

**community**  
enterprise

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## Old Luce Research and Consultation Report

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**Research Report for a Community Action Plan**  
Old Luce Community Council

December 2015



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## Summary

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### Why?

Old Luce will receive significant sums of money over the next 25 years from community benefit funds related to neighbouring wind farms. This gives the community the opportunity to plan for the long term and bring about lasting benefits for residents. The Community Council commissioned consultants to carry out research and consultation for the area to give us a vision for the future and to identify projects that are needed and that people want to see.

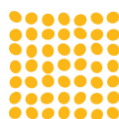
### How?

A programme of in-depth community consultation and research was carried out between May and September 2015, giving all members of the community the opportunity to contribute in different ways. This included a survey, conversations in groups, engaging with children, responses to social media, a photography competition, stakeholder interviews and an open meeting for the whole community focussing on strengths to build on as well as ideas for improvements.

### What?

**Vision: Old Luce will be a place where people are connected, where there are opportunities to enjoy the natural environment and where there is access to high quality appropriate local services which create a vibrant place to be and offer local employment.**

Theme	What people want to see
<b><i>Connecting people</i></b> Local residents highly value family connections and friendships and are keen to build on this. There is a desire to strengthen community spirit and establish a place to come together to reduce isolation and promote inter-generational socialising.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A community 'hub'</li><li>• A social space centred around food</li><li>• Better transport options, particularly for rural residents</li></ul>
<b><i>Enhancing our natural environment</i></b> Old Luce is situated in a beautiful natural landscape and this is highly valued across all age-groups. The natural environment provides the main source of employment. The community would like to see the natural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A tourism plan linked to a village improvement plan including marketing and promotion</li><li>• More foot and cycle paths and upgrades to existing paths</li><li>• Better facilities at local beaches.</li></ul>

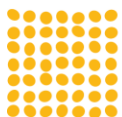


environment preserved and access increased.	
<p><b>Improving our built environment</b></p> <p>People like living here but feel that Glenluce in particular has deteriorated over the years. Key services have been lost, shops have closed, buildings lie empty and open spaces could be developed positively. Local people have expressed an interest in improving the services, facilities and aesthetic look of the place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An audit of empty buildings and underused space and explore potential for ownership and development</li> <li>• Better children’s and older youth’s play and social spaces.</li> <li>• Better maintained public areas</li> </ul>
<p><b>Jobs and volunteering</b></p> <p>The community believes there is a pressing need for more opportunities particularly for young people, as the best route to secure long term, skilled employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A volunteering programme to work on the community projects identified in the consultation.</li> <li>• More job and training opportunities, in particular for young people</li> </ul>

### Next Steps

We now need to make these things happen. This exciting vision for the future can only be delivered by community members getting involved. A new organisation, a Development Trust will be formed to lead on taking forward some ideas in a phased way, so that these can be managed over time with quick wins and longer term aspirational projects. Where appropriate, other community groups will be asked to take forward some projects too.

The implementation of the plan over time will be based on principles of total community involvement including engaging new people all the time and those who don’t normally get involved, openness and transparency, achieving success at the right scale and at the right time, expecting the unexpected, resisting being a talking shop and monitoring long term change. We want to aspire to big changes, while keeping realistic about what is achievable. This will be asset based; founding new projects on what is already good about the community and using the skills, gifts, talents and physical assets that are already here.



# 1 Background

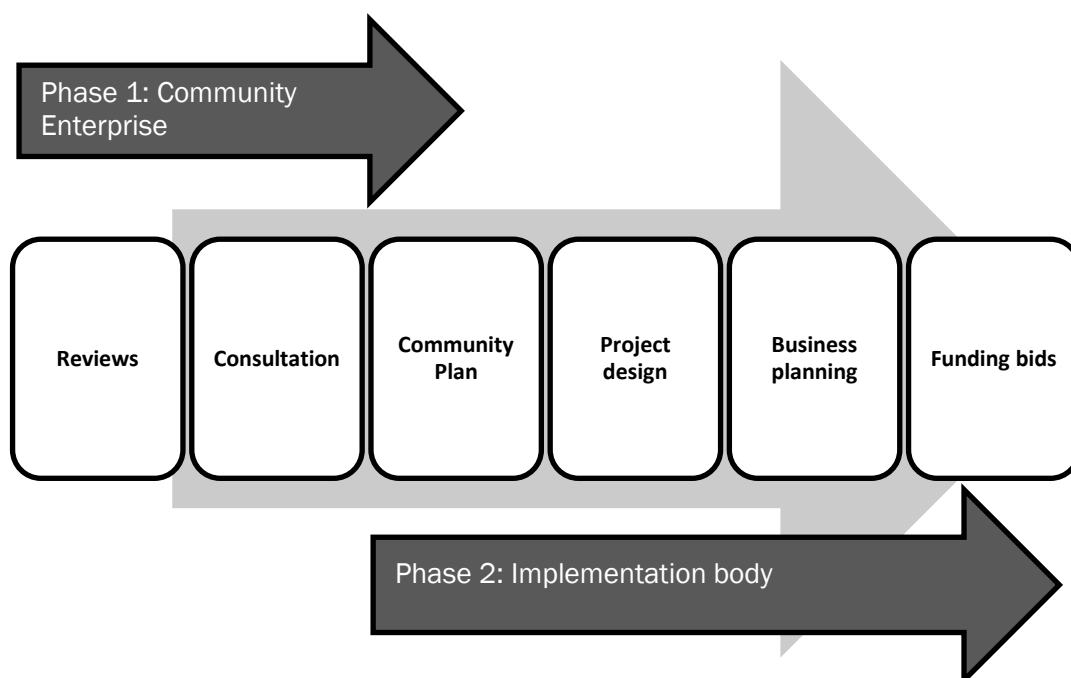
## Broad Context

Community Enterprise was appointed by Old Luce Community Council to conduct research and prepare a Community Action Plan for the area. The Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES), delivered on behalf of the Scottish Government by Local Energy Scotland, funded this research.

The Community Council has established a local community benefit fund, known as the Old Luce Community Trust which receives income linked to local commercial wind farms and is administered by Foundation Scotland. The Community Council wishes to maximise the effectiveness of the investment through consultation with local people and facilitating a community planning process leading to a Community Plan. The plan will set out the community's vision for the next 15 years with more detailed activity across identified themes and priorities for the next five years.

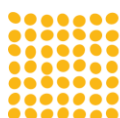
This research has been commissioned to engage with the local community, to inform the ways in which the community will be able tackle the challenges and improvements identified by local people to benefit the whole community.

The community engagement and research was carried out over the summer of 2015. This report sets out our consultation work and brings together the findings and key themes emerging which will be used as the foundation for the Community Action Plan and for the projects which follow.

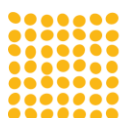


## Methodology

Engaging with everyone in the local community is a critical part of any Community Action Plan. Community Enterprise carried out extensive and highly participative research between May and September 2015 ensuring that everyone in the Parish of Old Luce had an opportunity to share their views. Our programme included time spent getting to know the area, encouraging engagement and building a presence in the community. An outline of the methodology for the community research and engagement is as follows:



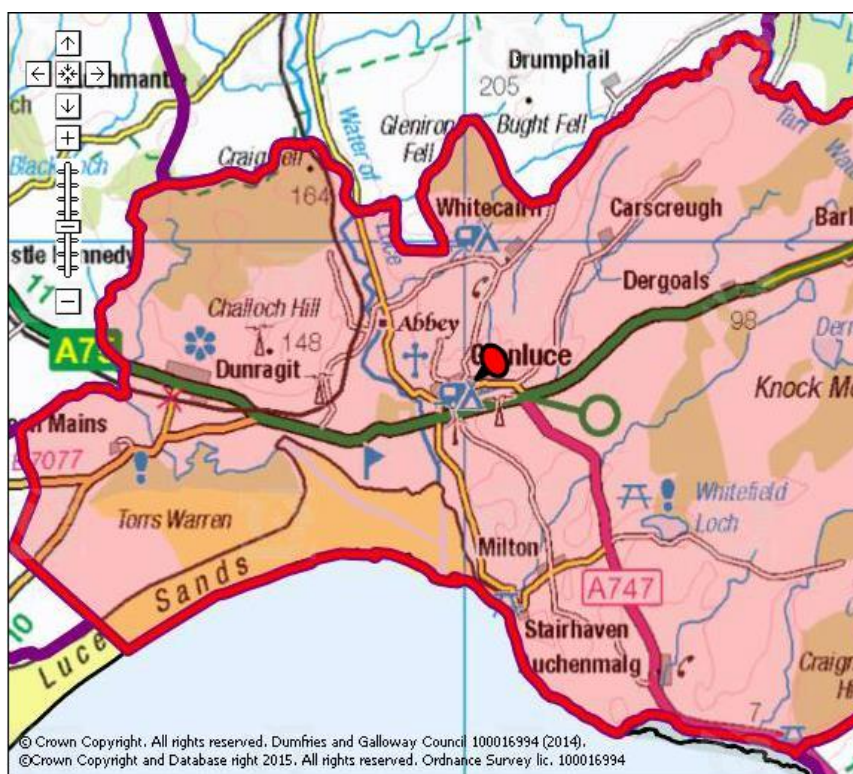
Community Survey	<p>A survey was prepared to gather more quantifiable feedback from local people. This was made available online and distributed and promoted through a variety of local networks including the local newspaper, the Welfare committee, the primary schools, the Mother and Toddlers' group, the Young Farmers and the school. Hard copies were placed in key areas around the villages, including Glenluce shop, the GP surgery, the pub, and the schools. The Community Council helped to promote the survey on the ground and organised a team of volunteers to distribute it to households in the three villages. The Minister's wife helped to ensure elderly people had access to paper copies of the survey. Detailed consideration was given to each of the questions on the surveys to ensure that they were both 'open ended' to give room for local people to share their thoughts, yet structured to ensure that the feedback and suggestions could be ranked by popularity and priority. At all points in the survey, there was an option for respondents to elaborate and give other suggestions.</p>
Focus Groups	<p>Four focus groups were held in the community to gather initial feedback from residents on what they like about Old Luce, what they would like to see changed and to consider solutions. Focus groups were held with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glenluce and Drochduil primary schools and Glenluce nursery</li> <li>• The Welfare committee</li> <li>• Glenluce Mother and Toddlers' group</li> <li>• Youth club</li> </ul>
Facebook	<p>A Facebook page, Old Luce Community Trust, has been set up as a means to promote the community consultation, to encourage participation and to facilitate information sharing across the area.  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Old-Luce-Community-Trust/778792965574843?fref=ts">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Old-Luce-Community-Trust/778792965574843?fref=ts</a></p> <p>The Facebook page has also collated memories and views of the area and contributed to the knowledge of assets to be built on and challenges to be addressed.</p>
Photography Competition	<p>A photography competition was held where local residents were invited to submit images of "our community" highlighting what they liked and didn't like about the area as a tool to record views in a different way.</p>
Open Meeting	<p>A community meeting was held on the 29th of August 2015 at Glenluce Village Hall. Catering was provided and entertainment for children. The meetings included group discussions around likes and dislikes, priorities for improvements and what to spend the community funds on. Further participation in the consultation and beyond was actively encouraged.</p>
Stakeholder interviews	<p>A small number of stakeholder interviews were carried out with people who have an interest in Old Luce, who make an important contribution locally and have a knowledge of the area including, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Foundation Scotland, holiday makers and the Minster's wife, specifically due to her ability to help us record the perspective of vulnerable older people who had not been able to engage in the consultation.</p>



