A watercolor-style map of Campbeltown, Scotland, showing buildings, streets, and green spaces. The map is rendered in soft, muted colors like greens, blues, and greys, with a hand-drawn aesthetic. A large dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the map, containing the title text in white.

# Campbeltown Community Action Plan Summary Plan 2022-2027



Campbeltown  
Community  
Council



Architecture &  
Design Scotland  
Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

# 1. Introduction

This Community Action Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement carried out between July and December 2021. The Action Planning work has been supported by South Kintyre Development Trust (SKDT), Inspiralba and Campbeltown Community Council, employing 3 local young people. The information gathered provides an insight into the needs, aspirations and challenges which affect the community and will help to inform ongoing development activity.

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, different approaches had to be adopted to enable engagement, including online surveys and focus groups as well as one in person event. Every member of the community, young and old, was given an opportunity to have an input into the plan. Regardless of the pandemic, there was an incredible response from our community with 879 individual responses to the survey.

The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, Brexit and climate change will have lasting effects on our community and our approach to sustaining resilience.

The changes in climate that Scotland is already experiencing are projected to continue and intensify; warmer and wetter winters with more intense rainfall events, hotter and drier summers with greater extremes. Sea levels will continue to rise leading to increasing flooding and coastal erosion (Adaptation Scotland, 2021). To protect Campbeltown from the impacts of climate change, the community must work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the changing climate.

In autumn 2021, Campbeltown was selected as one of seven locations for the Scottish Government's Climate Action Towns pilot project. As a result, Architecture & Design Scotland have supported the Community Action Plan team to include climate change considerations within the plan.

This Summary Community Action Plan is a document drawn up by the community to help guide decision making in the future and help us secure resources to deliver on our priorities.

The full plan, including the results from the survey, can be accessed on the following websites:

[www.skdt.org](http://www.skdt.org)

<http://www.inspiralba.org.uk/communitysupport/>

[www.campbeltowncommunitycouncil.uk](http://www.campbeltowncommunitycouncil.uk)

## 2. Campbeltown's Profile



Population  
**4524**



2 areas within town ranked in 20% most deprived in Scotland



Households  
**2424**



Surf Award winner for Scotland's Most Improved Place 2020



### Assets and Strengths



Strong community spirit and sense of identity



People are friendly and welcoming



Safe, good place to bring up children



Attractive town centre with many shops and eateries



Good affordable leisure facilities (esp Aqualibrium and Picture House), good cultural, history, museum, music assets



Wide range of social and community activities,



Many good opportunities for volunteering



Attractive environment on our doorstep - loch, hills



Unrealised potential for marine tourism

### Issues and Challenges



Declining, ageing population



Transport links unreliable (frequent closure of A83 trunk route and unreliability of ferries). Roads in town in poor state



Good quality, sustainable employment and training opportunities needed



Town centre parking which impacts on communal space



Substance misuse issues



Availability of affordable housing



Isolation from main centres of population



Unusually high proportion of young carers, affecting academic performance



Challenges with education infrastructure in Primaries and attracting/retaining teaching staff

## 3. Methods



### Survey Summary and Methodology

The survey questions were developed to cover a wide range of topics such as housing, employment, general community spirit and local services. Information gathered from the Campbeltown Roots Conversation held online in January 2021 by the David Hume Institute helped to shape the questions.

Surveys were completed through SurveyMonkey with paper copies also distributed. Extensive promotion using posters, local radio and via the local newspaper as well as a social media campaign all helped to secure 879 respondents (35% male, 64% female, remainder non-binary/prefer not to say), (98% white respondents).

The respondents' demographics are fairly representative of the Campbeltown community.

The feedback from the surveys has been categorised under 7 themes. Section 4 lists the main priorities that were identified in relation to each theme and the proposed actions.



### 'Build Actions Together' Workshops and Methodology

A series of workshops were held in December 2021 to share the survey results and involve local people in developing actions that will benefit people and planet. These were publicised via local media, social media, posters, local business networks and direct emails/calls to 95 listed community groups. All sessions had to be run online due to COVID19.

36 people were involved across 4 different sessions. This included local residents, Campbeltown Grammar School pupils, representatives from third sector organisations, a tenants and residents association, an elected member, local heritage, hobby and sports clubs, local businesses, representatives from Argyll & Bute Council and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

The workshop agenda included reviewing the survey findings, exploring future climate risks, making a wish for Campbeltown in 2030, developing ideas for actions based on the survey priorities and then voting for the most valuable actions.

The ideas for actions from all four sessions were grouped together and those with the most votes written up into the Community Action Plan.

Please note, Section 4 lists the proposed actions and stakeholders who could work together to help deliver the actions. The **lists of stakeholders are not exhaustive**, if you or your organisation would like to help deliver an action, please get in touch so this can be updated. Contact details can be found on the final page of the action plan.

