

Macedonia Neighbourhood Plan

Plan for Macedonia 2019 - 2022

Developed by the community of Macedonia

To create a safer community with access to affordable facilities and activities to help people live healthy, happy lives, now and in the future.

Introduction

Why a Neighbourhood Plan for Macedonia?

- To build on the strengths of the area and to raise awareness of the problems and difficulties affecting the lives of people and families in the area.
- To bring together local people and service providers to agree on projects and activities which will improve the area, services delivered, and the opportunities available for all.
- To inform the planning partnership of the priorities and action needed in Macedonia, from the perspective and views of people who live and work in the area.
- To build on the strong community spirit in the area and the development work already started with Golden Glenrothes and the formation of Macedonia Action Group and partners.

How Did We Develop This Plan?

- *'Golden Glenrothes'* - Glenrothes West Charrette included detailed consultation with members of the community including: 147 Community Surveys completed, 198 People attending information sessions, 4 Design Workshops, 37 Stakeholder Discussions, and 4 Design Workshops.
- The result was a detailed Action Plan along with plans for the redevelopment of the area with a focus on the Glenwood Centre.
- Macedonia Action Group has been formed and established through this process and have started delivering on many of the Actions.

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How Can You Get Involved? - Growing People Power

Local people have the power to design local services, to influence and take decisions and it can all start by getting more involved in community life. Here are some of the ways you can join in. Help is available to take the first step.

- Join the Macedonia Action Group
- Take part in local Community Events
- Join the West Glenrothes Tenants & Residents Association
- Get involved in Local Campaigns & Conversations
- Make use of St Ninian's Community Café
- Community House / HomeStart / Bridging the Gap
- Support groups in your area.
- Think about volunteering
- **Connect via Our Glenrothes Facebook Page**
www.facebook.com/ourglenrothes
- **Visit the Lets Talk website**
www.fifedirect.org.uk/letstalk/glenrothes-area
- **Get to Know your Councillors**
www.fifedirect.org.uk/councillors
- **Visit Auchmuty Learning Centre website**
<http://www.auchmutylearningcentre.org.uk/>

Macedonia - What We Know Already

The Facts

Agencies and groups in the Macedonia area have been working together for the last two years to develop a more joined-up approach to developing and improving the opportunities for people living in Macedonia. Some of this partnership work has produced several local projects such as: community orchard, street and shutter art, community safety initiatives, community events, information days...

These, and other developments, have proven to be relatively easy to develop and organise – when local people, community groups and agencies come together.

The community of Macedonia believe it is a good place to live, whilst saying there is still a lot of work to be done to improve the area. The new Plan for Macedonia is committed to building on the strength and resilience which is evident in the community and working towards improving the issues affecting the area. For example;

- Macedonia has some of the poorest outcomes in Fife in areas such as jobs, health, education, poverty and deprivation.
- There is a negative perception shown towards the Glenwood Centre and flats
- Greenspace in Macedonia is underutilised and lacks any function or purpose.
- There is a lack of affordable housing in the area
- There is a lack of community facilities in the area
- We know that there is a reliance on foodbanks in the area.
- Lighting could be better utilised in certain areas, in underpasses and footpaths, to provide safer movement at night.

The Impact

- Poverty and inequality the lives and possible futures for people in Macedonia.
- Children, families and individuals experiencing hardship need help and support to realise their potential.
- There is a risk the inequality gap will increase, and things will get worse.
- There is a real perception that some parts of the area are unsafe at night.

Our Response:

- Working with communities to build capacity and capability which leads to collective action
- Deliver the Plan for Macedonia over the next three years with local people in the driving seat.
- Accept that poverty is not inevitable nor the result of individual choices and challenge reducing stigma to poverty.
- Prioritise preventing social problems to ensure better outcomes for the whole of the community.
- Build on existing local assets by strengthening local community groups, their voice and influence.
- Promote collaborative work in addressing food poverty, particularly during school holiday periods.
- Enhance the delivery of services in our neighbourhood by supporting local people and groups to play an active part in designing service delivery.
- Combine the strength and resilience within Macedonia and support its development throughout the area.
- Work with partners in addressing the lack of lighting in known dark spots in the area.