## 2 Demographics, Statistics and the Community

### Geography

Old Luce Old Luce is located in Dumfries and Galloway, Southwest Scotland. It lies in the Rhins, in the county of Wigtownshire. The parish comprises three villages: Dunragit, Auchenmalg and Glenluce and is around 10 miles (16 km) long and 8 miles (13 km) wide, covering some 40,350 acres (16,330 ha). The area is largely rural and remote, the closest towns being Stranraer to the west and Newton Stewart to the East, both being around a 20/30 minute drive away.

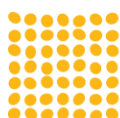


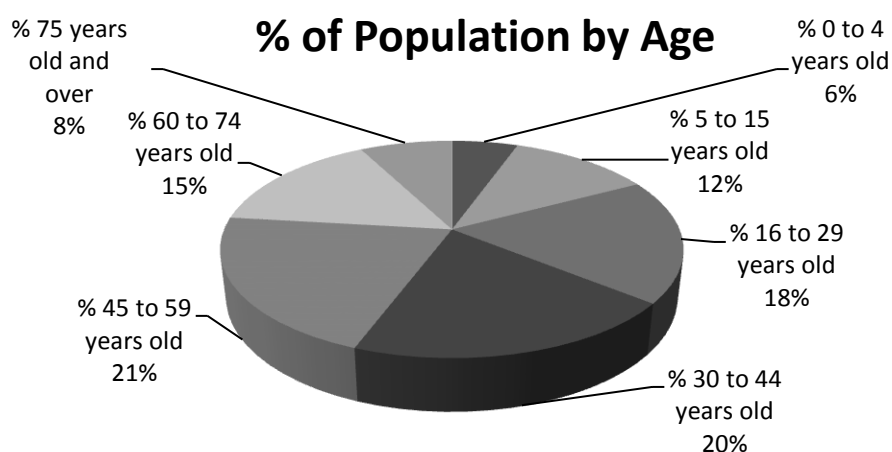
### Population

The most accurate measure of population is the national census which is conducted every 10 years. At the last census in 2011, Dumfries and Galloway was found to be the least populated of all local authority areas in Scotland with only 0.24 people per hectare: Wigtownshire is even less dense with only 0.17 people per hectare. There has been only a very small increase in population across Wigtownshire since the 2001 census – well below the national average (0.3% increase v 4.6% nationally).

The last census reported the population of Glenluce as 635. A breakdown of the populations for Dunragit and Auchenmalg are not available through census data, however, the Old Luce Community Council reportedly serves a combined population of around 1,300 residents.

Focussing on the data available for Old Luce, the median age of males and females is 48, significantly older than the Scottish average of 42. There are more females than males (52% v 48%). A breakdown of the population by age can be viewed in the graph below. The area has a significantly older population than the national average with almost a quarter of the population aged over 65, compared with 17% across Scotland. The demography for Dunragit and Auchenmalg is likely to be similar.





In common with many rural areas, Dumfries and Galloway as a whole is experiencing a disproportionate level of out-migration of young people (aged 16-20) and net in-migration of those in the older age groups.<sup>1</sup> Whilst there is no reliable data on the level of migration for Wigtownshire or Old Luce, the wider trends are likely to be replicated in these smaller areas. Population projections across the local authority area predict a slight decline overall (-0.6) to 2020 with a significant decline in the numbers of young and working age people and significant increase in the people of retirement age.

### Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

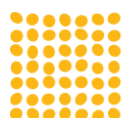
A useful snapshot of how an area compares to others can be found in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. SIMD is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying places in Scotland suffering from deprivation. It brings together several different indicators of deprivation (income, health, crime, transport and so on), combining them into a single index. It divides Scotland into 6,505 small areas, called 'datazones', each containing around 350 households or about 800 people. The Index provides a relative ranking for each datazone, from 1 (most deprived) to 6,505 (least deprived).

Before exploring the profile of the area in more detail, the SIMD 2012 snapshot for Old Luce gives us some useful early indicators. The Old Luce Community Council boundary lines fall within three SIMD datazones<sup>2</sup> which have been presented below.

	S01000980 Intermediate Geography "Moors"	S01000916 Intermediate Geography "Moors"	S01000917 Intermediate Geography "Moors"
Total population	743	949	618
<i>2004 ranking for comparison</i>	<i>752</i>	<i>991</i>	<i>683</i>
Rank (placing out of 6505)	2457	2458	3156
<i>2004</i>	<i>2115</i>	<i>2466</i>	<i>2937</i>
Income domain rank	3309	2521	3651
<i>2004</i>	<i>2833</i>	<i>2465</i>	<i>3305</i>

<sup>1</sup> <http://crichtoninstitute.co.uk/index.php/component/joomdoc/Reports/Wigtownshire%20Area%20Profile%200315.pdf/download>

<sup>2</sup> SIMD 2012: Datazones S01000980, S01000916 and S01000917



Employment domain rank	2776	2923	3085
2004	2347	2475	3319
Health domain rank	3773	3003	3900
2004	2661	3218	3296
Education domain rank	2451	2876	3484
2004	3405	4004	3963
Housing domain rank	3261	3451	3696
2004	3261	3451	3696
Geographic access domain rank	250 – in the 0-5% most deprived	512 – in the 5-10% most deprived	490 – in the 5-10% most deprived
2004	143	545	349
Crime domain rank	2806	3946	5398
Not available for 2004			

In general terms, the area is not categorised as significantly deprived: across the 3 datazones, the average ranking out of a possible 6,505 is 2,690- just above the 40% most deprived areas in Scotland and has improved over the last 10 years. However, one key indicator stands out: for geographic access, the area falls into the 0-5% most deprived in the country and one datazone is ranked only 250 out of 6,505. This indicates that access to services is a serious challenge for local people.

## Health

### *General health*

The 2011 census shows that respondents living in Wigtownshire assessed their health as being generally similar to the rest of the region although slightly less said it was “very good” and more said “bad” or “very bad”.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup>

<http://crichtoninstitute.co.uk/index.php/component/joomdoc/Reports/Wigtownshire%20Area%20Profile%200315.pdf/download>

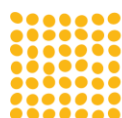
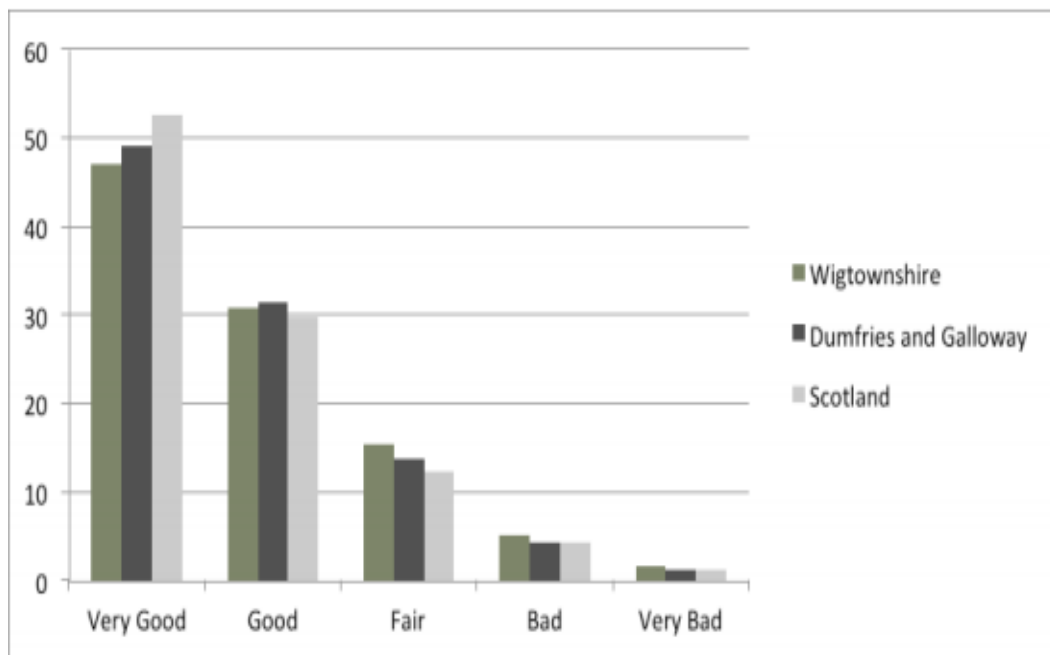


Figure 1: General Health of the Population (%) 2011



#### Chronic Illness and Disability

The prevalence of chronic conditions (as recorded by GPs in the area) is also on a par with the rest of the region. However, and perhaps unsurprisingly given the high number of older people in the area, Wigtownshire has a relatively high number of people who describe themselves as having a long term health condition which limits them ‘a lot’ (almost 25% of the population): this is significantly higher than across Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland as a whole.

