**Community Conversations - Streetscene**

 **Ward 1 – Stranraer and The Rhins**

**Introduction**

The Community Conversations held in May and June 2018 across all 12 Council Wards were a new approach to engaging residents in discussion about Council services – what and where we currently focus on and how you could be involved.

This first series of Conversations were around the “Streetscene” services - local parks, open spaces, burial grounds, streets, community and village halls, school crossing patrols and public toilets.

We are very grateful to those of you who were able to come along and give us your views and we were inspired by the passion that people across our region have for the places they live.

There were many examples of joint approaches between our Council, community groups and individuals – litter picks, fundraising for new play equipment, managing local buildings, planting etc. Our thanks go to all of the people already involved and we look forward to developing the additional ideas suggested.

This document details the questions and suggestions made, along with our responses to them and you will see that your comments have already influenced what we do. The comments relating to other Council services or partner organisations have been forwarded on to them for consideration.

You will also see that we had a really positive response to the format of the events and so we’re going to have a further round in early spring in 2019. We look forward to seeing you there!

For any further information about the ‘Streetscene’ services, please get in touch with our officers whose details are below.

Thanks again for your participation.

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Ward Officer – (Stranraer and The Rhins) - Kerry Monteith

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| **We asked you about Grass Cutting** |
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| **You Said** | **We are doing… or we can’t because…** |
| The Boag at Stranraer and the grass area by the harbour look great but a bit wild so possibly needs a path cut into it? or some orchard style trees or plants? Could help us hit some biodiversity targets!Could grass clippings be used as mulch for people’s gardens? Possibly also the Garden of Friendship?Could the unused part of the open cemetery at Kirkcolm be cut less often so the closed cemetery could be cut more often? | We left the grass area between the boat store and the car park to grow wild last years due to the number of bees being attracted by the clover. It was a fantastic sight. If the clover grows again this year then we will leave it once again. We’re now trialling this with the Gardens of Friendship over summer 2018 and if successful, we could roll it out to other areas. Thanks!Until September 2018 the closed cemetery will get an additional two cuts and the unused area in the open cemetery will remain uncut. We have liaised with the Community Council, who have agreed this trial. |

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| **We asked you about weeding** |
| **You Said** | **We are doing… or we can’t because…** |
| How often is the West End Terrace in Stranraer sprayed? And could people do their own area?Weeds should be pulled before spraying as they look bad when dying off | Areas are normally sprayed twice a year. There’s strict rules about the use of chemicals so we’ll work with each group about specific areas to discuss what is needed. Karen, the Community Asset Manager would be delighted to talk to you about any offers to assist with this work.Weed killer needs to be sprayed onto the leaves to get to the roots so it wouldn’t kill them all off if we pulled some up before spraying. It takes approximately two weeks for it to be fully effective so it’s appreciated it’s unsightly for that temporary period. |

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| **We asked you about planting** |
| **You Said** | **We are doing… or we can’t because…** |
| The area of St John Street/St Andrew Street; the roundabout at Lidl and Portpatrick generally look great! Who maintains the roundabout at Port Rodie in Stranraer? Could we get some flowers in it? or sponsorship from local businesses?Some flowerbeds along the seafront are not maintained – could we get school pupils involved?Could local businesses help to maintain flower baskets? E.g. wateringCould Common Good funds be used to supply plants/flowers? | This flowerbed on the roundabout was previously planted by Tesco with assistance from Apex. The decision was taken this year to grass over the flowerbed. Karen, the Community Assets Manager would be happy to discuss other options with any interested groups. These flower beds are owned by the Stranraer Development Trust and we’ll speak to them about discussing further with local schools after their summer holidays – this works well where there’s Rural Skills classes.Yes absolutely. Applications for Common Good funds for improvement activity are welcome from any community group – contact Kerry Monteith the Ward Officer for more information. |

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| **We asked you about litter** |
| **You Said** | **We are doing… or we can’t because…** |
| The removal of the bin at the bottom of the hill at Back Rampart, Agnew Crescent in Stranraer hasn’t caused any problemIs it possible to get bins that gulls can’t get in to? They make such a messPeople abuse the bins provided at Sheucan Street/Agnew Crescent. What can be done about that?There are not enough litter bins in the LochansThere’s a lot of litter around Stranraer Academy – there should be a mix of enforcement and awareness raising. Could pupils be involved in litter picking? | This bin was removed as there are quite a few bins in this area and we were finding that domestic and commercial waste was being put in this bin.When bins require to be replaced we can look to replace these with bins with doors to deter the seagulls. If we believe bins are being used for other purposes i.e. domestic/commercial waste then the Community Safety team will investigate this and issue a fly tipping ticket if evidence is found. We put an extra bin in the playpark in summer 2017 and that means that there should be enough for the size of the settlement but Officers will investigate this.We will work with the school to increase their involvement in addressing the problem and highlight this to the Community Safety Team. |

