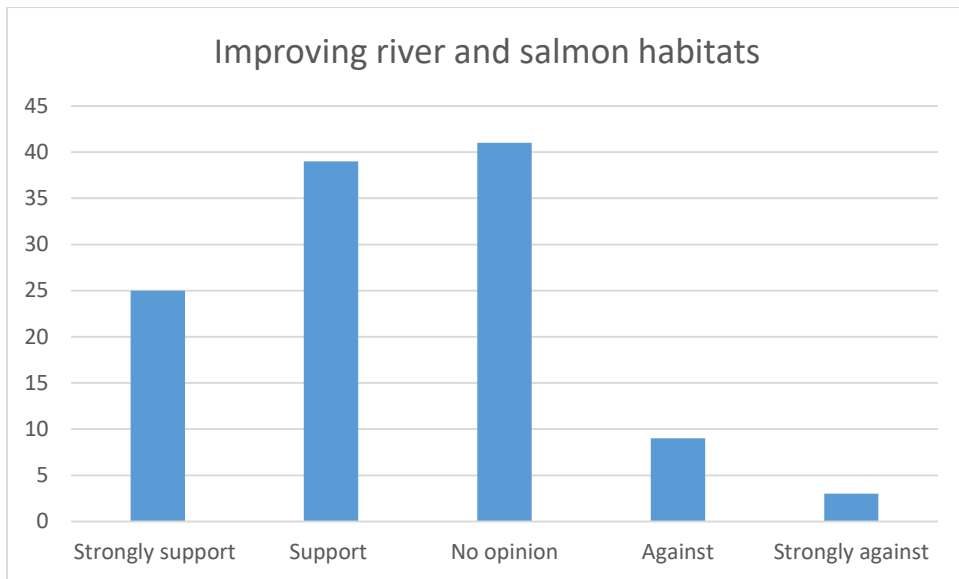


Chart 37 indicates over 50% of the people were in Strong support (25) or Support (39) of improving river and salmon habitats.

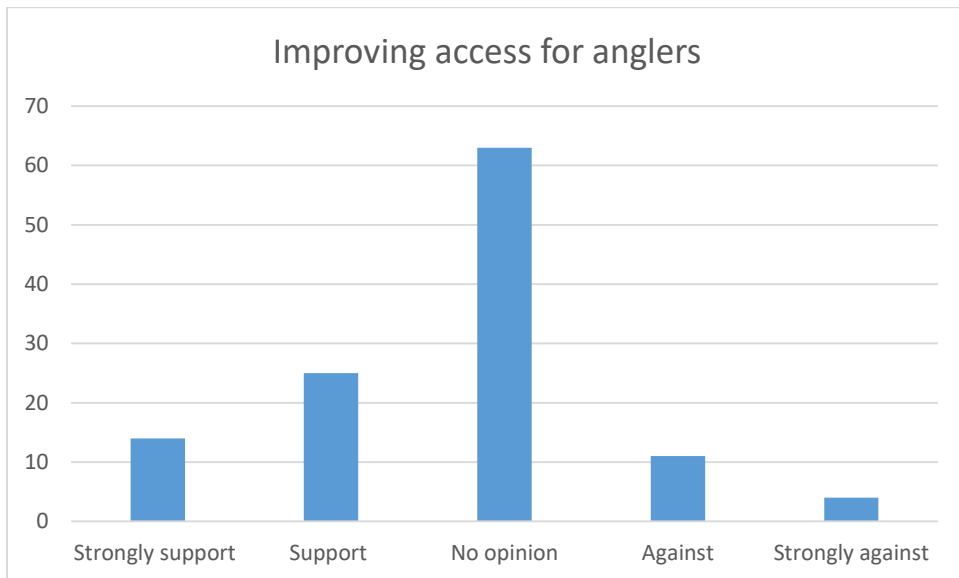


Chart 38 indicates there is more Support/Strong support (39) for improving access for anglers than Against/Strongly against (15) it.

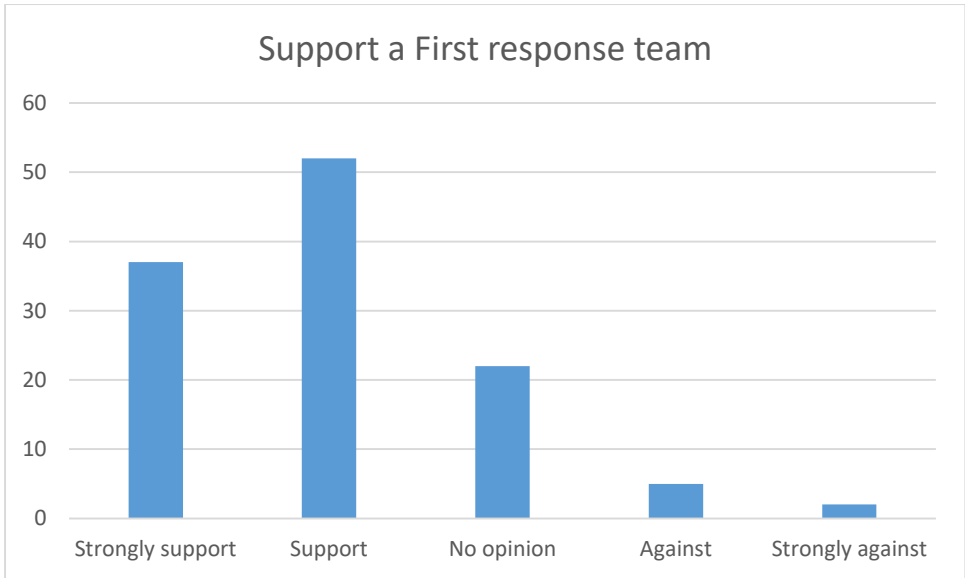


Chart 39 shows a near 75% Support (52) or Strong support (37) of training and supporting a First Response team.

