

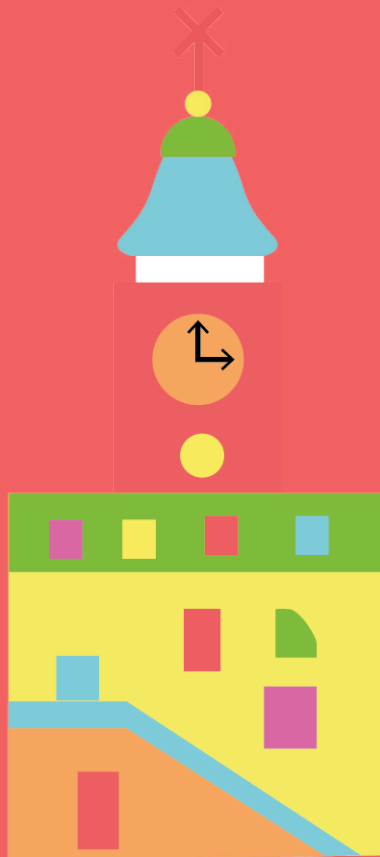


Let's start a new Chapter...

Vision and Action Plan 2021 - 2031

Help shape the **future of your town**

# Let's start a new Chapter...



**What is Dynamically Different Dumfries?**

**Who is Involved?**

**What has Happened so Far?**

**How Can I Get Involved?**

**What will be in the Dynamically Different Dumfries Vision and Action Plan?**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

**2. DUMFRIES AS A PLACE**

**3. DUMFRIES AS A REGIONAL CAPITAL**

**4. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND SURVEY**

**5. COMMUNITY SURVEY**

**6. COMMON THEMES WORKSHOPS**

## HOW TO USE

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### What is Dynamically Different Dumfries?

Dynamically Different Dumfries will develop a Dumfries Town Centre shared Vision for the next 10-years (2021-2031). It is about reimagining your town to produce a ten-year action plan for the short, medium and long term to realise that vision in partnership with the local community, and other key stakeholders such as businesses, the public and voluntary sectors and potential funders. It will provide a clear focus and direction that we can work towards together. It is about building new and established community led initiatives.

The project is a different approach to thinking about the future of Dumfries town centre, within the wider context of Dumfries as a whole. There are a number of great projects going on in Dumfries town centre at the moment, and this is your opportunity to work together collaboratively in partnership to help make them happen in one overarching 10-year action plan. Importantly, there are also lots of projects we don't know about yet, which is why we need the whole local community to get involved. It's your town – what you would you like to see happen over the short, medium and long term? This is your chance to tell us!

There are a range of projects and initiatives that recognise the time is right to be even more ambitious for Dumfries. Dumfries Town Centre is facing a range of challenges: financial austerity, changing shopping habits...and now COVID-19. The project is about building a positive town centre experience which reverses the physical dilapidation, declining investment and noticeable reduction in footfall. The community and voluntary sectors in Dumfries are fuelled by committed and highly able community activists who are leading the way in new and established initiatives developed by the community.

### Who is Involved?

Dynamically Different Dumfries is a partnership project led by Dumfries Partnership Action Group (DPAG), which is an advisory reference group to the project made up of local community, council and business representatives; radical thinkers who want to make things happen. The project was commissioned by Dumfries and Galloway Council, and the brief was developed jointly by DPAG and Dumfries and Galloway Council. DPAG are an advisory reference group for the project and will look to widen their reach and membership as part of this engagement process.

Dynamically Different Dumfries is being facilitated by PAS, a charitable social enterprise which helps communities to have their say in planning matters. PAS is Scotland's leading place and active citizenship charity. We support a planning system that is inclusive, positive and innovative, and where individuals and communities help shape the future of their place.



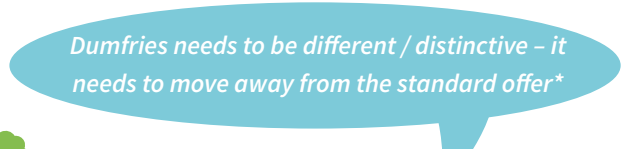
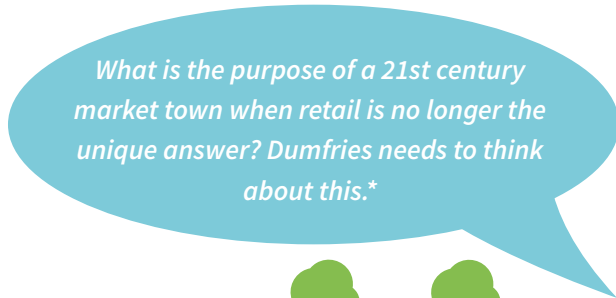
### What has Happened so Far?

PAS undertook a town audit following Scotland's Towns Partnership best practice in January 2020. Site visits were carried out to catalogue the quality of town centre shopfronts/units and to evaluate the quality of the public realm - including but not limited to: public art, outdoor parks and gardens, flower displays, street lighting, seating and resting places. This audit also identified vacant business units in the town centre, as well as vacant plots with potential to accommodate future development. This was completed alongside a public realm survey, which catalogued elements such as benches, bins, lighting, public art, and parking spaces for cars and bicycles.

This is the first time an audit of this nature has been carried out for Dumfries town centre, and it provides evidence for the town to move forward with this visioning/action planning process with the wider community. It is acknowledged that the Covid-19 pandemic will likely result in further changes to the town since this audit was carried out.

This project, whilst focusing on the town centre, will sit within the wider context of Dumfries as a whole and look creatively at how everyone can best use all of the town's amazing assets.

The town audit, complemented by research, analysis, community surveys, and place standard engagement, provided a focus for focus group and individual discussions with key community and business stakeholders, including children and young people. This information gathering process has informed the content of these boards.





Dynamically Different Dumfries Digital flyer

**How Can I Get Involved?**

We are now continuing the conversation with themed community digital workshops February/March 2021. Please note that all workshops are running twice to maximise attendance.

Please sign up here to one or all four workshops here:

**To sign up for a workshop  
CLICK HERE**

Don't worry if you can't take part in these online workshops as there will be other opportunities to get involved when the easing of restrictions allows. Look out for updates through [our newsletter here](#), in the press and on the Love Dumfries Website and via social media twitter and facebook Facebook@DumfriesAction Twitter@DumfriesAction #DynamicDumfries.

If you can't come to the workshops tell us what you think on our whiteboard [here](#) or via our survey [here](#).

Feel free to telephone, e-mail and post comments directly to PAS at: Julia Frost, [julia@pas.org.uk](mailto:julia@pas.org.uk), 07949720983, 11/2C Tweeddale Court, 14 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1TE

We'll be back in April to feedback your ideas for the Vision and Action Plan, to check with you that we're on the right track, and to agree what should happen next.

