



COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

2017-2022

St Fillans



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The community of St Fillan's has prepared their third Community Action Plan (CAP), with the assistance of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs Community Partnership.

Information has been compiled by the CAP Steering Group, which was established from members of the village community. Members were Carol Graham, Tricia Forrester, Eric McVittie, Bradley Sol and Hayley Rivers-Hambach.

Thanks are extended to the Steering Group and the representatives from the Loch Lomond and Trossachs Community Partnership for their time, dedication and hard work in developing and producing this document.

This plan reviews, revises and replaces the 2008-2011 CAP, from which many priorities were achieved and projects started.

These include:

- ➔ Establishment of the Core Paths Group, who are working in conjunction with Sustrans, Perth and Kinross Council (Greenspace), Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and Scottish Natural Heritage to develop the old railway track in to a path that will eventually link Lochearnhead to Comrie
- ➔ Establishment of the Play Park Group, who have sourced land, designed the play park and are in the process of fundraising;
- ➔ Creation of the St Fillans Community Trust Ltd, which seeks and holds funds for a range of community projects
- ➔ Securing a village voice on a national stage regarding anti-social behaviour, damage and littering on the lochside, contributing to the National Park Byelaws
- ➔ Establishment of the Gardening Group, to make sure that our local communal areas are kept to an excellent standard. Japanese Knotweed has been significantly reduced, and funding has been sourced to continue its eradication
- ➔ Establishment of a Neighbourhood Watch, with a regular newsletter sent to the community via email
- ➔ The promotion of village amenities and activities, via the creation of a village website and Facebook pages; thereby increasing exposure for tourism, and improving local communications
- ➔ The establishment of various community committees and groups who have maintained and organised a number of successful community events.





Our Community Our Voice

To prepare this plan support and guidance was sought from the village community, businesses and interest groups. Over the course of three months the St Fillans community was consulted on the priorities of the new Community Action Plan. The consultation was threefold:

- ➔ A household survey was issued via email and paper to all properties in St Fillans.
- ➔ A Community Open Evening to allow the community to identify key priorities.
- ➔ Stakeholder interviews with a number of individuals representing local groups and businesses.

Of the 113 households identified, 54 surveys were returned – a 48% return rate. Five stakeholder interviews were held with individuals across the community. Approximately 43 people attended the Community Open Evening and further comments and suggestions were gathered.



54

**SURVEYS RETURNED
FROM OUR 113 HOUSEHOLDS**

43



**PEOPLE ATTENDED
THE COMMUNITY OPEN EVENING**



5

**STAKEHOLDER
INTERVIEWS**

Thanks to everyone who participated



Our Community Now

The following section summarises our Community Profile. All facts and figures are based on local research and updated through the community consultation.

Location

The Community of St Fillans is located at the eastern end of Loch Earn. It comprises the village of St Fillans, the small rural community surrounding the village, and a number of individual houses along the southern shore of the loch. It lies 30 miles west of Perth, and 60 miles from both Glasgow and Edinburgh. It is situated in Perth and Kinross Council area, and the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

Population

St Fillans and the surrounding area has a population of 259, based on the 2011 census, a rise of 35 since the last Action Plan. The demographic change since the 2001 census is marked, with the percentage of 60+ rising from 26% to 41%, contrasted with a drop in the 45 to 59 age group from 30% to 24%, and the under 45 age group from 40% in 2001 to 33% in 2011.

Housing

St Fillans has 126 houses, 90 of which are full time residences. Its houses are a mixture of old picturesque cottages, fine stone villas and smart modern new builds.

Holiday homes and holiday lets still account for a significant proportion of the housing stock and there is no social housing provision. The average house price has dropped a little since 2008 to just under £270,000.

Employment and the Local Economy

According to the 2011 census, over 70% of local residents are employed, with 22% being retired. Of those employed 53% commute to nearby towns, villages and cities for work, whilst just under 32% work from home. 15% of villagers work within the village.