What You Told Us - Place Standard Tool

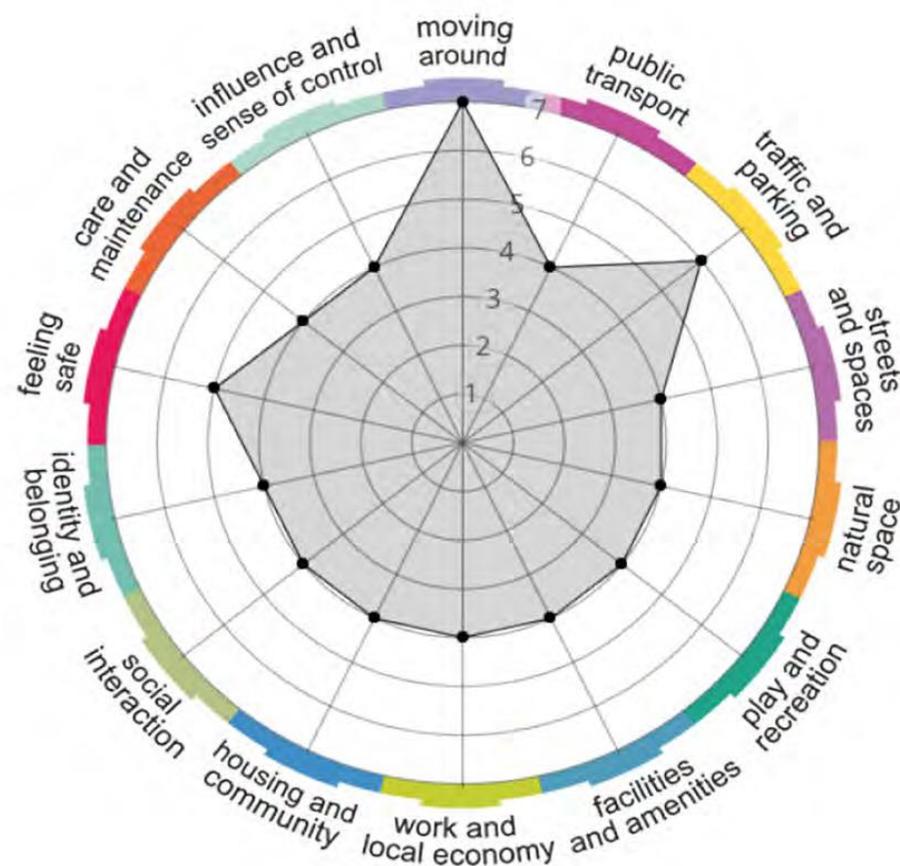
The Scottish Government's Place Standard tool was used in various workshops and at the opening night of the charrette. The purpose of the Place Standard Tool is to provide prompts for discussions, allowing people to consider all the elements of a place in a methodical and practical way.

Areas of strength in the area included;

- Its proximity to town centre.
- Near to Lomond Hills.
- Access to Town Park, through the woods.
- Lovely grass area in centre of Macedonia.
- There is a good community spirit.
- Good mixture of housing.

Areas for improvement in the area included;

- The negative perception towards the Glenwood centre and flats
- Lack of community facilities
- Paths and pavements are poorly maintained
- Too much graffiti / vandalism



What You Told Us – Charrette Findings

Rich information was drawn out of the Place Standard Tool and the Golden Glenrothes Charrette

- What would make Macedonia a better place to live?
- What community facilities and activities would you like to see in Macedonia?
- What changes would make a difference to you and your family?

Our Priorities

Taking on board all of the feedback received from the community of Macedonia, workers from a range of services met in Glenwood with local people and agreed the following as priorities for the area:

Housing Total redevelopment of the Glenwood Centre. To provide quality housing and creating a new Glenwood Centre with thriving businesses.	Community To encourage & promote community activity and energy
Movement To make it easier and more affordable for people to exercise and move around the area.	Greenspace To make better use of and improve the area's greenspace asset

A number of possible projects and activities have been identified and the detail of these will be further developed through conversations with local workers and local people through our Partnership Group, and any relevant Sub-Groups. We aim to work with any and all partners to deliver our action plan.