# 4. Themes and Actions

## Theme 1 - Employment, Education and Training

### Survey Findings



- Sustainable employment
- More and better-quality local employment opportunities especially for school leavers
- More and better-quality support to train back into work
- Better access to quality employment training
- Attainment levels at local high school could be better.
- Local primary school buildings and facilities in need of refurbishment or replacement

There is a lack of training and employment opportunities in Campbeltown, both for young people and those temporarily out of work. This results in young people leaving the area and contributes to health, wellbeing, drug and alcohol issues. At the same time, businesses such as hospitality are struggling to find staff and there is a lack of local trades people such as electricians, joiners and plumbers.

Campbeltown needs to increase the variety of courses and employment options, so young people have the option to stay locally and also help skilled workers return to employment. Campbeltown needs sustainable employment that makes use of the existing skills and local facilities e.g., the closed former CS Wind Towers factory at Machrihanish. The outstanding natural resource of Campbeltown Loch has clear potential to develop adventure tourism and water sports.



### Actions

**1A Work with existing partners to create more local employability / training programmes and identify gaps/opportunities.**

Stakeholders: Employability Partners, Campbeltown Grammar School, Local Employers and Training Providers, Kintyre Seaports.

**1B Create, attract, retain and support businesses with long term employment.**

Stakeholders: HIE, Scottish Government, Argyll and Bute Council, Businesses.

**1C Provide remote working spaces to attract new people to Campbeltown and provide digital access for local people**

Stakeholders: SKDT, HIE, Scottish Government.

**1D Engage with stakeholders to improve primary school infrastructure and promote education roles within the area.**

Stakeholders: Argyll and Bute Council, Scottish Government.

## Theme 2 - Resilience

### Survey Findings



- Feedback data displays that most feel that Campbeltown is a resilient community with a large majority agreeing that Campbeltown has been resilient with the recent pressures of Covid 19 and lockdown restrictions.
- However, there is a lack of awareness of any local emergency plans and some fear that lack of employment opportunities, reliance on voluntary groups and long-term effects of Covid and Brexit could potentially knock Campbeltown's sustainability.

At the December 2021 workshops, several people commented they were surprised that climate change was not mentioned in the survey and must be considered in the action plan. The changes in climate that we are already experiencing are projected to continue and intensify. Campbeltown's community and infrastructure are likely to be adversely affected by increased flooding, increased temperatures, increased frequency of extreme weather events, changes in rainfall patterns and the loss of biodiversity.

Kintyre Alcohol & Drugs Advisory Service commented that climate change is already creating anxiety and mental health issues amongst Campbeltown's young people.



### Actions

**2A Create a resilience plan with local people, businesses, and public services to prepare for future events, such as extreme weather**

Stakeholders: SKDT, Campbeltown Community Council, Argyll and Bute Council.

**2B Explore opportunities for community-owned energy production, for Campbeltown's long term financial sustainability**

Stakeholders: SKDT, Campbeltown Community Council.

**2C Create a coordinated climate change initiative in Campbeltown, to start dialogue around the need for long term thinking, identify local targets and establish practical activities (such as reuse and repair spaces, tool libraries, composting, rainwater harvesting, tree planting and creative communication campaigns).**

Stakeholders: SKDT, Kintyre Recycling, Kintyre Alcohol & Drugs Advisory Service, Kintyre Youth Café & Young Carers, Kintyre Seasports, BioRegioning Clyde.

**2D Investigate opportunities for local food growing and plan for future food security such as a community garden in a convenient location and food sharing**

Stakeholders: SKDT, Campbeltown Community Garden, Campbeltown Community Council.

## Theme 3 – Roads, Transport & Infrastructure

### Survey Findings



- Some have expressed a need for more affordable housing.
- Access to the area is often cut off due to landslips on the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful.
- More quality parking and locking up facilities for bikes and scooters with sufficient cycle paths that are clearly marked.
- Parking within Campbeltown an ongoing issue.
- Regular and frequent ferry links to reflect demand. A want for a ferry service year-round with more destinations.
- Quality transport links within Kintyre and wider Scotland e.g., ferry, local and regional bus service.
- Roads around within Campbeltown are poor quality and in need of resurfacing.
- One way system has been considered a danger.

There are high levels of social housing in the area, provided by Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and Fyne Homes. Both landlords have upgraded existing properties and built new homes in the last 10 years. The poor condition of some of the private rented housing is an issue with town centre properties a particular cause for concern.

Transport and connectivity issues were raised by many. Within the town, people reported a lack of paths for walking and cycling, a lack of bicycle parking, ongoing issues with accessibility and car parking, and the dangerous one-way system. Transport connections outside of the town also need improving, such as a reliable road access, ferry service and more frequent public transport to outlying villages. Good transport is an enabler of the other themes and actions within this plan.

