



COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

2018-2023

Gartmore

Gartmore Community Action Plan 2018-2023

This Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of Gartmore over the next 5 years as determined by the community through an extensive process of community engagement carried out from May 2017– November 2017.

The Plan contains:

- **a summary of our Community Profile**
- **the main advantages and disadvantages of living in Gartmore identified in our Community Survey**
- **our Vision Statement for the future of Gartmore**
- **the main themes, needs and priorities for action**
- **information on how you can stay in touch and get involved.**

We are grateful to The Community Partnership and, in particular, Kelly Clapperton-Bates, who supported the development and preparation of the Community Action Plan, and to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park which provided the funding.

Our previous Action Plan (2012-2017) identified priorities and actions, many of which have been achieved by the community, including:

- ➔ **Refurbishing the village hall**
This has been transformed into a successful, vibrant and welcoming community resource
- ➔ **Acquiring better broadband**
Introduction of Briskona high speed broadband in the hall and most of the village
- ➔ **Supporting the school and shop**
The school roll has increased and the shop made a small surplus in 2017
- ➔ **Developing the play park**
The new play park formally opened in August 2017 and is much enjoyed by the young people of the village
- ➔ **Increasing childcare**
Gartmore Primary now has wrap-around care.
- ➔ **Improving paths and cycle routes**
Increased signage, development and maintenance of paths (including Initial restoration of Wee Woods path) and publication of paths booklet.





OUR COMMUNITY OUR VOICE

The Action Plan was prepared following an extensive consultation with the community between May 2017 and November 2017. This comprised:

The distribution of 200 household surveys across the community to identify likes, dislikes, needs and wants. Of these, 68 were returned - 34% of the community.

This was followed by an Open Day, attended by 55 local people which allowed further engagement and also provided an opportunity to take part in a Place Standard assessment.

Two focus group meetings were held with 30 school pupils from Gartmore, including the entire Primary School and volunteer High School Pupils.

Stakeholder interviews were conducted with 20 people representing a wide cross section of local organisations, groups and businesses.

Finally, a 'Decision Time' Priorities Open Day was held in November 2017, encouraging local people, including residents and businesses, to choose what they would like to see in their Community Action Plan. This was attended by 42 people.



200

SURVEYS DISTRIBUTED TO HOUSEHOLDS

55



PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR OPEN DAY



20

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Thanks to everyone who participated



Our Community Now

The following section provides background information on Gartmore, describing how the community is now.

Location

Located in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, Gartmore is situated just off the main Aberfoyle to Glasgow road (A81). Stirling is 20 miles to the east, and Glasgow 24 miles to the south. The village sits in rolling hills and woodland in the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. It commands fine views to the Campsie Fells to the south, the Mentieth Hills to the north, Ben Lomond to the west, and across Flanders Moss to the east. The wider Gartmore area includes the hamlets of Dalmary, Cobleland and Crinigart, and more isolated properties in the vicinity.

Housing

There are 219 houses in the Gartmore area, 199 are occupied, 15 are classed as second-homes, and five are vacant. The majority of housing in Gartmore is owner-occupied (82%), with only 8% comprising social housing, much lower than the Scottish average of 20%. The social housing stock is a mix of Council housing and Rural Stirling Housing Association (RSHA). There are on-going discussions between RSHA and a local landowner about developing further social housing.

Population

The 2011 census recorded the Gartmore population as 475. The main working age population (25-64) and the 0-5 population are both near identical to the average demographics (52% and 18% respectively). However, the 16-24 bracket is lower than average (9% compared to 14%), and the 65+ population makes up 21% of Gartmore compared to an average of 17%.

Education

Gartmore Primary School is a small school with a roll-call of 22 pupils (2017/18 academic year). It is a popular school with a good reputation which attracts children from outwith the catchment area. The headship is conducted jointly with Port of Mentieth Primary School. Wrap around childcare is provided by a Breakfast Club from 8am, and an After School Club until 5.15pm. It is very popular and well used by local parents. Pre-school and nursery care can be found in Balfron, Killearn Aberfoyle, Croftamie and Buchlyvie. Secondary education is provided at McLaren High in Callander and Balfron High. A small number of local children attend Independent Schools.