#### Life Expectancy and Mortality

Life expectancy is an important measure of health of a population. Male life expectancy for the area in and around the Parish of Old Luce is 74.<sup>4</sup> This is below the Scottish average of 77 and can be compared to the lowest life expectancy by local authority, Greater Glasgow and Clyde which is 75.

By complete contrast, female life expectancy is 82 years, higher than the Scottish average of 81<sup>5</sup>. The notable eight year gap between male and female life expectancy is double the Scottish average of four years.

A key contributor to this difference may be in the contrasting professional occupations of men and women:<sup>6</sup> in the Parish of Old Luce: high numbers of men work in agriculture, forestry and fishing, whereas women are more likely to work in the health and social care sector or retail.

Premature mortality is in line with the Scottish average, decreasing by 15% in Dumfries and Galloway between 2006-12, compared to 16% across Scotland.

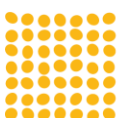
#### Other health indicators

- Substance Use: Dumfries and Galloway has a higher than average rate of hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions, and Wigtownshire is higher again. Teenage drinking is also higher than the Scottish average.

<sup>4</sup> Data extracted from SIMD 2012 intermediate geography area ‘The Moors’ S02000171

<sup>5</sup> <http://nss-phi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=9159f72d04e347a7a477c32a065ec2ba>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.longevitypanel.co.uk/\\_files/life-expectancy-by-gender.pdf](http://www.longevitypanel.co.uk/_files/life-expectancy-by-gender.pdf)



- Mental health: 11% of the population in Wigtownshire is prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis, broadly in line with the national average.
- Diet and Exercise: 32% of the population in Wigtownshire take regular, vigorous exercise, the highest in the region. 30% of adults are obese- in line with the regional average but childhood obesity is slightly higher than average.

## Care

Between 2002 and 2012, Dumfries and Galloway placed 2% fewer older people in care, compared to a Scottish average decrease of 14% over the same period. Dumfries and Galloway has one of the highest rates of home care provision in Scotland with 30% more hours of care at home per 1000 population aged 65 and over. The numbers of people with 'intensive care needs' has also increased. Around 10.4% of the population provide unpaid care, slightly higher than the regional (9.9%) and national (9.3%) average. It should be noted that the biggest difference between local and national data falls in the '50 hours or more a week' category demonstrating that friends and family members are providing significant levels of care.

## Future trends

The demand for healthcare for an ageing population is predicted to rise, although its effects are being offset by the fact that older people are on average healthier than in the past. The main impact of the ageing population is the type of demand faced, specifically, chronic diseases and long-term conditions. A rise in diseases specific to old age can also be expected, such as cancer, dementia and diabetes<sup>7</sup>. Fewer people of working age means it will be harder to attract the skilled professional and care staff needed. In Wigtownshire, health/social work already makes up one of the largest proportions of employment in the area, indicating that there is at present high demand and in the future there may be challenges relating to workforce supply. Despite this, there will be a need to divert people from hospital and tackle lifestyle factors such as smoking, diet and exercise to prevent disease as well as explore ways to keep older people independent for as long as possible.

## Housing

Anecdotal feedback gathered through our focus groups and survey pointed towards a lack of larger social houses and a demand for more three and four bedroom houses. 22% of respondents to the survey would like to see more affordable housing and 19% would like to see more suitable housing. When residents were asked how they would like to see wind farm money invested, 24 references were made to improved housing. Responses included:

*More modern houses*  
*Improve derelict buildings in Glenluce for affordable housing*  
*Purchase all affordable housing when it comes on the market*  
*Assistance given to households to improve the standard of houses*  
*Grant for housing projects*  
*More housing in the village*  
*Social housing*  
*Affordable housing*  
*Affordable housing specifically for young people to encourage them to stay in the area.*

Across Wigtownshire, the number of smaller households is predicted to rise by 10% with family households decreasing by 26%. The proportion of older person households is anticipated to increase by around twice the national average.

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.nhsdg.scot.nhs.uk/Resources/Health\\_Intelligence/Documents/The\\_Population\\_and\\_Its\\_Health\\_Jan\\_2014.pdf](http://www.nhsdg.scot.nhs.uk/Resources/Health_Intelligence/Documents/The_Population_and_Its_Health_Jan_2014.pdf)

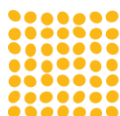
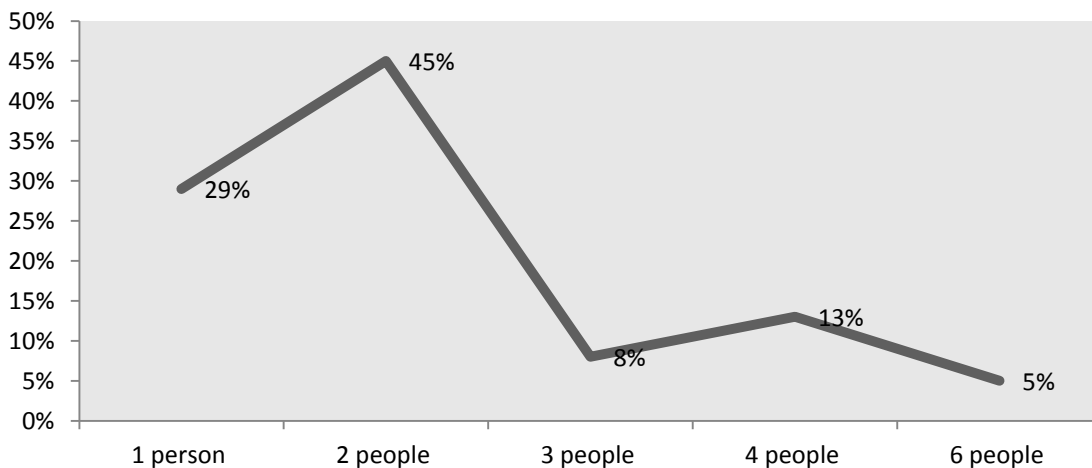


Figure 2: Number of people per Household (%)



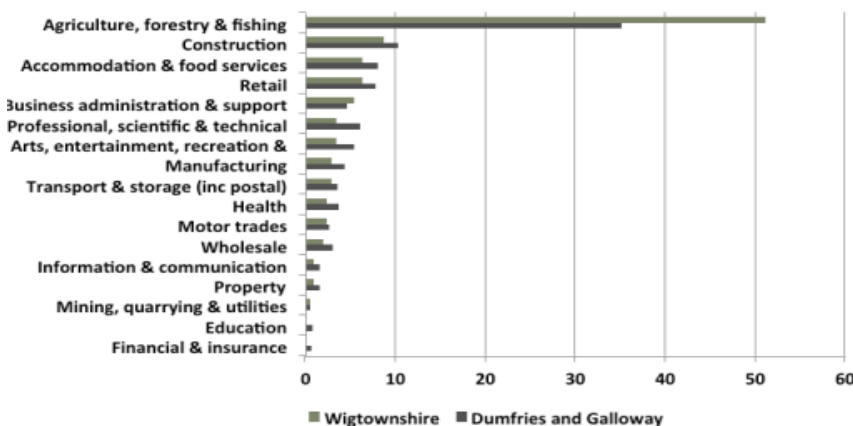
### Economy and Industry<sup>8</sup>

In 2011, an estimated 12,400 people in Wigtownshire were in employment. This represents 58% of all people aged 16-74 which is slightly lower than the overall employment rate for Dumfries and Galloway (61%) and significantly lower than the overall rate for Scotland, 69%.

In Glenluce<sup>9</sup> only 55% of people aged 16-74 years are economically active, with 34% in full-time employment (compared to 39% nationally). 75% of 16-24 year olds are unemployed<sup>10</sup>, which is vastly higher than the national average of 30% and evidences a significant problem in the area. This is echoed throughout our consultation with local people regularly highlighting a lack of jobs in the area, in particular for young people.

Health/social work and wholesale/retail account for the largest proportions of employment in Wigtownshire. Agriculture, forestry and fishing are significant sectors accounting for 12% of total employment in the area compared with 9% across Dumfries and Galloway as a whole. The vast majority of enterprises are very small (10-50 employees) and heavily weighted towards agriculture, forestry and fishing (over 50%). There are no large employers (250+) in the area. <sup>11</sup>

Figure 3: Enterprises by sector (%) 2013



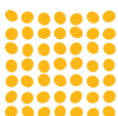
<sup>8</sup> The Crichton Institute 'Area profile for Wigtownshire'

<http://crichtoninstitute.co.uk/index.php/component/joomdoc/Reports/Wigtownshire%20Area%20Profile%200315.pdf/download>

<sup>9</sup> Census output area SC00097529

<sup>10</sup> Census output area SC00098327

<sup>11</sup> Nomos- Business counts



Tourism is a key contributor to the economy of Dumfries and Galloway and the Parish of Old Luce itself has a number of caravan sites. Regionally, it is estimated that employment and Gross Value Added in sustainable tourism account for 5,300 people and £79.1 million respectively. In Wigtownshire, employment in accommodation and food service activities was 1,013 in 2014, higher than the national average (per head of population). Visitor numbers and spend have however remained fairly static over the last 5 years<sup>12</sup>.