**Who to contact for more information?**



Leah Halliday  
[hello@theguiddumfries.org](mailto:hello@theguiddumfries.org)



Mathilde Delestre ([mathilde@pas.org.uk](mailto:mathilde@pas.org.uk))  
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Shona McCoy  
[Shona.McCoy@Dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:Shona.McCoy@Dumgal.gov.uk)

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Newsletter: [subscribe here](#)



#dynamicdumfries

**What will be in the Dynamically Different Dumfries Vision and Action Plan?**

The plan will introduce a vision for the town centre for the next ten years and suggests projects to execute its realisation. It might include community and business projects, how to make best use of existing facilities, infrastructure, public spaces, new or creative developments or other things – it's up to the local community and businesses to decide what's important. We also want to see dynamic ideas in the mix.

Importantly, a delivery plan will be provided to support the implementation of the projects.



# Let's start a new Chapter...



**Population**

**Past and Present**

**Active Travel**

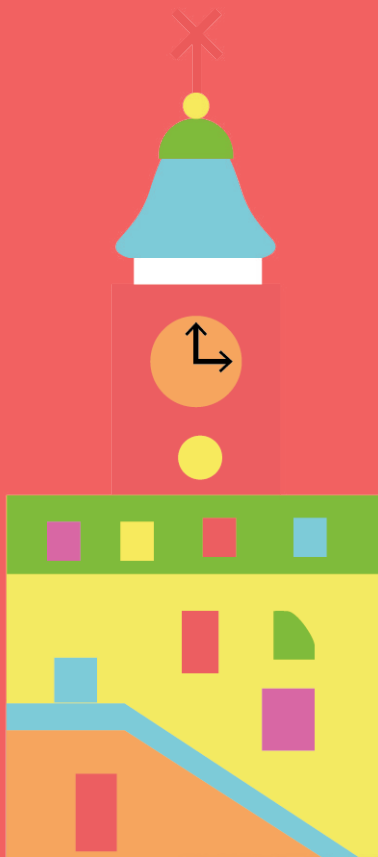
**Carbon zero by 2025**

**Tourism**

**Retail and local services**

**Employment**

**Housing**



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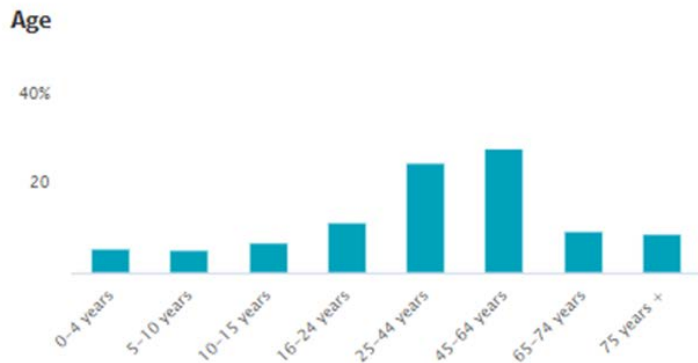
To zoom in on a page hold down 'CTRL' key at the same time as using your mouse wheel.



Population

Dumfries has a current population of 38,400, with a slight decrease of 2.1% over the last 10 years.

Dumfries has an ageing population with the number of older couples with no children higher than average. Dumfries population figures align with Scottish national trends showing more over 65s (17%) than under 15s (16%).



Similarly, one person households are now the most common household type - accounting for 35% of all households in Dumfries, which concurs with the national statistics.

Dumfries is extremely mixed in terms of demographics. There is a particularly wide range of housing and activities. Overall, the socioeconomic status is high.

The population living in the town centre accounts for 2.6% (1,000) of the overall population. This is significantly below the 16% average.

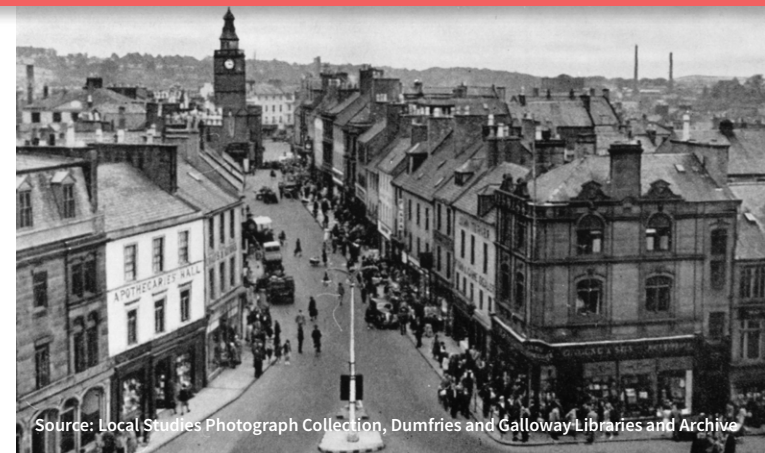
Part of the Dumfries town centre audit area falls into the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Dumfries Town Centre is ranked in the top decile for crime in Scotland, with a crime rate of 4,155 crimes recorded per 10,000 people.

Past and Present

Dumfries has a distinctive character, with a historic street pattern reflecting its origins as a medieval market place. Situated in the south-west of Scotland, Dumfries is located near the mouth of the River Nith where it enters the Solway Firth. Dumfries is known as the “Queen of the South”, and is the administrative centre for Dumfries and Galloway and the regional capital of a large rural hinterland. There is also the Crichton Campus and Business Park which is now a major regional capital asset with further development potential.

A conservation area designation covers Dumfries Town Centre with seven distinct character areas. Dumfries town centre has 35 listed buildings, including the now redundant Rosefield Mills, and there are a further 114 in the wider Dumfries settlement area. The town centre has 15 Category A listed buildings, and there are a further 33 in the wider Dumfries settlement area.

Notable for its links to Scottish history, Dumfries is home to the site where, in 1306, Robert the Bruce murdered a rival for the Scottish crown, John III Comyn. The Burns statue, situated at one end of the High Street, is one of a series of associations with the poet to be found in the town. Robert Burns spent his final years in Dumfries and his house is now a tourist attraction in the town, telling the story of his years in Dumfries. JM Barrie



Every place has a story and most people don't know the story. Find out what the narrative is and build on it.\*

Dumfries town centre users usually come in for a particular purpose and may not stay for social interaction.

Don't focus on being perfect - rather, focus on the good and the energy of the place!



\* Quotes from Doonhamers



also has links to the town; as a teenager he lived in Dumfries and played pirate games in the land surrounding Moat Brae which is now a National Centre for storytelling and children’s literature.

The town is also attracting something of a national reputation with ground-breaking projects such as The Stove Network, the Midsteeple Quarter, DPAG and the newly formed Guild and Retail Group, all of whom are creating a buzz and momentum that are driving a “Dynamically Different” view of the town’s potential.

Active Travel

There is limited cycling infrastructure within the town centre with no segregated cycle lanes present along major roadways. Significant cycling uptake for everyday journeys may be difficult given the under-provision of bicycle parking in the town centre.

