

## Laurencekirk Villages in Control

### Action Plan – September 2010

**Villages in Control** is a constituted community organisation, run by volunteers and operating in the rural market town of Laurencekirk in Aberdeenshire. The organisation has no core funding but was supported in its early days through the Community Economic Development arm of Grampian Regional Council.

Since 1993 **Villages in Control** have been focusing on business, tourism and environmental improvements to Laurencekirk. They provide a valuable local perspective and voice on these topics for the private, public and voluntary sectors covering the area. This action plan is the result of feedback from participants at a public meeting held in September 2010. The plan is set out under 8 headings with 19 objectives and 44 targets and is linked to the targets on the Kincardine and Mearns Community Plan (KM Community Planning Partnership):

Industry	Commerce	Retail	Housing
Roads / Transport	Environment	Amenities	Other

Action plan target	Action to be taken	Who by?	When?	CP
<b>1. Industry</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective One</li> </ul> <p><b>Study the local plan and identify problems and solutions</b></p> <p><b>1. Study current zoning and area allocated for industry versus potential needs and make recommendations</b></p> <p><b>2. Study access routes for industry versus needs and make recommendations</b></p>	Members will look at Local Development Plan, feed back and Ed will respond on VICs behalf - <b>done</b>	Ed Murray	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	<b>D7b</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective Two</li> </ul> <p><b>Develop better career opportunities for local youths by liaising between local businesses and training /</b></p>				

<p><b>educational establishments</b>  <b>1.Complete study on current job opportunities locally to obtain a baseline</b>  <b>2.Establish new opportunities by liaising with local businesses and training centres</b></p>	<p>Sue Briggs will liaise with Careers Officer on this – still to be done</p>	<p>Sue Briggs</p>	<p>31<sup>st</sup> Oct</p>	<p><b>B1</b> <b>B2</b></p>
<p>• Objective Three  <b>Restart Laurencekirk Business Club</b>  <b>1.Meet members of previous Club and plan re-launch</b></p>	<p>Use the recent MAP/VIC directory to contact businesses – <b>done. Business Club relaunched Officer bearers in place. Residue of funds from previous operation.</b></p>	<p>Mike Robson</p>	<p>Mid Nov</p>	<p><b>B11</b></p>
<p><b>2. Commerce</b></p>				
<p>• Objective One  <b>Establish feasibility of new hotel/restaurant</b>  <b>1.Establish criteria used by hotel chains to establish a new hotel/restaurant</b>  <b>2. Produce a document making the case for Laurencekirk as the location for a new hotel</b></p>	<p>Mike will contact Robert Armstrong, Business Development Officer with Aberdeenshire Council to take this item forward – <b>done. Very useful information and Mike researching further</b></p>	<p>Mike Robson</p>	<p>Mid Nov</p>	<p><b>B12</b></p>
<p>• Objective Two  <b>Establish a new fuel station in Laurencekirk</b>  <b>1.Establish Planning criteria</b>  <b>2. Talk to existing developers re current plans</b>  <b>3.Establish procedure for community fuel station as in Applecross</b>  <b>4.Contact fuel companies re interest in site/location</b></p>	<p>Mike to contact Hanton’s Filling Station to ascertain current position - <b>done</b>  Mike to contact Robert Armstrong as above – <b>done. Received helpful advice</b>  Mike to explore Applecross set up using SCVO web site – <b>done by Paul</b></p>	<p>Mike Robson</p>	<p>Mid Nov</p>	<p><b>D7b</b></p>
<p>• Objective Three  <b>Establish a web site to promote Laurencekirk by providing detailed up to date information on a wide range of subjects</b>  <b>1.Research internet re best practice examples and report</b>  <b>2.Construct a subject wish list for the site</b></p>	<p>Use funding accessed by MAP to pay for creation of high quality web site. Create Logo. Identify web designer - <b>web designer to be identified</b></p>	<p>All VIC members</p>	<p>Next mtg</p>	<p><b>B12</b></p>

<p>3. Write a funding plan 4. Employ professional webmaster to write and manage site</p>	<p>Look at other small town web sites. - done</p>			
<p><b>3. Retail</b></p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective One</li> <li><b>Promote the development of a wider range of shops</b></li> <li>1. Assess existing range and available premises</li> <li>2. Compare/contrast retail outlets in similar sized communities</li> <li>3. Discuss with Business Club and report</li> <li>4. Produce report and action plan</li> </ul>	<p>Re invigorated Business Club to take on. Some funds remain in Business Club account. Ask Robert Armstrong for support with this - <b>done</b></p>	<p>Mike Robson</p>		<p><b>B11</b></p>
<p><b>4. Housing</b></p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective One</li> <li><b>Monitor and promote optimum housing developments for Laurencekirk</b></li> <li>1. Analyse current proposals</li> <li>2. Identify possible future locations and their pros and cons</li> <li>3. Produce action plan based on results of tasks one and two</li> </ul>	<p>Ask Kirkwood Homes representative to attend a future VIC meeting – <b>done 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov</b></p>	<p>Mike Robson</p>		<p><b>A14a</b></p>
<p><b>5. Roads and Transport</b></p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective One</li> <li><b>Monitor, assess and take action to improve the quality of access roads and junctions around Laurencekirk</b></li> <li>1. Assess current proposals</li> <li>2. Assess future options</li> <li>3. Complete action plan as a result of previous tasks</li> </ul>	<p>Identify key council officials to liaise with on roads / transport matters. <b>Willie Munro, Area Manager to be regular contact.</b> Members to check local plan for reference to transport matters – <b>done</b> Mike to contact Jill Campbell to discuss junction campaign</p>			<p><b>A21 A22</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective Two</li> <li><b>Establish disabled parking bays at chemist and post office</b></li> </ul>	<p>Check who the relevant person at council is for this matter – <b>done, requires follow up with Willie</b></p>	<p>Mike Robson</p>		<p><b>A5</b></p>