The largest local employer is the health and social care sector (13%), closely followed by the accommodation and service industry (12%), including the local hotels, and caravan park. Traditional industries, such as farming, forestry and fishing accounts for just over 5% of employment.

Other significant minor industries include construction, retail, professional scientific and technical services, and education.

Environment and Recreation

The local environment in St Fillans is a major asset. Situated at the eastern end of Loch Earn, it is surrounded by spectacular hills and scenery. This area of natural beauty is an attractive place to both live in and visit.

There is an abundance of flora and fauna, including areas of ancient woodland, and protected species such as osprey, golden eagles, red kites, otters, bats and even the occasional beaver.

There are numerous recreational opportunities in and around St Fillans e.g. water sports, dinghy sailing, kayaking, hill-walking, rambling, cycling (both mountain biking and on designated low level paths), golf at St Fillans own club, and river and loch fishing.

A small recreational area is located at the top of Shoemakers Lane, that local children use for football. A local play park is in the planning stages.



Social and Community

The St Fillans Community Council is very active; taking forward and lobbying on many issues on behalf of the village. The St Fillans Community Trust Ltd, formed as a result of the last Action Plan, financially manage various projects across the area.

There are many local groups and clubs across St Fillans including the walking, drama, music, country dancing, quilting and bridge groups. There are active lunch and supper clubs for both men and ladies. Successful local events include the summer Festive Weekend, bonfire night, Burns Night, Hogmanay Party and various fundraising events.

There is a regularly maintained website, Facebook page, notice board and email list, where the community is informed of up-coming events. 'The Villagers' magazine and neighbourhood watch emails convey further information regarding activities and news from the village. Notices regarding village events are also displayed in the village shop.

St Fillans has a range of local services including:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ■ A village shop and cafe; | Other village amenities include: |
| ■ Local hotels and bars; | ■ The Sandison Hall; |
| ■ A mobile library service; | ■ Dundurn Parish Church; |
| ■ A mobile bank; | ■ Access to the nearby |
| ■ Mobile fish and butcher vans; | services in Comrie and |
| ■ A pop-up post office in the village shop once a week. | Crieff is a short car or bus ride away. |

Heritage

St Fillans has a long and rich cultural heritage, dating from the Dark Ages. Formerly the village, which started as a small collection of thatched cottages, a lime kiln and a distillery, was known as Port Mhor or Meikleport. In 1817 Lord Gwydyr, the husband of Clementina Drummond who was the heiress to the Drummond Estate, released land for development along the loch shore. The hamlet was then named after St Fillan, who was reputed to have converted the Picts at Dundurn to Christianity.

Dunfillan Hill – Also known as St Fillan's Hill and Dundurn Hill at the eastern end of the village was the site of a small hill fort during the Dark Ages.

The fort was occupied from the early 600s, and is associated with the Celtic missionary Faolan the Stammerer or Faolan the Leper. This is where the name St Fillan derives.

Dundurn Cemetery – this is the ancient burial place of the Stewarts of Ardvorlich.

The Queen of Lochearn – this was a popular steamer which operated until the outbreak of World War II. She made two daily trips between St Fillans and Lochearnhead.

Neish Island – this man-made island or crannog was residence of the Clan Neish probably from around 1250 to 1420. It was inhabited by them periodically until 1622. Legend tells of a raid on the island by Clan McNab from Killin, which almost wiped out Clan Neish in 1612. Nothing remains of the fort, which once stood on the island. The island was subsequently inhabited by the Ardvorlich family, who built as an occasional residence and granary there.

Sandison Hall – the village hall is named after Alexander Sandison, who bequeathed his extensive library to the residents of St Fillans.



Community Views Survey Likes



What we said about our top likes.

"The people make St Fillans. The people who give their time to make it a better place to live and visit."