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| **We asked you about street cleaning**  |
| **You Said** | **We are doing… or we can’t because…** |
| When is the mechanical sweeper schedule to be at the West end of Stranraer? How do you deal with parked cars? Does Castle Square get jet washed? What can be done about chewing gum opposite the Castle in Stranraer?How often are the bins emptied in the town centre of Stranraer?Motorists are leaving litter when leaving the car parks, especially at Breastworks car Park. And taxi drivers are bad offendersDog fouling on Cairnyan Road Stranraer is a problemIn the outlying areas around Stranraer along the A75 we can see the mechanical sweeper has been there and it looks much betterThere’s more bins at Portpatrick which helps is keep looking goodCould there be more dog bag bins in Lochans? Could the Community Council buy more dog bins and litter bins and the Council put them in? | Currently the mechanical sweeper is in the West End of Stranraer on a Wednesday in the Larg Road area and a Friday in the Leddesdale road area. If there are parked cars then the sweeper simply has to go around them.No, not unless there is a spillage.The Streetscene team scrape the chewing gum off the streets. These are emptied on a daily basis.The Community Safety Team will patrol this area more frequently. This is a ‘hot spot’ for the Community Safety Team who will review the signage and increase patrols - anyone can contact them confidentially with information for them to pursue - communitysafetyteam@dumgal.gov.uk or call 030 33 33 3000We will be happy to look at any proposals although our new approach is to encourage people to take their waste home with them as this different mindset encourages personal responsibility and reduces gull and animal nuisance around these public areas. |

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| **We asked you about cemeteries and burials** |
| **You Said** | **We are doing… or we can’t because…** |
| Does the Council get paid to look after War Graves?The Sorbie Commonwealth Graves are in a terrible state.Could cemeteries also have wild flowers planted in them? would that cause a problem for paths?What arrangements are there for cleaning headstones?What is the length of time from death to burial? | The Council has a small budget to maintain war graves across the region.  We will investigate this.This would definitely be an option. Karen, the Community Assets Manager would be happy to speak to any Communities about this. This is the responsibility of the Lair/Headstone owner.This varies depending on day of the week and availability of staff. |

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| **We asked you about school crossing patrols** |
| **You Said** | **We are doing… or we can’t because…** |
| The School Crossing officers do a great job in Stranraer How much is this service really needed at lunchtimes? | We are looking at the traffic and pedestrian volumes and if there are to be any changes. Local communities and schools will be consulted before any decision is made.  |

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| **We asked you about playparks** |
| **You Said** | **We are doing… or we can’t because…** |
| The Dickshill Playpark sometimes gets sand over it – how and when is it cleaned?There’s bad behaviour around the Princess Victoria Monument in Agnew Park even although there’s Police and Community Safety patrols. What more can be done? is there education in schools?The roundabout has a bit brokenThe cobbles are coming out at Agnew Park – where do we report this? How were young people involved in choosing the equipment etc. at Stair Park?Are we looking at self-build parks in the future (‘Berlin’ playparks)How do we get young people to take care/be proud of their parks? | This is a DGHP play area. We will pass these comments on to DGHP.Our Community Safety Team is going to work with the schools and youth groups in the area to build some pride in the facility and promote positive behaviours.The order has been issued to the equipment company to get this repaired.Phone our Community Assets Team for anything to do with Council parks. These cobbles are due to be repaired.This project was led by the Wigtownshire Family Support Group who involved their Children in the designs and equipment to be installed within the park.This could certainly be investigated.Hopefully by continuing to involve our Communities with the developments of our Parks and Open spaces will give people a sense of ownership and pride in their local community.  |

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| **We asked about volunteering** |
| **You Said** | **We are doing… or we can’t because…** |
| Would like to start a group to encourage able bodied people to come along and help weed flowerbeds and get knowledge and experience about gardening from other volunteers. Do volunteers need to be registered/insured? Is there training provided? What about supplies and equipment? | Great idea, thanks! Contact Karen our Community Assets Manager who will help you get access to training and equipment and possibly some plants too!The Council will ensure any necessary training and supplies is provided and when that’s been done, then volunteers are covered by the Council’s insurance |



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| **Issues raised for other services and organisations** | **Responsible service** |
| The burn at Lochryan Street in Stranraer is choked with Japanese knotweed. Who is responsible for that area?Bags of gravel near Castle Kennedy to be removedCommercial bins need to be emptied more oftenClamp down on alcohol being allowed to be taken out of premises – broken glass etc. is causedCutting of Trunk Road verges – particularly poor sight line at Inch Church, Castle Kenney and just outside Lochans especially | This issue has been passed to the Council’s Economy, Environment and infrastructure teamThe bags of gravel have now been removedWe have passed this comment on to colleagues in Enterprising D&G.This issue has been passed to our Wigtown Licensing Team.This issue has been passed to Transerv |

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| **About the event** Attendees - 10Feedback86% said they felt the Community Conversation gave them the opportunity to discuss the local issues that were important to them.100% said they felt the Community Conversation was a good way of involving people in deciding how Streetscene services will be delivered in the future. Comments1. Anything which promotes better communication between public and Council services is a good thing.
2. Hold events on a regular basis – better several shorter meetings than fewer longer ones.
3. More consultation is key to meeting the needs of people in the ward.
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