<p><b>1.Establish current policy and procedures</b>  <b>2.Meet with council representatives to discuss and implement</b></p>	<p><b>Munro</b>  Sue Briggs to check which councillors are on which committees for future reference – <b>done</b></p>	<p>Sue Briggs</p>	<p>End Oct</p>	
<p>• <b>Objective Three</b>  <b>Increase the bus services to Aberdeen and Dundee</b>  <b>1.Liaise with NESTRANS</b>  <b>2.Establish need for service</b></p>	<p>Establish who to contact – <b>done. Advice is to speak to individual companies.</b>  <b>Need to establish who elected member is on NETRANS</b></p>	<p>Mike Robson  Mike Robson</p>		<p><b>B9b</b> <b>B9f</b></p>
<p>• <b>Objective Four</b>  <b>Increase passenger services at railway to enhance existing trains</b>  <b>1.Contact passenger user group for advice re procedures</b>  <b>2.Submit specific proposals</b></p>	<p>Establish contact with Passenger User Group VIC to invite case studies of experiences of difficulties with rail useage</p>	<p>Ed Murray  VIC?</p>		<p><b>B9</b> <b>D15</b></p>
<b>6. Environment</b>				
<p>• <b>Objective One</b>  <b>Improve parking at Memorial Park and Cemetery</b>  <b>1.Contact council with specific proposals to resolve current problems</b></p>	<p>Check with Community Council what is being done already here – make contact with David Nelson CC Chairperson – done. <b>Community Council looking at a wider overview exercise. Mike to discuss with Willie Munro</b></p>	<p>Mike Robson</p>	<p>End Oct</p>	<p><b>A21</b></p>
<p>• <b>Objective Two</b>  <b>Limit wind generators in keeping with local energy needs</b>  <b>1.Prepare information re planning restrictions on wind generators</b>  <b>2.Monitor applications for further generators</b></p>	<p>Establish what the policy is on setting up community benefit funds – Sue to contact Eric Wells (Council sustainability officer) – still to be done  Consider lobbying role in this regard   Ask who is on planning committee</p>	<p>Sue Briggs  All Mike Robson</p>		<p><b>D12</b></p>
<b>7. Amenities</b>				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective One</li> <li><b>Re-open and improve public toilets in Laurencekirk</b></li> <li>1. Establish current constraints</li> <li>2. Investigate options for replacements</li> <li>3. Submit action plan to council</li> </ul>	<p>Check with Community Council and add support if already being addressed</p>	<p>Mike Robson</p>		<p><b>B12</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective Two</li> <li><b>Establish the priorities for youth facilities in Laurencekirk</b></li> <li>1. Consult with the Youth Forum and produce a prioritised list for debate</li> </ul>	<p>VIC members to attend Youth Forum AGM – not done. <b>Youth Forum Consultation under way. Need to liaise.</b></p>	<p>Susan Spiers Gordon Reid Sue Briggs</p>	<p>7<sup>th</sup> Oct</p>	<p><b>C2</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective Three</li> <li><b>Establish nursery capacity in Laurencekirk and produce an action plan if shortage exists</b></li> <li>1. Establish place numbers, choices and waiting lists</li> <li>2. Produce recommendations and action list</li> </ul>	<p>Get baseline information from Aberdeenshire Childcare Partnership – <b>done. Sue Briggs to extract local data from Aberdeenshire data.</b></p>	<p>Sue Briggs</p>	<p>End Oct</p>	<p><b>B4b B4c</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective Four</li> <li><b>To build a recreational centre with the new Academy to include a swimming pool and games halls for community use</b></li> <li>1. Establish current plans and constraints</li> <li>2. Review options and funding</li> <li>3. Produce Action Plan</li> </ul>	<p>Maintain membership of Academy Stakeholder Group Get update on work of original Swimming Pool Committee</p>	<p>Mike Robson Susan Spiers</p>		<p><b>C1 C4</b></p>
<p><b>8. Other</b></p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective One</li> <li><b>Involve young people in Villages In Control</b></li> <li>1. Invite representatives of the Youth Forum to join Villages In Control</li> </ul>	<p>Youth Forum to be asked to either join VIC or suggest a way of communicating between both groups – <b>Sue Briggs to follow up.</b></p>	<p>Susan Spiers</p>		<p><b>C2</b></p>

**Review Plan**

Annual progress checks will be made against actions in advance of the Annual General Meeting.