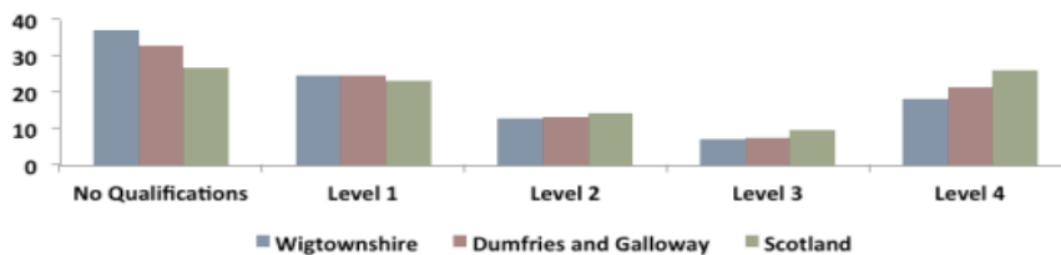
## Education

There are two primary schools in the area: Glenluce primary school in Glenluce village which has 89 pupils and a nursery school with seven pupils. Drochduil primary school is just outside of Dunragit and has six pupils. The high school is located in Stranraer and has a wide catchment area, taking pupils from 13 primary schools and has in the region of 1,050 pupils.

School leaver destinations for 2012/2013 show that S1-S6 pupils in Wigtownshire have a higher number entering higher education than the national average, but this varies widely across Wigtownshire. Fewer pupils enter further education than the national average and there is no higher education provision in Wigtownshire.

Census data shows that there is a higher than average number of people in Wigtownshire with no qualifications compared to the regional and national average.

Figure 4: Level of highest qualification 16+ (%) 2011 (Census)



## Income

People in Dumfries and Galloway have significantly lower earnings compared to the Scottish average and this has widened since the recession.<sup>13</sup> Unsurprisingly, there is a higher than average number of low income households<sup>14</sup> and in Wigtownshire, a higher than average percentage of people reliant on benefits (around 17% of the area's working age population.) The largest group of claimants were those receiving Incapacity Benefit/ Employment Support Allowance. However, data from Dumfries and Galloway Financial Inclusion Strategy shows that regionally, people are struggling less to manage their finances compared to the Scottish average.

## Transport

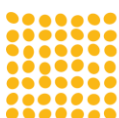
SIMD 2012 records the area as one of the most geographically isolated in Scotland, with one of the datazones sitting in the lowest 5% in the country. For local residents, the closest supermarket is around a 20 minute drive to Stranraer or Newton Stewart, the closest large hospital is in Dumfries, a 90 minute drive or two and a half hours by public transport.

A bus service operates from Glenluce and there are 19 buses a day to Stranraer. Feedback during our consultation on the issue of local transport was mixed with some people reporting that transport links are good, and others that it could be significantly improved. The closest train station is in Stranraer which has six trains a day going to Glasgow between the hours of 0700 and 2113. There was previously a station at Dunragit, however, this closed in 1965 as part of Dr Beeching's reforms. Access to a car

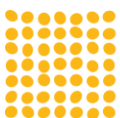
<sup>12</sup> The Crichton Institute 'Area Profile for Wigtownshire'

<sup>13</sup> NOMIS- Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

<sup>14</sup> SIMD 2012



significantly improves access to services (and therefore quality of life), however, this may be a growing challenge as the population continues to age.



### 3 Community and Stakeholder Feedback

The consultation has aimed to gain wide representation from the community. This has been achieved through the use of various communication methods including social media, press releases submitted to the local newspaper and posters and flyers in the local community.

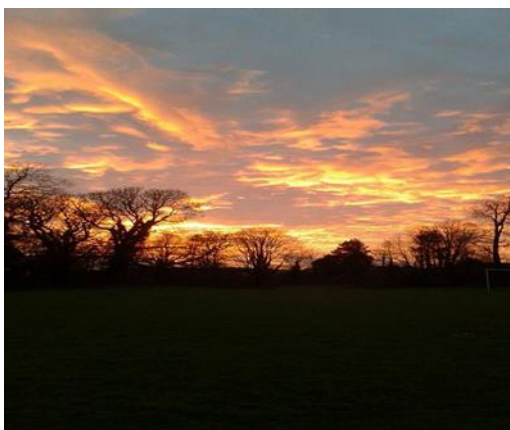
#### Social Media

A Facebook page was set up to promote the research and actively encourage debate and discussion amongst local people. The page was also used to gather entries for a photography competition and to generally stimulate interest in activities and events that were taking place in and around the area<sup>15</sup>.

#### Photography Competition

A photography competition entitled ‘My Community’ was used as a creative and engaging method of consulting with the local community. Different people will engage in different ways and this provided a visual method aimed at those who can’t or don’t want to express themselves verbally or in writing. Local people were encouraged to ‘get snapping’ and submit images, capturing the essence of where they live: to celebrate the good points and encourage debate about the issues in the area, particularly through Facebook where the images were being posted. The photography competition was judged by a member of the Community Council.

Following is a sample of those images:



**Primary School Winner**  
“As the sun sets on the past, we look forward to the future”



**Adult Winner - Glenluce vintage tractor rally 2015**  
“Striking the right balance within the community”

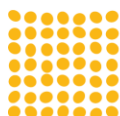


Glenluce Abbey, founded in 1192, highlights the Parish’s historic past



Luce Bay at Auchenmalg beach is another source of pride for the local community

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/Old-Luce-Community-Trust-778792965574843/timeline?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/Old-Luce-Community-Trust-778792965574843/timeline?ref=page_internal)



An historic picture of Dunragit train station, which closed in June 1965 and may re-open in the future



## Public Meeting

The community was invited to participate in an open meeting held at the Glenluce Village Hall in August. The event was widely advertised and held on a Saturday to ensure high participation. Roughly 50 residents attended. The format of the event was designed to be interactive with a number of themed group discussions: what's good about the area; key challenges; what could be done to make things better and what community funds could be spent on including specific project ideas. Key points were recorded on flip chart paper and post it notes.

The discussion points which came up most frequently are shown below. The full list of issues raised can be found in Appendix 1.

## What's Good About the Area

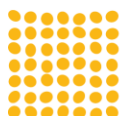
- The Glen, well looked after, bridges maintained, paths are kept clear
- The people – friendly, active, helpful
- The beautiful walks, St Helena's clover glen by Castle of Park
- Local events – sports week, carol singing etc.
- Access to sea – bents, Auchenmalg
- Natural environment – river, birdlife
- Unexploited archaeological sites
- Its location, with good access to sea and lovely countryside – not too far from ferries and the railway station

Local people highly value the beautiful natural environment, opportunities to socialise within the local community through events and activities and the rich history of the area. These positive aspects were reinforced throughout the consultation, with all age groups appreciating opportunities to spend time outdoors and looking for upgrades and enhancements to the existing natural landscape.



## Key challenges and improvement suggestions

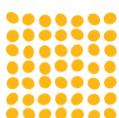
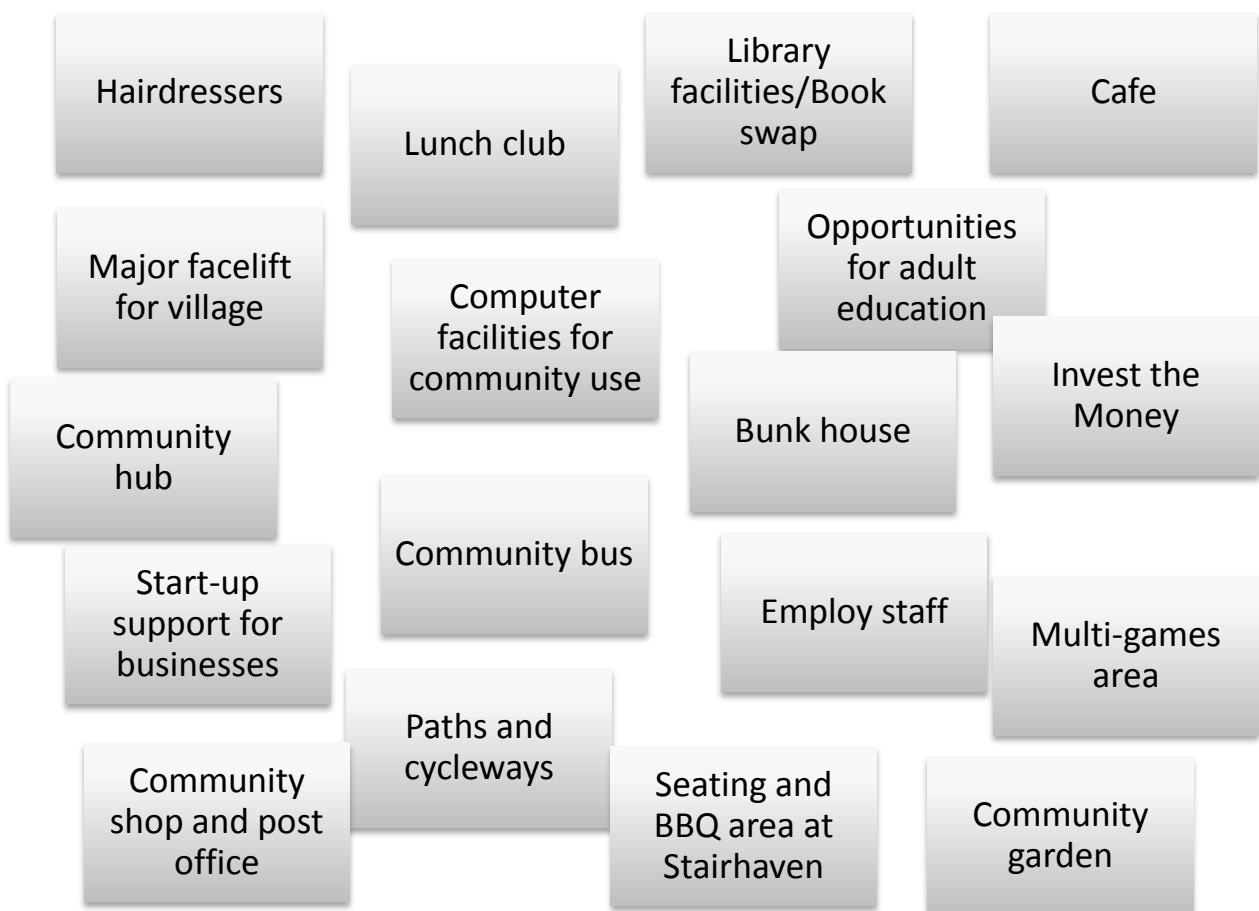
- The Glen brought into community ownership (Upkeep – paid workers instead of just volunteers)
- Make sure it was managed to last much longer
- The Kelvin – purchase it, refurbish it and create a community owned Youth Hostel/Bunkhouse
- Build a brand new purpose designed community centre