ACTION PLAN

HOUSING		Who
Better quality housing	<p>Remove Glenwood flats and redevelop Glenwood Centre</p> <p>Create clear design frameworks to ensure quality housing</p> <p>Provide a better choice of size/type of housing</p> <p>Provide more social / council housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Service/ Potential Developers • New build/planning teams need to get the maximum amount of housing out of sites available • Housing Services need to establish the demand for certain sizes of houses
Fix existing housing	<p>Maintain existing housing</p> <p>Pro-actively and positively identify and encourage private landlords to fix urgent works, maintain their property and become more involved in the community.</p> <p>Fix bin storage and consider creating a smaller number of larger communal street bins</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Services - Housing • Private sector team. New HMO posts created to concentrate on private sector properties. • Possible siting of skips in areas to encourage people not to fly tip & lower uplift prices.
Better link housing to greenspace	<p>Make better use of the small pockets of greenspace between houses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Streets & Open Spaces: PSOS • Develop activities for children and families to use open spaces • HomeStart - CLD
Access to housing	<p>Re-consider council house criteria to make it more accessible.</p> <p>As part of the community hub feasibility study – raise awareness of assistance / information, e.g. Grants available, provide a local area office for face to face support – consider a weekly surgery which also links with the health services (one-stop shop)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Services • Allocation policy review • Library proved to be a very venue useful during Charrette – possible place to meet tenants, etc.

COMMUNITY		Who
Community events for all ages	<p>Active events, e.g. urban orienteering events, music festivals, car boot sales, fun days/galas (not just for families)</p> <p>Sociable health activities, e.g. Walking clubs and running clubs</p> <p>Environmental activities, e.g. Community gardening, litter picking groups (like the CLEAR Buckhaven model)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macedonia Action Group (MAG), HomeStart, St Ninians Café develop community activities such as BBQ/ fun days /Galas • Detached Youth Work project can deliver urban community events i.e. urban orienteering • Active Schools Ambassadors can develop social health activities – walking/running clubs • MAG events and activities to be promoted in Southwood and Glenwood by CLD i.e. community litter picks. • Princes Trust to become involved in environmental programmes
Community facilities and activities for all ages	<p>Provide a community hub/central focus (1) trial temporary community use of the library building (this depends on Master Plan and redevelopment of Glenwood Centre)</p> <p>Provide a community hub / central focus (2) feasibility study for community managed community hub in library – create a place to learn new skills / share skills / drop-in adult evening classes and activities, social evenings, a youth club/cyber-café, computer facilities / internet access, a job club, set up family support groups, library facilities</p> <p>Keep St Ninian’s Café and charity shop in the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Ninians, Fife Council, C&N Service, • Education – CLD and Active Schools to focus on P1 enrolment for Fife Style application, promoting community events and community opportunities. • All participants agreed that the library would make a fantastic Community Hub • CLD - undertake a feasibility study. Pilot activities at the library. • Southwood to be more accessible for Community Use.

	COMMUNITY	Who
Provide / Communicate local events and activities	<p>Provide a community notice board and regularly updated Facebook events page</p> <p>Create more local action groups</p> <p>Community newsletters will be published periodically</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved. However, could increase the number of notice boards to be placed in areas with high footfall. • Develop MAG • Develop the current MAG Newsletter.
Create the right shopping opportunities	<p>Encourage any future shops to face in towards the redeveloped Glenwood Centre</p> <p>Do something about the empty shop units pending a longer terms solution (e.g. paint murals)</p> <p>Help to create more of a shopping mix, e.g. Need for clothes shops / laundrette and swap shops (recycle and upcycle)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any new development to have community consultation. • Expand the shutter art programme in Glenwood precinct • Waiting on Glenwood Centre announcement
Leisure / workshop opportunities	<p>Consider providing a community gym (ideally as part of the community hub)</p> <p>Consider providing affordable workshop space (ideally as part of the community hub)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenwood Community Use • Gym in Glenwood Community Use already – Use and take up of <i>Fifestyle</i>, Taster Vouchers to encourage local community access – contact Ryan Donnachie

