

community
enterprise

New Luce Research and Consultation Report

Research Report for a Community Action Plan
New Luce Community Trust

November 2016



Contents

Page

Summary	3
Why?	3
How?	3
What?.....	3
Next Steps.....	4
1. Background	5
Broad Context	5
Methodology	6
2. Demographics, Statistics and the Community.....	8
2.1 The Nature of the Area	8
2.2 Demographics and Statistics	8
2.3 Asset Map.....	12
2.4 Audit of Local Activity.....	13
2.5 Community Action Plan for Old Luce	14
3. Community and Stakeholder Feedback	15
3.1 Social Media	15
3.2 Public Meeting.....	15
3.3 Surveys	20
3.4 Focus Groups	23
3.5 Stakeholder Conversations	25
4. Emerging Themes and Future Activity.....	30
5. Voting on Priorities	40
6. Next Steps	42

Summary

Why?

New Luce will receive significant sums of money from community benefit funds over the life of local wind farms (approximately 25 years). This gives the community the opportunity to plan for the long term and bring about lasting and sustainable benefits for residents. The New Luce Community Trust 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?

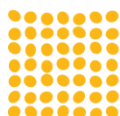
A programme of in-depth community consultation and research was carried out between August and October 2016, giving all members of the community the opportunity to contribute in a variety of different ways. This included two surveys, conversations in groups, engaging with children and young people, stakeholder interviews and an open meeting for the whole community focussing on strengths to build on as well as ideas for improvements.

What?

The research has identified key assets and challenges as well as emerging themes for future projects. Some of these projects will be delivered in the short term (up to 5 years), medium term (5 to 10 years) and long term (up to 15 years) and will benefit the whole community living in the New Luce area as well as visitors to the area. The ideas and projects will be viewed alongside the recent Community Action Plan for Old Luce with potential collaboration for joint projects benefiting both communities being encouraged.

Vision: *The community of New Luce will develop community benefit projects providing better services and an improved infrastructure for our residents and welcoming more visitors by developing our assets and celebrating our local heritage, natural environment, and our wildlife.*

Theme	What people want to see
Vibrant New Luce Encouraging people to visit New Luce, by providing sustainable spaces for community and visitor use and by encouraging better use of existing buildings	• How to best use existing buildings including the pub/hotel and the Church – also consider the potential and future of the Memorial Hall and how this building is used/would be used alongside any community-owned buildings • Hotel changing hands may provide opportunities to work closely with the new owner (which could be the community) to develop the hotel. There is potential to make better use of links with local walks (Southern Uplands Way) encouraging visitors and reinstating it as the “heart of the community” • Improved job and volunteering opportunities for our young people, ensuring younger families will move to New Luce for work or to commute as well as providing opportunities to young people growing up in New Luce to learn work skills and gain work experience • Providing holiday accommodation using some of the empty houses • Bring people into New Luce to spend money locally and give them things to do on good or bad weather days
Our Infrastructure	• Reliable broadband and mobile phone reception



Address the need for reliable broadband and mobile phone reception and improving transport links will make New Luce a better place to live, work and visit, encouraging younger people to remain in the area, which will benefit the community's economy	• Improved transport infrastructure, possibly through a community-run initiative and particularly focused on needs of older people and youngsters going into Stranraer or Glenluce • Potential of community buying of fuel, communal sewage tanks or winter fuel allowances
Our Church Determining the opportunity presented by taking on community ownership and management of the Church and how best to make use of space ensuring long term sustainability	• Assess the feasibility of taking the Church on as a community asset • Suggested uses of space include heritage, museum or exhibition space, meeting place, café, youth hostel or bunkhouse accommodation • Concern about how this will be a sustainable operation, and consideration of what group/organisation will manage this ensuring strong governance and SMART objectives
Our Green Spaces Making more of our natural assets, in particular our links to the Southern Upland Way in encouraging more visitors to New Luce. Encouraging more of our local people to use the outdoors through improved pathways, celebrating our local wildlife and improving our park	• Improving and extending links with the Southern Upland Way • Develop the hotel with the needs of walkers in mind – how can we encourage them to New Luce? • Incorporating artwork into local woodlands and providing way-markers and a green gym to encourage more people to get out into our outdoors • Celebrating our wildlife and creating educational opportunities around forest schools, wetlands and wildlife hotspots

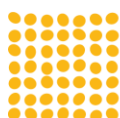
Next Steps

We now need to make these things happen. This exciting vision for the future can only be delivered by community members getting involved. We will consult a final time with the community to determine their priorities to inform a Community Action Plan taking forward key projects with agreed key tasks, milestones, partners, and timescales.

The formation of a new organisation, which may be a Development Trust, will be discussed taking into account volunteers to be involved, timescales involved and projects to be managed. This organisation will 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 working with those who don't normally get involved. The process will be open and transparent, 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 aspire to big changes, whilst remaining realistic about what is achievable. The development of our community will be asset based, founding new projects on what is already good about New Luce and the surrounding area. We will use the skills, gifts, talents and physical assets that are already here.



1. Background

Broad Context

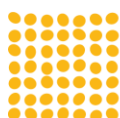
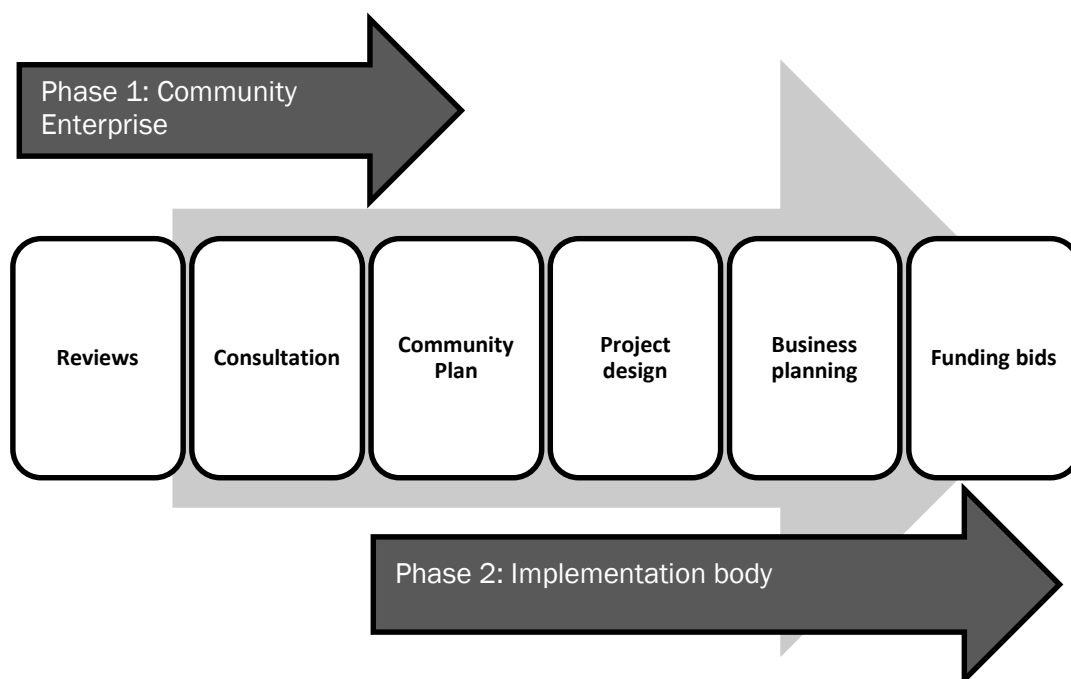
In July 2016, New Luce Community Trust appointed Community Enterprise to conduct research and prepare a Community Action Plan for the area. The Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES), delivered on behalf of the Scottish Government by Local Energy Scotland, has funded this research.

New Luce is a small rural community which has access to an increasing pot of Community Benefit Funds from commercial wind farms locally. This pot will benefit both the community and surrounding area of New Luce, but the people of New Luce will also have access to a joint benefit fund sharing money with the communities of Old Luce, including Glenluce, Dunragit and Auchenmalg.

A local community benefit fund was established, which receives income linked to local commercial wind farms and will be administered by Machars Action. The Community Trust aims 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.

It is anticipated that by late 2017, the community benefit fund will bring an annual income to the area of around £110,000. This research has been commissioned to inform the ways in which this money will be able to tackle the challenges and improvements identified by local people to benefit the whole community.

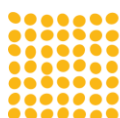
Community engagement and research was carried out over the autumn of 2016 and this report sets out our consultation and brings together the findings and key themes emerging. This will be used as the foundation for the Community Action Plan and for the projects which follow.



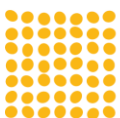
Methodology

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 August and October 2016 ensuring that everyone in the Parish of New 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 Surveys	Face to face questionnaire as part of the Turbine Trophy event. A full survey was prepared to gather more quantifiable feedback from local people. This was made available online and distributed and promoted through local networks. Hard copies were distributed through every door, and made available at public meeting and in the shop. 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. Questions also took into account previous consultation identifying some key priorities, allowing people to re-consider these. At all points in the survey, there was an option for respondents to elaborate and give other suggestions.
Consultation with Local Groups	A range of meetings was held in the community to gather initial feedback from local groups on what they like about New Luce, what they would like to see changed and to consider solutions. We engaged with: • New Luce children in Glenluce Primary School • New Luce children attending Stranraer High School • The Welfare Committee • Local Farmers • Representatives of: • New Luce Young Mums • Badminton Group • Keep Fit • History Club • New Luce Community Council
Facebook	A Facebook page, New Luce Community Trust, was set up as a means to promote the community consultation, to encourage participation and to facilitate information sharing across the area. https://www.facebook.com/pages/NewLuceCommunityTrust/ Since August, the page has received 62 likes.
Open Meeting	A community supper was held on the 18th September 2016 at the Memorial Hall. Catering was provided. The meeting included one to one 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.