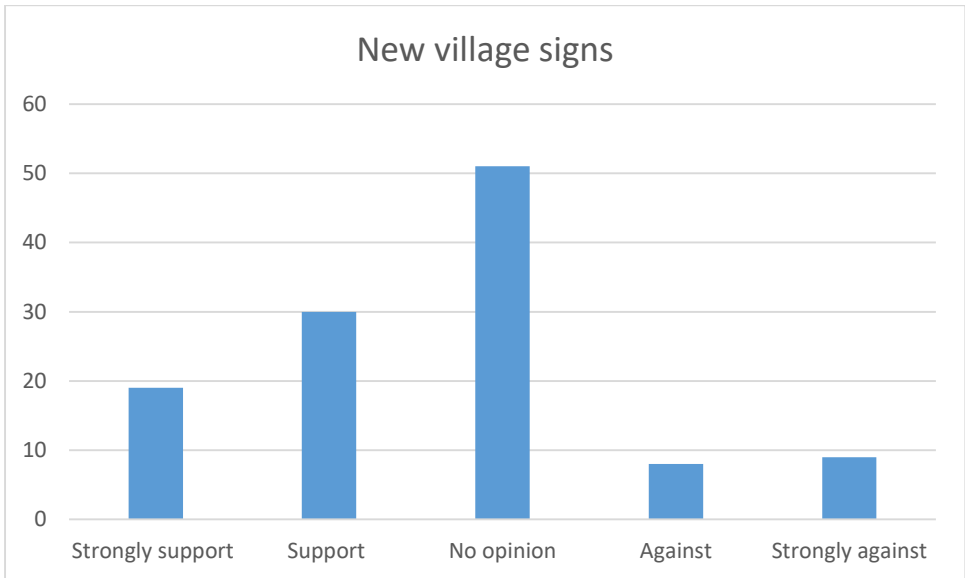


Chart 40 indicates that nearly 45% of the respondents were in Support (30) or Strong support (19) of installing new village signs on the roads coming into Kirkcowan.

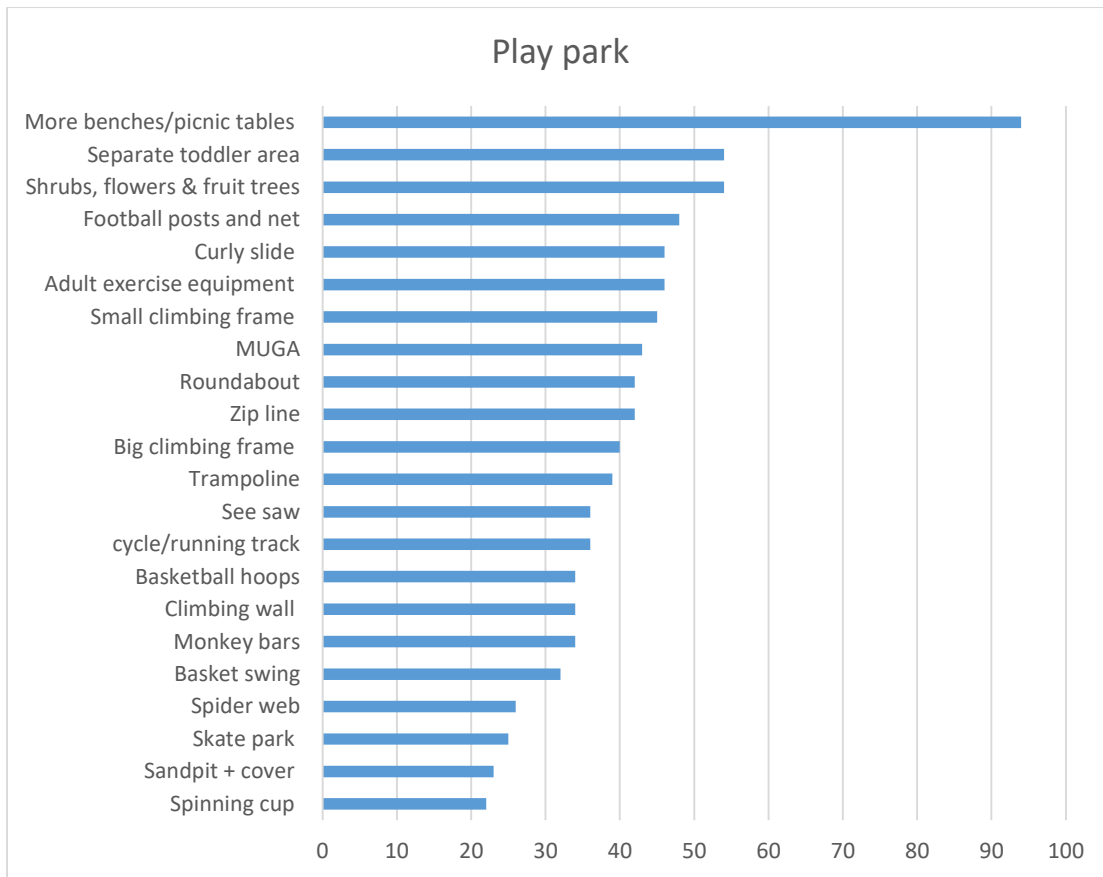


Chart 41 shows the results of what people voted for to have in the play park within Kirkcowan village. People were permitted to vote for as many different options as they wished. The top three wished for were, More benches/picnic tables, Separate toddler area and Shrubs, flowers & fruit trees.