"The beautiful surroundings familiar since childhood – the joy of having a wonderful variety of birds in my garden, red squirrels, clean fresh air, fabulous trees and flora"

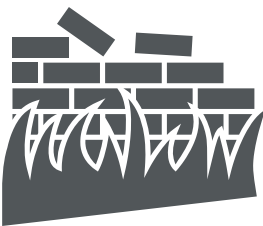
"Great community spirit. Residents are so friendly and welcoming. Lots of activities and enthusiastic people. Beautiful environment. Who would want to live anywhere else?"



Community Views Survey

Dislikes

26%



Unfinished/
unkempt developments,
properties and foreshores

12%



Anti-social
behavior by visitors

23%



Lack of Community involvement

15%



Lack of local
information

12%

Lack of suitable
services and
amenities



12%



Speeding traffic
through village

What we said about our dislikes.

"...noisy, busy road with speeding traffic. Litter."

"that we put up with littering fishermen and loch side party goers."

"I don't think the various clubs and activities are advertised enough as I often hear about things after the event."

"Improved transport links, particularly the bus service."



St Fillans vision statement

St Fillans is a wonderful place to live, but we aim higher!
St Fillans village, loch-side and riverside will be:

- ➡ **an even more vibrant and welcoming place for locals and visitors alike;**
- ➡ **a place where excellent services and facilities are the norm, and where good, modern communications and connections mean clubs, groups and events are well advertised and attended;**
- ➡ **a place where the scenery and environment are conserved and enhanced for all;**
- ➡ **where well maintained and newly developed paths allow people of all abilities to access our wonderful landscape;**
- ➡ **an attractive and safe place for residents and visitors alike.**



Main Themes and Priorities

These are the main themes and priorities the community will focus on over the next 5 years, in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

THEME 1:
Local
Infrastructure

THEME 2:
Community
Events and
Activities

THEME 3:
Environment

THEME 4:
Traffic, Roads
and Transport

TOP TEN PRIORITIES AS IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMUNITY THROUGH CONSULTATION

- ➡ Excellent community facilities and services
- ➡ Good local information
- ➡ Engaging clubs and groups
- ➡ Well-attended local events
- ➡ Provision of well -maintained and used paths
- ➡ An attractive village
- ➡ An attractive river and lochside
- ➡ Reduce traffic speed through the village
- ➡ Well maintained roadside pavements
- ➡ Suitable and sustainable local public transport

Theme 1: Local Infrastructure



A guide to the first steps to be taken over the next 12 months and into next 5 years...



PRIORITY 1:

Excellent community facilities and services

- ➔ Explore fundraising opportunities to move forward the development of the playpark
- ➔ Investigate the development of a large, multi-use village hall with catering facilities
- ➔ Lobby for new bus shelters
- ➔ Investigate improving the Community Field
- ➔ Continue to maintain the War Memorial
- ➔ Investigate the introduction of an ATM machine in to the village

Community Champion:

- Local residents
- Community Council
- Playpark Group
- Gardening Group
- Dummond Estate



Well maintained, fit-for-purpose local facilities and excellent up-to-date information are essential for both residents and visitors in St Fillans. By improving both these areas, we aim for a vibrant village where people will choose to live and holiday.

PRIORITY 2:

Provision of good local information

- ➔ Install interpretation boards across the village
- ➔ Produce updated local information booklet, leaflet and maps of local walks.
- ➔ Encourage use of the community website and social media
- ➔ Install anti-litter signs and procure additional bins for the village

Community Champion:

- Local residents
- Community Council
- Paths group

Theme 2: Community Events and Activities



St Fillans is an engaged and vibrant community. To enhance and maintain this and involve all parts of our community, we want to support and encourage as many as possible interest groups, events and activities.

A guide to the first steps to be taken over the next 12 months and into next 5 years...