- Needing hand rail all the way up past the trust Housing for anybody needing assistance and a support to help them
- Improve on petrol stations on A75 e.g. Travelodge
- Firstly tidy up Glenluce i.e Judges Keep – take down the scaffolding!
- Multi use games area for when the park is waterlogged
- Volunteer training to provide skills to implement and contribute to projects
- Community garden (as part of hub) with staging to allow drama club/school to put on productions for community
- Café with evening meals etc
- Develop Stairhaven – seating/bbq area – food franchise (clear stones)
- Expand John Niven Centre to University level
- Purchase old shop in Dunragit to become a community hub i.e. meeting place for all – library lending scheme
- Better street lights
- Regular grass cutting
- Promote local area: walks etc
- Purchase land adjacent to shop and develop it for park facilities
- In Dunragit in particular: addressing parking problem, purchase of old garage area and individual drive ways

Discussions clearly demonstrated an appetite for an improved village ‘feel’ and more services and facilities in the area and that these would provide important opportunities for social interaction, learning and development.

#### Specific Project Ideas for wind farm money



## Community Survey

A community survey was launched in June and open for responses both online and in paper copy format for the following two months. The aim of the survey was to build a picture of what people value about the area and should be protected, what they felt is missing and could be improved, how the wind farm fund could be invested and what outcomes people would like to achieve through it. The survey was widely promoted through the local press, door to door flyers and posters displayed in a range of prominent places including local notice boards, the shop, the schools and the GP surgery.

The survey attracted a high response rate, drawing a total of 219 responses, representing a total of 376 people- over 30% of the population.

### Profile of respondents

- 95% (206) were local residents
- 57% of respondents were female and 43% were male
- There was good representation across all the age brackets including children and young people (13%).

Figure 5: Responses by Age Bracket (%)

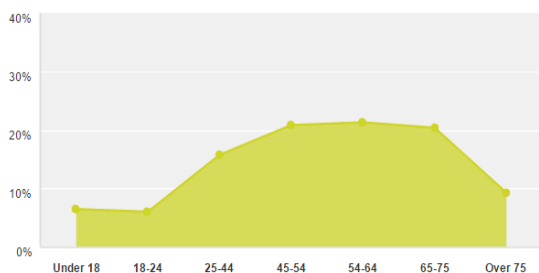
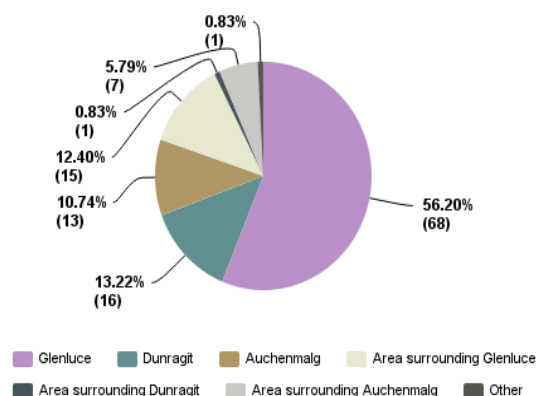


Figure 6: Responses by area (%)



### Views on the area

- 68% of respondents see themselves living in the area in the future, indicating that people are generally content to be living in the local area. 26% are 'not sure'.
- The reasons for people leaving the area were 'limited social life' (38%), 'lack of jobs' (36%); 'lack of services' (28%); 'poor facilities' (28%) and 'no sense of community' (28%).

*Village seems to be going more and more downhill. Nowhere to even go for a coffee.  
Don't want to sit in the pub  
There is a complete lack of local jobs for young people.*

- People value a wide range of things about the area, with the key benefits being 'friendly people' (67%); followed by a 'strong community' (35%) and 'family connections' (30%). Comments show that people appreciate easy access to the beautiful countryside.

*Access to countryside  
Peace & Quiet  
Beautiful countryside safe environment*

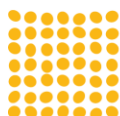
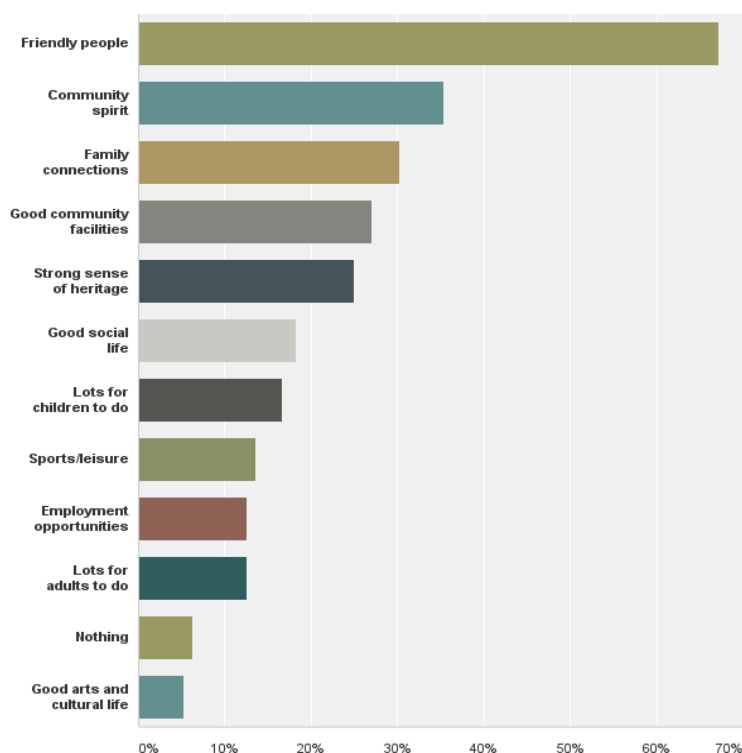


Figure 5: 'Good things' about Old Luce

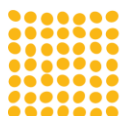


- There was a wide range of comments on what is missing in the area, in particular a café/somewhere to eat and a post office. The neglected building with scaffolding in Glenluce was felt to be an eyesore, spoiling the look of the village.

*Lack of forward thinking, lack of moving with the times. "This is the way we've always done it"*  
*Hotel for eating out Coffee Café*  
*Lower part of the village is shabby with scaffolding outside Judges Keep (Been there for 7+ years). Kings Arms partly demolished, closed buildings becoming scruffy looking etc - makes the village look grubby.*  
*No Tearoom/cafe No Bank No Hotel serving food No Post Office*  
*Social events, children's activities, help for older people, public transport*  
*There is no meeting place for ordinary people in the community if one does not belong to the church or specific group*  
*We need a Post Office and shop in Dunragit*  
*Lack of social capital & employment opportunities*  
*Out with Glen Luce, lack of bus services*  
*Feel that as tourism is one of the largest industries in the area we must continue to improve the facilities for them IE no place to eat in Glenluce very few events staged that they can be involved in*  
*Appropriate and sufficient Broadband/Internet access is required in the area*

Asked what should be improved:

- 66% said 'better local facilities'
- 51% 'more employment opportunities'
- 47% 'better youth facilities'
- 42% 'better services for older people'
- 41% 'better information about what is going on'
- 'More community health based services' scored the lowest with only 13% of positive responses.