Carbon zero by 2025

Dumfries and Galloway Council has developed an ambitious action plan of a carbon neutral region by 2025, ahead of Scottish Government national targets. It aims to be embedded in all aspects of the Council’s decision making and promote a collaborative and partnership approach. Many funding streams have been identified to develop a strategic plan, which promotes emissions reductions at different levels: individuals, businesses and landowners, and the Council.



Dumfries Plan from 1860

**Tourism**

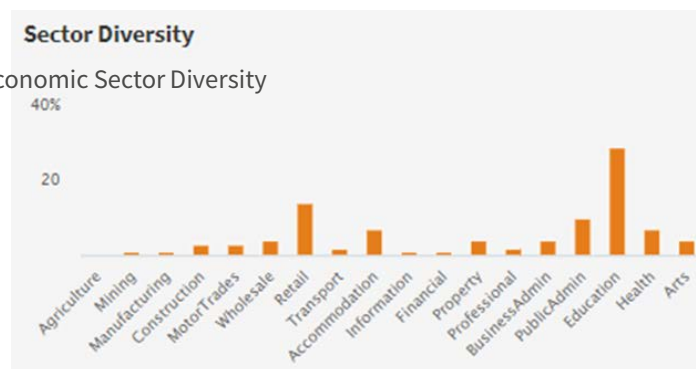
Dumfries has a range of tourist attractions that bring visitors to the town year-round. The three most popular tourist attractions are:

1. Gracefield Arts Centre (approximately 40,000 visitors annually)
2. Robert Burns Centre (approximately 18,000 visitors annually)
3. Old Bridge House (approximately 10,000 visitors annually)

Dumfries has a total of 321 rooms for visitors to stay, of which 121 are located in the town centre. There are plans to open a luxury hotel at the Crichton Campus.

There are programmes of activities and events within Dumfries town centre and the edge of the town centre, providing opportunities for residents to meet and to socialise. Some of the main events include the Doonhame Festival, Big Burns Supper, the Guid Nychburris festival and the Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival. The annual events are well attended by local residents and visitors to the area.

The Dumfries Festival Market was recently launched with the intention of holding it every 2nd Saturday of the month from March to November. A farmer’s market has also recently been



set up at the railway station on the first Sunday of each month from February to December and there is a regular weekly market that takes place at Fountain Square every Saturday 9-5pm, run by Town Dynamics Ltd.

**Retail and local services**

The retail offering in Dumfries town centre is spread across several streets, with a high concentration of retail units on High Street and Friars Vennel. The PAS January 2020 town audit identified 247 business operators from a total of 313 commercial units in the town centre area, bringing the vacancy rate to 12%.

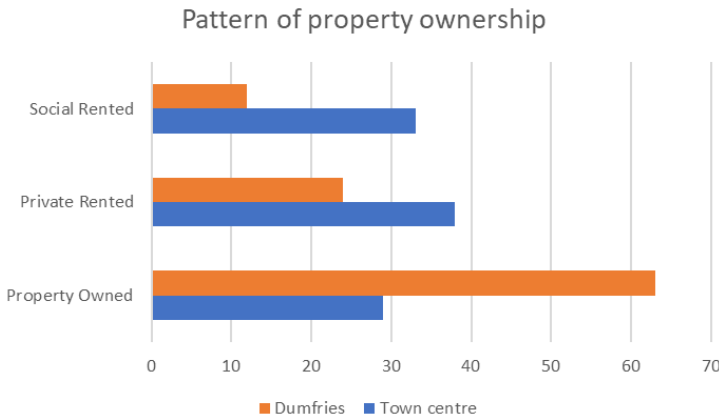
Retail outlets occupy 43% of available units (51% of which is comparison – non-food) and is predominantly represented by independent shops (77%). This is slightly above the YTA (Your Town Audit) audited town average for independent shops (73%), 10% of these outlets are for beauty products. Other features to note are:

- The current strength of Dumfries retail lies in its choice of independent shops, sometimes described as ‘quirky’.
- There are three out of town retail parks in Dumfries, Cuckoo Bridge Retail Park, Peel Centre and Dumfries Retail Park.
- Vacant sites (former industrial sites / redundant railway sidings) tend to be in car parks eg. Brooms Road.
- Leisure services account for 150 businesses, with the food and industry representing 71%, and sports and activities 9%. The remaining leisure services include cultural 2%, gaming 5% and civic spaces 10%.
- The cafe culture is not as developed as in other town centres across Scotland.

**Employment**

Dumfries town centre is home to approximately 25% of the employment in the town (c.4,500 jobs). There are two schools and several council offices. In addition, the PAS town audit identified around 500 businesses operating in the town centre, including 247 retail operators.

It has been suggested that the biggest difference between successful and unsuccessful regional centres may lie in their office sector, with an underlying trend toward more flexible office spaces that allow co-working and which work in tandem with working from home arrangements. Dumfries should be ready to take advantage of any opportunities to develop town centre office accommodation to benefit from the greater mixing of uses and the synergy of this produces.



Pattern of property ownership Dumfries versus Town centre





**Housing**

Dumfries town centre contains 3.8% (730) of Dumfries' 19,010 homes. Housing in the town centre is predominantly flats (78%).

Dumfries town centre has the joint second lowest proportion of detached and semi-detached housing of towns audited for Scotland's Towns Partnership. This contrasts with the wider town of Dumfries, where 50% of housing stock is detached or semi-detached. Most of the town centre accommodation has 1 or 2 bedrooms and most of the accommodation (91%) falls into council tax bands A-C.

The average house price in the centre of Dumfries is £58,625; this is less than half the average house price for Dumfries as a town (£128,510) and falls substantially below the average house price for the region of Dumfries and Galloway (£147,336) and Scotland (£181,457).



1. The Stove/Smithy
2. Council Offices
3. High Street
4. MidSteeple
5. Whitesands
6. Train station
7. Roberts Burns Centre
8. Old bridge house
9. Moat Brae National Centre for Children's Literature
10. The Usual Place
11. Gracefield Arts centre
12. Theatre Royal
13. Dumfries Museum
14. Rosefield Mills
15. Dock Park
16. Nithside (Open Space)
17. Fountain Square
18. Queensberry Square
19. Loreburn Halls
20. Burns Square
21. Loreburn Primary School
22. Dumfries Academy







- Town Centre
- 20 minutes walking distance (800 metres from TC)



Selection of key destinations/landmarks to provide orientation.