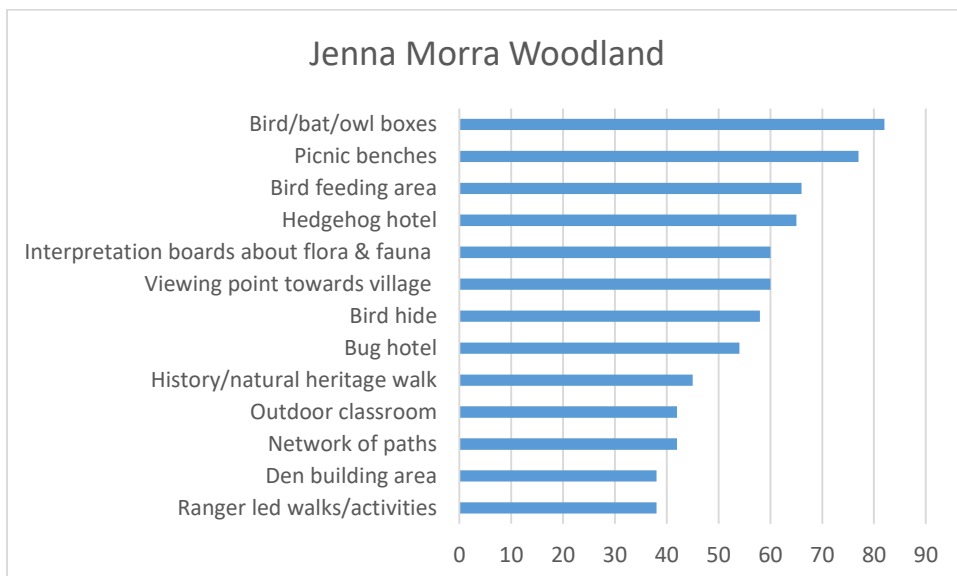


Chart 42 shows the results of what people have voted for in regards to suggestions of what aspects to put in Jenna Morra Woods. People were able to vote for as many of the ideas as they wished.

Action points and discussion

The result of the main survey and also the information gathered through the pilot survey, drop-in meeting in January 2020 and a general meeting held in February 2016 supports the following five project themes with Jenna Morra Wood added in as its own theme, totalling six themes.

- **Paths & walks**
 - Identify paths/walks wanted by people in the Kirkcowan Community Council area
 - Cycle paths/paths to places of interest
 - Creating a circular walk from Jenna Morra Woodland to Village
 - Create walks booklet
 - Signed walks
 - All abilities walks
- **Jenna Morra Wood**
 - Form working group for Jenna Morra Woodland
 - Create a forest management plan for Jenna Morra Wood
 - Make an access and recreation plan for Jenna Morra Wood
- **Village Hall**
 - Refurbish village hall
 - Ensure hall is built to eco-standards
 - Research into possibility of using renewable energy sources for heating.
- **Winter fuel allowance/energy efficiency**
 - Continue yearly winter fuel allowance to households in Kirkcowan Community Council Area
 - Arrange for energy efficiency agencies to visit village to provide assistance in regards to saving energy.
 - Ensure all work done for Trust is done in an energy efficiency friendly way and ensuring carbon friendly materials are used as much as possible
 - Create energy policy for any Trust work
- **Play Park**
 - Renew/add new play equipment for children
 - Landscape play park to incorporate a 'garden feel' to the area
 - Add more benches/picnic tables to create a more welcoming atmosphere.
 - Consider toddler secure gates at play park exits.
 - Install adult exercise equipment/adult & child exercise equipment
- **Youth Facilities**
 - Securing area for youth to use
 - Create/support youth club
 - Consider installing Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

Walks & paths

There are many ideas for walks in the area which have been suggested by members of Kirkcowan Community Council Area such as

- 'Creating a circular walk from the bottom of the village on the south side of the B733, over Johnstone's Bridge, through Jenna Morra Wood upgrading the existing path, and back to the village over the bridge at the Old Weil.
- Suggestions have been made to make a path on the disused railway line which runs close to Kirkcowan. This could also potentially be used as a cycle path.
- Create a booklet of signed walks within Kirkcowan. This should include walks outwith Kirkcowan Village as there are beautiful walks in the surrounding countryside.
- Liaise with Southern Upland Rangers in regards to circular walks incorporating the Southern Upland Way, which runs north in Kirkcowan Community Council Area.

The idea of improving and creating paths and walkways for people to use has been so well supported and a lot of interest has been shown in it that it is suggested that a Focus group is arranged with walks and walkways specifically in mind. A group consisting of interested volunteers should also be formed as there has been a real interest in this subject from several individuals in the Community and it is felt that by inclusion a real sense of ownership can be taken on-board.

Jenna Morra Wood

Jenna Morra Wood has been bought by the Trust to safeguard its future and to give the community more power over what they would like to do/see in the woods. Below are a few key points to consider for moving on with this project.

- Create a working group for Jenna Morra woodland to create a community ownership feeling of the woods.
- Commission a long term Forestry Plan for Jenna Morra wood which will include Access & Recreation plan which again takes into account the community's wishes for the woodland as well as other natural habitats as identified through the Main Survey and the Drop-in meeting.
- Consider creating a small car park on the south side of Johnston's Bridge to accommodate some cars.
- Create additional paths in Jenna Morra wood.

Village Hall

The Village Hall is seen by many in the Community as the heart of the community due to its function as a meeting point for the Open Show, school shows and various clubs. The Village Hall is in dire need of a refurbishment due to its rundown state both inside and outside, there is no warm water in the toilets and the Kitchen is outdated and worn. The Village Hall also has an expensive electric heating system which is not very effective nor energy efficient. The elderly population have made it clear that it is too cold for them to use and they are using the nearby Autumn Club for all elderly activities at the moment.

On the survey form it was suggested establishing a café within the new Village Hall however, there was little support and quite a high number of opposition to the idea.

There is a well-established Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) called Kirkcowan Hall which has done a lot of work in keeping the Village Hall running and planning for a Community Asset Transfer of the Village Hall. An architect was commissioned and a drop-in meeting was held in November 2019 to gather people's views with regards to what people wanted to do with the Village Hall i.e.

- Option 1 Refurbishment of Village Hall
- Option 2 Partial rebuild
- Option 3 Total rebuild
- Option 4 Do nothing.

From the results from the drop-in meeting in November 2019 it is clear that a part-rebuild is what most of Kirkcowan Community would like to see.

It has been suggested that when the Village Hall is developed then energy efficiency should be a priority in regards to the rebuild and refurbishing of the Village Hall. It is also suggested that local business is given the opportunity to tender for the building work to help support the local economy in the area.

Another important matter is ensuring that the Village Hall gets updated with WIFI and potentially SMART Board or projector to increase the possibility of multi-use of the hall.

It is anticipated that external funding will be needed for the development of the Hall and discussions need to be had with Kirkcowan Hall SCIO with regards to how much involvement KCDT should have in the Village Hall both in regards to funding and Project management support.