PRIORITY 1:

Engaging clubs and events

- ➔ Encourage support for the local Walking Group
- ➔ Support the establishment of a local Nature Club
- ➔ Investigate the development of groups and activities for children and young people
- ➔ Encourage the establishment of fitness and sports classes – for example a cycling group
- ➔ Explore the establishment of a cinema club

Community Champion:

- Local residents
- Local groups

PRIORITY 2:

Well attended local events

- ➔ Encourage more support of community fundraisers
- ➔ Promote and encourage support of annual and local events, and explore options for new events

Community Champion:

- Festive Committee
- Local groups



Theme 3: Environment



The stunning natural environment of St Fillans is very important to local residents and visitors, and we aim to promote and enhance it. Access to the landscape, providing an attractive village, and tidy, well maintained river and lochsides are particularly important.



A guide to the first steps to be taken over the next 12 months and into next 5 years...



PRIORITY 1:

Provision of well maintained and used paths

- ➔ Continue to improve and maintain local paths, including upgrading the Goats Path and St Fillans Hill Path
- ➔ Support the continuing development of the St Fillans to Locheearnhead Path

Community Champion:

- Paths Group

PRIORITY 2:

Create an attractive village

- ➔ Investigate installing more village artworks
- ➔ Maintain the floral beds and planters in the village

Community Champion:

- Local artists
- Local residents
- Local groups

PRIORITY 3:

Create an attractive river and loch-side

- ➔ Improve access to the beach on the eastern loch shoreline
- ➔ Continue to work with the local authority and landowners to clear debris on the loch-side
- ➔ Encourage enforcement of the Launch Policy
- ➔ Look into the potential for a public area with picnic tables and benches on the loch-side
- ➔ Establish an osprey hide
- ➔ Develop a bird and bat box scheme

Community Champion:

- Local residents
- National Park Rangers
- Local residents
- Slipway owners
- Landowners
- Gardening Group

Theme 4: Traffic, Roads and Transport



A guide to the first steps to be taken over the next 12 months and into next 5 years...



PRIORITY 1:

Reducing traffic speed through the village

- ➔ Lobby to install effective 30mph signs at the village entrances
- ➔ Campaign for the whole village to be 30mph
- ➔ Lobby to install average speed cameras

Community Champion:

- Community Council



Having a safe, peaceful and accessible village is very important to St Fillans residents. Introducing traffic calming measures, and improving pavements are essential in achieving this.

Equally important is access to public and local transport to enable those without private transport to travel easily.

PRIORITY 2:

Well maintained roadside pavements

- ➔ Campaign for improved pavement maintenance
- ➔ Lobby to expand pavements to the houses at the edges of the village

Community Champion:

- Community Council

PRIORITY 3:

Suitable and sustainable local public transport

- ➔ Improved road and path infrastructure
- ➔ Promote Comrie Community Bus for local use
- ➔ Encourage more evening buses to Crieff and Comrie
- ➔ Investigate a reciprocal village Taxi Club

Community Champion:

- Local residents
- Community Council
- Website/social media



Making It Happen

The priorities in this action plan will be taken forward by the Community Champions, supported by the St Fillans Community Council and St Fillans Community Trust.

The Action Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.

An annual Delivery plan has been developed and will be used to guide the delivery and assist in monitoring of a number of priorities each year. Copies of the current deliver plan are available from: www.thecommunitypartnership.org.uk

If you would like to get involved with any of these initiatives or for further information please contact the lead organisations for each theme as shown below:

THEME 1: Local Infrastructure
Community Council
Email: StFillansCommunityCouncil@pkc.gov.uk

THEME 2: Community Events and Activities
Festve Committee
Email: hayleyrivers@hotmail.com

THEME 3: Environment
Paths Group/ Garden Group
Email: trishforrester@hotmail.com

THEME 4: Traffic, Roads and Transport
Community Council
Email: StFillansCommunityCouncil@pkc.gov.uk

For general information contact:

St Fillans CAP Steering Group

Name: Carol Graham
E-mail: lochearnside@gmail.com
Tel: 01764 685367

The Community Partnership

E-mail: info@thecommunitypartnership.org.uk
Tel: 01389 722047



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www.thecommunitypartnership.org.uk
Tel: 01389 727762



Loch Lomond & The Trossachs
National Park Authority
www.lochlomond-trossachs.org
Tel: 01389 722600

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