Responses indicate that local people want more services and amenities in the Parish, in particular, an eatery/tea room and place to meet friends and socialise. These reinforced views expressed at the public meeting. The appearance of the village was also felt to be important: respondents want the village to be an attractive place. Renovation and improvement of derelict buildings is seen as key. There was concern about the lack of employment opportunities, especially for young people. Improving online connectivity was also identified as a priority. Comments included:

*To see the village a bit cleaner and tidier. Empty buildings make the place look very tired and uninviting*  
*A community centre for young and old*  
*Better use of existing facilities such as the hall to run community events e.g. social evenings, learning opportunities leisure courses, internet cafe, art centre*  
*Internet broadband speeds certainly for those not near the local exchange are completely unacceptable. Community broadband could be looked into. Alternatively 4G should be brought to the area so that all members could access the now necessary websites to enable them to be on a level with other areas.*

Figure 6: Benefits people hope to achieve through investment

### What the community hopes to achieve using the community benefit funds

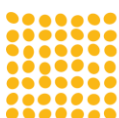
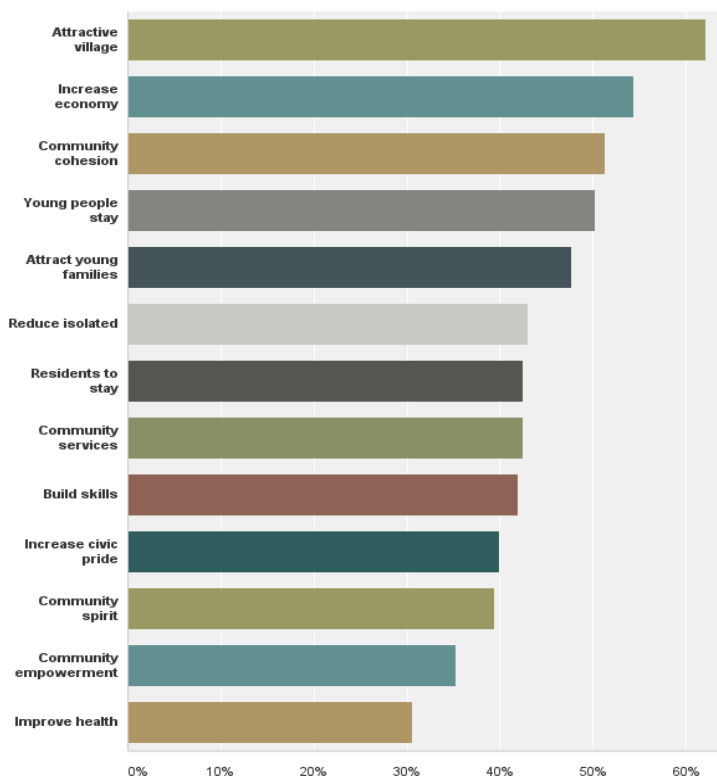
#### Outcomes

Key outcomes for local people are making the villages more attractive (62%); contributing to the local economy (52%); bringing the community together (51%); encouraging young people to stay (50%) and making people feel less isolated (43%). Improvements in health were considered the least important (31%).

#### Top three suggestions for community benefit funds:

Asked to identify their top three priorities, 177 separate responses were submitted and there was strong consensus for:

1. A community hub (75 mentions), encompassing an eatery. There was very strong support for somewhere to meet friends, get a coffee and go out for a meal. It was suggested the hub could also house a soft-play area and a range of other services, including a library, meeting room facilities and a Post Office. Respondents were keen to see the community hub providing volunteering and skills development opportunities. There was also support for a community garden.
2. Village improvements to make the area more attractive visually (30 mentions) including tackling the derelict buildings.
3. Employment opportunities (21 mentions), in particular for young people. Some people suggested this could be achieved through the community hub.



Further priorities were<sup>16</sup>:

- Developing local walks
- Upgrading Stairhaven beach with support for a slipway
- Improved phone signal and broadband connections
- More parking in Glenluce Main St

The following needs were identified in descending order of popularity:

Need	Number of mentions
1 <sup>st</sup> Community hub /Village Hall	75
2 <sup>nd</sup> Cafe	66
3 <sup>rd</sup> Employment opportunities	54
4 <sup>th</sup> Derelict buildings	51
Post Office	23
Street cleaning / weeding	22
Foot paths / cycle paths	19
Community garden / seating	19
Beach facilities	19
Broadband / phone signal	19
Affordable housing	17
Parking	12
Park at Sun Street	11
Training and learning	11
Countryside	7
Local information point	3
Library	2
Meeting room	2

### Current community/local activity

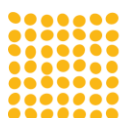
47% of respondents currently take part in some kind of community activity. Asked what groups and activities people currently take part in, the top three were walking, gardening and arts and crafts. A strong theme throughout the survey was a love of the outdoors and this was echoed in focus groups across all age ranges. Further interests include dancing and sports such as badminton, fishing, photography, cycling, painting, history and genealogy. 43% of respondents do not take part in activities but 44% would be interested in being involved (equating to 39 people).

There was strong support for setting up a Development Trust to take some of the ideas forward, with 77% supporting this and 15% saying they were not sure. Comments show that it is important to people that the body is:

*“Open and accountable to the whole population” with “a good mix of people experience and some younger people on it”.*

11% of respondents (19 people) would be interested in being on the Board. 16% (28 people) would like to volunteer and 39% would like to be kept up to date with developments.

<sup>16</sup> A full list of responses can be found in Appendix 2.







'afternoon tea' trips, offering a regular (afternoon or evening) activity and offer better prizes for fundraising raffles.

- Better transport. This is a key issue for older people. A community bus could address this challenge for older residents but also benefit the wider community.

## Youth Club

The youth club is held in the village hall every Monday evening and has roughly 26 members, with 12-14 members who regularly attend the sessions.

Reflecting the wider community, young people loved being outdoors. Playing sports and spending time in the nearby glen and on the beach were particularly valued.

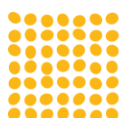
### *Ideas*

- 3G pitch – for hockey and football
- MUGA (multi use games area)
- Shopping mall
- Chinese takeaway/chippy/ café/ Subway – open 24 hours a day
- Somewhere to chill out with friends with music and a television
- Access to a pool with flumes, music and inflatables for pool parties. The swimming pool in Glenluce is currently restricted to over 16s
- Better access to the beach which would benefit from a clean-up. Transport to and from, lighting to and from, a beach hut with running water and a toilet, bbq's and camping would be additional benefits.
- Somewhere to rent bikes and access to cycle paths. The roads are dangerous for cycling
- Wi-fi boosters – although it was interesting that none of the YP mentioned this until asked about technology
- Ice skating
- Mobile cinema
- More clubs
- Paint-balling
- Climbing wall
- Trampolines
- Go-kart track
- Pop-up café
- Someone in the summer to facilitate sessions with the young people, eg. watersports
- Expanding the youth club and paying someone to run sessions, for example, three nights a week

## Stakeholder Feedback

Stakeholders were identified in partnership with the steering group at the initial meeting and focussed on key perspectives within the local community. Those consulted included;

- Rural Partnership Support within the Dumfries and Galloway Council to provide a local authority perspective on the community and identify the changing policy landscape and future Council priorities
- Foundation Scotland, Community Engagement Manager
- A regular visitor to the area to give feedback from a tourism and leisure angle
- The minister's wife to provide feedback from the perspective of older people and the young people who attend the SNATCH club



## Dumfries and Galloway Council, Rural Partnership Support

As part of its rationalisation programme, Dumfries and Galloway Council's long term strategy is to encourage villages and communities to take over assets for themselves. As well as reducing local authority spend, this strategy fits in with a national movement towards Community Asset Ownership. Ownership and control of key services and facilities by local groups, is seen to have a number of benefits, including greater opportunities to draw in investment from elsewhere and responding better to local needs.

The Council is keen for Community Councils to make the best use of wind farm money, encouraging communities to 'think big' and consider boosting funds by securing match funding to achieve ambitions.

### *Transport links*

Two other communities to benefit from wind farm money, New Luce and Kirkowan, are looking at developing transport links between Wigtownshire and Dumfries to allow students to stay in the region and attend higher education. This initiative could be of interest to Old Luce.

### *Economic development and tourism*

Economic development and encouraging tourism have been identified as key local authority priorities for the area. As the wind farms are a fairly long term fixture (most commissioned for a 25 year period), there could be potential to develop apprenticeships at the wind-farms, for example training in engineering and creating a dedicated work-force in the area. There may also be potential for wind-farms to pay for courses through the college to develop the local work-force.

Supporting the tourism industry would be beneficial to the whole of Wigtownshire. A substantial tourist attraction could raise the profile of the region. This could be similar to the Eden project and could potentially draw high numbers of tourists. The region has lots of beautiful gardens which could be marketed. With match funding this aspiration could be a reality.

### *Local businesses and Tourism*

The Council representative noted that, in her view, local, small businesses are struggling particularly with the rise of online shopping. Hotels in Wigtownshire for example are finding customer numbers are reducing and running a viable business is becoming increasingly difficult. Castle Douglas, which markets itself as a food town, is successful, and there may be an opportunity for Wigtownshire to try something similar to increase visitor numbers and spend.

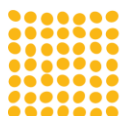
### *Capacity building*

Local groups and organisations across the area provide very valuable services for local people but there is a need to build their capacity, particularly to help groups access funding. Demand for this is already high with Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway experiencing a high volume of support requests. Finding other support mechanisms to help local groups think 'bigger and better' would be beneficial.

## Foundation Scotland, South West Scotland

### *Strengths of the area*

- The level of engagement is strong and democratic
- High levels of volunteering and commitment
- Events are very well attended
- Beautiful landscape – there is potential for massive tourism offerings



### *Suggested improvements*

- The disconnect between the social housing in Glenluce and the wider community

### *Ideas*

In rural communities in general there are a few big long-term trends:

- Tourism
- Economy
- Regeneration activity

There is a need to bring about positive, practical action so that people can see a tangible difference.

- Community buy-out of run-down buildings would engage people. A community-hub would be a fantastic focus for community energy. There are a few options and it would be good to look at what would be the best venues.
- It would be useful to have a physical town plan for Glenluce, in terms of the empty properties.

### **Dunragit**

- Since the new by-pass has been built it has been quite cut-off.
- There have been discussions about the station re-opening, it was the Council's idea and it would be a tourist line. It could potentially transform Dunragit. The Council has carried out a review of which stations are potentially re-openable

### **A Regular Visitor**

The area is a popular, well-loved tourist destination in a great location and benefits from repeat visits. In recent years however, there has been a noticeable decline in services and facilities and the general up-keep of the area.