1. Crichton
2. Royal Infirmary
3. The Bridge
4. Cuckoo Bridge Retail Park
5. Heathhall Business Centre
6. Catherinefield Industrial Estate
7. St Marys Industrial Estate
8. Lochside Industrial Estate
9. Dumfries Ice Bowl





# Let's start a new Chapter...



**Connectivity**

**Attractions and heritage**

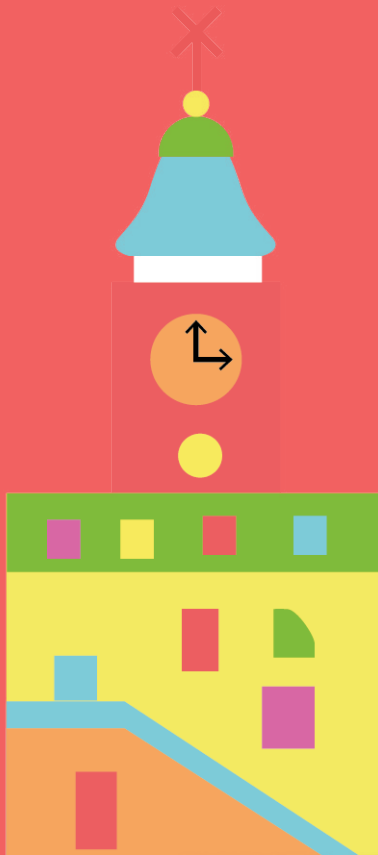
**Sector Focus**

**Employment**

**Further opportunities and investments in the south of Scotland**

**South of Scotland Enterprise**

**Borderlands**



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**Connectivity**

Located in the south-west of Scotland, Dumfries lies approximately 12 miles west of the M74 motorway and is located roughly 75 miles south of Glasgow and 36 miles north-west of Carlisle. The town is both the largest settlement and administrative centre of the Dumfries and Galloway Council area. It is often said that Dumfries and Galloway also sits close to four ‘City Regions’ in terms of its connections ie Glasgow, Edinburgh, Carlisle and Belfast (with Euro-connections to the island of Ireland).

The town has a railway station with regular services to Glasgow and Carlisle but no bus terminus as such. Furthermore, the town is located 12 miles from Lockerbie railway station, which additionally sees regular services between Edinburgh and London along the West Coast Main Line.

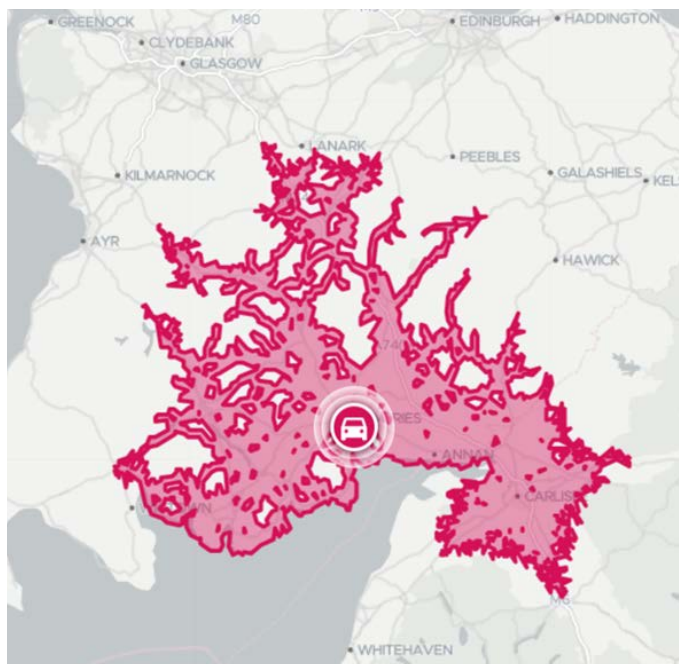
It is accessible to a substantial portion of the Dumfries and Galloway council area within a 60-minute drive.

Overall, digital infrastructure in the town and regional activity could be improved. Starting with a good combination of road, bus, and train connections to the surrounding region and larger urban areas.

Dumfries does possess connections to the National Cycle Network with the NCN7 and NCN10. However, these routes do not link adequately to the town centre.

**Attractions and heritage**

From a south of Scotland tourism perspective, literature is a key cultural strength for the region and the Burns, Barrie and Bruce heritage represents a tremendous asset for marking out the distinctive and unique character of the area and providing economic return.



60-minute travel isochrone from Dumfries -- by car (traveltimetratoform.com)

Dumfries has the potential to act as a hub for external tourist activities across the whole of the Dumfries and Galloway region and beyond.

A number of regional tourist attractions within Dumfries and Galloway are advertised at the Information Centre that is run by Visit Scotland, including:

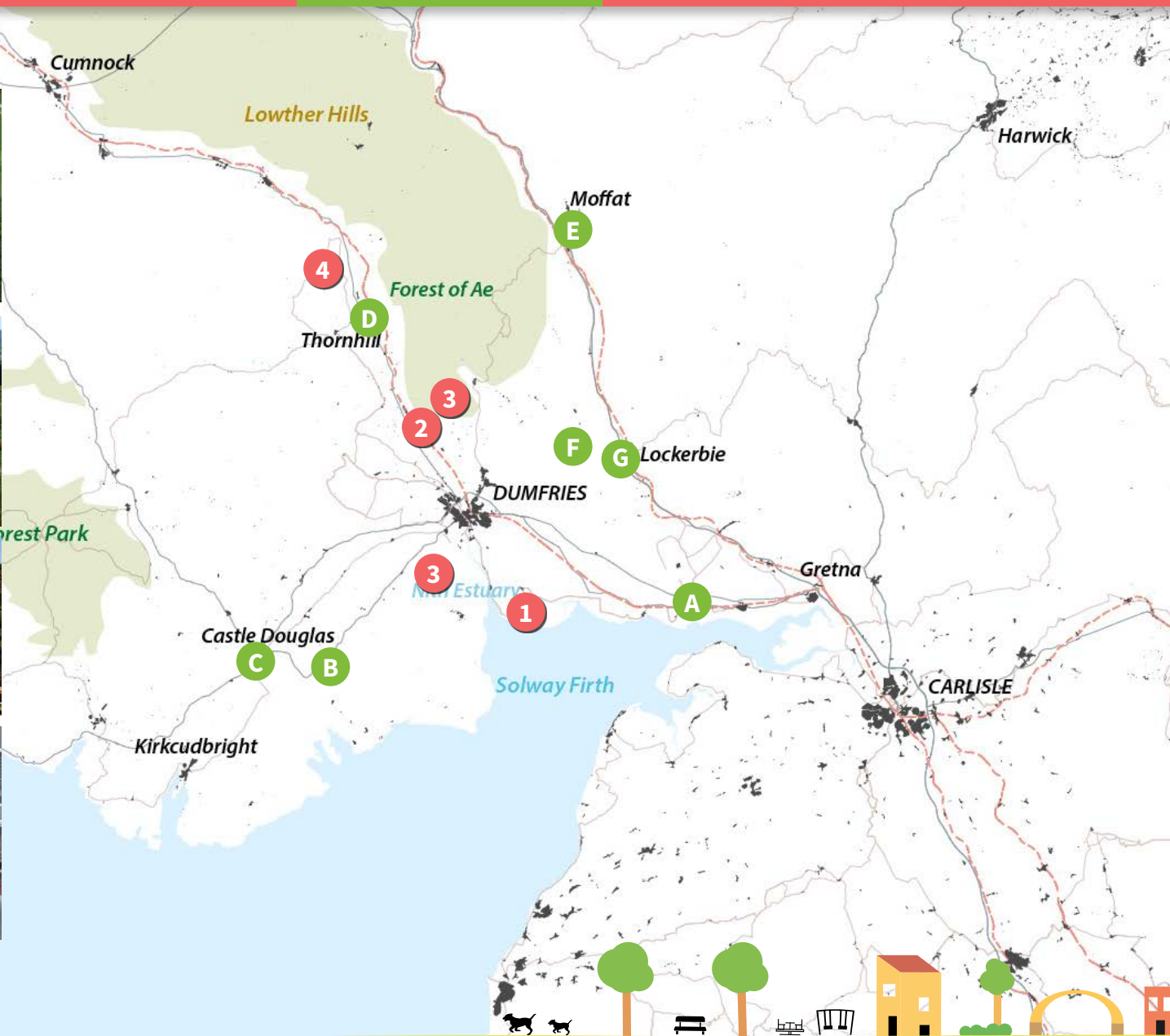
- Robert Burns Centre;
- Caerlaverock Castle;
- Caerlaverock National Nature Reserve;
- Ellisland Farm;
- Gracefield Arts Centre;
- 7stanes Mabie;
- Dumfries Museum;
- The Old Bridge Museum; and,
- The Crichton memorial Church and campus.