Employment and Economy

There is little difference between the full-time and part-time percentages of the working population with the Scottish average (31% and 12%). However self-employment is significantly higher (21% compared to 9%), and unemployment lower (1% compared to 4%). The retired population is slightly higher than average, 19% compared to 15%. The largest employer is the tourism industry comprising 19% of the working population; education and social work follow closely with 16% and 12%. Traditional industries, such as farming and forestry, comprise 7% of the workforce. The Black Bull Hotel, the Village Shop, Cobleland Campsite, Trossachs Holiday Park, Benmore Garden Centre, Gartmore House, and local bed and breakfasts, are significant contributors to the local economy. The proximity of Gartmore to Stirling and Glasgow means that many people commute to work, though this is restricted to people with cars as lack of public transport is a significant barrier.

Local Services

There are limited services in Gartmore, meaning that people have to travel to access them. The community owned Village Shop and the Black Bull Hotel are extremely important to the village. The mobile library attends on a fortnightly basis, and the mobile fish van weekly. Medical services are obtained from Aberfoyle, Drymen, Balfron and Buchlyvie Medical Centres.. Repeat prescriptions can be delivered to the Village Shop. Optical and dental services are available in Callander, Stirling Community Hospital is the nearest hospital and has a Minor Injuries Unit. The nearest large hospital is the NHS Forth Valley in Larbert, 30 miles to the south-east.



Community

The refurbishment of the Village Hall was completed in 2014 and represents a significant local fundraising endeavour with support coming from the Big Lottery Fund, LEADER and other funders. It is a prestigious community facility and is much appreciated by local residents. The Gartmore Community Trust and Community Council are very active and the Gartmore News is published on a monthly basis. The Village Shop is community owned and run, with a significant number of local people owning shares. Green Routes is an important part of the community. Based at Gartmore House, it is a social enterprise and charity dedicated to supporting people with additional support needs develop lifeskills through horticultural training.. There are lots of local organisations and groups, including the Church, the Forest Theatre Company, the Horticultural Society, the newly reformed Heritage Society, the Community Cinema, Indoor Carpet Bowls, the monthly Lunch Club and the Parent and Toddler Group. Summer Ice is a sport unique to the area and the village participates in a local league.

Environment and Outdoor Access

Gartmore is in the National Park. There is great access to the outdoors provided by the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. The area also has three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). National Cycle Route 7 passes through the village, and a further cycle route from Aberfoyle to Buchlyvie follows the old railway line. Smaller, local paths are maintained by the National Park and local volunteers. The village itself is within a short drive of the Trossachs and Loch Lomond, which offer a plethora of outdoor pursuits from hill-walking to canoeing.

Roads and Transport

Gartmore lies a short drive from the A81, the main Aberfoyle to Glasgow route. The local bus service has become considerably more limited, with the only return from Glasgow and Stirling terminating at Balfron. There is no bus service on a Sunday. Direct access to Callander is only available on the McLaren High School bus and there are no direct links to Stirling, which has to be accessed via Aberfoyle. Demand Responsive Transport is difficult to access and inadequate for most journeys. The lack of public transport is a significant local issue.

Heritage

The Gartmore area has a long history, with remains dating from the prehistoric period to the modern era: a Neolithic cup-and-ring marked stone lies to the west; a Bronze Age flanged-axe was found locally; the route of a Roman Road is thought to pass to the north-west of Dalmarly; and a possible medieval defended settlement and mill was located at Claggans to the south.

Gartmore Village itself dates from the mid-18th century (it is first depicted on Roy's Military Map of 1755). It is a planned village built by the Graham family, which established Gartmore House. The land at Gartmore House was granted to the Graham family in 1644 by the first Earl of Stirling. The current house plans were commissioned by Laird Nicolas Graham in 1740, and with some alterations and extensions, were completed during the late 18th century by his descendents. The last Laird of Gartmore was Robert Bontine Cunninghame Graham. Known best as a politician he co-founded the Scottish Labour Party and then the National Party of Scotland - he was a prolific writer and traveller.