### Actions

#### 3A Lobby for improved variety of housing, especially family accommodation

Stakeholders: ACHA, Fyne Homes

#### 3B Lobby for better transport connections beyond Campbeltown

Stakeholders: Explore Kintyre and Gigha, Explore Campbeltown, Calmac

#### 3C Seek funding to create safe and attractive walking and cycling paths, within and outwith the town

Stakeholders: Kintyre Way, Explore Kintyre and Gigha, Explore Campbeltown, Kintyre Alcohol & Drugs Advisory Service, Kintyre Wheelers and Mountain Bike Group

#### 3D Continue raising issues with town centre inaccessible transport and pavements

Stakeholders: Campbeltown Community Council

#### 3E Maintain and improve basic transport infrastructure such as road signage, EV charging points, parking, road maintenance and drainage.

Stakeholders: Argyll and Bute Council, Bear Scotland

## Theme 4 – Tourism

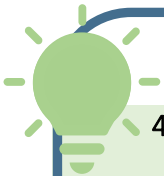
### Survey Findings



- A need for more facilities for tourists such as campervan and caravanning facilities, and the proposed Kintyre Seaports development
- Ensure better infrastructure to allow for tourists e.g., public toilet revamp, sustainable waste management, bins
- Improved and reliable transport links

There is a need for better tourism infrastructure and visitor management/facilities. Concerns were raised about the parking of motorhomes having a negative effect on the experience of the promenade in the summer and the lack of waste facilities creating pollution.

It is recognised that Campbeltown has a lot to offer visitors, however, improvements to infrastructure are required to reduce impact on residents and generate local income. There is a need for a co-ordinated approach to communication and marketing of the activities, facilities, services available.



### Actions

#### 4A Provide revenue-generating facilities for visitors, with particular focus on waste disposal and parking for caravans/motorhomes, family activities and marine tourism

Stakeholders: SKDT, Argyll & Bute Council, Kintyre Way, Explore Kintyre and Gigha, Explore Campbeltown, Calmac, Kintyre Seaports.

#### 4B Establish a co-ordinated Communication and Marketing Strategy for Campbeltown

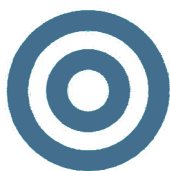
Stakeholders: Explore Campbeltown, Explore Kintyre & Gigha, Argyll & Bute Council, Kintyre Youth Café & Young Carers, Keeping It Local CIC, Kintyre Amenity Trust, SKDT.



Images | (Left) View towards Town Hall; (Top right) View out to Davaar Island; (Bottom right) Campbeltown Harbour

## Theme 5 - Town Centre

### Survey Findings



- Renovation of key buildings and upgrade of shopfronts been very positive but some others that have not been refurbished are eyesores
- Public toilets are in desperate need of upgrade and cleanliness needs to be addressed.
- Parking an issue, some have suggested pedestrianising areas of town centre.
- Speeding and traffic an issue in the town centre.
- Dog fouling and litter an issue in the town centre.

Since the previous action plan the improvements to many shopfronts and key buildings such as the Town Hall and Campbeltown Picture House have made a very positive impact on the town centre. However, several buildings are in a terrible state of disrepair and are having a very negative effect, most notably the Old Post Office and White Hart Hotel in Main St.

Concerns were raised about traffic and speeding, and aspirations were voiced for areas to be pedestrianised. Other issues include parking capacity, poor condition of public toilet facilities, littering and the lack of recycling provision centrally.

There is a need for the town centre facilities to be maintained and enhanced such as finding a sustainable model for ongoing maintenance of benches and parks, upgrading the public toilet facilities, installing top up water taps. There is an opportunity to enhance the town centre further for both residents and visitors through exploring opportunities for pedestrianising areas, creating a communal space and finding alternative uses for existing buildings in need of refurbishment.

### Actions



#### 5A Maintain valued existing facilities and amenities

Stakeholders: Argyll & Bute Council, SKDT, Kintyre Amenity Trust, Campbeltown Community Council, Keeping It Local CIC, Kintyre Way, Campbeltown Picture House, Campbeltown Heritage Centre, Kintyre Youth Café & Young Carers, Local Businesses and Organisations owning town centre premises

#### 5B Upgrade public toilet facilities and ensure adequate opening times

Stakeholders: Campbeltown Community Council, Argyll & Bute Council

#### 5C Explore feasibility of pedestrianising Burnside Square as a community space and associated alternative parking provision.

Stakeholders: Campbeltown Community Council, Argyll & Bute Council, local businesses.

