

Making Place Conference Glasgow

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Networks and plans: SCDC's place work
2017-present

Welcome

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Outline

- Background: SCDC and place approaches
- Examples
- Reflections

Some key points

- **A mixed picture**
- **Tools and short interventions (such as I describe) are important...**
- **Long term capacity building support is key**

SCDC and place approaches

Supporting communities:

- Community-led action planning
- Place based work in collaboration with local and national partners (community networks of various kinds)

SCDC and place approaches – Community-led action planning

Community-led action planning: building the capacity of community anchor organisations

- Support effective community engagement
- Develop, implement or review community action plans
- Link into other planning processes e.g. spatial planning, community planning, and health and social care planning.
- Support links to other community capacity builders

SCDC and place approaches – Community-led action planning

- Island of Hoy
- Langholm
- Applecross
- South Islay
- Ferguslie (Paisley)
- Kyle
- North West Dumfries
- People's Development Trust (Dalmarnock, Glasgow)

SCDC and place approaches – Place based work

Working with partnerships and groupings....

- Training
- Mentoring
- Advice
- Community action research
- Community engagement
- Community capacity building
- Co-production

SCDC and place approaches – Place based work

- Seaton and Linksfield Community Network (Aberdeen)
- Moray Locality Planning
- Milton Thriving Place (Glasgow)
- Five Sisters Partnership (West Lothian)

SCDC and place approaches

‘Place is where people, location and **resources combine to create a sense of identity and purpose**, and are at the heart of addressing the needs and **realising the full potential of communities**. Places are shaped by the way resources, **services and assets are directed and used by the people who live in** and invest in them. A more **joined-up, collaborative, and participative** approach to services, land and buildings, across all sectors within a place, enables better outcomes for everyone and **increased opportunities for people and communities to shape their own lives**.

The principle requests that ‘All those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to **work and plan together, and with local communities**, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive growth and create more successful places.’

Case studies:

1. Applecross Community Company Q4 2017 – present
2. Hoy Community Development Trust Q4 2017 – present
3. Five Sisters Partnership (West Lothian) Q4 2018 – present
4. Seaton and Linksfield Community Network (Aberdeen) Q4 2018 – present

Applecross Community Company - background

- Applecross Community Company – more or less a Development Trust
- Have a trading arm: broadband, toilets, hydro scheme
- An attempt to...
 - Chart a way forward for the organisation and community
 - Engage with the landowner

Applecross Community Company Process

- Process
 - Community survey
 - Action plan development
 - Planning aid Scotland
 - Full action plan...

Applecross Community Company Survey

Top 10 things that people said would be of the biggest benefit to the Applecross community.

Average score out of 5 (where 5 is greatest benefit, 1 the lowest possible and 3 the middle rank).

1 Footpaths/
walking
trails


4.16

2 Improved
Children's
play area

3.86

3 Car
parking

3.69

4 Improved
public
toilets

3.68

5 Gym/exercise
equipment

3.67

6 Workshop
space/
industrial
units

3.66

7 Community
woodland

3.64

8 Sports
field

3.63

9 Community
run/owned
visitor centre

3.61

10 Small
swimming
pool

3.60

Applecross Community Company Developing Priorities

Values fit? opp

Affordable Housing	Yes - Well known issue	Yes
Car park (office) development + toilets (F.S)	Yes	Yes
Apple Net review	Yes	Yes - valuable resource
Laundrette Feasibility	income yes? employment yes? doesn't stop on toes	Yes - to business income
Explore development of commercial	Yes	Yes
Salt (seaweed) (larger projects)	Yes	Yes
Explore developing visitor attraction	Yes - land, 8 annu	Yes
Flexible workshops (Facilitating)/owning	Yes very enabling	Yes
Small swimming facility (ann) space	Yes	Yes
Community	Yes	Yes

No takes responsibility? Others Work with? Outcomes + milestones

CC (SCHT)	TRUST PAS, Community council, HIC, Crofters Funders	Aim to buy land 2-4yrs (plots + funds)
CC	HIC, Land fund	Short term (community land use plan)
ACC + App ACT	SSE, Scot Gov HUBS, HIE	Part in from previous
CC	Applejuice, Trust, local businesses	Have feasibility study (pursue if appropriate)
ACC	HIE other HIC, Crofters	Complete review + strategic Feasibility study
ACC	PAS, HIC, TRUST, other businesses	Trial products Product Revenue Feasibility study
ACC	Trust Local interest or HIE	Site identification, purchase plan, development

Applecross Community Company Place Planning



Community

Identify a site for a new community building or extension of an existing building. Consider the needs of the community and the potential for a new building to serve the community. Consider the location, size, and design of the building. Consider the impact of the building on the surrounding environment. Consider the potential for the building to be a focal point for the community.

Homes

Identify a site for a new housing development. Consider the needs of the community and the potential for a new housing development to serve the community. Consider the location, size, and design of the housing development. Consider the impact of the housing development on the surrounding environment. Consider the potential for the housing development to be a focal point for the community.