Stakeholder Interviews	A small number of stakeholder interviews were carried out with people who have an interest in New Luce, who make an important contribution locally and have a knowledge of the area including, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector Interface, New Luce Community Council, Kenmuir Arms Hotel, New Luce Shop, Lord Stair, local Councillors.
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2. Demographics, Statistics and the Community

2.1 The Nature of the Area

New Luce is a tranquil village located in an area of great natural beauty, but within easy driving distance of Stranraer. Although it is small, the village has a strong sense of community, and a connection to both the natural environment and local history.

History

New Luce is a civil parish in historic Wigtownshire. The village has an important place in the history of the covenanters, with strong links to Alexander Peden who was ordained as minister of New Luce church in 1660. Local history is a passion within the village – and the New Luce History Club work to record oral history and document photographs of the area.

Nearby archaeological sites include the Caves of Kilhern, Cairn na Gath, Cairn Macneilie, and the Laggagairn Standing Stones. Glenluce Abbey lies to the south of the village.

Geography

New Luce is situated in Wigtownshire, Dumfries and Galloway. The village lies in the valley of the Water of Luce, 5 miles north of Glenluce. The area is largely rural and remote, the closest towns being Stranraer to the South West and Newton Stewart to the East. Stranraer is c.10 miles away (approximately 20 minutes by car).

Road connections to Castle Kennedy and Glenluce (and on to the A75 and Stranraer) are fairly good, but access to Barrhill via Glenwhilly is on a small, if scenic, one track road. Work is underway to upgrade this road, to allow access for wind farm traffic. The train no longer stops at New Luce, and the village is poorly served by buses, with only 3 services to Stranraer per week, other than the school bus.

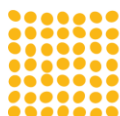
New Luce lies just off the Southern Upland Way, which is fairly popular with walkers. Unfortunately, the path passes around 1 mile south of the village. There are a range of cycling and walking trails around 15 miles from the New Luce area including 7 Stanes at Glentroll and Kirroughtree.

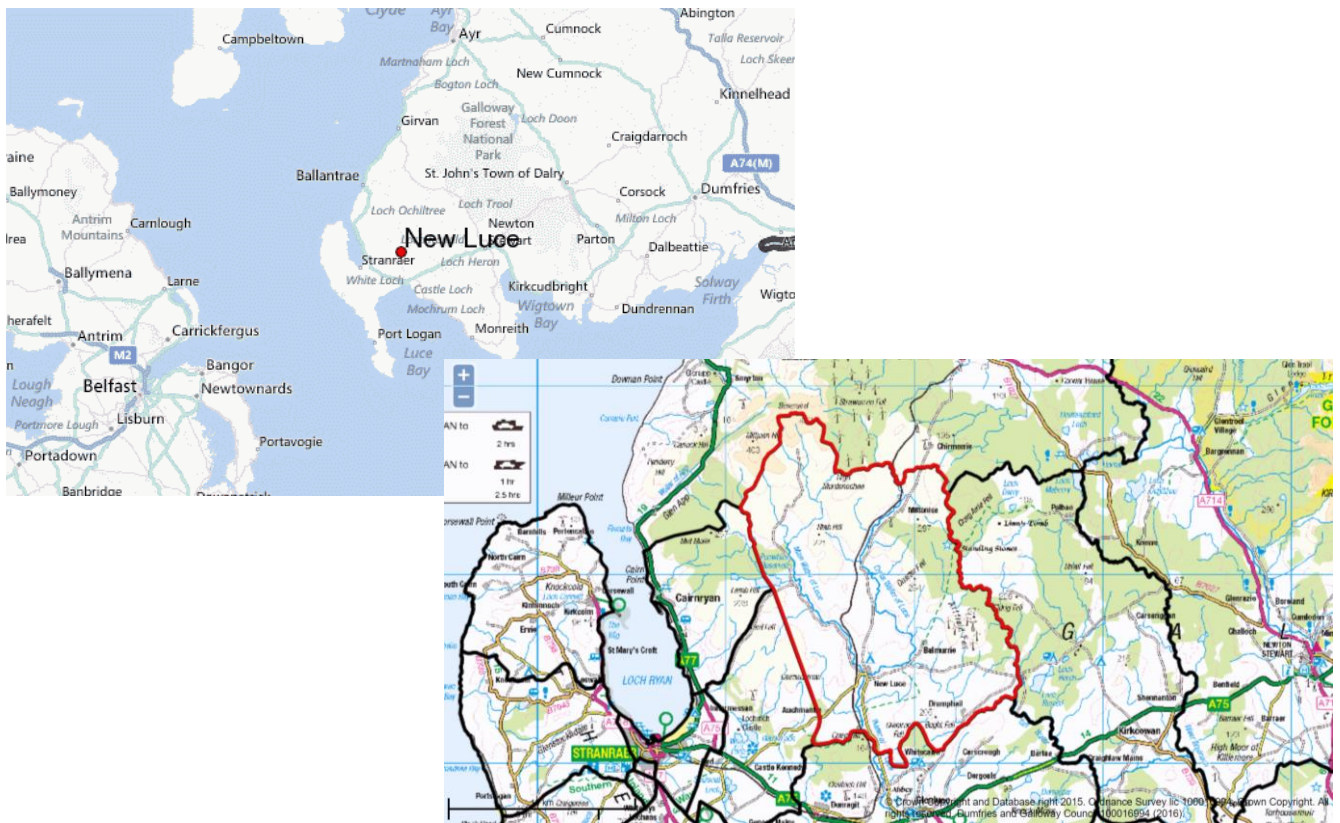
The community council boundary covers a fairly large, sparsely populated area encompassing the Wigtownshire moors. The village enjoys proximity to Cairnryan and the ferry to Belfast.

2.2 Demographics and Statistics

New Luce is a small, fairly isolated community.¹ The size of the community makes it difficult to access detailed statistics – the New Luce Community Council area is only one part of a very large data zone, reaching almost all the way to Newton Stuart (S01007502 – Machars North). The wider area included in the data zone sits in decile 4 of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2016. This places it in the bottom half of Scotland's data zones in terms of income, employment, health, education/skills, housing, geographic access, and crime. Of the 7 domains one key indicator stands out: geographic access. The area falls into the 0-5% most deprived in the country and is ranked only 65th out of 6,505. This indicates that access to services is a serious challenge for local people.

¹ Unless specified, statistics refer to the area within the New Luce community council boundary: 'New Luce area'. Village-specific statistics are included where significantly different from those for the whole area.

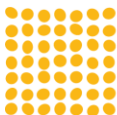




New Luce Community Council Boundary

Summary

 Population	There are 145 people living in the New Luce Area, and 90 living in New Luce Village (Source: ONS Mid-Year Estimates 2014)	 Education & skills	25% of working age people have degree level qualifications in New Luce, compared with 26% across Scotland (Source: Census 2011)
 Vulnerable groups	29% of pensioners are living in poverty in the New Luce area, compared with 20% across Scotland (Source: DWP Feb 2016)	 Economy	24% of working adults are self-employed, compared with 7.5% across Scotland (Source: Census 2011)
 Housing	62% of households are detached, and 9.2% are second homes (Source: Census 2011)	 Access & transport	6% of households have no car, compared with 31% across Scotland (Source: Census 2011)



 Health & wellbeing	24% of people have a limiting long-term illness in New Luce, compared with 20% across Scotland (Source: DWP Feb 2016)	 Access & transport	New Luce is one of the 10% most deprived areas in terms of access (Source: SIMD 2016)
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Population

According to Mid-Year Estimates (ONS, 2014) the population within the New Luce Community Council boundary is 145, with 90 people living in the village itself. The New Luce area has a lower percentage of young people aged 0-15 (14.5%) than levels across Dumfries and Galloway (16%) and Scotland (17%), which indicates the small number of families with young children living in the village.²

The New Luce area has a significant pensioner population. 23.4% of the population is over 65, compared to 18.1% across Scotland and 23.9% across Dumfries and Galloway.³ 28.6% of households are pensioner households.⁴ Local pensioners are more likely to claim pension credits than levels across Scotland indicating relative levels of deprivation (29.4% claim compared to 19.9% across Scotland).⁵

Only 66.9% of the population were born in Scotland (compared to 83.3% across the nation). Of the incoming population, the vast majority are English (30.3%).⁶

Economic Activity

70.8% of adults aged 16-74 are economically active – in line with the Scottish average of 69%. A significant proportion of working adults in the New Luce area are self-employed (24.2%, compared to 7.5% nationally). Unsurprisingly, the largest employment sector is agriculture, forestry and fishing (27% of employees), with Education (13%) and Health & social work (8%) in second and third place.⁷

People in Dumfries and Galloway have significantly lower earnings compared to the Scottish average and this has widened since the recession.⁸ New Luce has relatively high levels of working age benefit claimants – 19.8%, above the Scottish average of 13.7%.⁹ The majority of these claimants are aged 50-64 and suffer a work-limiting illness.¹⁰ New Luce has no inhabitants claiming Job Seekers Allowance benefits in August 2016, and no one had claimed for a period of more than 12 months.¹¹ 8.6% of people (15 people) in the New Luce area claim Disability Living Allowance, compared to 5.7% across Scotland.¹²

² Community Insight citing Mid-Year Estimates (ONS) 2014

³ Community Insight citing Mid-Year Estimates (ONS) 2014

⁴ Census 2011

⁵ Community Insight citing DWP Feb 2016

⁶ Census 2011

⁷ Census 2011

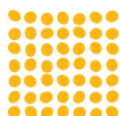
⁸ NOMIS- Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

⁹ Community Insight citing DWP Feb 2016

¹⁰ 58.8% of claimants are aged 50-64. 12.8% of working adults claim for work limiting illness. Community Insight citing DWP Feb 2016

¹¹ Community Insight citing DWP Aug 2016

¹² Community Insight citing DWP Feb 2016



Health

In general, the people of New Luce enjoy relatively good health. Life expectancy is slightly below the average for men (73.8 years) and slightly above for women (82.4 years).¹³

24.1% of people in the New Luce area live with a limiting long-term illness (19.6% across Scotland).¹⁴

Housing

The majority of the population of the area (62.1%) live in detached properties. 50% of homes are owner occupied – below the Scottish average of 62%. The area has higher than average levels of renting with 34.3% rented from a private landlord or letting agency, and a further 12.9% of homes being categorised as 'Other Rented'.¹⁵ This can be accounted for by the large number of tenant farmers in the area.