Winter Fuel/Energy efficiency.

As per December 2019 a yearly winter fuel allowance of £150 was available to every household in the Kirkcowan Community Council Area, excluding second homes or holiday homes. Although the idea was (and still is) popular with the Community it has raised some opposition by others.

To ensure the winter fuel would comply with Funding criteria it was decided to pay the £150 straight into the householder's electricity or gas account. This caused some opposition amongst people who use coal, oil or wood for heating.

It was quickly discovered by the Machars Office that paying out the winter fuel payments in this way is tricky and as per April 2020 the payments are just starting to trickle in to people's energy accounts. It is suggested for next year to find an alternative solution to this which would also comply with the Funding criteria for any grants KCDT get.

With regards to energy efficiency it is suggested to hold a variety of energy efficiency events held by experts in for example building insulation, renewable energy, energy saving tips etc.

Play Park

The play park has been discussed as a project for a number of years, it is owned by Dumfries & Galloway Council but conversations with the Council has assured the Trust that they are happy for KCDT to purchase new equipment etc. Planning consent would be required and the scheme approved by the Council before any work could start.

There were comments at the Drop-in meeting and through the main questionnaire survey that suggested that there is a wish for a park not just for children but for everyone. This was also reflected in the specific play park part of the main questionnaire were half of the top six themes were not play related. It is obvious that there needs to be a properly thought out play park but consideration should be taken in regards to the landscape aspect of the park such as creating picnic areas potentially with bbq pits, benches, having an all-weather shelter and also having plants and trees around. There is also a suggestion to have some adult exercise equipment in the park.

It is also important to be aware that any shrubs/plants would need to be maintained to ensure they are kept in good condition and under control. If the planters are discontinued it would be possible to use those funds for play park maintenance instead

Is it suggested than a multi-use approach is done in regards to the play park as it has been suggested by the people of the village furthermore, in taking a multi-purpose approach to the play park the Trust are supporting the two top hopes that people wanted in regards to spending wind farm funding (making the village more attractive & bringing the community together.)

As there is much interest in the play park is it important to have another meeting or focus group to explore further before starting any work. It is suggested to look at the possibility of either hiring a landscape architect or looking at trying to provide various suggestions for people to vote on, all the suggestions would try and incorporate as many of the top wishes for the play park as possible but in various ways and with different solutions. It is important that a group or a specific committee of interested people is established to take on responsibility of the play park.

There have been suggestions to install a MUGA in the play park. There are also other proposals as to where to put it. A decision on where to place the MUGA will have to be taken before any work on the play park can commence.

Youth facilities

There used to be a youth group in Kirkcowan but it was discontinued in 2019 due to a lack of volunteer leaders. There is currently an ongoing process to renew the youth club.

It has been suggested by people in the community to look into using the old football shack at Balgreen as a potential youth facility.

There has been ongoing campaigning for installing a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) in Kirkcowan which has been proposed by young people themselves.

The idea of a MUGA has been fairly well supported. However, as 18% of the people who filled in the main survey questionnaire form are strongly against a MUGA and as there have been a lot of comments regarding people being both positive but mostly negative about the MUGA being placed in the park, it is felt that careful consideration should be taken into account in regards to the siting of the MUGA. A lot of elderly people are also not aware as to what a MUGA is so this needs to be addressed as well. There have been three different locations put forward for a potential MUGA within Kirkcowan.

	Play Park	Behind Primary school	Balgreen Park
Positives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the middle of the village so easier to supervise children. • Accessible to more people • Some parking • Close to school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Close to school • Less noise issues for people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site currently under used • Has club house with running water + toilets • Already has space for storing equipment

Negatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise for more people • Impedes on landscape view from church • Local objection to this idea given through community survey • Takes away from other plans for play park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less accessible than play park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too far away for younger children • More chance of vandalism • Not as accessible in regards to parking • Furthest location away from the school.
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It is suggested that, if the project of installing a MUGA should go ahead then another information and consultation meeting could be beneficial. It is also vitally important that a group is set up which is willing to take responsibility for the management and maintenance of the MUGA. This group should also be involved in all stages of the planning and installation of a MUGA.

As there are already MUGAs in Newton Stewart, Wigtown and Port William it is suggested to seek information and guidance from the project owners which would not only provide more knowledge but could potentially create contacts for potential sports tournaments between villages/towns in the area.

External & Match funding.

There is approximately £ 210,000 per year of funds to use from the Windfarm Companies which provide Community Benefit to Kirkcowan.

By sourcing external funding it will be possible to move ahead with projects more steadily. Below is a list of potential funding for the different Action plan themes.

Theme	Funding source
Greenspaces	National Lottery Community Fund National Lottery Heritage Fund Tesco Community awards
Village Hall	
Energy efficiency	
Play park	Awards for All Scotland National Lottery Community Fund Tesco Community awards

Youth facilities	Awards for All Scotland National Lottery Community Fund The Prince's Trust Tesco community awards Holywood Trust Comic Relief Children in Need
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Please be aware that the following comments and remarks are from the public and do not necessarily represent the views of Kirkcowan Community Development Trust.

Appendix 1

Feb 2016 meeting; funding suggestions

- Floral displays, hanging baskets around the village
- Sculpture at road end to cemetery
- Community bus
- Network of paths for disabled access, ramblers, cyclists and horse riders
- Traffic calming measures – install interactive signs
- More benches in park along with bins
- A path around the outside of the park with fitness stations
- Community Mini bus for groups and activities
- Speed flashing signs at the 3 entrances to village
- Construct walking paths around the village using the old railway line
- Purchase land in and around the village to build affordable housing for local people
- Dog warden
- Picnic benches for the park – make it more family orientated
- More bins around the village
- A defibrillator
- But field near school for an outdoor grassed area for the schools use
- Improve walking options for dog walkers
- Walking loop
- Fit trail around the park by making an information/education centre – this could include a café/soft play area
- Seats for cemetery
- Establish pathways for walking, cycling, horse riding in and around the village
- Open up the disused railway line if possible for walks
- Repair existing paths to the Dickie woods
- Improve the park with more seating and tree planting
- More sustainable path around Dickie wood, especially for buggies and the elderly
- Upgrade tarff football pavilion to a youth club, gym and café
- Open railway line for a footpath between Kirkcowan and the A75
- Hanging baskets on the main street
- Improve village entrance displays
- Community woodland- Dickie woods – get children to design and organise with help) plant and maintain a community woodland- with focus on outdoor learning
- Community woodland designed and planted by school kids
- Bus service to Wigtown during the book festival
- Walks going around the village with different levels of abilities
- Traffic calming measures in the village

