

COMMUNITY LED REGENERATION: EMPOWER COMMUNITIES AND BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



Neighbourhood Satisfaction

98% of residents consider their town or village a good place to live



Volunteering

11% of residents provided unpaid work to various organisations



Community Participation

24% of residents willing to take part in activities to benefit their local community



Community Led Action Plans

20 published at March 2019



Community Asset Transfers

50 approved at March 2019



Town Centre Vacancy Rates

Decreased from 14.5% to 14.0%

Practice Example

Ochiltree Community Hub

Ochiltree's new Community Hub opened to the public on 22 July 2019 and is already making a real and positive difference to the whole community and the surrounding area.

Since its inception in 2013, a group of dedicated local volunteers and trustees worked together to make this new community facility a reality. The centre was in the building process for approximately one year, following six years of project planning and development, and the full facility is now open to everyone.

Following a successful community asset transfer of the site of the former community centre, and £1.8 million raised from various sources, this brand new facility on the main street of Ochiltree, boasts Café@45; a book point; versatile space, which can be used for corporate events, meetings and

social functions; and outdoor space. The Hub also provides employment and volunteering opportunities within the village.

The project is a noteworthy example of what can be done when a community is empowered to make its own decisions.

Ochiltree Community Hub is being run:

- For the Community: Aiming to improve health and wellbeing, social inclusion and social capital, and reinvesting profits to provide sustainable activity.
- With the Community: Listening to the community and valuing their skills and experience, and respecting their involvement in managing and operating the new facility.
- By the Community: Sharing a common agenda and combining resources to further improve community wellbeing.

COMMENTARY

The Council and the Community Planning Partnership has a strong track record of working with and supporting communities to realise their ambition, recognising that each community has its own unique strengths and assets. **Successful community-based regeneration** is rooted in the particular identity, culture, assets and connections of people and place. A sample of our activity in 2018/19 is provided below.

- The development of 20 **Community Led Action Plans** across East Ayrshire, including one thematic plan, building capacity in communities and developing community led initiatives.
- **Placemaking plans**, delivered in tandem with the development of Community Led Action Plans, are adopted as statutory guidance to the Local Development Plan.
- 50 **Community Asset Transfer** applications have been approved including the transfer of community facilities, areas of green space as well as sports facilities.
- Support is provided to local development groups and trusts, business stakeholder groups and community interest groups, which has been key to attracting Conservation Area Regeneration Schemes (CARS) funding for a number of communities, including most recently Galston and Mauchline.
- **Regeneration Capital Grant Fund** funding has been competitively secured to acquire and redevelop vacant buildings or to build new community hubs, which are operated by the community for the community.
- The delivery of identified **affordable housing in town centres** across East Ayrshire is being complemented by the provision of Community Benefits that, where possible, respond to existing Community Action Plans.
- Outdoor Services have been working in a new way to create **clean, green and vibrant communities**. In future, they will be working in place-based teams starting in the Doon Valley area, where they will be working more closely with communities to agree priorities and service provision as part of the mainstreaming of Participatory Budgeting. In conjunction with our communities, teams will be able to agree on what needs to be done and when.
- A new and innovative approach to the delivery of major projects within the Housing Improvement Programme through effective and **meaningful community engagement** has taken place, enabling the community to identify issues and opportunities for change in their local areas.
- **Participatory Budgeting** (PB) has supported and encouraged communities to engage in different conversations around **meeting local priorities**. To date, 26 community events have taken place and 319 projects were supported. Work is being progressed to identify opportunities to 'mainstream' the PB approach by 2021.
- Support for **Social Enterprises**, which has the potential to deliver a range of crucial services in our towns and villages, improving land and house values, attracting new investment and providing new services and job opportunities, continues to be provided.
- A **Community Led Regeneration Implementation Plan** has been developed to support future activity, which will be subject to further and more detailed engagement with communities in 2019/20.