Houses in the New Luce area are statistically larger than those in the rest of Scotland – 24.3% have 8 or more rooms, compared with 9.6% across the nation. Housing in the area is concentrated in the lower council tax bands, indicating relatively affordable housing.¹⁶

There are only 2 socially rented houses (2.9% of stock), which is far below the Scottish average of 24.3%. Properties in the New Luce area are statistically more likely to lack central heating (7.1% compared to 2.3%), an indication of fuel poverty, but this only refers to 5 houses.¹⁷

There is a high proportion of second homes in the New Luce area (9.2%) compared to the rest of Scotland (1.5%). 10.3% of dwellings (9 houses) lie vacant.¹⁸

Learning

New Luce is a well-educated community. 25.4% of working age people have a degree level qualification, which is in line with levels across Scotland (26.1%), and higher than local authority levels (21.5%). 27.6% of working age people have no formal qualifications (in line with the 26.8% across Scotland).¹⁹

There is one primary school in the area: Glenluce primary school in Glenluce village which has 89 pupils and a nursery school with seven 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.

There are so few school-age children in New Luce that specific statistics about pupil attainment are difficult to come by. Across Wigtownshire, however, school leaver destinations for 2012/2013 show that S1-S6 pupils have a higher number entering higher education than the national average. Fewer pupils enter further education than the national average, and there is no higher education provision in Wigtownshire.

Access

SIMD 2016 statistics ranks the area in the 5% most geographically access deprived areas in Scotland.²⁰ 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 only 3 times a week from New Luce to Stranraer, without enough time in Stranraer to do a huge amount before catching the return bus. A more regular service operates from Glenluce which has several buses a day to Stranraer. 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

¹³ Compared to Men 76.6 years and Women 80.8 years across Scotland. Scottish Public Health Observatory Health and Wellbeing Profiles ('Moors' 2015)

¹⁴ Community Insight citing DWP Feb 2016

¹⁵ Census 2011

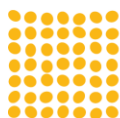
¹⁶ Census 2011

¹⁷ Census 2011

¹⁸ Census 2011

¹⁹ Census 2011

²⁰ SIMD 2016 data zone S01007502 – Machars North



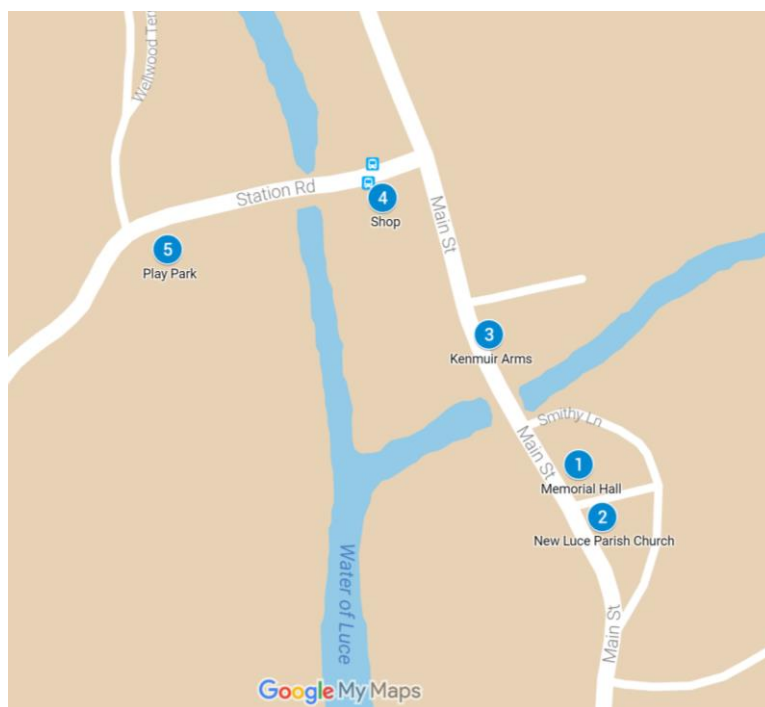
at Dunragit, however, this closed in 1965 as part of Dr Beeching's²¹ reforms; these reforms affected the whole UK rail network and aimed to reduce costs.

Understandably, local people are heavily reliant on cars. Only 5.7% of households in the New Luce area have no car (compared to 30.5% across Scotland), but the population are statistically more likely to own two cars (37.1% compared to 21.6% across Scotland).²²

2.3 Asset Map

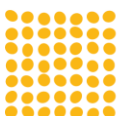
Although New Luce is a small community of only 145 residents (ONS 2014) (defined by the Community Council boundary) with 90 people living in the village itself, the “asset map” below places those “assets” in the village that have been identified in this consultation.

These assets may potentially form the basis of plans and projects to identify community use for buildings that may become the subject of transfer into community ownership.

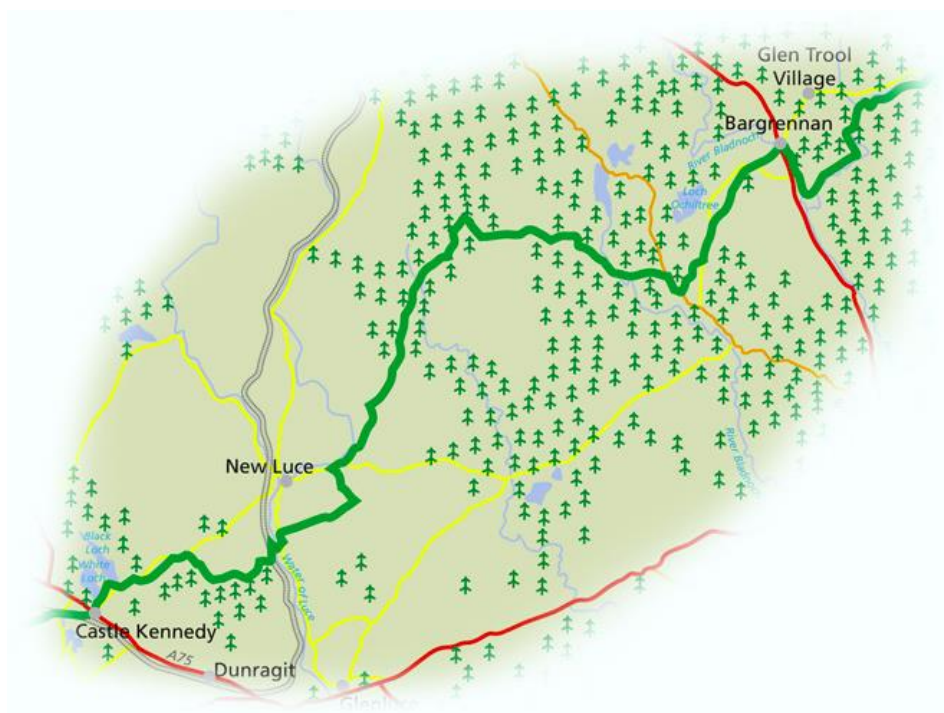


²¹ Dr Beeching's Report on closure of railway stations, 1963

²² Census 2011



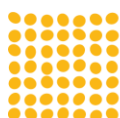
One of the key assets for the New Luce area is the Southern Uplands Way which runs near to New Luce and as will be seen in the consultation, may be one of the assets that could be developed as part of the Community Action Plan:



2.4 Audit of Local Activity

Assets include buildings, people and their skills. An audit of current activity and services provided by community groups, local authority or others for the benefit of community members is shown below:

Organisation	Activity	Number of attendees/members
Welfare Committee	Older people living in the New Luce area; range of activities – talks, walks, social outings; meets in Memorial Hall	40
Pre-school playgroup	Pre-school age children; not a formal group as so few pre-school children in the village and most activity is now in Glenluce but the group works with pre-school parents/children in Glenluce	Up to 3 children
Community Council	Meets in Memorial Hall once a month	7 members
Community Trust	Incorporated organisation established to oversee the management of the community benefit funds; meets in Memorial Hall	60 members; 7 committee members
Badminton Club	Unincorporated group meeting in Memorial Hall; physical activity as well as social group	Up to 10 people; varies week to week
Keep Fit Group	Unincorporated group; mainly women; various activities in Memorial Hall; physical activity as well as social group	Up to 10 people; varies week to week
Shop	Community owned shop; stock is varied and low but focuses on essential items; post office runs from the shop	n/a