MOVEMENT		Who
<p>Improve and better connect cycle paths and footpaths (and their link to greenspaces)</p>	<p>Create a better network of walking and cycle routes.</p> <p>Make the underpasses safer / paint murals</p> <p>Consider widening some footpaths</p> <p>Create better disabled access</p> <p>Provide more road crossings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation Service, PSOS - engage with MAG and other interested people partners - Glenwood High Pupils* • MAG has started this process and have created murals • Transportation Service meet with MAG • Transportation Service meet with MAG • Check with Transportation Service – if a crossing to the path to Riverside Park could be made to encourage people to access the Park
<p>Affordable access to fitness facilities</p>	<p>Improve skate park facilities</p> <p>Provide mountain bike trails/tracks</p> <p>Encourage outdoor activities e.g. yoga, walking groups, cycling etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Parks, Streets and Open Spaces – Young People • New Skate Park being made in Tanshall – Improve facility near Southwood School • Parks, Streets and Open Spaces and Detached Youth Work Team • Bum’s Off Seats (create routes) – Active School’s Team – to run sessions in Macedonia – encourage people and groups to meet at and make use of the Green Gym.

	MOVEMENT	Who
Public transport provision	<p>Talk to the bus companies about improving existing/future services/routes</p> <p>Consider a bus hub at Glenwood Centre</p> <p>Consider a local mini-bus service</p> <p>Provide more bus shelters</p> <p>Investigate the most affordable travel options and publicise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation Services, MAG and Councillors • MAG and local Councillors meet and discuss possible actions – business plan etc • Develop a Shuttle Service e.g. explore in more detail with Cllrs and MAG • “On both sides of the road” - Transportation Service
Better signage / way of finding	<p>Provide area maps and directional signage</p> <p>Provide information boards to celebrate area history/wildlife</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSOS - Not High Priority consider signage with “Footprint trails” • Access & Biodiversity Johanna Willi – possible project with Schools
Reduce the dominance of roads	<p>Make the main roads less of a barrier to movement (and to accessing greenspace)</p> <p>Do something about the number of roundabouts</p> <p>Change the nature of the roads and surfacing / create more shared spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not seen as priority – until the Glenwood Centre is redeveloped.

GREENSPACE		Who
Re-prioritise maintenance	<p>Cut grass less frequently, create 'Living Landscapes' and encourage wildlife</p> <p>Increase litter collection / broken glass collection in play areas and on key pathways linking to the Glenwood Centre</p> <p>Act to remove fly-tipping and pursue offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSOS – are creating Wildflower Meadows for some schools. If successful, this will roll out across other Primary Schools. Reduce some grass cutting to create longer grass areas for biodiversity. • Add another couple of freestanding bins from Glenwood High to Shops. PSOS. • Environmental Action Team currently working in Macedonia deep cleaning streets. PSOS • Always take action, encouraging the community to report issues and communicate with Safer Community Team. PSOS and Community
Better street lighting	Focus lighting in areas people feel unsafe along cycle-ways, footpaths and parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAG to consult Transportation
Land for allotments and outdoor growing spaces	<p>Create growing spaces and community gardens, orchards</p> <p>Plant more bushes, trees, flowers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotment have been created and Peter Duncan, Allotment Officer may create more in West Glenrothes including upgrading the one in South Parks. • Glenwood High School has 16 raised beds and have offered one to the Community Café and one to HomeStart. • Fortunately, a lot of shrubs and trees in Macedonia.

GREENSPACE		Who
Improve and upgrade parks and school grounds	<p>Provide better play equipment and goal posts</p> <p>Improve the paths across / around the parks</p> <p>Provide more litter bins</p> <p>Consider providing CCTV</p> <p>Consider providing 'wonder woodlands' in school grounds for children to play</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goals have recently been put in at large play park open space. Transportation - The community would like more lighting and footpath improvements on the path leading from Macedonia to Lady's Bridge, Riverside Park. PSOS - More bins going in place this financial year especially on school routes to shops and at the back of Annandale Gardens. Further discussion needed. PSOS – Happy to discuss this with Teachers. PSOS helped improve the woodland at Glenwood High School.
Outdoor meeting spaces	<p>Provide benches, picnic areas</p> <p>Provide an outdoor covered space, e.g. Pavilion /pop-up cinema</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enough benches around Macedonia. PSOS happy to discuss future sites.