He sold the estate in 1900 to the Cayzer family. During WWII the army commandeered the estate, The Cayzers sold it shortly after, and in the 1950s the house became a school for troubled children. Since 1997 the house has been an activity and conference centre, as well as hosting Green Routes social enterprise.

The village has a number of interesting sites, including the Cayzer Moondial, which dates to the 17th century and was moved from Gartmore House in the 1960s to the family private cemetery behind the church; the Black Bull hotel, a purpose-built inn dating to the late 18th century; and the Cobleland Bridge, which was built in 1752 to replace the ford.



Photo © Robert Cutts



Community Views Survey

Likes



Lovely rural
location &
easy outdoor
access



The
village
Hall



Friendly and
welcoming
community

Small
Village
School



The Gartmore
shop



What we said about our top likes.

The beautiful location with a wide range of countryside, from meadows and woods to mountains and lochs!

We have felt incredibly welcomed since moving here in February.

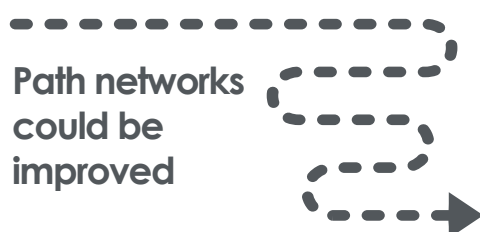
Despite the small size of the community there are some excellent facilities, especially hall, play park and school.

There is a palpable sense of people wanting to make this the best it can be. This is very refreshing.



Community Views Survey

Dislikes



What we said about our dislikes.

Lack of community transport - doesn't meet needs of people aged 60+ for hospital visits (Larbert), shopping, even social visits out of the village. DRT is inefficient and inadequate.

Reduce light pollution...I would love to be able to see the stars in all directions without having to get in the car.

The Health Board does not and anyway comprehend the difficulties of rural healthcare.



Gartmore

Our vision for the future

To be a community celebrating diversity, taking ownership of its own future, with a thriving economy, outstanding facilities and maintaining a beautiful, safe village for all.



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.



Community

By increasing and supporting our local facilities, events and activities, and sustainably improving our housing infrastructure and access to health-services, Gartmore will be a fantastic place to live in, work in and raise a family.



A guide to the first steps to be taken over the next 12 months and beyond...

Community Facilities

- ➔ Develop a café in the village
- ➔ Explore development of an all-weather, multi-purpose pitch
- ➔ Install more benches and seating
- ➔ Investigate developing an undercover bbq/picnic area

Community Champions:

- Community Trust
- School/sports club
- Paths Group

Improve health and support services

- ➔ Encourage provision of more health-services locally and improve NHS outreach
- ➔ Investigate re-starting the Baby Café or similar

Community Champions:

- Community Council
- Stirling Council
- NHS Forth Valley
- Community Trust
- Local groups
- Local residents

Develop and support events and activities

- ➔ More music, concerts and theatre in the village hall and pub
- ➔ Weekly coffee morning in the village hall
- ➔ More activities and events to encourage the community to mix and boost health and well-being
- ➔ Encourage community support for existing activities and clubs

Community Champions:

- Village Hall
- Village pub
- Theatre Group
- Local residents
- Local groups
- Community Trust
- Community Council
- Website





Assess the housing situation in Gartmore

- ➔ Properly assess the housing needs of the community
- ➔ Ensure all new housing has been fully approved by the community
- ➔ Investigate providing properly sited, affordable accommodation for young families
- ➔ Make sure there is local priority for social housing

Community Champions:

- National Park
- Local residents
- Community Trust
- Stirling Council
- Community Council
- Rural Stirling Housing Association

Encourage more support for local facilities

- ➔ Village Shop
- ➔ Village Hall
- ➔ Village Pub
- ➔ Primary School

Community Champions:

- Village Hall
- Local groups
- Village Shop
- Gartmore School Partnership
- Black Bull Hotel
- Local residents

Support further development of the Village Hall

- ➔ Expand the use of the Village Hall for recreational and sporting purposes
- ➔ Ensure that the Village Hall is properly maintained and developed in line with its various functions
- ➔ Complete the acoustic treatment programme of the Village Hall
- ➔ Further develop opportunities to provide benefit to local businesses through commercial letting
- ➔ Explore the potential for development of a small business hub within the hall

Community Champions:

- Hall Management Group

Improve existing facilities

- ➔ Encourage better opening hours of local facilities
- ➔ Longer shop hours during the summer season
- ➔ More seating at the football field

Community Champions:

- Black Bull Hotel
- Local residents
- Village Shop
- Community Trust
- Local groups

Environment

Protecting the beautiful natural environment of Gartmore and the surrounding area, and developing amenities in a way which ensures a sustainable future, both for our community now and for future generations, remains our priority.



A guide to the first steps to be taken over the next 12 months and beyond...

Investigate ways to reduce Gartmore's environmental impact

- ➔ Reduce light pollution by turning off street lights after midnight and upgrading their lamps
- ➔ Install solar panels on the village hall and encourage the use of renewables by all sections of the community
- ➔ Develop green initiatives, including a community renewables scheme; car charging points; electric bike charging points

Community Champions:

- Stirling Council
- Village Hall Committee
- Community Trust
- Community Council
- Local groups
- Hall Management Group

Keep Gartmore clean and tidy

- ➔ Reduce litter and dog fouling
- ➔ Conserve the historic and peaceful feel of the village

Community Champions:

- Community Council
- Stirling Council
- Local residents

Properly maintain the local environment

- ➔ Better drainage of the village field
- ➔ Encourage tree planting and general maintenance

Community Champions:

- Community Council
- Stirling Council
- Community Trust





Roads, Traffic and Transport

The lack of access to public transport is an issue of major concern for the community, affecting all areas of life. Residents find it difficult to travel to work and college and visitors cannot access the community easily by public transport. Roads maintenance continues to be an issue.



A guide to the first steps to be taken over the next 12 months and beyond...

Improved public transport

- ➔ Lobby for better public transport both locally and to Glasgow and Stirling
- ➔ Investigate local community transport solutions
- ➔ Lobby for a more flexible and regular DRT service
- ➔ Lobby to re-nationalise the bus service

Community Champions:

- Community Council
- Stirling Council
- Community Trust
- Community Partnership

Improved road maintenance and control

- ➔ Lobby for better road maintenance
- ➔ Lobby for better roadside and verge maintenance and drainage
- ➔ Raise awareness of speed limits and traffic controls

Community Champions:

- Community Council
- Stirling Council
- Police Scotland



Economic Development

New opportunities are available to communities through the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 and these will enable the community to continue to grow and flourish.



A guide to the first steps to be taken over the next 12 months and beyond...

Develop a local economic strategy

- ➔ Identify opportunities for transfer of assets to community ownership both through asset transfer and through the Community Right to Buy scheme
- ➔ Investigate better signage from the A81 promoting local amenities and businesses

Community Champions:

- Community Trust
- Community Council
- Local businesses

Improved tourist facilities

- ➔ Encourage the pub to be a 'comfort partner', offering accessible toilet facilities
- ➔ More and improved facilities to encourage tourists

Community Champions:

- Local businesses
- Community Council
- Stirling Council
- Community Trust
- Local groups



Support business development

- ➔ Investigate funding and infrastructure to support local businesses – ie a small business hub
- ➔ Encourage more local businesses to work with Green Routes
- ➔ Investigate encouraging training, apprenticeship and sustainable job creation

Community Champions:

- Community Trust
- Community Council
- Green Routes
- Local businesses
- Hall Management Group
- Village shop



Outdoor Recreation

Gartmore is situated in one of the most beautiful areas of Scotland where the Highlands give way to the fertile carse of the Lowlands. The opportunities to experience the outdoors and to encourage visitors to the area remain priorities.