Kenmuir Arms	Privately owned pub/hotel; currently for sale; occupancy levels have dropped off recently; bar/restaurant not too busy	n/a
History Club	Unincorporated group of residents with an interest in heritage, covenanters and pilgrim trail; meet on a regular basis; they have a website	
Machars Action	Machars Action is a charity based in Wigtown with remit to support local community organisations as well as providing tourist information about what's on in the whole area, including New Luce	n/a
Glenluce Primary School and Stranraer Academy	The primary school is located in Glenluce, approximately 5 miles from New Luce with 11 children from New Luce attending; high school is in Stranraer where 4 children from New Luce attend	15 children
Memorial Hall Committee	The Hall is council owned and maintained and sits in the centre of New Luce used by a number of community organisations for activities as well as for community social events; small group of local residents maintain the Hall and manage bookings	6

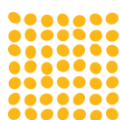
2.5 Community Action Plan for Old Luce

A key consideration for New Luce will be the projects and priorities or needs for neighbouring communities, including Old Luce. Old Luce Community Council undertook a similar Community Action Plan Consultation in December 2015 and from this consultation the main themes that emerged are:

- Connecting People – developing a community hub to provide café, soft play, meeting area, library, local information point and post office
- Enhancing our Natural Environment – developing a tourism plan linked to the Village Improvement Plan; develop foot and cycle paths and upgrade existing paths; provide information on archaeological sites and walks; improve facilities such as MUGA, trampolines, climbing wall and sand pit; outdoor learning plan
- Improving our Built Environment – improvements to flower beds and seating; audit of empty buildings exploring potential for ownership and use (including ideas around bunkhouse, shop, café etc.); youth services including upgrading park; improving parking; affordable housing
- Jobs and Volunteering – develop a Development Trust; volunteer programme; capital project such as developing a community asset; information point (such as Facebook or Newsletter to inform the community); training or employment programmes linked with other projects identified in the CAP such as Community Hub; intergenerational learning opportunities; training people in skills associated with wind farms linking in with further education provision

These priorities should form the basis of future discussion with Old Luce Community Council to determine opportunities for joint working or collaboration on projects that will serve the same client groups and offer similar services or provide similar outcomes.

The Chair of Old Luce Community Council has confirmed they are happy to discuss working in collaboration with New Luce.

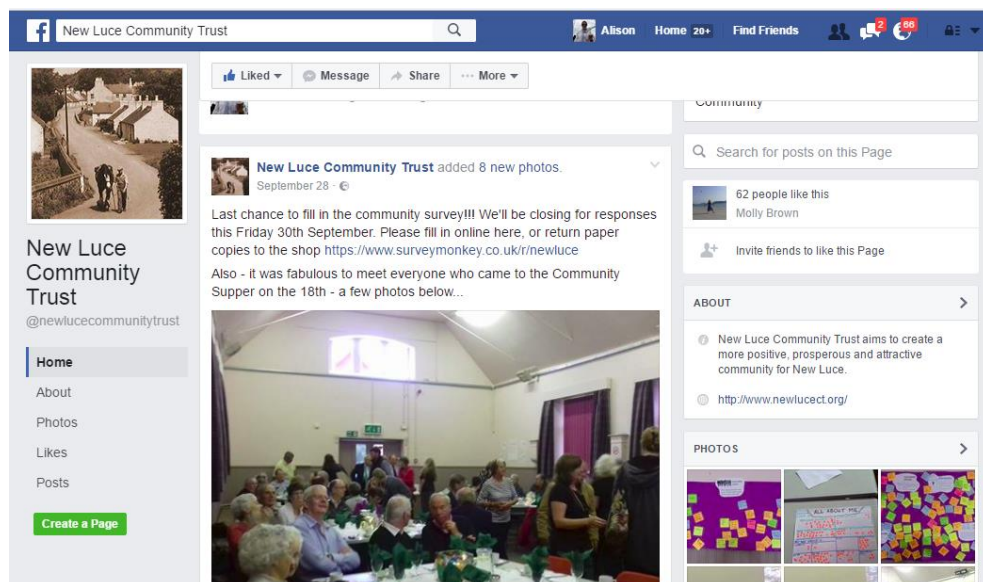


3. Community and Stakeholder Feedback

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, word of mouth, and posters and flyers in the local community.

3.1 Social Media

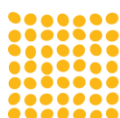
A Facebook page was set up in the name of New Luce Community Trust and has 62 “likes” which in a village of this size is a good level of involvement. The page was set up to establish communication with people living in the area, and to advise them and involve them in the consultation process. This will be a good vehicle for ongoing communications, informing local people of progress with the consultation as well as the resulting projects emerging from their Community Action Plan.



3.2 Public Meeting

A public meeting, a Community Supper, was held on the evening of 18th September. This event was very well attended with over 80 people present. This was a social event, marking the lifetime of the New Luce Parish Church which had its last service that day.

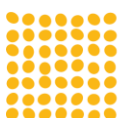
A breakdown of people attending the event showed that 44 were from New Luce or the surrounding area with 13 being from outwith the Parish boundary. 6 were from Glenwhilly. Looking at their age-groups, 25 people were between 25 and 54; 25 were between 55 to 64 and 13 over the age of 65. Only 3 were under the age of 17. Not all those who attended the event took part in the consultation.



People were asked to give their thoughts about what's great about New Luce, what challenges they face and what could be done to improve life. The specific themes – Vibrant New Luce, Our Infrastructure, Our Church and Our Green Spaces – were taken from initial analysis of the surveys.

The main comments received are shown here with the full comments available in Appendix 4 below:

What is great about New Luce?	What challenges do we face?
peaceful	village is too small
green and beautiful	people imposing "city values" on a tiny village
freedom	shooters and fishermen no longer come because of wind farm
rivers/woodlands	need jobs to attract people back
friendly	not enough local work
good for walking	lack of kids
rented homes on farms bringing families here	local jobs
community works well together	affordable houses
the park	transport – 3 buses a week (not suitable for appointments, shopping, work)
conservation status	de-population
no crime here, good place to bring up children	ageing population
	secure long term community space
	isolated but great space to bring up kids
	no mobile phone reception in New Luce
	how to guarantee one mobile phone coverage for the village
	non-existent mobile coverage
	improved facilities for children and young people
	need commitment to take on assets
	lack of young people
	Conservation status – positive as well as negative
	have no travel access to hospitals, services for older folk, day care
	Pub no good, we have to go to Glenluce of a Friday
	lack of skilled labourers e.g. plumbing



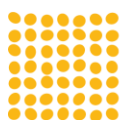
How might we make New Luce an even better place to live/work/visit?
pay council tax for all residents maybe need land to make houses paying electricity bills Southern Uplands Way party event in the hall once a year; community gatherings wind farms - giving money to all individuals in all communities served employment – bringing family here facilities for free wood/logs scholarships for kids – with connection with New Luce funds to help/incentives for upkeep of houses development officer – to make this happen – match funding
Theme 1: Vibrant New Luce
more car parking, more accommodation for holiday lets improved parking at hall/ ease congestion on main street buy more community buying hotel village could buy pub, sustainable? are we ready to take on assets - we don't own hall more live music/folk festivals etc. community buy out of pub we need a place to get together with a bar support local shops and pub toilet facilities to encourage better use of park
Theme 2: Our Infrastructure
upkeep of the roads coming in (verges, walks, planting) concern that railway line disappears bus service badly timed; no chance to shop/have an appointment only 3 x per week – no weekend services if you don't drive you're doomed! pumping sewage – reed beds? Solution? (septic tanks everyone)



more public transport
 faster broadband
 more public transport
 lack of mobile service – discouraging young families
 no mobile phone connection or broadband
 community bus with a paid driver
 too far from doctors
 community bus
 not enough land for a phone mast (say companies)
 we want a phone mast
 helicopter or phone mast
 helicopter (for emergencies)

Theme 3: Our Church

part of pilgrim's way from Glasgow
 Pedens history - St Ninians Pilgrim way – connections with covenanters??
 what about buying the land from the church
 community woodland walking paths
 heritage centre
 youth hostel (walkers)
 keep the church a trust
 IT resource centre
 youth hostel
 let's have a separation between the church and trust
 income generating flexible space – outward bound/heritage
 would a hotel be sustainable? Take money away from hub etc?
 learning – outdoors, accommodation
 bowling lanes for kids – green bowls
 let the church land to farmers
 youth hostel
 museum (church)
 heritage museum
 community buys the church, keep it local



local – within 10 miles?

assist in residence? studio space & accommodation

community to buy church

display area for history club etc. in church. pulpit area kept for private services/musical events

hostel

public building – can community support both in long term or just one?

hotel ensuring it is sustainable

music/folk festivals (bring in visitors)

stop off points on pilgrim way – stop off – heritage centre – hotel

apprenticeships for local young people

community to buy pub

Theme 4: Our Green Spaces

solar panels

rangers – outdoor learning, kids, flora, forest schools

play park for kids – Glenluce

community skip for garden waste

The glebe – will this come up for sale?