There is also a potential synergy between the town centre and the promotion of a new National Park and other initiatives across the region.



\* Quotes from Doonhamers





**Key Commuter Settlements**

- A. Annan
- B. Dalbeattie
- C. Castle Douglas
- D. Thornhill
- E. Moffat
- F. Lochmaben
- G. Lockerbie

**Regional Tourism Destinations**

- 1. Caerlaverock Castle and Caerlaverock National Nature Reserve
- 2. Ellisland Farm
- 3. Tstanes (Mabie and Ae)
- 4. Drumlanrig Castle

**Sector Focus**

Dumfries’s status as a regional shopping centre is eroding due to some people preferring the experiences of nearby Castle Douglas or Glasgow, Carlisle, Edinburgh and Ayr, which can all be reached within one hour’s travel. While the demise of several national retailers has hit the town, there is growing evidence of a growth in independent and niche retail offers and this is seen as a growing opportunity going forward. A belated but growing ‘café culture’ has also become evident in recent years and this is helping support the independent retail offer to some extent.

**Employment**

The development of a full range of educational opportunities, including a thriving and vibrant University and FE campus at the Crichton, is seen as a key economic driver for the regional economy. There is real potential to create better links between the Crichton and the Town Centre and to capitalise on the student and growing commercial market.

Historically, the agricultural sector has been a cornerstone of the regional economy and, while still important, has declined somewhat in recent years, It is expected that Brexit may further drive major change in this sector.

People are keen to further develop the retail offer and appropriate uses in a distinctive way.

Interestingly, Dumfries and Galloway has one of the highest levels of Small to medium- seized enterprises in Scotland.

The public sector, including the NHS and Dumfries and Galloway Council, is a major employer in Dumfries.

**Further opportunities and investments in the south of Scotland**

The new regional economic strategy is being led by Borderlands and SOSE, with a major focus on helping promote zero to low carbon activity.



**South of Scotland Enterprise**

South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) is the new economic and community development agency for the South of Scotland. SOSE’s vision is to work with the people and communities to establish the area as a centre of opportunity, innovation, and growth.

DPAG and the Council have opened dialogue with SOSE, which may be able to assist in delivering aspects of the emerging Dynamically Different Dumfries Vision and Action Plan.



**Borderlands**

The Borderlands Partnership brings together the five cross-border Local Authorities of Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council to promote the economic growth of the area that straddles the Scotland-England border.

Borderlands focuses on re-purposing towns and place-based investment opportunities. It supports big projects which can help make the area more attractive to investors, visitors and those who may wish to come and live here. Again, DPAG has started conversations with Borderlands as the programme develops.





# Let's start a new Chapter...



## Youth Engagement

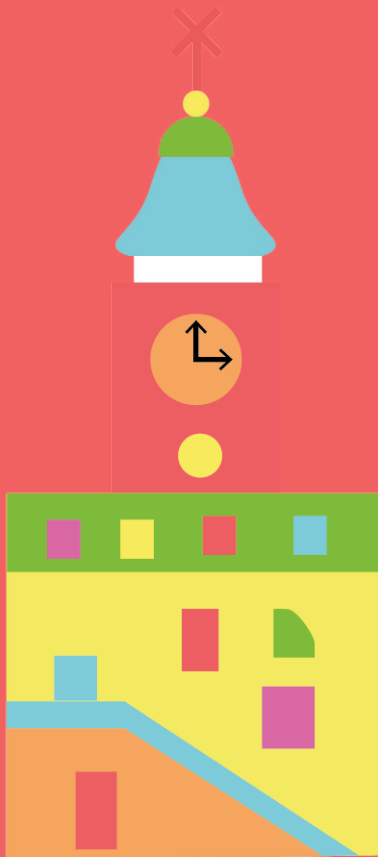
Loreburn Primary School & Dumfries Academy

Oasis and Youth Citizens Service Survey

Key ideas from young people

Young people particularly like

Young people's posters



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### Youth Engagement

Young people are our future, which is why we have made a special effort to involve them as part of this process. Over 200 young people have engaged in this project to date.

### Loreburn Primary School & Dumfries Academy


In December 2020, there were several digital workshops with P5 and P6 classes from Loreburn Primary School and a group of S2 and S6 students from Dumfries Academy. Activities included mapping, place knowledge, and creating 'ideas' posters on how to improve Dumfries Town Centre.

Pupils made suggestions on how to re-use the empty shops, activities they would like to develop in the town centre, and on improving the liveability of Dumfries and its appeal. Some of their poster ideas can be seen in the window of 'The Smithy' on Dumfries High Street.


We are pleased to announce that it was primary and secondary pupils that jointly developed the 'Dynamically Different Dumfries' project name and logo.



Click to play video on Youtube



# The Making of a Logo




**Oasis and Youth Citizens Service Survey**

A youth survey and drop-in sessions took place to help the Council’s Youth Service involve young people in the project.

Results show that whilst young people find the town easy enough to access, they would like more to see and do for their age group with more opportunities to socialise.

Young people rate the town poorly as a place to visit and socialise, but good to access.

Creating more sheltered areas to meet with friends and improved leisure activities including sports activities are welcomed as is the availability of Wi-fi .

Young people think that better lighting throughout the town centre would make the place more welcoming and safer.