#### 5D Install top up taps for fresh water

Stakeholders: Campbeltown Community Council, Scottish Water

#### 5E Provide better waste and recycling facilities in the town centre

Stakeholders: SKDT, Calmac, Argyll & Bute Council

#### 5F Create opportunities for the community involvement e.g., beach cleans, benches etc.

Stakeholders: Campbeltown Community Council, SKDT, Campbeltown Grammar, Grab Trust

## Theme 6 - Sports and Recreation

### Survey Findings




- A want for more varied festivals and events regarding cultural and creative activities.
- Mostly positive feedback for hiking and biking trails and other sport activities but comments suggest there could be more maintenance work on Beinn Ghuilean trails and walking paths.
- Recognition of the value of access to the loch and demand for more varied sports available to all.
- A want for more diverse activities available that are not sport.
- Disability sports clubs and access to sport for those with disabilities has been suggested.

Whilst there is a good range of affordable sports clubs there is a perceived lack of clubs offering other activities. Art, writing and knitting were mentioned but there are local groups offering these activities so there is a need for publicity of these. The challenge of communicating what is going on and the activities that are available was raised and again a co-ordinated, visible, and inclusive communication strategy is needed which doesn't solely rely on digital infrastructure e.g., notice boards around town. A co-ordinated community strategy is needed to make visible what is going on.

There is an aspiration for clubs to be more varied and cater for a range of ages, abilities and interests and be accessible to all. It was suggested that intergenerational clubs which focus on sharing skills or knowledge could be beneficial and build relationships between the elderly and younger population.

### Actions

-  **6A** Establish a co-ordinated and inclusive communication strategy for activities, events, and clubs in Campbeltown. Including promoting alternatives to sports, clubs for older people and intergenerational activities.

Stakeholders: Explore Campbeltown, Explore Kintyre and Gigha, Campbeltown Grammar School, Argyll & Bute Council, Campbeltown Heritage, Kintyre Youth Café & Young Carers, Keeping It Local CIC, Shopper Aide, End of the Road Club, SKDT, Campbeltown Community Council,

- 6B** Support the fulfilment of the Kintyre Seasports project, including development of the Changing Lives programmes

Stakeholders: Kintyre Seasports, Kintyre Alcohol & Drugs Advisory Service, Campbeltown Grammar School, Dalintober Beach Group, Kintyre Youth Café & Young Carers, Campbeltown Community Council, local sailing, diving, SUP and canoe clubs

## Theme 7 – Health and Community Services

### Survey Findings



- Substance misuse noted in the data and in comments as an issue especially within the younger population.
- Services and facilities are lacking for ethnic minorities, those with disabilities, young people and LGBTQ+
- Family services and childcare potentially an issue but comments split 50/50

Ongoing issues with drugs and alcohol abuse in Campbeltown were raised. The Kintyre Alcohol & Drugs Advisory Service highlighted that some young people experience homophobia, racism, misogyny in the town, which in turn contribute to mental health, drugs and alcohol issues.



### Actions

- 7A** Support the valuable existing services for minority groups and sign-post people to them, including the Kintyre Youth Café & Young Carers and the Equality Group established by pupils at Campbeltown Grammar School.

Stakeholders: Kintyre Alcohol & Drugs Advisory Service, Keeping It Local, Explore Campbeltown, Explore Kintyre & Gigha, Campbeltown Grammar School.

- 7B** Ensure young people's voices are heard in decisions about Campbeltown

Stakeholders: Campbeltown Community Council, SKDT, Campbeltown Grammar School, Kintyre Alcohol & Drugs Advisory Service, Kintyre Youth Café & Young Carers.



Images | (Left) Dalintober Dip for Dosh (Right) The Robert Black Memorial Helipad

## 5. Future Wishes for Campbeltown in 2030

At the workshops, the community were asked to make one wish for Campbeltown about what they would like to see in 2030. The wishes have given us something to work towards. We collected many great answers, and these eight wishes represent the common themes:

Good quality, sustainable employment to maintain our population, especially for young people

A thriving local economy with high value local jobs

For Campbeltown to be a vibrant town for people to live and visit

A strong and resilient community

A happy, healthy, and prosperous community that is well connected by great transport links

Keep Campbeltown safe for everyone

To make everything accessible to everyone

Reuse and reduce waste

## 6. Making it Happen

The Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of Campbeltown over the next 5 years as determined by the community through an extensive process of community engagement.

The plan is for the whole community and is jointly owned by all the organisations and individuals that took part in its preparation. We will be working together to ensure its implementation over the next 5 years.

If you would like to get further involved with any of the actions or would like further information, please use the contact details below:

South Kintyre Development Trust

Campbeltown Town Hall, 54 Main Street, Campbeltown, Argyll & Bute PA286AB

Telephone: 01586 552870 Email: [info@skdt.org](mailto:info@skdt.org)

Campbeltown Community Council

Email: [enquiries@campbeltowncommunitycouncil.uk](mailto:enquiries@campbeltowncommunitycouncil.uk)