fruit trees in any open spaces

cemetery used a lot can we fix pavements

wild flowers and bulbs in verges

cycle path & footpaths – signposting map/leaflet

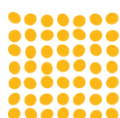
aesthetic up-keep

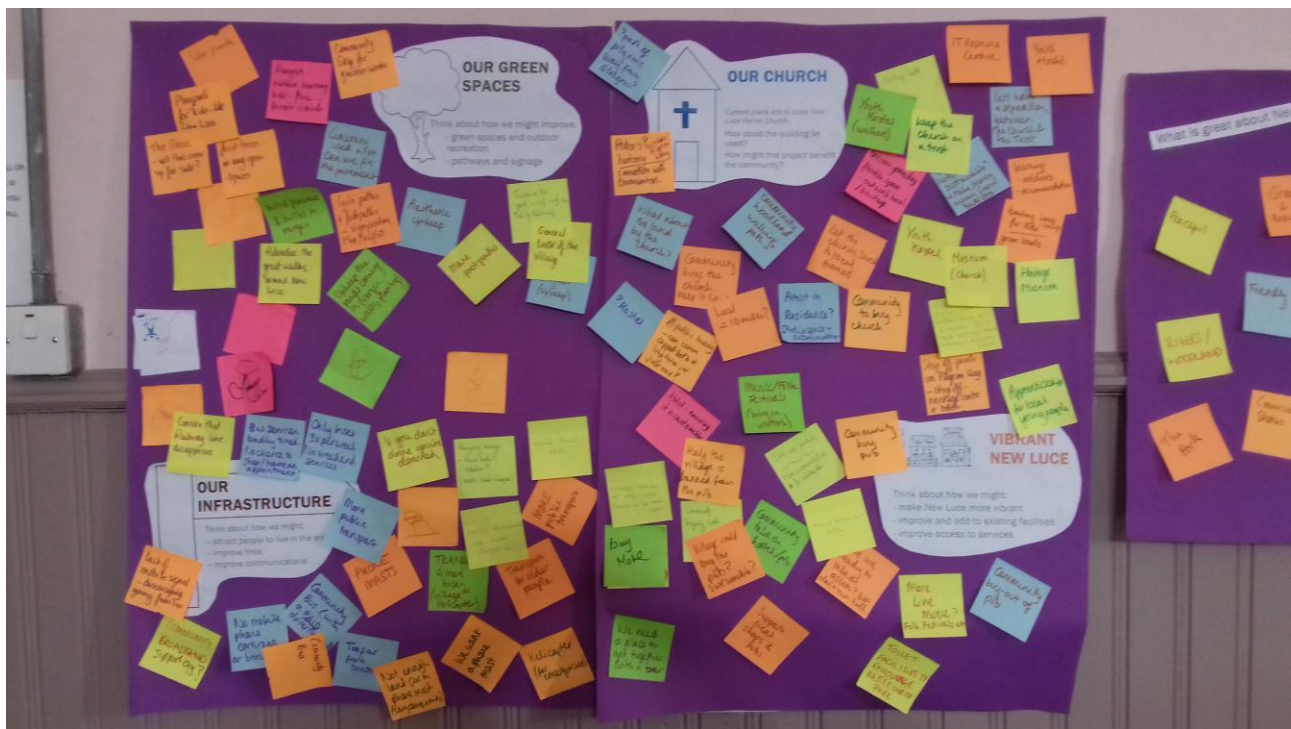
toilets in the park – turf roof – like Mull of Galloway

general look at the village

more footpaths

advertise the great walks around New Luce





Learning from Open Meetings

People clearly value New Luce as being a peaceful and friendly community and have moved there or stayed there for that reason so the challenge will be in ensuring a balance is retained between maintaining the peace and tranquillity whilst encouraging people (young families in particular) to move there, then providing services to ensure people stay there as they get older.

The main themes of Vibrant New Luce, Our Infrastructure, Our Church and Our Green Spaces are strongly supported with most comments and ideas being generated around the Church and how to make the local economy and village in general, more vibrant.

3.3 Surveys

3.3a Community Questionnaire distributed at Turbine Trophy Event

Summary

This short questionnaire was distributed at the Turbine Trophy event. The results of this questionnaire were then fed into designing the questions for the main survey.

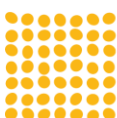
16 people returned completed surveys, all of them lived or worked in New Luce. When asked how they would rate New Luce as a place to Live, Work and Visit, responses were very positive. On average the scores were: Live (9/10), Work (6/10), and Visit (7/10).

When asked what the top three things about New Luce are, the most frequent answers were: community, peaceful, friendly, location, scenery, and walks.

When asked the top three challenges New Luce faces, the most common answers were: lack of mobile signal, poor broadband, public transport, depopulation/ageing population, isolation, parking, and the need for something to attract visitors.

From suggestions of how to invest £50,000 in New Luce the two most common answers were broadband/phone mast and community buy-out of the pub.

Respondents were also asked for suggested uses for the church building. The most common response was heritage centre/museum, followed by affordable housing/flats.



3.3b Main Community Survey distributed on-line

Summary

The survey received 52 responses, representing the views of 75 people. It was predominantly answered by local residents, with only five responses from visitors, and one response from someone who works in the area.

24 respondents lived in New Luce village itself, with a further 14 from the area surrounding New Luce. 7 respondents lived in Glenwhilly. The survey attracted an almost even split of genders and ages –most responses were from people aged 25-44 and 54-64. There were only three responses from those under the age of 24, although we presume that many of the surveys completed on behalf of 4 and 5 people include the views of children.

72% of respondents see themselves still living in the area in ten years' time. Only three answered that they will not be – with one comment stating that this was because of age. 10 people were unsure.

Of the nine responses to the subsequent 'If not, why not' question, the most common were 'Poor Facilities', 'Lack of support as I get older', and 'Lack of services'.

When asked what they most value about New Luce, the majority of people cited the natural environment, friendly people and strong community spirit. Fourth was 'family connections', and fifth 'strong sense of heritage'.

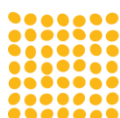
New Luce scored highly as a place to live (8/10), but a less good place to work (4/10), and visit (6/10).

When asked what they would hope to achieve using Community Benefit Funds the most popular answers were 'Make the village more attractive', 'Improve public transport', 'Improve the local economy', and 'Encourage young families to move to the area'.

Of the types of thing that the Community Benefit Funds should support, people were most supportive of 'funding for community capital projects', but only by a small margin. Funds for developing new community initiatives, supporting existing activities, and supporting resident-led projects were all welcomed.

People were then asked to vote on suggestions for projects put forward at a previous public meeting; the most popular suggestions are those in red showing where people "strongly support" more than "support":

- Café – 62.75%
- Shop – 88.63%
- Improved walks and pathways – 72.92%
- Community bus with driver – 84.45%
- Improved heating system for Hall – 78.72%
- Renovation of Hall – 76.5%
- Improved mobile phone reception – 89.36%
- Improved broadband – 84.79%
- Reduced power bills for whole community – 87.5%
- Improved tourism facilities – 76.09%
- Develop a New Luce Heritage Centre – 71.1%



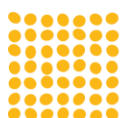
60% of respondents take part in some form of community activity, many in the Welfare Club. 19 people are interested in being involved in more local activities. 12 people are interested in volunteering with the Trust, and 36 are keen to be kept informed of progress.

Learning from Surveys

Considering the size of the New Luce population the response from the surveys was good suggesting support for the consultation and projects that will improve the community as a place to live, work or visit. Most people want to stay in New Luce but one of the barriers appears to be that it is not perceived to be a great place for older people, perhaps due to limited transport and local services supporting older people.

The most popular project ideas centre around support for improved mobile phone reception; support for the shop (albeit suggested improvements do need to be made); improved broadband; reduced power bills for the community; community bus with driver. When asked about specific uses for the Church building which is now empty, those who completed the survey suggested it should be used for a heritage centre.

The two surveys are similar in their results, however one suggestion arose from the survey completed at the “community event” which is to have a community buy-out of the pub.



3.4 Focus Groups

Groups we spoke to

- Pupils living in New Luce or surrounding area, from Glenluce Primary School (11 pupils)
- Older pupils at Stranraer High School, living in New Luce and the surrounding area (4 pupils)
- Welfare Committee (3 ladies)
- Tourists (2 people)

Comments from Focus Groups

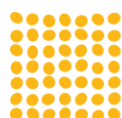
The following are the main comments received from the Focus Group conversations (all comments are shown in the Appendices below). The comments represent different age groups – children, teenagers and older people:

What is Great about New Luce?	What could be improved?
It's beautiful	Horse riding club x 3
The shop (x 6 children)	Swimming club/pool x 3
Duck pond	Park could have a Climbing wall (x 3); ramps; slides; bouncy pillow (x2); swings; basket swing (x 2); monkey bars (x 2); sand pit
Very small and happy	Water park (x 2); water fountain (x 2)
Very friendly	Statue
Park (x 8 children)	Segway club x 2
Friends near me	Nets and goals x 2
It is safe and quiet (x 2 children)	Concert stage and microphone
No cars parking	Skate board park x2
It's safe and quiet	Zoo, petting zoo
Best hills for bikes	Gymnastics place
Turbine Trophy Games	Yoga place
Creative industry is "on the up in D&G"	Mini concrete for scooters, bikes and heelies
Covenanters – projects to bring tourists into NL	More clubs
	We need a phone mast to boost the signals (it's non-existent!)
	Need a bus in the evenings and at weekends to take us into Stranraer and Glen Luce
	We'd like more job opportunities in New Luce – limited with only the pub and shop
	Want a better park
	Want goals and nets in the park



	Think the church would be good location for a café encouraging walkers into the village Improved road signage into New Luce – difficult to find it Improved broadband/mobile reception Shop should be open longer Need more information on what's on around the Village Need better transport links – older people who don't drive struggle to get to medical appointments or shopping Need a nicer pub and one that does social events A bowling green?
How can New Luce retain or attract young families into the area?	
Need reliable broadband and mobile reception – young folk want and need this now; also a pull for visitors and tourists (lack of it may discourage tourists coming here from spending any length of time here) Job opportunities	
How could funds be spent – ideas for specific projects?	
Mobile phone/broadband mast? Some kind of community initiative? Improvements to the Park – ideas given above to meet “wants” of young children and teenagers The Church – could a community café be opened there? Community transport scheme or car-sharing scheme The Church could be turned into a “heritage centre” with shop, café, museum/exhibition space – look at Whithorn St Ninians Heritage Trail and Ardwell Church as local examples of similar projects The Shop – shop needs to be open longer and needs better stock BUT we know it doesn't get well-used Could the Shop be rented out as an “airbnb” property – holiday rentals? Could we landscape the area opposite the shop Organise taxis to take people to the doctor Clear the curling Loch and path leading to it – make it more attractive to go to; make it more of a destination? What more could we do to link us to Glenluce? Could the community art project be developed; make more of these assets and encouraging walkers into our outdoors – map of the artwork? Better road signage (to find New Luce)	

Learning from Focus Groups



The comments from the focus groups suggest needs that are shared across the age-groups such as improved broadband and mobile reception and improved transport in particular.

