

# PH8 Community Action Plan: FAQs



## What is a Community Action Plan?

Developing a Community Action Plan means engaging with different community groups, residents, businesses, and generations of local people across PH8 to find out what people think about the place we live in now, what needs to change to make it better, set out a vision for our community for the future and finally – but crucially – identify ways of making this happen.

## What is the benefit of a Community Action Plan?

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown what an amazing community we have, with so many people working together to support one another and for the greater good. We know there are already lots of different community groups / clubs / organisations in operation, often with common aims and interests; an overarching vision and plan for our community can help us combine strengths, looking after what's important to us, and tackling issues in a holistic, joined up way. A good community-wide plan will also enable us to better access funding from our local authority and other funders by demonstrating the projects seeking funds have consulted the community and have that support. Importantly, a Community Action Plan may also help us to capture new needs, issues, opportunities not heard before.

## Why now?

It has been many years since we asked ourselves these questions, and with unprecedented effects of the pandemic likely to have a far-reaching impacts well into the future, now is pivotal time to look to the future and think about what we need and want to change in order to shape our community for the better.

A number of other communities across the local authority area are undertaking similar community action planning too as part of a drive from Perth & Kinross Council for genuine input from communities that can inform future service provision and funding strategies.

## What will happen?

There are four essential steps:

- **Community Survey** – At the beginning of April every household in the PH8 postcode area will receive a survey from us. We would ask you to complete and return these to one of the many collection boxes placed at easily accessible locations around the community. If you prefer, you can complete the survey online, or obtain other hard copies available near the collection boxes. The survey will ask people what they think about the community now, what they like, what they don't like, and what they would like to see change in the future. Also, volunteers will be recruited to help collect and collate the returns, visiting households throughout the PH8 area. Volunteers will also be available for anyone who would like to discuss the questions or wants a bit of assistance filling in the survey.
- **Community Profile** – Hard data collated from a range of sources will describe the make-up of our community in terms of demographics, socio-economic characteristics, services etc.
- **Consultation and engagement activities** – Following on from the survey a range of interviews and focus groups will dig a little deeper for more detailed information from relevant stakeholders (businesses, support groups, churches, etc.) on certain themes/issues. We plan to run various activities aimed at engaging young people and children so we can hear their ideas on their terms too. Public displays, chat sessions, drop-in events and other more creative/artistic ways of expressing all the ideas captured will follow in the summer – restrictions permitting – offering opportunities to discover the findings, interact with the information, and reflect, comment or give other feedback on what's produced.
- **Community Action Plan** – As a culmination of all the above, we will produce a final document that pulls together the many different aspirations, opportunities and strengths as well as, issues and problems we have to tackle in our community. The document will set out our shared vision for the future, identifying priorities, actions and ways of working together to move forward, including concrete goals to inform development of specific projects and/or solutions.

## How will it be achieved?

A Steering Group has been set up to oversee the process, involving local people from across the area and from different community groups and organisations. Current steering group members drawn from all over the PH8 area: John Gilruth, Calum Martin, Sophie Cade, Sally Robertson, Stuart Paton, Brenda Roddy, Simon Yearsly, Caroline Robinson, Ruby Flatley, Lachlan McEwan, Ann Cameron, Jane Gordon and Lindsay McManamon – and we're open to contributions from anyone in the area.

We've also appointed two locally based people as Community Connectors. Eilidh Hodgson and Drew Campbell will co-ordinate all aspects of the survey, support the volunteers, and draft the plan. If you have anything you want to know about the survey, the process or the plan, you can email our Community Connectors directly on [ph8communitymatters@gmail.com](mailto:ph8communitymatters@gmail.com).

The action planning process is supported and funded by Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council, Perth & Kinross Council Leader, and SEE Griffin Community Fund. This will pay for local people to deliver the consultation activities, expert support on planning consultation methods, analysis of findings, promotional support, and the purchase of materials required. Volunteers will also play a hugely important role in supporting and promoting the survey and consultation activities.

## When will it happen?

Pandemic restrictions over the winter set back the original planned timescale. The intention now is to launch the survey in early spring, with paper versions circulated as an insert in The Bridge and online at [PH8 Community Matters \(dunkeldandbirnamnews.co.uk\)](http://PH8 Community Matters (dunkeldandbirnamnews.co.uk)). Focus groups and interviews will follow, with other events through the spring including public presentations open to the community. Restrictions permitting, we hope the process will be completed by end of August.

## Who will be involved?

Everyone and anyone living in PH8 postcode area! To make sure this plan is representative of the whole community and captures what matters to people most, it's vital as many people participate as possible.

## How will it be delivered in Covid times?

Every precaution will be taken to ensure all activities in the process adhere to whatever restrictions are applicable at the time. The community survey will be risk assessed and volunteers given clear guidance on how to work in a Covid safe way. Where possible we will use technology and online platforms to engage with people and run activities online. We realise, however, this may exclude some people, and so we will be making provisions to engage with people offline and in person, while still adhering to the rules. At this point we have to wait and see the situation in the spring and summer 2021 and plan activities accordingly, making use of outdoor spaces, social distancing measures and more creative ways of engaging with people, so that as many local residents as possible can participate.

## How can I get involved?

First and foremost, you can complete and return the community survey! Also, you can follow us on **Facebook: PH8 Community Matters / Instagram: @ph8communitymatters / Twitter: @MattersPh8** and look out for opportunities to participate in other activities and ways of contributing your ideas online.

If you'd like to sign up to the PH8 volunteer email list please contact [ph8communitymatters@gmail.com](mailto:ph8communitymatters@gmail.com) and we'll keep you informed of any volunteering opportunities that arise throughout the process.

And finally, if you have any specific knowledge, skills or experience to offer with regard to delivering community engagement, communications and promotion or, on particular issues and themes that may arise – e.g. environment, healthcare, transport, services, etc. – please contact the steering group on [ph8communityvision@gmail.com](mailto:ph8communityvision@gmail.com) if you'd like to contribute more.