Getting Around

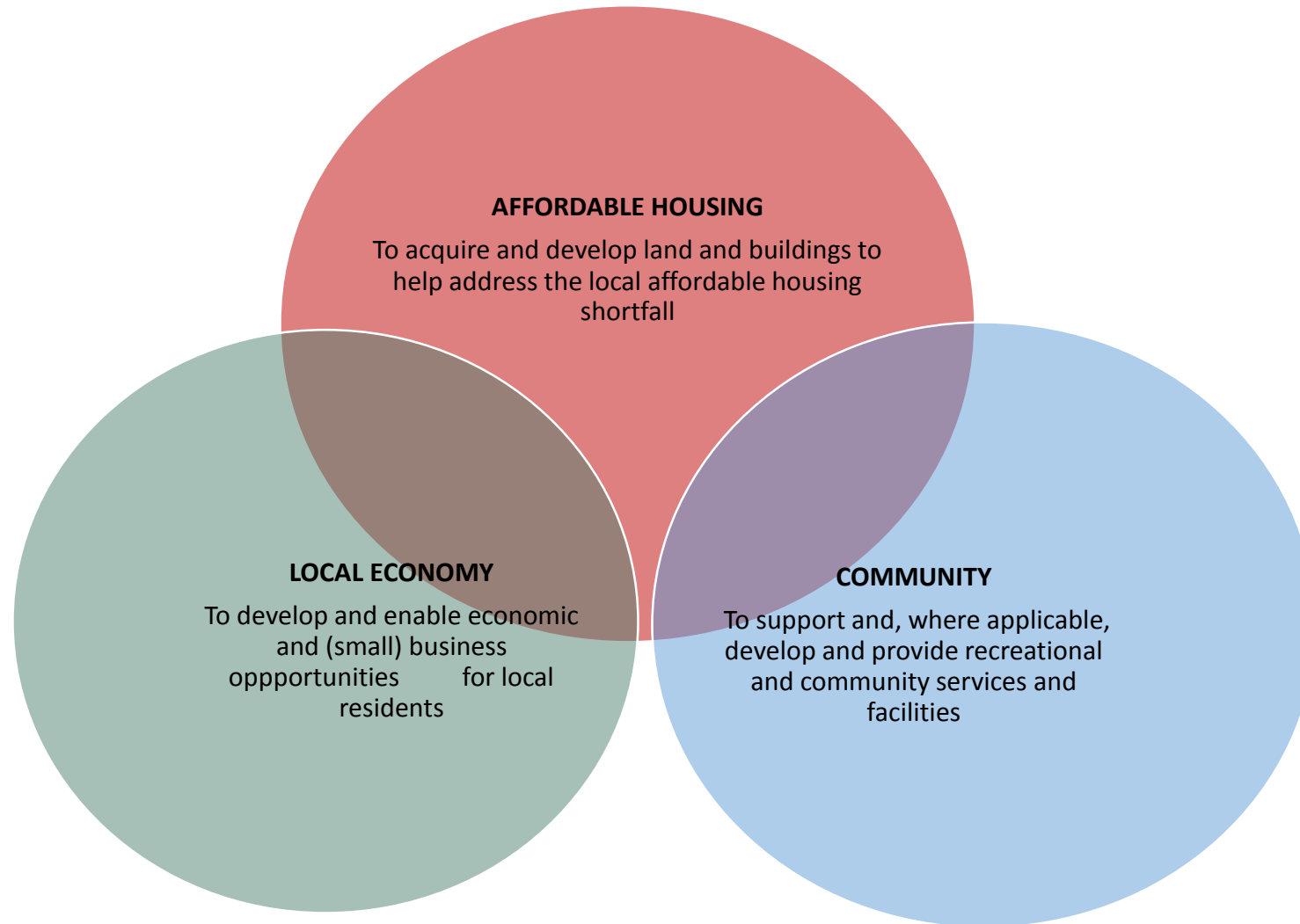
Identify a site for a new transport facility. Consider the needs of the community and the potential for a new transport facility to serve the community. Consider the location, size, and design of the transport facility. Consider the impact of the transport facility on the surrounding environment. Consider the potential for the transport facility to be a focal point for the community.

Local Economy

Identify a site for a new business development. Consider the needs of the community and the potential for a new business development to serve the community. Consider the location, size, and design of the business development. Consider the impact of the business development on the surrounding environment. Consider the potential for the business development to be a focal point for the community.



Applecross Community Company Draft plan



Applecross Community Company Key Points

- High capacity, well developed, and confident
- Place is coherent – well defined and connected
- But, structural challenges are severe, multiple
- Local authority open to the idea
- But land owner is key – a different context to urban areas

Island of Hoy Development Trust (Community Engagement & Action planning)

- Carry out a range of projects (e.g. community bus service; wind turbine & grants; memorial site; newsletter)
- Wanted to update understanding of community priorities and issues and to engage more effectively with community
- Wanted to reach broader audience as a Trust and work cohesively with other local organisations to tackle community concerns.
- Ambition to develop an action plan that goes beyond the work of the Trust and engages others in its delivery

Island of Hoy Development Trust: Process

- Community survey and children's school survey
 - Distributed to local groups, local newspaper, community radio, drop off points
 - Engagement events on priorities identified in survey – drop in and community events
 - Stakeholder meeting with service providers / community planning partnership and third sector to feed back priorities and seek support in development of plan
 - Community stakeholder meeting to form community-led action planning group
- Establishment of CAP group and development of plan

Island of Hoy Development Trust: Survey

Ideas & solutions that you think will help improve the things you dislike?