- Astro turf and improved facilities
- A small toddler play area within the park
- Up to date swings
- Improve the primary school technology
- MUGA
- Bike/scooter park
- Gala Day
- Skate boarding park
- Improve and upgrade play equipment
- Funding for rainbows
- A place for any age to be able to keep fit and socialise
- A Kirkcowan Angling club
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Village history project
- Kirkcowan angling association
- First Response Team
- Patient transport vehicle for elderly
- Community minibus
- Pay hall fees for all clubs that use the hall
- Refurbishment of village hall
- A nicely designed café area for all groups within the hall, somewhere to meet and chat
- Purchase Balgreen football pitch and install a chicken farm to create jobs
- Install 2 hydro water systems on the river Tarff, to allow fish to pass up and down safely and supply an ongoing income to the community
- Buy existing hall and extend to make a small café and village information centre.
- Buy field adjacent to Balgreen farm and use to set up a holiday village with chalets and caravans, being Accessible for people with learning difficulties
- Buy local houses to renovate and rent to local residents
- PA and lightning system for hall for performances/concerts
- Sort inside of village hall – underfloor heating, redecorate
- Buy village hall, employ a project manager to run the hall once renovated and refurbished
- Install another generator socket outside the village hall
- Buy the village hall and either do it up, or knock it down and redesign
- Church to be painted, with money set aside to do this every 2 to 3 years
- Clean up stonework on church and repaint
- A small leisure centre possibly within the present community building
- Build new hall with a small community café and toddlers soft play
- Repair roof on bowling club
- Every house in the village should have solar panels
- Improve the village hall, especially the kitchen – make a community café
- Paint church
- Improve hall – run a community lunch club from it
- Buy the public hall
- Upgrade the village hall
- MUGA for use by school and local community
- Speak to companies in village to see if we could fund an apprentice for trades in village

- Set up scholarships for children going to uni/college
- Kirkcowan handy man service
- Create role of village co-ordinator or similar – responsible for managing new services brought into the village by windfarm monies

Appendix 2

Pilot survey comments

Challenges

- Budget cuts
- Retaining young people to the area
- Not the same community spirit as before
- Environmental challenges due to car dependency
- Lack of infrastructure (main gas, phone signal)
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of employment
- Ageing population
- Ensuring all projects are inclusive for all
- Ensuring that direct businesses in the village will continue to thrive
- Improving the village hall
- Maintaining listed properties in the village (visually)
- Ensuring CC and KCDT use best practices to obtain maximum benefit
- Ensuring that the whole village gets informed about what goes on with KCDT
- Closed of community, not welcoming
- Unwillingness in village to change
- Divided community
- No community action plan
- GP shortage
- Wind turbines ruining the landscape
- Traffic issues
- No pavement from bowling green
- Lack of shops
- Don't cut down Jenna Morrow wood
- Transport links/public transport
- Don't close post office
- Graveyard not maintained properly
- Conflicts due to wind turbines
- Boorish community council
- Lack of support for ageing population/isolation
- Lack of safe walks
- No retail opportunities in Kirkcowan
- Lack of broadband
- Old houses
- Lack of public spaces

- Keeping pub open
- Kirkcowan not tourism friendly
- Lack of enthusiasm
- Split ideas
- No plan for how to spend windfarm money for the next 25 years
- To find out what community wants

Ideas

- Computer and internet available to people
- Run voluntary computer classes
- Exercise classes
- Gym
- Café in village hall
- Better use of park (diverse park) not just for children
- More equipment
- Craft classes
- Improve village hall
- Increase/improve paths
- Increase wildlife habitats
- Organised events for children
- Organised events for older people
- Buy Dickie Wood
- Annual even with food/music
- Greening the village
- Outdoor gym
- Window boxes for villagers
- Swap shop/recycling shop
- Repair shed available for everyone
- History centre
- Create unused buildings feasibility study
- Get youth club set up again
- Affordable houses
- Provide water supple for all of Polbae
- Get better broadband
- Improve mobile phone signal
- Increase stock and decrease prices in post office
- Don't bother with village hall
- Green energy/going carbon neutral
- Give better care for elderly
- Increase jobs for young people
- Employ village handy person
- Give help for people to improve insulation
- Install water turbines on river Tarff to generate electricity
- Solar farm on old football ground
- More seating and bins in park
- New boxes for flowers

- Tidy up pavement
- Buy in more Xmas lights for Kirkcowan
- Give winter fuel every year to keep community happy
- Develop Jenna Morrow Wood
- Railway line walk
- Knock down village hall and rebuild new
- Get rid of derelict house on Main street
- Put in MUGA
- Put in speed ramps near park and Main Street
- Community bus
- Upgrade Tarff football field
- Keep fit classes for older people
- Befriending for older people who can't get out
- Quarterly film night
- Scarecrow competition
- Benches and garden outside village hall
- Heritage signage (interpretation boards)
- Widen road at Beechgrove corner

Any other comments

- Open Twitter account for people not interested in Facebook
- Decisions affecting Kirkcowan should be voted on by the public
- We must all work together
- Some members of CC and KCDT do not understand the rules which implies to funding
- Worry about some CC members not supporting other projects, bar their own
- Want a normal meeting, not a drop-in meeting
- KCDT needs to be more transparent
- Need another survey
- Community council should get more credit for the work they do
- Stop noise from wind turbines
- Newcomers won't speak to locals
- Need to bear in mind that with such a high percentage of elderly people it will be hard to find enthusiasm with villagers
- Windfarm money should benefit the WHOLE community
- Disagree with winter fuel
- Need more land under community ownership
- Finding out what other communities are doing would be a good idea
- Do a feasibility study on the use of buildings in Kirkcowan and determine if the uses can be altered for the good of the community
- Get groups using the hall to pay for their use instead of using Trust funding for it
- People who have been on the Trust for over 2 years should step down
- Combat dog fouling on pavements etc
- Café in village hall
- Flower boxes are a disgrace in winter
- Keep winter fuel going for more than one year