**Key ideas from young people:**

- Re-use the empty shop units for things like: an escape room, Tik Tok gaming studio, Lazertag, a trampoline park, a children’s library, a crafting studio.
- Brighten up the town centre with murals / showcasing youth projects / year-long creative lighting, and clean up the town, including the toilets, vandalism and the rusty fountain
- Create more shelters and seating areas
- Create more greenspaces and ‘edible’ growing areas
- Create an outdoor theatre and cinema
- Stop the illegal parking and reduce the number of cars in the centre
- Make Whitesands more dynamic and make more of the riverside views
- Create more family entertainment venues / mobile eateries

- Improve directional signage and pedestrian / cycle route networks
- Make more of the Maxwelltown side of town and encourage people to cross the bridge to a revitalised Glasgow Street

**Young people particularly like:**

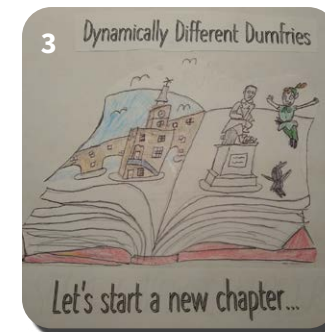
- The community feel
- Burns statue square
- Market stalls
- Coffee shops
- Dock Park



3 Let's start a new chapter...

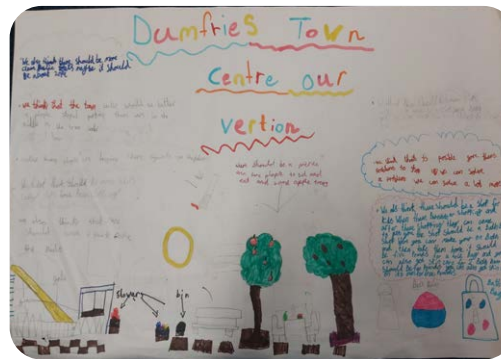
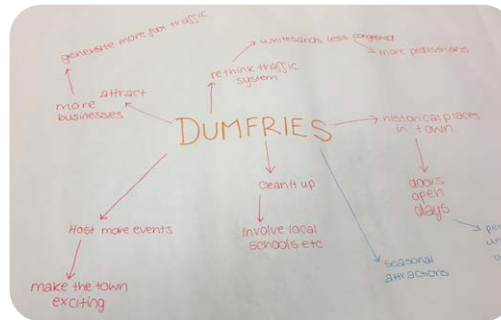
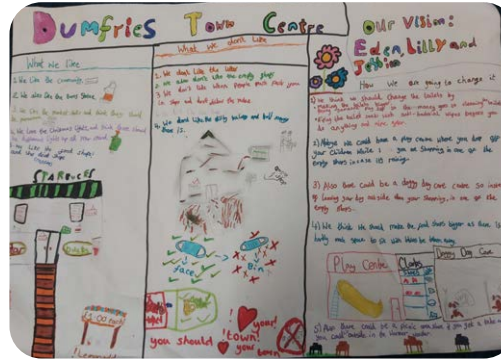


To hear more about each artwork from the young artist click on an image

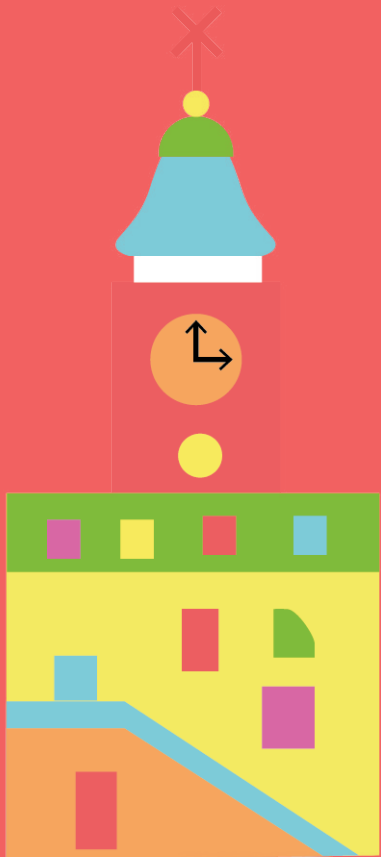




Young people's posters



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This survey was designed to find out what participants thought about Dumfries Town Centre. Information gathered will help identify issues to be addressed in a Vision and Action Plan for a Dynamically Different Dumfries over the next 10 years.

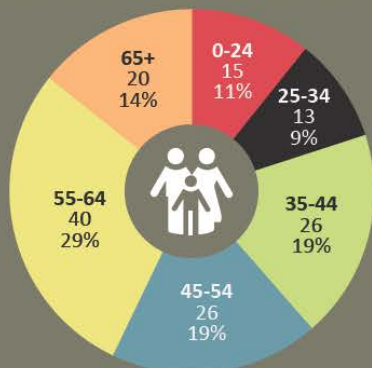
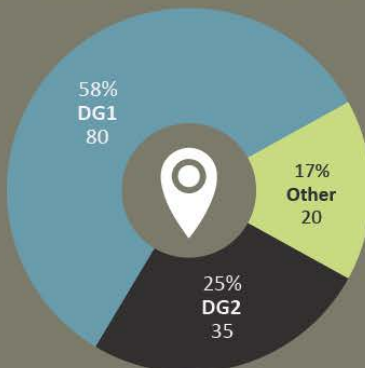
Opened 03/03  
Closed 31/05

140  
Surveys submitted

125  
Digital (typed)

15  
Paper (handwritten)

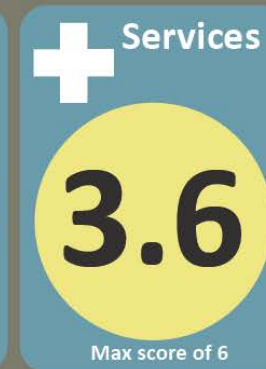
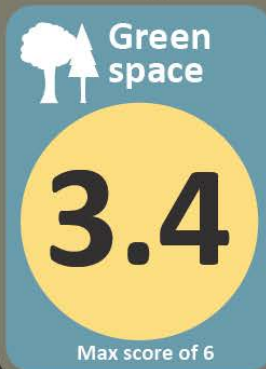
1. Place of residence of respondents 2. Age of respondents



3. How would you rate Dumfries town centre as a place to...?



4. The things I like most about Dumfries town centre are...?



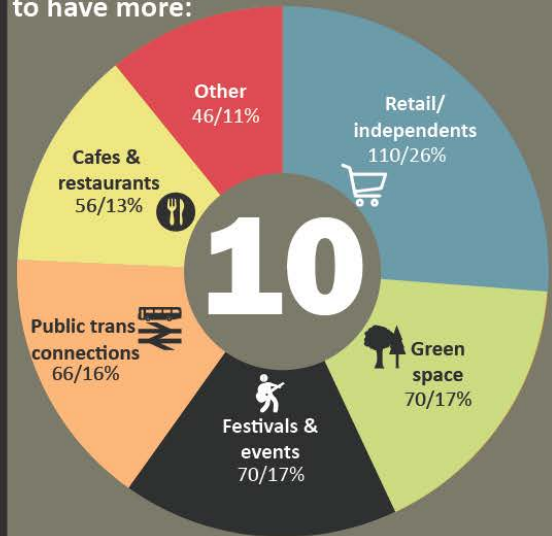
5. I visit Dumfries town centre in the evening (to go) to...?