All age-groups are keen to see more people in New Luce - walking, cycling or staying. Linking projects such as improved telecoms, transport and improvements to the Park will potentially secure more visitors and may retain or attract more families into New Luce.

3.5 Stakeholder Conversations

List of stakeholders

We spoke to the following members of the local community:

Councillor McClung

Councillor Tuckfield

Lord Stair

Jak Kane, Machar Action

Ross Gemmel, Ranger Services, D&G Council

Third Sector Interface, Dumfries

Laura Mitchell, representative from parents of pre-school age children

Mary Hannay, representative from Keep Fit Group

Andrew, New Luce Shop

James Parker, Dumfries & Galloway Economic Development

Dougie Taylor (plus 4 others), Farmers group

Neale McQuiston, Community Council

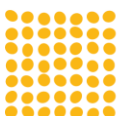
Alan Mitchell, Badminton Group

Main comments from stakeholders

All comments can be found in Appendix 3, summarised below are the main points raised:

Main Assets

- Southern Upland Way
- Core paths
- peace and quiet
- Woodlands
- Village Hall
- Good schools
- Good holiday location



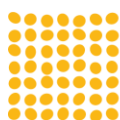
- Community owned shop
- The Trust
- If you drive, we're not far away from main road to Stranraer (for commuting)
- Walkways and cycle ways
- Wildlife – otters, red kite, red squirrels
- Fishing on the local rivers – need licences/permission but this could/does bring people in
- Sheep dog Trials
- Local farmland

How can assets be built upon?

- Make New Luce a good place to stop
- Need more to do on “bad weather days”
- Train station is there but trains don't stop at New Luce – could this be changed?
- How can we develop the parks? – water points and a public toilet; space for artists and festivals (landowner supportive of public art)
- Day Walks (from Southern Uplands Way)
- Linking SUW into New Luce
- D&G Council can help to upgrade “core paths” – could be working in partnership with community on larger way-marking projects to improve path provision (linking to New Luce) – opportunity to mark new core paths (which would then become D&G responsibility to maintain them if they agree to adopt them as core paths); opportunity to mark new core paths onto maps and send them into D&G Council Ranger Department (FAO Brian Scott, Access Team Leader)

What are the main Challenges for New Luce?

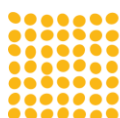
- Unreliable broadband – affecting our ability to attract younger families here as well as those who want to work from home
- Poor mobile reception and BT looking to audit existing BT phone boxes in area to reduce numbers
- Lack of holiday homes
- The pub could be more of a community asset; could make money on rooms but perhaps not in bar/restaurant
- Rural fuel poverty is an issue
- Low number of children (but hope that money will be spent on Park and toilets in park)
- Lack of transport for older people and teenagers
- Loss of focus for the community with the church closing
- Small number of clubs or community organisations



- Glenluce, Kirkcowan and New Luce are “divorced” – could work better together
- Volunteers running the Trust and most people working
- Ongoing and increased reductions in funding from Council putting greater pressure on transport and public services; also concern at GP services and difficulty in recruiting GPs in rural communities
- There aren’t enough services or things to do for young folk but there aren’t enough young folk to justify a lot of spend in this area
- Commercial forestry and the restriction this might place upon plans to develop walkways and cycle ways in the area
- The shop is not used well; people complain and so don’t use it; it closes early and often when walkers arrive in the village the shop is closed
- Rivers will get in the way of making more of walks in the area – making a circular walk for instance (2 rivers in the way)
- People aren’t coming to New Luce because of the wind farms
- Heavy reliance on volunteers – need to employ someone to develop projects
- There are a number of community groups but difficulty in maintaining attendance numbers

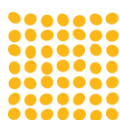
How can community wind farm funds benefit the whole community?

- Opportunities presented by Kirkcowan and Glenluce development plans which will benefit all three communities and won’t be reliant on the wind farm monies
- Collaborative projects between the three communities
- Need to ensure clear “rules” on how money can be spent, on what and who would benefit – i.e. should individuals and/or groups benefit?
- Need to consider the future of the Memorial Hall and how that fits within the overall development plan for New Luce – how can this space be used alongside potential space in the Church?
- Use funds to train community groups, committees and boards to ensure they can manage assets and projects in the long term
- More information on initiatives such as Food Train (supporting older folk in D&G with shopping and odd jobs)
- How can local tenant farmers benefit or be included in community benefit funds?



Particular projects being a good use of community benefit funds?

- Community transport scheme – a taxi service for doctor’s appointments or shopping?
- Buy empty houses to make into social housing for young families
- Investment on outside of houses – within confines of “listed building regulations” – improving heat efficiency of houses
- Tank gas and buying in bulk would be cheaper for all?
- Communal sewage tanks
- Re-instate ice rink
- Need to employ a Development Worker to raise funds and manage projects
- Phone mast – capital project – or satellite broadband initiative
- Make more of the Hotel/Pub – accommodation for walkers along Southern Upland Way (like House on the Hill, Glentrool); offering lifts to pick up and drop off walkers along SUW keeping people based in New Luce
- Divert the Southern Uplands Way pathway into New Luce (about 1 mile) bringing people into the Village? If this affects land held on the Stair Estate, Lord Stair is happy to discuss this further
- Camouflage for wind turbines
- Incentive to encourage people to live in New Luce who are working in Stranraer or surrounding area?
- Develop the Curling Pond as a wildlife and/or wetlands spot – attracting school visits and tourists with Red Squirrel Gymnasium
- Outdoor Gym – perhaps linked with walkway development
- Monthly events such as pub quiz or open mic. nights – drawing people in and encouraging social events
- Paying people’s Council Tax
- Apprenticeships – getting young workers onto farms
- Ensure projects are long term and not just for duration of the wind farm development
- Winter fuel allowance – support for locals in the winter towards fuel bills
- Walks that are more accessible – pushchairs/buggies
- Grants for home improvements including double glazing, roof repairs etc (benefit both tenants and landlord)
- Hotel being encouraged to “pick up and drop off” walkers from predetermined points on the SUW



Uses for the Church?

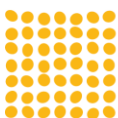
- Make it wind and water-tight
- Consider costs to run this type of building (Glenluce Hall costs £18,000 per annum)
- Need a dedicated committee to fundraise and manage this asset
- Acoustics in the memorial Hall aren't great so the Church could be used more as a music, performance venue
- Community weddings (clarify whether ceremonies could be performed? See Crichton Church in Dumfries)
- Cinema space in Memorial Hall and Bunkhouse accommodation in the Church? But make sure space use doesn't compete
- Tea room (but this might be hard to sustain year-round)
- Social housing or private flats
- Sheltered housing
- We don't need any more community space as the Hall is currently under-used
- Small Hydro plant with Visitor Centre (linked to outdoor learning and wildlife spots?)
- Perhaps not full time heritage centre but an element of local heritage could be housed in the Church (or the Hall?)
- School visits to wind farm, educational opportunities – could this be incorporated into the Hall or Church developments; would definitely attract school groups/visits
- Improve the Park
- Science Hub; forest school – outdoor learning
- Heritage space – Celebrating links with Peden; Covenanters; (St Ninian's heritage)

Learning from Stakeholder Conversations

A number of stakeholders were engaged representing Council officers, elected officials, members of the local community, community groups, the land owner and local farmers.

The main points raised were about bringing people (holiday makers, walkers, cyclists) into New Luce and improving provision of broadband, mobile and transport. Stakeholders were keen to provide more community, outdoor activities, outdoor learning opportunities or social events by making use of the Hall and the Church but not at the expense of existing activity or by introducing projects that will compete with each other. There is also opportunity and an interest in ensuring that the three communities of New Luce, Glenluce and Kirkcowan work together to identify joint projects both from the use of the "joint" funds but also by "investing" individual wind farm development funds together to benefit all communities – the broadband/mobile project could be a good example of such a collaborative project.

There is appetite from the local land owner (Stair Estates) to be involved in discussions and to help in whatever way they can. There is also potential to work with Dumfries & Galloway Ranger Service and Access Team to mark new core paths as part of an overall paths development project.



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 New Luce and the surrounding area for the future.

The themes are detailed below, together with the rationale behind them and considerations for the community's action plan.

Theme – Vibrant New Luce

New Luce is a small community made up of the village itself, Glenwhilly and the surrounding area including a number of farms. This is a mixed population but with few young families or children. The community has the use of a Council-run Hall (the Memorial Hall), the New Luce Parish Church has recently shut and the local hotel, Kenmuir Arms is currently up for sale. There is one shop in New Luce (this is community-owned and run) but it has limited stock.