Island of Hoy Development Trust: Key points

- Recognition of the importance of organising around an action plan – considerable energy
- Capacity can vary even for established organisations. Particular challenges around rurality and small population
- Enthusiasm from statutory partners – but also a capacity issue
- Community led (and delivered) action can place much responsibility on few shoulders
- An Island plan – shared responsibility vis a vis a organisational plan?

Five Sisters Partnership West Lothian (Place Based Approaches)

- A partnership spanning three communities: Polbeth, Addiewell, West Calder and Harburn
- A way to address common issues across the communities e.g. speeding and traffic; access to sports facilities
- To establish a common and organised voice

Five Sisters Partnership West Lothian: Support

- Support the formation and development of the group
 - Community Empowerment Act
 - Democracy matters
 - Purpose, aims, communication plan, skills audit

Five Sisters Partnership West Lothian: Progress

- Leading on change: called a meeting regarding transport and traffic with relevant statutory and community bodies - a unified voice
- Plan to take a lead on more issues as identified in community action plans (2/3 already exist)
- Consider the partnership a more focused forum for engaging with statutory bodies on key issues – stronger evidence of issues from across communities and clarity of purpose around what needs to change

Sharing resources, skills and identifying opportunities to work 'smarter' on bringing in resources to communitiy

Five Sisters Partnership West Lothian: Key findings

- An organised group with motivated key individuals
- Moving beyond particular concerns towards a coherent and connected voice
- Built from the basis of strong and durable community organisations – aim to support new and lower capacity groups
- But succession and workload a concern

Seaton and Linksfield Community Network (Aberdeen) (Place Working)

- Small group of residents
- Brought together as part of Aberdeen City Council's locality approach
- Other similar networks in other locality plan areas
- Mixed capacity

Seaton and Linksfield Community Network: Support

- Working together/group dynamics
- Skills audit
- Community Empowerment Act
- Community Survey
- Draft group action plan

Skill	Confident + could share	Would like to develop	(Team)
Communication → Written	GD, AP, LF		
→ Verbal	AP, LM, GD, LF	LF, AP	
Networking → Formal	AP , LM		
→ Informal	GD, LF, LM, AP CS, BM, IM		
Organising + Planning	LM, CS, GD		AP, GD LF, BM, AP
Admin skills	AP, LF, LM	AP	GD
Taking Minutes	LF, AP k.		GD, LM
Finance*			GD
Fundraising + Knowledge	GD, AP, CS		CS, LM
Local Knowledge inc. History	BM, IM (MM)		CS, GD, AP, LM
Social media	LM		
Chairing / committee skills	AP , AP AP		Everyone
Publicity Marketing	GD, LM, AP	AP	LF

What do we want to achieve?

Constitution

Bank account

Walk through Walk through

Comm safety

Community Safety (Traffic)

Comm Spirit

Community spirit

dog mess

Address dog fouling

Emp Section

Empowered Sectioners

What are we gonna do?

- 3 Key individuals identified
- 1 per day per theme
- Housing / Environment / Infrastructure
- Officers come to meeting
- Actions from above ^

- May come this from walk through → work
- Invite local ~~AP~~ Gray Feroz
- ADA, AP, ADP, H10 etc. Hurray office

- Street Party (org + community)
- PB (you decide)
- Build a picture from community
- get together

- Community clean up
- ~~PB~~ actions
- tidy gardens / garden group

- Poo bag dispensers (Don side village)
- Education
- Steven Shaw Env. Services
- Terry Madel
- Jude East Leydon court

- Check out Saba Sharma radio: Confidence
- Try out different approaches
- Training - as identified
- Promotion of success (active)

Seaton and Linksfield Community Network: Key findings

- Group capacity is mixed – not a problem in itself, but...
- ... capacity building support is severely constrained
- Progress has been slow, but momentum is building
- If capacity can be built over the long term, there is the chance of an effective and integrated community organisation

What have we learned?

- Tools and plans are helpful... but this is a long term capacity contingent project...
- ... in need of support from community capacity building infrastructure: but disinvestment.
- Dispersed and fragmented funding and support for community organisations at local levels, impacting detrimentally on resilience and sustainability.
- Huge energy but often key individuals, succession and burnout

What have we learned?

- Evidence of strength, but also vulnerability...
- A pressure on public agencies to 'work differently' and still maintain statutory responsibilities
- Challenge of linking community-led action with other planning processes
- Multiple plans – community, spatial, thematic

Thank you.

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