8. If you don't use the town centre - why not?

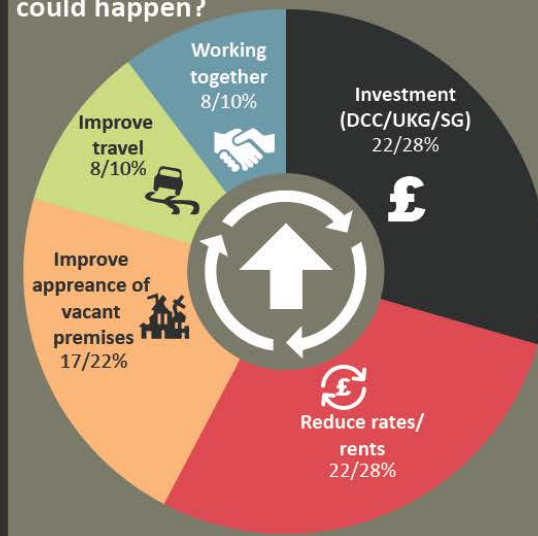


6. In 10 years I'd like Dumfries town centre to have more:



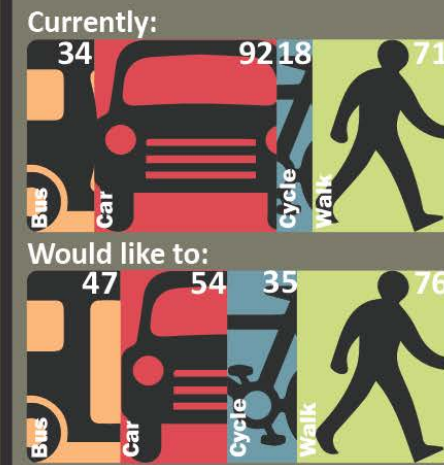
No. of responses received. For detail on 'other' responses, see rep\*

7. How do you think these improvements could happen?



No. of responses received. For detail on other responses, see rep\*

9 & 10. How do you currently & how would you like to access the town centre?\*



\*'Not accessible' & 'Train' not statistically significant

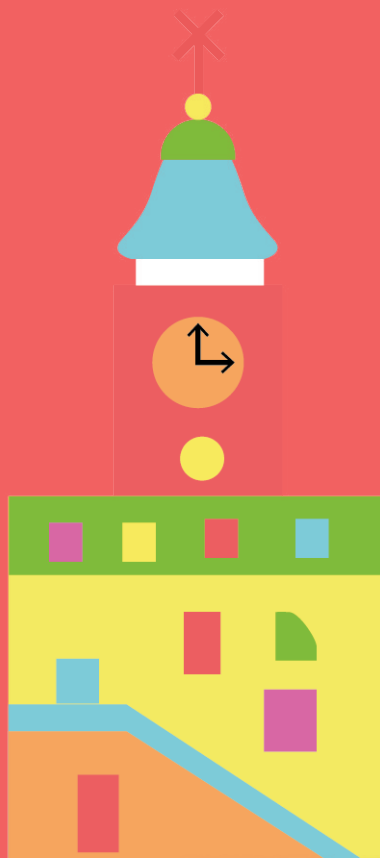




# Let's start a new Chapter...



A number of common themes have emerged from research and conversations that we performed during the course of 2020/21. These form the basis of the four workshop topics and the subsequent key issues and bright ideas. The workshops will allow use to discuss these ideas with the wider community, further develop them and bring new ones.



**Workshop 1: Local Economy and Enterprise**

**Workshop 2: Movement and Transport**

**Workshop 3: Homes and Community**

**Workshop 4: Green and Public Space**

1. INTRODUCTION

2. DUMFRIES AS A PLACE

3. DUMFRIES AS A REGIONAL CAPITAL

4. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND SURVEY

5. COMMUNITY SURVEY

6. COMMON THEMES WORKSHOPS

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## 2. DUMFRIES AS A PLACE

## 3. DUMFRIES AS A REGIONAL CAPITAL

## 4. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND SURVEY

## 5. COMMUNITY SURVEY

## 6. COMMON THEMES WORKSHOPS

### Local Economy and Enterprise

This theme is about supporting and improving tourism, learning, employment, retail, mixed-use enterprise, and opportunities for creativity and innovation in Dumfries. Events are a significant asset for Dumfries and the region - it is estimated that each event contributes £250k to the local economy.

4-6pm or 7-9pm  
Wednesday 10 February  
To sign up  
[CLICK HERE](#)

WORKSHOP 1

WORKSHOP 2

WORKSHOP 3

WORKSHOP 4

### Key Issues

- A significant and increased number of vacant units (ground and upper floors), and poor street frontages, resulting in poor footfall.
- Perceived rate and rent barriers.
- The need to improve the leisure/ 'experience' based events offer and the evening economy.
- The need for more mixed-use development, and to stimulate growth by supporting business start-ups/innovators and local independent retailers.
- Low wages, seasonality of employment, ageing population, outward migration of young people.
- Trend towards flexible office needs and the need for shared/co-working spaces.
- The need to improve cultural assets and develop new ones eg Theatre Royal as new contemporary arts centre.
- The need to develop stronger relationships with Borderlands, South of Scotland Enterprise, SW Coast 300, and existing employers like 'The Crichton'.
- The need to connect the tourist offering to the retail and mixed-use sector.
- The need to make Dumfries more of a 'destination'.
- The need to promote the low carbon economy.
- The need for public / private partnerships to better leverage opportunities in the town centre.
- The need to promote better what is already going on in the town centre.

### Bright Ideas

- Create more events (including for families and tourists) throughout the year. Potential to link to heritage (medieval centre), cultural offering (Burns, Bruce, Barrie), sports, gaming culture (eg Comi-con), and cultural diversity (LGBT/ethnic groups and festivals).
- Apply for and obtain City status for Dumfries.
- Support small independent business enterprises and family businesses.
- Establish a Business Improvement District in Dumfries Town Centre.
- Set up a single point of contact to promote economy and enterprise opportunities.
- Brand Dumfries as a Learning, Heritage, Creative Town, linking to tourist and employment opportunities with local businesses.
- Create a civic hub / greater public agency presence in the town centre and make it available to other supporters/ national agencies.
- Promote and support programmes such as 'Invest in People' and 'Welcome Host'.
- Incentivise property owners to develop and regenerate vacant properties and invest in the town centre eg through rates relief.
- Bring together successful enterprises eg Moat Brae, The Stove, The Usual Place, Midsteeple Quarter.
- Establish an evening economy group to coordinate eating out, entertainment, arts, culture events.
- Appoint a town centre committee/coordinator to bring together different groups/people and help deliver projects.
- Promote and brand Dumfries as a Regional Capital and hub, and emphasise regional links to the forest park, SW Coast 300 etc.
- Prioritise which vacant sites should be redeveloped first for economy/enterprise.
- Create an inventory of event space available in the town centre to host events.
- Provide free wi-fi across the whole town centre.
- Encourage more pop-up shops and an active café culture (with tables on the High Street etc).
- Consider creating themed town centre 'quarters' to create more 'destinations' and help orientation.