A guide to the first steps to be taken over the next 12 months and beyond...

Increase recreational facilities and paths

- ➔ Develop more way-marked trails, including natural and cultural heritage
- ➔ Develop more all-ability paths and cycle paths
- ➔ Build an outdoor classroom for the school

Community Champions:

- Community Trust
- Local groups
- National Park
- Forestry Commission
- Primary School
- Gartmore School Partnership

Upgrade and maintain existing paths

- ➔ Lobby Forestry Commission Scotland to upgrade and re-open paths
- ➔ Upgrade the Wee Wood path
- ➔ Improve the existing paths network

Community Champions:

- Community Council
- Forestry Commission
- Local groups
- Community Trust

Improve path signage and local interpretation

- ➔ Better signage and interpretation for the footpaths and cycle paths
- ➔ Updated village map
- ➔ Individual path maps for sale in the village shop

Community Champions:

- Community Trust
- National Park
- Local groups

Promote outdoor activities and facilities

- ➔ Find ways to make more of the National Cycle Route 7 and the Rob Roy Way to encourage tourism
- ➔ Increased promotion of existing outdoor activities and facilities

Community Champions:

- Community Trust
- Local businesses
- National Park
- Community Council



Communications

There is a recognition that good communication is vital to the life of the community and that both internal and external communication channels and infrastructure need to be improved. Despite improvements, access to superfast broadband for all residents and businesses must remain a priority.



A guide to the first steps to be taken over the next 12 months and beyond...

Ensure good engagement between the community and community bodies

- ➔ Encourage more people to get involved in community organisations and activities
- ➔ Encourage wider participation in the work of the Community Council, Community Trust and other community organisations
- ➔ Better engagement with Stirling Council and the National Park

Community Champions:

- Community Trust
- Local groups
- Community Council



Improve ICT communications across Gartmore

- ➔ Better mobile reception
- ➔ Better broadband provision

Community Champions:

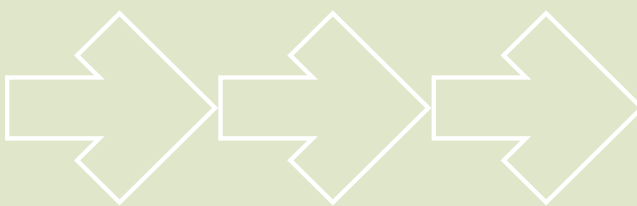
- Community Council
- Stirling Council

Improved information for locals and tourists

- ➔ Better promotion and information and activities and facilities offered in Gartmore
- ➔ Encourage a more integrated approach to local communications, including the use of social media

Community Champions:

- Community Council
- Community Trust
- Local groups
- Gartmore News
- Website



Notes



Making It Happen

The priorities in this action plan will be taken forward by the Community Champions, supported by Gartmore Community Council and Gartmore 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 delivery 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:

Community

Community Council

Email: council@gartmore-village.co.uk

Environment

Community Trust

Email: gartmorect@outlook.com

Roads, Traffic, Transport

Community Council

Email: council@gartmore-village.co.uk

Economic Development

Community Trust

Email: gartmorect@outlook.com

Outdoor Recreation

Community Trust

Email: gartmorect@outlook.com

Communications

Community Trust

Email: gartmorect@outlook.com

For general information contact:

Gartmore Community Trust

Name: Victoria Glasse Davies

E-mail: gartmorect@outlook.com

Tel: 01877 382457

The Community Partnership

Name: Anne Sobey

E-mail: info@thecommunitypartnership.co.uk

Telephone: 01389 722134 / 722639

Acknowledgements

Gartmore Community Action Plan Steering Group have prepared this community document. A special thanks to all Steering Group members for their time and dedication.

We are grateful to the following organisations for funding and assistance:



The Community Partnership
www.thecommunitypartnership.org.uk
Tel: 01389 727762



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

Thanks to all of you who submitted photographs to use in this publication.