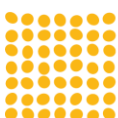
Glenluce village used to be a busy and vibrant place with well-presented buildings and a good range of businesses but the High St is now seen as "very depressing" with numerous derelict buildings and not a lot on offer to visitors. "There is nowhere to get food. The village has nowhere to eat; no restaurants, cafes or snack bars." There are two caravan sites in the area so potentially good custom from holiday makers for restaurants and cafes, alongside the locals. Wind farm money could be used to subsidise the eateries. "It is essential to make a place look attractive in order to bring business in. All the old derelict buildings need to be knocked down and the area landscaped. At the moment the area looks like a slum and a catalyst is needed for change."

It was highlighted that other villages in Dumfries and Galloway seem to be thriving, such as Castle Douglas and Newton Stewart.

### **Minister's wife**

*Strengths of the area:*

- A great place to bring up a family, it is safe, beautiful, people are friendly, everyone knows each other and look out for one another
- In a small village you are more aware of people needing visited and who need help, than in perhaps a town or city
- For those who want to get involved in things there are plenty opportunities, in particular at the church
- Glenluce has a good park, there are lots of caravan sites and places for people to stay in the local area. The Glen is a wonderful resource



- The young people who the Church are connected with have lots of opportunities to go places and respond very well to the time that is given to them. A multi-purpose sports area has been suggested for young people.

#### *Suggested improvements*

- The appearance of the village disheartens local people and is off-putting to visitors.
- One of the key things is that there is no café and nowhere for people to eat. Having a café would also be great if it could create employment for local people and this could be sustained in the long-term. Creating a focal point for people would be fantastic. The Church holds monthly coffee mornings and 30/40 people attend them, demonstrating there is a need for a café. It is mostly older people that attend the coffee mornings, although a few young mums also attend.
- It would be good to have something specific to sell or market, something to attract people to the area. There is a lovely old bank building which could be a fantastic resource.

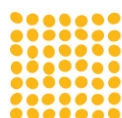
#### *Ideas*

- Much more could be made of the physical environment, including the landscape and the biosphere. The quality of the offering could be improved.
- Encourage people in Glenluce to have more of a sense of pride
- Skills training, in particular in hospitality
- The Glen should be exploited more, better signage is needed and better access via the park. It would be beneficial to install some steps.
- More benches in the park, in particular around the sides and picnic tables.
- A café – people were very keen on this, it would be very beneficial for locals as well as holiday makers. At the moment there is nowhere to go for a meal.
- Demolition of the eye-sore properties
- The area opposite the old bank and at the bottom of Church St is an eye-sore. Flower beds and benches would vastly improve it
- Transport – the lack of transport creates feelings of isolation. A small bus available for youth groups and older people to go places would be very beneficial.
- Employment needs to be created

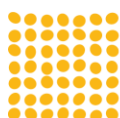
### **Audit of Local Activity**

**Audit of current activity and services provided by community groups, local authority or others for the benefit of community members**

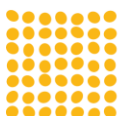
Organisation	Activity	Number of attendees
Mother and Toddlers' Group	Runs twice a week	3-12 children regularly attend, although there are more children in the area who could attend.
Welfare Committee	Supports people over the age of 60 in the Parish and organises a range of activities for them throughout the year.	There are 16 members of the committee. About 50-60 people regularly attend the trips the committee organise. There are 100 – 120 people aged over 80 in the community who receive a parcel at Christmas if they are unable to attend the Christmas dinner.



<b>Open Door coffee mornings</b>	Held at the church on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month between September-June.	25-35 people regularly attend, mostly people who are retired, but also some young mums.
<b>Youth club</b>	For young people in primary seven and above.	About 26 members, ranges between 12-14 people on a Monday night
<b>Dunragit fishing cub</b>		
<b>SNATCH</b>	For young people between primary seven and S6 on a Sunday night from 7-pm	10 young people attend on a regular basis
<b>SWRI Glen-of-Luce</b>	Contact was unable to be made with the President	
<b>SWRI Glenluce</b>		
<b>Glenluce Bowling club</b>		
<b>Wigtownshire County Golf Club</b>	Situated on the outskirts of the village of Glenluce and has about 350 members and is a very well used club. Open seven days a week, from 9-55pm in the winter and 9-8pm in the summer.	A small group also meet and play bridge in the club house
<b>Cubs</b>	From 8-12 years, primarily boys attend one night a week	8 members, numbers have considerably dropped, over the past three years when there used to be 24 members. This may have resulted from asking parents to drop off and pick up their children
<b>Glenluce Vintage Tractor Rally</b>	Exhibitors display their tractors to the public. Over 100 tractors and stationary engines were displayed at the 2015 rally.	
<b>Glenluce Fishing club</b>	A fishing competition is held on the last Sunday of the month, additionally people can buy tickets to fish the water - £5 a day or can join the club and pay to fish all year for £40	30 people
<b>Spinners, Weavers and Dyers</b>	Monthly meeting in church hall	Attended by 25-40 craftswomen
<b>Model Aircraft Flying Club</b>	A small group of enthusiasts	



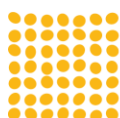
<b>Beekeepers Association</b>	Speaker meetings are held in the Bowling Clun during the winter months	
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## 4 Emerging Themes and Future Activity

Through analysis of feedback from the community and our wider research, some clear themes have emerged which underpin the community's vision of Old Luce for the future. The themes are detailed below, together with the rationale behind them and considerations for the community's action plan.

Theme – Connecting People	
<p>The remote location of Old Luce, its high percentage of older people and the lack of community social and leisure facilities combine to create some very particular challenges for local people in terms of 'being connected.'</p> <p>Residents value the strong family and friendship ties within the community and have shown a keen interest to connect more with those around them. Whilst research has underscored a strong desire to rejuvenate Old Luce and strengthen community spirit, it has also highlighted the lack of opportunities to do so. Building community cohesion is a central part of people's vision of Old Luce and will act as a key driver in the village's rejuvenation.</p> <p>Specifically, the community has shown strong support for the development of a community hub with a café and a wide range of facilities, including a soft play area, meeting area, a library, a local information point and a post office. The local community would also value more volunteer opportunities and a wider range of community based activities in which to participate.</p> <p>These will provide opportunities to bring the community together and build social cohesion, reduce isolation and create opportunities for inter-generational skills sharing and learning.</p>	
Evidence	
Community profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The village and surrounding area is ranked in the top 5% most access deprived areas in Scotland. 90 minute drive to nearest hospital.</li> <li>25% of population are over 65. 45% of people live in a two person household and 29% live alone. This is predicted to increase in years ahead.</li> <li>25% of population are described as having a 'very life limiting' long term condition.</li> </ul>
Open meeting	Suggestions included a lunch club for the elderly, a community hub, community transport and community garden.
Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The best features of Old Luce were identified as 'friendly people' (67%), 'strong community' (35%) and 'family ties' (30%)</li> <li>Reasons for people leaving the area included 'limited social life' (38%) (the primary reason) and 'no sense of community' (28%).</li> <li>A community hub was identified as a main priority for local people with the most mentions (75). A café / somewhere to meet friends had the second most mentions at 66.</li> <li>43% don't take part in any local activity but 44% would like to (39 people).</li> <li>The third most popular outcome of wind farm money was 'community cohesion' (51%).</li> </ul>

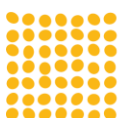


<b>Focus Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for more play and social opportunities for children and young people. Older youths for example, would like a more regular youth club with organised sessions.</li> <li>• More social opportunities for older people such as day trips and social outings.</li> <li>• Somewhere for people to meet and eat (this was mentioned across all age groups)</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for community cohesion and collective action to address local needs identified as a key priority for Council.</li> <li>• Old Luce perceived as having a strong and engaged community.</li> <li>• There is a disconnect between those living in social housing and the wider community.</li> <li>• A community hub would be a fantastic focus for community energy.</li> </ul>
<b>Considerations</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a community 'hub,' (possibly through redevelopment of a derelict building) to act as a focal point for community activity and that encourages intergenerational interaction</li> <li>• Better and more accessible facilities and activities for all members of the community from young children to older people</li> <li>• Establish a community transport scheme / bus to enable people to access services and facilities far away</li> <li>• Support community groups to increase and improve their offerings to local people</li> <li>• Develop a social space with a focus on food – possibly this could also serve as an internet cafe</li> <li>• Create more opportunities for volunteering</li> <li>• Provide regular information on what is happening locally</li> <li>• Improve broadband / phone signal to improve wider connectivity – seek support from Community Broadband Scotland.</li> </ul>	

<b>Theme – Enhancing our Natural Environment</b>	
<p>Old Luce enjoys a beautiful location in the countryside with easy access to the coast and beaches and a peaceful, tranquil natural environment. Access to the countryside is viewed as a key resource and spending time in the outdoors is highly valued by local residents across all age groups. The natural environment is also the primary income source for the working age group through agriculture, fishing and forestry and also tourism.</p> <p>The community sees the natural environment as central to its sense of 'place.' The vision of Old Luce includes protecting and enhancing the area's natural assets, improving access to them and maximising both the social and economic benefits that they bring.</p>	
<b>Evidence</b>	
<b>Community profile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 50% of the area's enterprises are based on agriculture, forestry and fishing. These tend to be small businesses (10-50 employees).</li> <li>• Regionally, sustainable tourism generates £79.1 million annually. In Wigtownshire, employment in accommodation and food service activities was 1,013 in 2014, higher than the national average (per head of population).</li> </ul>