One of the challenges facing New Luce is retaining young families living in the area, working locally and using local services, providing job opportunities (even holiday jobs) for young people growing up in New Luce. So how can New Luce's economy become more vibrant?

Throughout the consultation, the community has expressed interest in determining the feasibility of taking over the church and/or the pub as a community asset. The aim would be to provide services which will help to attract visitors and tourists, providing space for a range of services, and to become a sustainable business both attracting funding and earning income through paid for services.

This will bring money into the local economy, providing much needed paid employment and also volunteering and training opportunities.

Suggested Projects

Improving our Local Shop

Providing holiday accommodation

Offering apprenticeships on local farms

Provide more job opportunities for young people

Develop a Café

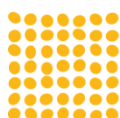
Heritage space/museum

Craft Shop

Youth hostel

Affordable housing

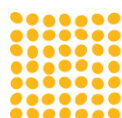
Community cinema



Evidence	
Community Profile	• 25% of population are educated to degree level • 24% of working age adults are self-employed • 23.4% of the population is over the age of 65 • 70.8% of adults are economically active but 19.8% of population claim a benefit, mainly older adults with a work-limiting illness • 66.9% of the population were born in Scotland with a high number of incomers – of the incomers 30.3% are English showing that New Luce, like the rest of Dumfries & Galloway, is a draw to retired incomers • Tourism is a key contributor to the economy of Dumfries & Galloway
Open meeting	• 35% of comments (more than any other subject under “Vibrant New Luce” theme) at the meeting suggested or supported the idea of a community buy-out of the Kenmuir Arms • 22% of comments suggest the “want” for a place to meet and socialise (mentioning a pub); people feel that the hotel doesn’t serve the community as well as it should or could • Caution expressed about ability to take on community assets, making them sustainable in the long term • General comments on how to attract visitors to the area; linked with provision of services or spaces for people to use, including accommodation, once they are in New Luce • Need for parking and public toilets was expressed (2 comments out of 18 comments in total) • Improving our Community shop; ensuring best use of Kenmuir Arms • Encouraging more people to visit New Luce – making better use of the Memorial Hall with social events and community or sports events; considering use of the Church space to develop into a community café, heritage hub and venue for music or performance venues such as open-mic nights
Survey	• People rate New Luce as 8/10 (19%), 9/10 (37%) and 10/10 (44%) as a place to live • De-population and lack of things for tourists to do are the top challenges shown in the face to face survey • People like New Luce because it’s peaceful, friendly, sense of community • 88.6% support the idea of a shop in New Luce



	• 76% state the need for better tourism facilities • 76.5% said they support the renovation of the Hall
Focus Groups	We spoke to 17 people in the focus groups, but most of these were under the age of 11 (11 out of 17). The suggestions raised at focus groups therefore are heavily bias towards services for children, but did include mention of: • More clubs • More job opportunities • Attracting more visitors to come to New Luce (with more reliable broadband and mobile reception) • Develop better links with Glenluce • Use of the shop – how to get it open for longer OR • Whether the shop could be sold as a “holiday let”
Stakeholders	• Stakeholders consider the key assets to be the community owned shop, the village hall and its being good holiday location • Determining how, if the church is considered, two community buildings will work best for New Luce • Making more of the pub and how this can assist in bringing more people to New Luce (walkers, cyclists) • Some suggestions from stakeholders as well as those in the public meeting suggest monies to be spent on assisting householders pay for Council Tax and fuel bills; or on grants for home improvements, particularly on listed buildings – thereby increasing their disposable income • There is a need to find things to do on “bad weather days” • Some of the key challenges seen by stakeholders include lack of holiday homes; the pub is not especially active • Ideas about making the community more vibrant are linked to use of space in the Hall and potentially the church, but stakeholders all felt more community and social events held regularly will help with this • Offering apprenticeships encouraging young people to work on local farms
Considerations • Asset transfer – confirm whether buildings (the Church and the pub/hotel) will be made available for asset transfer and clarify conditions of any agreement • Increased competition for funding – over-subscribed Big Lottery Community Assets Programme and a long difficult application process – making it time and labour intensive to match fund for larger capital projects	



- Sustainability - projects and ability to generate an income to maintain the building going forward; need to refurbish and bring building(s) back to “fit for purpose” state – roof and damp problems etc. The costs that will need covered will include maintenance of the building, contingency for ongoing repairs; staffing and overheads; stock (where appropriate)
- Training needs - key to success will be supporting volunteers and staff involved in projects with ongoing training to ensure they operate effectively and have the support required to sit on a Board providing strong governance or to manage projects
- Long term aims - all projects should be judged on how they will become and remain sustainable, not just for the lifetime of the wind farms
- Recommend that a full feasibility study or options appraisal is conducted looking at both the Church and the pub/hotel (if both are available) to determine how these buildings can become sustainable community assets, how space will be used, income streams and associated costs for long term development, ensuring projects are “of community benefit”
- There is a need to employ a Development Officer to run projects and to fundraise – this role would work alongside a voluntary committee/board

Case Studies

- Eskdalemuir Primary School
- St Brides Community Centre, Douglas, South Lanarkshire

Theme – Our Infrastructure

New Luce is located 6 miles from the nearest village of Glenluce and 9 miles from Stranraer; it also sits within a small valley. This affects the reliability of broadband and mobile phone reception which has an impact on people living in New Luce who want to use broadband or mobile reception to work from home, or for young people using it to communicate with friends. We note that Broadband is due to be in the area in January 2017.

The community has a large number of older people and although a large proportion (94%) of people drive cars, the community is deemed to be within the top 5% of access deprived communities in Scotland. This lack of access to services due to location impacts most upon older people.

These infrastructure issues have resulted in de-population as younger people leave New Luce for higher education; people cannot get jobs in the area due to a less than vibrant economy and older people cannot easily access services due to lack of public transport.

Suggested Projects

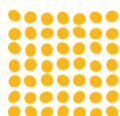
Community broadband initiative

Explore options for a phone mast

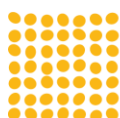
Services/support for older people

Community transport initiative

Improve road signage



Bulk buying of fuel Communal sewage tanks Winter fuel allowance Funding for home improvements	
Evidence	
Community profile	• 6% of households have no car (suggesting small need for transport for older people and teenagers); it's a 90-minute drive to the nearest hospital and the nearest supermarket is 20 minutes away in Stranraer • Dumfries & Galloway has highest rates of home care provision in Scotland • Bus service into Stranraer operates 3 times per week – more regular buses from Glenluce into Stranraer • 24% of the population have limiting long term illnesses • New Luce is within the top 5% of access deprived communities in Scotland • 23.5% of the population is over the age of 65 with 28% of households being pensioner households • A higher than average proportion of the population is self-employed at 24% (compared with 7.5% nationally)
Open meeting	• 43% of comments asking for improved broadband and mobile phone services • 38% of comments suggest need for improved transport, particularly for older people
Survey	• 89.3% say there is a need for better mobile phone reception • 84.79% need improved broadband • 84.4% of people support the idea of a community bus with driver • Survey suggests people think the lack of mobile signal, poor broadband, depopulation, and parking are the top priorities or challenges for the area • Lack of support or services for older people; poor facilities and lack of public transport are given as a top challenge in the on-line survey • A community transport initiative could be developed • Improving public transport was the second most popular answer when asked what can be achieved using community benefit funds
Focus Groups	The number of people involved in focus groups provide a heavy bias towards services for children (11 children out of 19 people in total represented by focus groups), and suggestions included mainly transport and mobile reception (mentioned by 23% of those we spoke to): • Transport - lack of bus services affects young people and older people mainly (represented in the focus groups we spoke to); also suggest that a community initiative focus on supporting older people for medical appointments and shopping



	• Poor (road) signage • Unreliable broadband and mobile phone reception – in particular improving this this would help to attract and retain young families in New Luce as well as potentially encouraging a higher number of visitors/tourists staying in New Luce
Stakeholders	• Among the key challenges are unreliable broadband, limited phone reception, lack of transport (bus service) • All stakeholders we spoke to said that improving broadband and mobile telecoms is a project that wind farm monies should be spent on – ideas include a phone mast, or satellite broadband initiative • Suggestions by a number of stakeholders to reduce costs for householders include bulk buying of fuel, communal sewage tanks, winter fuel allowance, and home improvements such as double glazing • An idea not shared by all stakeholders included buying empty houses and using them for social housing to attract young families to New Luce
Considerations • This will be a long term, large capital project • Relies upon working with suppliers such as BT and partners including landowners • Extensive research will be required into different options for provision of broadband and mobile reception using a variety of technologies; feasibility study and pilot project required • Full technical review outlining technologies, area, costs, partners. This would be followed by a full Business Plan to secure funding, planning permission and build. • Recommend that the group follows up case studies to discuss projects and arrange site visits, particularly focusing on the costs and timescale involved • Adopt a phased approach to development in line with plans for fibre-optic broadband	
Case Studies • Ullapool Community Broadband initiative - Ullapool Community Trust working with Highland Community Broadband	
Theme – Our Church The New Luce Parish Church has been the centre of the community since 1647 and has strong heritage links to Peden and the Covenanters movement of Scotland. This heritage is seen by many in New Luce as an opportunity for the community to take on this asset, and run it using some of its space for heritage projects. There appears to be strong support for taking on the asset but this does need to be considered alongside the existence and future of the Memorial Hall currently owned and managed by Dumfries & Galloway Council.	