Appendix 3

Any other ideas

- How can we suggest workable ideas if we have no idea of overall budget?
- Update your website with as much info about KCDT, activities, funds, projects, directors etc. URGENTLY
- Awareness to all the community..... Newsletter?
- Creation of a wee walks in and around Kirkcowan booklet, available in local community establishments.
- Further improvements of footpaths and access to create new walks or resurface those not used anymore.
- Understand what & why there appears to be a lot of negativity and challenge within the village from individuals, and between and across groups. A meeting between everyone? Anonymous submission of grievances so they can be aired and discussed openly? We are a village in a very privileged position sure we should can work towards making Kirkcowan truly fantastic.... TOGETHER!!
- Notice that KCDT grants poster only details cost of one group (Art club). Info on all grants could be made available, at reasonable intervals.
- Balgreen park facility. Develop for Youth & sport. Building to be renovated for use as youth club. Developing a facility for youth should be a high priority. I think more important than hall,
- Dangerous bend at bottom of village should be sorted as the highest priority of all, the church of Scotland is willing to allow this so hard core area on opposite side of road for resident's car and the danger is solved. Council don't need to contribute as we can fund the hard core the road not affected. Should be no 1 priority for the village because of road traffic danger
- Safe walks & cycle paths
- Make Kirkcowan Carbon neutral! The Jenna Morrow wood is a good start!
- New flower boxes but not wooden ones. Should also have winter plants in them. They are an eyesore to the village.
- Footpath along the river Tarff from football field to Mindork road via Barnearnie.
- Footpath along river Bladnoch from Ring farm for Barhoise.

Playpark development

- Sandpit for toddlers and cover
- Playpark: Should have hanging items like ropes to hang on and swing and horizontal ladders from hanging moving along.
- Something to make better than surrounding parks so it brings others to village. Also toilet facilities. Inclusion for everyone.
- Planting for wildlife & people. Fruit trees, bushes, flowers. Environmentally friendly, low input.
- Tennis court, skateboard course
- MUGA, small kids play area

- Basket swing
- Bike track and more swings.
- Better football posts and nets.
- Flying fox
- Spider climbing frame
- Big rig for adults
- More seating with tables for picnics (recycled benches?)
- Mugga
- All weather surface circuit round whole park, walks & bike racing. Cycle track.
- Fitness equipment trail for adults and children, Inspire them & motivate us.
- Monkey bars, tube slide, zip line, trampoline attached to the floor.
- Paths up to wood tarred.
- Fenced play area for toddlers as Agnew Park in Stranraer.
- Park for all
- Kids only!
- Litter bin in Dickie wood
- Outdoor gym

Jenna Morrow Woodland ideas

- Make safe access from village for children, ideally a circular walk.
- Circular walk around the Jenna Morrow to be dog and owner friendly.
- Good footpath into the wood, accessible
- Forest school opportunities for school holidays. What would be needed for mill?
- Sell it!
- Ranger led or local knowledge, bug hunts, bird spotting, tree identification, mushroom hunt
- Circular path in the wood so no need to have path back to village along the road.
- Fantastic Community Asset for the long term. Well done!!
- Formation of footpath from bridge to village + upgrade for cycle use.
- Outdoor classroom (use by school/youth group (rainbows) Organised activities.
- Path back to village/ suitable for bikes/walking
- School to be involved
- Sell the wood and get money back#
- Like the idea of a forest school, bat boxes, owl boxes, bird spotting, history walks.
- Tree house huts.
- Convert the eastern part of wood to residential and sell that to recoup what we spent to buy it.
- Bird boxes, bird/wildlife hide with feeders? Bat boxes, owl boxes
- Birch tree tapping really good idea for kids to learn.
- Removal of plastic!
- Guidance re bluebells. We wouldn't to see them all trampled.
- Multiple paths. 1 on the current route 2 up to the right of the first bridge 3 could there be one back along the river Tarrainallow.

Resilience

- Public noticeboard

- Winter fuel payments every year but should be backdated.
- Employ masseur, residents pay a subsidized fee. Improve health for residents.
- Concerts: Contact Aaron who does the NS folk week in July and get names of local artists for concerts. Residents get subsidized entry.
- Winter fuel payment paid every year to each household making it that everyone in the community can benefit from the windmill funding.
- Did spaces.
- Extra carer employed by KCDT to look after our elderly
- Look at how other villages have managed funds well good/bad
- Walks/ramble's music events
- Litter picking
- Wildlife/bird hides
- Renovated halls, 2 hot meals a week open to everyone or delivered.
- Inclusivity all ages not just the young/elderly
- Improved walks in the local area
- Winter fuel payment to be had every year!
- Cyber centre/café technology available for public use (time session)
- Walks in and around Kirkcowan walking booklet
- Community gym in hall also chill out zone for older kids/teenagers
- Did every house get a form to fill in for winter fuel payment
- Baby/kiddy gym classes. Helping mums get back in shape with kids there too. Mental and physical health
- Rustic cabin in Dickie wood faring west to see sun sets
- Village hall: Sustainable heating – biomass solar panels on roof for water and f or feeding into grid. Both biomass heating + solar power will generate funds for the community. Cladding insulation outside double glazed windows.
- Sheltered housing so residents can safely stay in their own village.
- Activities for elderly on weekly basis.
- Musical events indoors or outside gatherings & get together park or village hall.
- More planting everywhere! Fruit trees, bushes, planters, window boxes, borders.
- Coffee & chat afternoons with district nurse, physio etc. Monthly calendar events.
- Deal with social isolation and loneliness
- Drop in weekly in hall just coffee and chat
- Group making things from people's junk and sold within village to benefit village.
- Who makes final decision on any projects
- Exercise for all, garden group. Do planters by village and signs, Community café
- Men's shed for repair & build project + salvage/swap yard to re-use unwanted furniture materials etc
- Transparency and awareness to all
- When anyone in the village turns 17 voucher for driving theory test
- Safeguard the facilities we have and improve them where possible