Open meeting	Key 'positives' about the area included a number of references to the Glen, local walks, the sea and exploited archaeological sites. Suggestions for improvements included improved foot and cycle paths and better promotion of local walks.
Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 out of 13 comments submitted under 'what we value most about Glen Luce' referred to the environment and natural heritage.</li> <li>• Counting all open responses, beaches, the countryside and paths garnered a total of 45 and suggestions included improving access to Stairhaven Beach including a slip way and improved paths.</li> <li>• Under 'outcomes for wind farm investment', protection / improvement of the countryside was identified as one of the priorities.</li> </ul>
Photography competition	The winners of the photography competition all submitted photographs which focus on the natural environment and the beautiful landscape in Old Luce, again highlighting the importance of the natural environment to the local community. The caption for the winner of the adult section of the photography competition was "striking the right balance within the community" and this is pertinent in terms of developing the natural environment to further enhance local people's enjoyment of it, and developing the built environment.
Focus groups	All groups highlighted the natural environment as highly important and contributing to a good quality of life in the area. Children and young people in particular valued this aspect of local life and were seeking to increase their enjoyment of it. Older youths want the beach tidied up and better access to it, with camping and bbq areas and modest toilet facilities. They also want opportunities for wild learning including water sports and more cycle paths. Parents of small children want to see better access to the woods and more wild play opportunities – tree houses etc.
Stakeholders	<p>Tourism is identified as a key economic driver in the area and the Council is keen to maximise opportunities across the region. Communities are being encouraged to 'think big': could there be an eco-tourism project similar to the Eden Project?</p> <p>Other stakeholders reported that more could be made of the natural assets of the area, for both local people and visitors, with better signage, parking and promotion.</p>
<b>Considerations</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a tourism plan linked to a village improvement plan (including marketing and promotion)</li> <li>• Develop foot and cycle paths and upgrade existing paths</li> <li>• Provide information on the natural assets available in the area (archaeological sites, walks)</li> <li>• Improve the look of the beach and access to it. Improve facilities such as a hut with running water and toilets.</li> <li>• Improve outdoor facilities for children and young people, such as a MUGA, trampolines, a sand pit and a climbing wall</li> <li>• Consider an outdoor learning programme for children and youths (wild play, water sports)</li> </ul>	



## Theme – Improving our Built Environment

Whilst people enjoy and take pride in the natural environment around them, the state of the village itself is dispiriting for residents. There is a sense that the village is in decline: key services have been lost, shops have closed, buildings lie empty, spaces are unkempt and the “once lovely village” no longer has much to offer.

Local people have expressed a strong interest to improve the aesthetic look of the village to inject some pride back into the community, but they also want to invest in the built environment to bring about deeper positive change; stimulate new services, create social spaces, generate employment opportunities, attract new visitors to the area, inspire volunteering and breathe life back in to the area.

The community’s vision is of a vibrant village which not only looks beautiful, but is able to support community life: essential services within an attractive environment.

A number of existing assets have been suggested for development and a range of other enhancements have been put forward by the community. In a wider context, the tourism market in Old Luce is underdeveloped despite its beautiful natural surroundings. The community believes that investment in the built environment will create more visitor interest and contribute to the local economy.

### Evidence

<b>Community profile</b>	Last hotel recently closed down. No post office. Used to be a variety of shops in Glenluce and one in Dunragit and now Glenluce only has one shop and Dunragit has no shop. There are no longer any cafes in Glenluce or places for people to have a meal and meet friends, there is only one pub, but it does not serve food.
<b>Open meeting</b>	Suggestions included the purchase and development of several buildings and spaces which are derelict (eg Judges Keep, old shop in Dunragit, area opposite the Garage). A community hub, shop and post office, better car parking facilities, better street lighting and regular grass cutting were also put forward.
<b>Survey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most popular outcome of wind farm investment was to make the village more attractive (62%).</li> <li>• The most popular improvement to village life was ‘better community facilities’ (66%). 47% said better youth facilities.</li> <li>• Village improvements came second in the list of top three priorities (30 mentions).</li> <li>• Aspects of the built environment received the most open responses: a community Hub topped the list with 75 mentions, a café second with 66. Derelict buildings were fourth in the list and mentioned 51 times. Post Office and street cleaning also proved popular with 23 and 22 mentions respectively. Affordable housing attracted 17 mentions.</li> </ul>
<b>Focus Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved play parks was the top priority for younger children.</li> <li>• Older youths also want to see better social spaces (a MUGA, ‘chill out’ space)</li> <li>• More family housing in village</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholders</b>	From a visitor perspective, the village has very little to offer and is poorly presented.



	<p>Investment in the fabric of the village and the visitor offering (a café, more activities, better parking) would enable Old Luce to better realise its tourism potential. The railway station may be reopened which would significantly increase visitors to the area.</p> <p>The Council is fully supportive of community asset ownership.</p>
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### Considerations

- General village improvements to the unkempt spaces (flower beds, seating) which could be part of a community gardening project
- Commissioning an audit and options appraisal for empty buildings in the village and explore potential for ownership and development (community hub, bunkhouse, shop, café)
- Better maintain public areas including street cleaning, weeding and street lighting
- Improving children’s and older youth’s play and social spaces, upgrading the park at Sun St for example
- Create more parking in Glenluce Main St
- Explore the potential to market the village as a tourism destination
- Develop more affordable housing

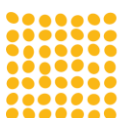
## Theme - Jobs and Volunteering

Gainful employment is an essential component of any thriving community. Whilst local businesses underpin the local economy, there is also an important role for community based enterprise. The community believes there is a pressing need for more employment and volunteering opportunities locally, and a need for meaningful training to give people, particularly young people, the best opportunity for securing long term, skilled employment. This is critical to a sustainable population.

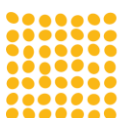
The vision of Old Luce includes a community that is self-reliant, resilient, responsive and willing to work collectively to create a better village. Community ventures act to galvanise the local population, address unmet needs and harness local passion and drive. Local people have expressed an interest in creating learning and job opportunities within the village both through community initiatives, but also by linking better with resources and initiatives further afield.

### Evidence

<b>Community Profile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Glenluce only 55% of people are economically active, significantly lower than the overall rate for Scotland, 69%.</li> <li>• 75% of 16-24 year olds are unemployed, vastly higher than the national average of 30%.</li> <li>• Fewer pupils enter further education than the national average and there is no higher education provision in Wigtownshire.</li> <li>• People in Dumfries and Galloway have significantly lower earnings compared to the Scottish average and this has widened since the recession.</li> <li>• There is a higher than average number of low income households and in Wigtownshire, a higher than average percentage of people reliant on</li> </ul>
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	<p>benefits (around 17% of the area's working age population.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Census data shows that there is a higher than average number of people in Wigtownshire with no qualifications compared to the regional and national average.</li> </ul>
<b>Open meeting</b>	<p>Suggestions for improvements included implementing a volunteer programme to increase people's skills, developing community run businesses such as a bunkhouse, access to computers and to adult education opportunities.</p>
<b>Survey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asked what could be improved in the area, 51% said 'more employment opportunities', the second highest response.</li> <li>• Of those that considered leaving the area, the second highest reason was 'lack of jobs' (36%)</li> <li>• Priority outcomes for wind farm investment included 'increasing the local economy' (54% of respondents), the second highest priority out of 13. 'Young people to stay' was the fourth highest priority (50%), 'residents to stay' (42%), eighth place, 'build skills' (42%), ninth place.</li> <li>• Asked to state their top three priorities of <i>all</i> suggestions, employment came third with 21 mentions. A number of the comments linked employment opportunities to community ventures such as a hub.</li> <li>• 39 people who took the survey do not currently take part in any community and volunteering activity but would like to.</li> <li>• There was strong support for setting up a Development Trust to take some of the project ideas forward, with 77% supporting this. 19 people said they would like to be on the Board and a further 28 would like to volunteer to help.</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholders</b>	<p>There could be potential to develop apprenticeships at the wind-farms, eg in engineering and creating a dedicated local work-force. There may also be potential for wind-farms to pay for courses through the college to develop the local skills.</p> <p>Small businesses are struggling. Castle Douglas has successfully marketed itself as a food town. There may be an opportunity for something similar locally to increase visitor numbers and spend.</p> <p>There is an increasing demand to help local groups build capacity so they can make the most of volunteering efforts.</p> <p>There are two caravan sites in the area so potentially good custom from holiday makers for food and drink enterprises. Wind farm money could be used to subsidise the eateries.</p> <p>There are high levels of volunteering and engagement in the village and this has potential to develop.</p> <p>Potential to develop skills training in the hospitality sector.</p>



## Considerations

- Create a Development Trust to take forward project ideas and secure match funding
- Develop a community owned initiative through development of an existing / new asset for example refurbishing a derelict building into a community / social enterprise hub
- Develop a volunteer programme to work on the community action projects identified in the plan.
- Create an information point (facebook, newsletter) to let the community know of job and volunteering opportunities available locally
- Explore opportunities for training and employing local people through the community enterprises eg in the hospitality sector through a community café or bunkhouse or driving through a community transport scheme
- Explore opportunities for training people in skills associated with the wind farms and the potential to link in with further and higher education provision
- Develop learning initiatives within the village based on cross generational skills share (gardening, crafts, computing)

## Next Steps

The next step in this consultation is to develop a 15 Year Community Action Plan which will confirm priorities, detail tasks, timescales and identify which group/organisation will be responsible for delivery.

These will cover short, medium and long term strategy and will also include details of key actions to deliver projects as well as criteria for monitoring success of these projects.

The Community Action Plan will be disseminated to all members of the community.