A variety of activities within heritage, education, arts and crafts and social events including weddings is being suggested.

Suggested Projects

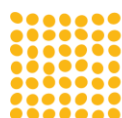
Community buy-out of Church

Community buy-out of Kenmuir Arms

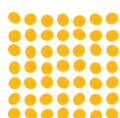
Renovation of Memorial Hall

Evidence

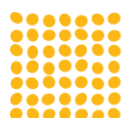
Community profile	• 70.8% of the population are economically active • 24.2% are self employed • New Luce is within the top 5% of access deprived communities in Scotland
Open meeting	• 25% of comments from the open meeting suggest the church could be used as a heritage space, with emphasis on Pilgrims Way and Covenanters • 14% suggest making the church into youth hostel space • Other suggestions include recreational space, including links to outdoor space and learning opportunities
Survey	• 62.75% of survey respondents say they support the idea of a café in New Luce • Resident-led projects and funding capital projects were strongly supported when asked about how best to use community benefit funds • There is some concern at buying the church (only 10% of responses) • Ideas for the church centre on heritage, arts & crafts space, meeting place (café), youth hostel • 76.5% of those who responded said they support the idea of renovation of the Hall (this support might suggest competition for development of the Church?)
Focus Groups	• Café in the church • Heritage space – including space for exhibitions and museum space
Stakeholders	• There is concern with taking on a community asset whilst the Memorial Hall is seen to be “under-used” • Need to form a dedicated committee to fundraise and manage this type of building • The committee needs to consider the overall annual costs to maintain this • The most popular uses of space include music and performance venue, social events including weddings, heritage space, cinema space, bunkhouse accommodation, tea room or café • Heritage space could focus on local points of interest including the Pilgrim Trail and the Covenanters links



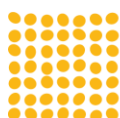
	Other uses for the church have included social housing or sheltered housing
Considerations Full feasibility study carried out to determine best use of the church	
Case Studies - St Ninians Heritage Trail, Whithorn - Ardwell Church - White Church, Comrie	
Theme – Our Green Spaces	
The natural environment around New Luce is seen as a key asset on which to build other projects, bringing walkers and cyclists into the New Luce area as well as looking at how to make stronger links with the Southern Upland Way. Through stakeholder conversations potential partners have been identified including Stair Estates and Dumfries & Galloway Council. Projects and the ability to encourage more visitors to New Luce will depend upon other projects as identified under previous themes in this report. The natural environment will add value to these projects and is seen as being the key in encouraging people into New Luce.	
Suggested Projects Make links with Southern Upland Way Bring walkers and cyclists into New Luce Develop our walkways and cycle paths Improve the playpark Improve the look of our village Improve our woodlands Forest schools and outdoor learning Solar panels on houses Upkeep of cemetery Communal skip – garden waste Make use of old Curling Loch Hydro plant	



Evidence	
Community profile	• Only 14.5% of population is aged under 15 • Largest employment sector is agriculture and forestry and fishing (27% of the working age population) • People of New Luce enjoy relatively good health
Open meeting	Range of ideas given; the area with the most support being: • Developing our walkways and cycle routes (18%) • Improving the aesthetic look of the village (11%) Other ideas include: • incorporating local woodland art • solar panels • encouraging people out into the outdoors • forest schools and outdoor learning opportunities • improving and extending links with the Southern Upland Way • community skip for garden waste • upkeep of the cemetery
Survey	• 72.98% of people want to see improved pathways and walks • People like New Luce because of its scenery, location and walks • The natural environment is cited as one of the things most valued about the community • Responses to the survey suggest improving the look of the village – pavements and walls, better signage
Focus Groups	The number of people involved in focus groups provide a heavy bias towards services for children (11 children out of 19 in total represented by focus groups), and suggestions included mainly transport and mobile reception (mentioned by 23% of those we spoke to). Ideas focus on: • use of outdoor space in particular including improvements to the park and provision of more clubs • community arts project developed to pull people outdoors; engaging walkers/cyclists with art • making use of the curling loch



Stakeholders	Stakeholders suggest that the outdoors is a particular asset for the community and in particular wildlife including otters, red kite, red squirrels; walk and cycle ways; fishing on the local river; Southern Uplands Way; and woodlands. Stakeholders are keen to build on the potential that the Southern Upland Way offers and there is an offer to assist where possible by the Ranger Service at Dumfries & Galloway Council. The local landowner has also said he would be happy to have discussions about how path networks could be improved and also about how to link New Luce better to the SUW if this crosses the Stair Estate land. Particular ideas include: • Making use of the curling loch – potentially as a wildlife or wetlands centre which could be used for outdoor learning opportunities • Diverting the Southern Uplands Way closer to New Luce or identify ways in which the hotel and accommodation providers can make it easier for walkers to come to New Luce • Encouraging people to enjoy the outdoors – outdoor gym • One stakeholder suggested a hydro plant would make good use of natural resources • Making best use of the outdoors as a learning environment and harnessing the potential of wind farms to focus learning on renewables; science hub and forest schools
Considerations • Identifying potential “new” core paths may be a way of linking the Southern Upland Way to New Luce • Working with accommodation providers, particularly the Kenmuir Arms new owners, will provide opportunities to deliver a bespoke service picking up and dropping off walkers • Local volunteers or groups will be able to run smaller projects supporting the idea of developing the path network. These smaller short term projects could focus on improving the paths with ideas including introducing local artworks similar to those already provided in the New Luce woodlands around the village	
Case Studies • Seven Lochs Wetlands Park – Vision and Masterplan outlining their plans for future developments (set in an urban parkland setting)	

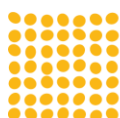


5. Voting on Priorities

The final meeting for New Luce was held on Monday 12th December in the Memorial Hall.

Forty four local people of all ages – including children and young people – attended the meeting. There was a short presentation on the key findings from the research before people were asked to vote on their own priorities for projects that could be delivered as part of the Community Action Plan. Every person was given six votes. The results are as follows:

Vibrant New Luce	Our Infrastructure	Our Green Spaces	Our Places
Improving our local shop (2)	Community broadband initiative (15)	Make links with Southern Upland Way (1)	Community buy-out of Church (23)
Provide holiday accommodation (0)	Explore options for a phone mast (40)	Bring walkers and cyclists into New Luce (0)	Community buy-out of Kenmuir Arms (34)
Offering apprenticeships (on local farms) (4)	Services/support for older people (1)	Develop our walkways and cycle paths (10)	Renovation of Memorial Hall (7)
Provide more job opportunities for young folk (14)	Community transport initiative (11)	Improve the play park (40)	
Develop a Café (8)	Improve road signage (0)	Improve the look of our village (0)	
Heritage space/museum (6)	Bulk buying of fuel (3)	Improve our woodlands (1)	
Craft shop (0)	Communal sewage tanks (0)	Forest schools and outdoor learning (1)	
Youth hostel (0)	Winter fuel allowance (13)	Solar panels on houses (0)	
Affordable housing (0)	Funding for home improvements (0)	Upkeep of cemetery (1)	
Community Cinema (7)		Communal skip – garden waste (0)	
		Make use of old Curling Loch (16)	
		Hydro plant (10)	

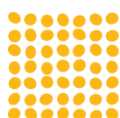


It is recognised that some of the projects identified for voting as presented to the final public meeting received fewer votes than would have been expected, when reviewing findings from the research conducted in open meetings, the survey, stakeholder conversations and focus groups.

Taking all of the research into consideration, the projects that the Trust will focus on in the Community Action Plan are as follows:

Project Title	Needs Addressed
Community Broadband Initiative	Improve communications; improve connectivity; provide reliable broadband for residents and businesses;
Mobile Phone Mast	Improve connectivity; making New Luce a destination for local walkers, holiday makers; ensuring access to emergency services for the whole community
Community Transport Initiative	Provide older people's services – supporting older people in their own homes; provide young people's services; encourage more families to live/stay in New Luce; provide transportation for medical appointments and shopping/leisure trips
Greenspaces	Make New Luce a destination for local walkers, providing outdoor space; improving connections with Southern Uplands Way; connecting New Luce with neighbouring communities by walkways; tidying up woodlands and making better use of greenspaces; encouraging outdoor play; maintaining the natural environment; celebrating local heritage; improve the playpark providing fit for purpose and a safe play environment for local children
Underused buildings	Making New Luce a destination for local walkers and visitors; celebrating local heritage; making use of empty buildings; providing community services for all in the community; providing space for social activities (reducing social isolation); providing space for exhibitions; making better use of community spaces for sports and activities; providing space for meeting up; encouraging more social activities for the whole community; maintaining local heritage (church in particular); supporting local micro-enterprises (providing space potentially); providing older people's services/activities;
Winter fuel allowance	Ensuring fuel poverty doesn't become an issue affecting New Luce; supporting older people in their own homes;

The photos taken which will be used in the Community Action Plan have been taken by local photographer, Adam Lee.



6. Next Steps

These emerging themes should form the basis of future discussion with New Luce Community Trust. These discussions should aim to:

- prioritise those projects deemed by the Community Trust to be of most community benefit
- determine opportunities for joint working or collaboration on projects
- determine key tasks, responsible people or groups and milestones for projects
- allocate projects into short (up to 5 years) medium (5 to 10 years), and long term priorities (10 to 15 years)
- draft a design for a Community Action Plan
- distribute this information to the whole community
- enter into tendering process for feasibility studies to determine demand and services to be offered under each of the capital projects
- secure funding for, and employ a Development Officer to manage the CAP