Appendix 4

Main survey comments

- The survey asks for a 'required' answer as to why you would not live in the village in 10 years' time, despite answering the previous question that I would want to be living in the village in ten years' time?
- I would only be in support of development of the village hall, if it was a renovation, and not a rebuild, which in my opinion isn't necessary. Upgrading of the existing building is valuable, and would benefit the users, but an entirely new building isn't necessary. Equally, a cafe or recycle shop would also be beneficial but it is important that proceeds raised go back into the community, and individuals do not personally profit from this. Any works to be done, should be offered to tradesmen/companies within the Kirkcowan area, so that the community is benefitting and enhancing the local economy. The proposed play park would be great if it replicates the models used at New Luce and Barrhill, whereby people travel to use it. As for the winter full payment, I support this, except not when it is dictated how it is spent. Not all residents use electric for fuel, e.g. we use coal and wood, therefore putting this allowance towards my electric bill isn't helpful. New Luce residents are not told how their allowance has to be spent, therefore we should be the same. The Post Office should not be used as a central point of contact, as not all residents use the shop, and therefore should not need to go into it, to see information about events in the village. The school has a notice boards, but it is mostly often empty.
- A local attraction named after a prostitute!!! Please call wood Crosherie Plantation - it's proper name.
- In my view, the Windfarm money has so far only divided the community. Hopefully the results of this survey will help to improve the community spirit once again.
- If we are having a MUGA we would prefer if it was located next to the school, ideally it should be a double size one such as the one at Port William and if there is sufficient interest, the project should include a small building next to it, to be used as a Youth Club and store for sports and maintenance equipment for the MUGA as at Port William. Open areas could be created within the Jenna Morrow Wood with scope to create a small pond and wetland area. Play facilities within the Dickie Wood perhaps including a timber constructed adventure playground incorporating existing trees.
- If people don't want the MUGA in front of the church, could it not be put in the middle of the park, leaving enough room for the school sports to be above at the top end of the park. To have it anywhere out of site (sic) is just asking for problems . A tarmac track for prams and kids cycling would be a good idea going round the inside edge of the park surround. The village needs a good hall that is energy efficient to run. Anybody with any experience of renovation will tell you it never goes straight. There will always be major problems with renovation. Building new can have less problems, also has anyone checked on the VAT situation. Renovations are not exempt from 20% VAT but new build is. That would need to be checked with the VAT customs and excise dept. By the way what is option 1, the survey will not let you submit without clicking on option 1. Also when you put down that you intend to stay in the village the survey will not let you submit until you have clicked a reason for NOT staying.
- Hoses in the village to be painted etc.

- Projects need to start now or this will be another year gone and nothing done
- Whatever is decided some recognised group must take responsibility for it. Some things suggested I am strongly against eg hedgehog hotel, although a excellent idea in a public area the inquisitive will always want to look inside, which is not a good idea. Although bird boxes, bug hotels & bat boxes fall into some category are either not as accessible or not as liable to interfere with 'inmates'
- Buying the Jenna Morrow Woods is a waste of money and the money spent on other projects in the village. Stop using the post office to deliver this survey and other letters from you and hand deliver them instead to make sure every household get everything you send out.
- I'd like to see the inclusion of a spell checker on online surveys
- KCDT needs to be hold meetings in public
- Good Questionnaire
- Enjoy living in the village but feel that the village has been turned sour by the prospect of money but hopeful everyone can get together and spend money on something that can be a benefit to everyone
- No layby at bowling green, not needed
- Footpath not lay by
- No lay-by
- Re a café, I understand it has been done before but given social isolation is high especially in rural areas a daily coffee/tea morning, possibly with soup/cake for villagers to get together in the village hall run by volunteers. I am sure the hall could be used more fully from early morning to evening, depending on how many rooms for all sectors of our community. Public Transport is not bad but a community bus service to Wigtown 3 times a week would open the village and save changing at Newton Stewart. How about an annual fete incorporating a dog show, plants and things, fun to educate children and a best garden. What about Kirkcowan Community having a group that looks at environment/climate change holding events/talks at school how we need different energy and how to save items going to landfill and have a small area near school so children can grow food and learn each plan benefit.
- Taxi card system like New Luce have. Regarding the wood, provision should be made for ongoing up keep. Nothing should be done for the benefit of individuals.
- MUGA in the park would be great for young and older people alike
- Re café in the village hall - surely this is for the hall committee to decide. There needs to be communication regarding the SEPARATE organisations ie The Trust, The Hall Committee and the Community Council as people seem to think they are one entity.
- Develop old football pitch into community run campsite, water + electricity already there. Rebuild pavilion as a toilet/shower block, provide a job for locals. Stop grazing sheep on it. It would bring tourists to the local area.
- I'm disabled and not in good health. More benches in the village would be a great place for people like myself to meet up and chat. Also more for older children as there is not much here for them. Getting them involved in projects would be good. I love crafts so some classes on that would be good. Afternoon teas would be a nice idea for people to meet up. My sister is waiting to move to the village, more suitable housing for the elderly and disabled would be welcome.
- Could the old railway line be made accessible for walkers, cyclists & horses? We don't feel the park is the right place for the MUGA, it would be an eyesore whichever way you approach the village. Also most of the residents in Church Street, top of Main street,

Hamilton Crescent & Newton Stewart road are of the older generation and wouldn't want the noise of bouncing balls or bright lights shining into their homes. As far as we are aware other villages who have MUGA's aren't situated in such a prominent residential part of the town or village.

- Waste of money buying the Jenna Morrow wood.
- How long before full results of the survey will be published? It would be good to see results put out to each house. I might be old fashioned but I was disappointed that the label on the envelope and survey seemed to be just slapped on both were lopsided with the envelope label at a rather odd angle, gave the impression of not caring!! or that it was a chore to be endured.
- I am very pleased that KCDT are forming an Action to direct funds to projects. The development officer has done a good job speaking with community members and collating the various suggestions put to her and should be congratulated. I feel that KCDT should seek not seek to become "owners" of projects but should seek partners or groups to take responsibility for running and upkeep and that to avoid being inundated with mere "wish lists" that a short justificatory notice should be required to be submitted with each idea to the Development Officer showing what/where/why/estimated cost/estimated running or upkeep costs/perceived benefits to the community. This should result in more realistic ideas being put forward, rather than mere "I'd like's".
- Continue footpath at Beechgrove corner. Nothing wrong with village signs as they are!
- Don't need new village signs. Don't need notice board. Poster are in shop, village hall and Camy McGregor's window on Main Street.
- Up to housing associations to build affordable homes. Don't waste money on village signs when there's nothing wrong with the ones we have!
- Don't waste money on Beechgrove corner - cars parking there slow the traffic down take them away and you'll get speeds increased round that corner.
- In the section regarding the park there is a section of plants/trees etc We currently have planters that is funded to pay someone to plant them & we need to remember that trees/plants grow and if not kept under control soon become too large and can look unsightly - who would maintain and look after such plantings as the planters can look rather unloved
- Strongly disagree with muga being built in park in front of church don't mind anywhere else or at complete opposite end of park.
- Not against the Muga in general, however, strongly against it being located in the park.
- Why purchase the Jenna Morrow! It's a public right of way. Money spent purchasing the wood would be better used in the village.
- Given the acknowledged Climate Change emergency and wildlife decline, I think it is vital that ALL projects take into account environmental impact, embodied energy and resource use. In all cases using local, low-impact, recycled, plastic-free materials where possible. I would hate to see hardcore paths or other intrusive materials in natural woodland. Also definitely not a MUGA in the park - up beside the school would be fine. The park needs to become an attractive and natural outdoor space, coherently designed for people of all ages and abilities, and to encourage wildlife.
- A feasibility study into a cycle/walking path between the village and Newton Stewart would in my opinion be very beneficial to the health, wellbeing and sustainability of the village.
- Sheltered housing, is not mentioned - it would be nice to keep the elderly in the village. I have seen too many people be ripped away from their lifelong homes. Community transport also not mentioned - very useful in other villages eg New Galloway, Dalry etc no transport to

Wigtown for example. Definatly support the village hall refurb - very important for community spirit.

- Disappointed the winter fuel allowance was approved. Felt like this was conceived and pushed through by a group of people without fair consultation and facts. Would rather the funds were spent on community projects that will have long lasting benefits rather than short term financial gain to individuals - for example: the has the has the potential to become a hub for the community, providing social, learning and health benefits for all ages. Same would apply to Jenna Morrow woodland.
- I lived in a place where they had the adult gym as part of a walk families did regular with children, it was lovely to see children and adults competing together. As an adult with a young child and being self conscious I really do not think I would use the gym if it was on full view in the park. But I can certainly see me walking the dog + child om tow and completing with another on a walk. I though you could have a couple going up behind the church. If Andrew didn't mind creating fenced spaces on path walking up to Dickie woods and in Dickie woods. I can see certainly a couple of open voids where equipment would not be swamped by trees and again out the other side making gaps in the path for more. I think this would attract people here. It would encourage people to walk their dogs. It needs signs up saying pick up your dog mess.
- Community spirit appears to be low since windfarm money
- How about offering a taxi card to households without their own transport
- I have heard on bush telegraph that MUGA area in village pipeline. This hard surface play area should be a serious consideration if there is manpower to manage same unfortunately I am definitely past it.
- Some money should be put aside as an emergency fund for people in need of it. Should we consider any further work to the graveyard above that done by the council?
- It would be good to have a community shop - not necessarily have a second hand food shop but for perhaps more specialised items eg lovely breads and cakes (like Earths' crust in Castle Douglas.) home grown vegetables etc something that could bring people into Kirkcowan to visit. A good café/bistro serving different options (vegan/vegetarian) that are available elsewhere. And within the place to the lovely walks from Kirkcowan and cycle rides. If Kirkcowan offer something different people will come. Maybe a trail or two incorporating gardens, artists walks etc
- As a resident that lives 7 miles from the village, I find it unfair that assistance is focused on the village, which has had minimal negative impact from windfarm construction and operation, whilst those who have had to live with the down side get totally ignored. Quite frankly, most of the (very noble) plans that are detailed herein, just serve to rub salt into the wounds and create a divide between those who live in the village and stand to gain from something that they are not even entitled to and those who actually have to live with the windfarms and their consequences (visual impact, noise, construction traffic etc)
- The village hall as well as the park are the hub of the community to bring people/children of all ages together. I would strongly support the development of both as where would we hold community events, school productions, parties or school sports events or just for children and adults to come together in the park. The Autumn Club has had a lot of Trust money spent on it but there is probably still room for improvement too to keep this building as a cosy meeting place for the elderly.
- Each committee will have to work together to make these ideas and plans come to fruition. If monies are not used and taken wisely the community will lose it.

- As a resident in church street I am strongly against a MUGA in the park. They are ugly to look at every entrance to the village would see it. It will be noisy and a trap for litter. A dreadful eyesore for everyone entering the village and all residents at Newton Stewart Road and Church Street and Hamilton Crescent. It would be better sited as Balgreen or behind the school where I understand Craighlaw estate owns and Andrew Gladstone would give the field to the village. This would be mostly out of sight and only heard by a few residents. It would also be ideal for the school.
- Have not filled in section reg woodland as I feel the purchase of the Jenna Morrow Wood is a waste of the village money.
- It is easy to forget those in the outlying area are also part of the community and these action plans should also take these people into consideration especially as a number are elderly and isolated.
- Hall is really important, it must be upgraded.
- I love this community and wish to see it flourish but I worry that the ideas of a few who are not willing to adapt or listen to/consider other ideas for the village. This will mean that the village will collapse instead. There is no need for a MUGA in this village as few will use it anyway and many are either too young to use it or will (not) be around for many years as they move onto the next stage in life. Change must be for the good of ALL.