If you can't come to the workshops tell us what you think on our whiteboard [here](#) or via our survey [here](#).

What events would you like to see in Dumfries?

How do you find out what's going on in Dumfries?

What could empty properties and land be used for in Dumfries?

What goods and services would you like to see in Dumfries Town Centre?

What radical change would you like to see in Dumfries Town Centre?

How can we make Dumfries feel more like a Regional Capital?

What are your favourite landmarks in Dumfries?







### Movement and Transport

This theme is about how easy it is to get to, from and around your town on foot, bike, bus, train and car, and your ideas to make Dumfries more accessible. There is significant reliance on private motor vehicles for transport/commuting (63%) with 15.8% travelling on foot, 4.4% by bus, 0.6% by train and 3.4% using ‘other’ methods.

### Key Issues

- Frequency and timing of public transport (bus and train)
- Location of neighbourhood bus routes and stops is not balanced/equal
- Lack of directional signage
- Lack of connection of cycling and walking routes, gaps in coverage across all neighbourhoods, and poor linkage to wider networks
- High number of large surface area car parks and free parking resulting in a large number of private car users
- Walking and wheelchair access can be difficult for some people

### Bright Ideas

- Speak to the bus companies about improving and connecting timetabling and town wide coverage – and tie in with train timetables which are more static.
- Create a low carbon circular town centre transport service (eg Burns or Peter Pan shuttle).
- Redirect tourist bus drop-offs to the heart of the town centre from Whitesands.
- Create a digital wayfinding directory/map which connects public transport, walking, and cycle routes in the town centre, outlying areas, and regionally, to meet needs of locals and visitors. Link this to built environment/historical assets and tourist promotion.
- Build more cycle storage areas, cycle racks, e-bike hire.
- Install more electric vehicle charging points and near on-street parking.
- Create a 5 minute and 20-minute walking zone in the town centre which also highlights areas accessible for wheelchair users and links to car parking provision.
- Open up the pedestrianised High Street early morning and evening to cars, with the help of timed rising bollards, to help control cars in the town centre.
- Rationalise land used for car parking to help reduce large areas of surface car parking and free up existing car parks for other uses – consider building a conveniently located new multi-storey car park.
- Strengthen the role of the River Nith in the town centre and create an integrated pedestrian loop along it and connecting up to the town centre, with clear signage.
- Create a park and ride (park and stride) on the outskirts of the town centre.
- Provide changing places wheelchair accessible toilets that are also gender neutral and have baby changing facilities.
- Introduce parking charging.
- Decriminalise on-street car parking to give the Council more control.
- Make more of the railway station and ‘connect’ it more to the town centre.
- Introduce more 20mph limits.

4-6pm or 7-9pm  
 Wednesday 17 February  
 To sign up  
**CLICK HERE**

- WORKSHOP 1
- WORKSHOP 2
- WORKSHOP 3
- WORKSHOP 4

*What would encourage you to use your car less?  
 Is it easy for you to use public transport where you live?  
 Where do cycle and walking routes need to go to make it easier for you to use them?  
 Do you find it a problem parking your car when you are visit or use the town centre?  
 How do you feel about letting cars and/or buses back into the town centre?*

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### Homes and Community

This theme is about what it is like to live in Dumfries, how to encourage more town centre living, and what types of accommodation you would like to see in the future. It is also about what to do with the empty buildings in the future and how to make the most of the town's historic built environment.

4-6pm or 7-9pm  
Wednesday 24 February  
To sign up  
**CLICK HERE**

WORKSHOP 1

WORKSHOP 2

WORKSHOP 3

WORKSHOP 4

### Key Issues

- The significant number of vacant buildings, and vacant upper stories in the town centre, that could be converted into flats/housing.
- Financial support is needed for smaller scale residential opportunities.
- The need to broaden the diversity of tenure types and the variety of accommodation sizes (eg 1-3 bedroom).
- Energy efficiency standards making it more difficult to redevelop older properties without significant subsidy.
- The need to protect, promote and preserve the cultural and architectural heritage of the area – including the medieval street pattern found in the town centre.
- The need to better link the suburban parts of Dumfries and the wider region with the town centre.

### Bright Ideas

- Look at new housing models for vacant buildings eg community led housing, intergenerational living, assisted living.
- Increase the amount of mid-market rented and private housing accommodation.
- Build upon the success of Midsteeple Quarter, and economic /regional enterprise/tourism strategies, to encourage more people to live in the town centre as part of a mix of uses.
- Prioritise which vacant sites and buildings should be redeveloped for housing.
- Develop sites with more focus on heritage and preservation so as to tie in with a town centre visitor/ tourism strategy eg open up Greyfriars.
- Partner with individuals/private sector/funding bodies to develop smaller sites for housing – possibly as historic/eco exemplars.
- Partner with academia to provide student accommodation and consider a student quarter.
- Charge owners a surplus for empty properties to encourage letting.
- Have more of the town centre in community ownership.
- Create an inventory of venues available for community events eg make more of the Drill Hall as an asset.
- Make of Rosefield Mills as an asset.
- Consciously create a town centre link with sport and the Queen of the South football club.

*What can be done to make it easier for people to live in the town centre?*

*Who should be encouraged to live in the town centre?*

*What buildings and land would you like to see converted for town centre living and other community uses?*

*How can Dumfries Town Centre be made more welcoming?*

*How can Dumfries Town Centre promote better social inclusion and diversity?*

*How to best revive community life following the pandemic?*

**If you can't come to the workshops tell us what you think on our whiteboard [here](#) or via our survey [here](#).**







### Green and Public Space

This theme is about how to support and improve leisure, recreation, greenspace, public realm and community facilities in Dumfries. It is also about generating ideas around low to zero carbon activity to help tackle the climate emergency.

4-6pm or 7-9pm  
Wednesday 03 March

To sign up  
**CLICK HERE**

WORKSHOP 1

WORKSHOP 2

WORKSHOP 3

WORKSHOP 4

### Key Issues

- More greenspace is needed in and around the town centre.
- The appearance of the town could be improved eg architectural maintenance, street frontages, and street maintenance.
- The need to make it easier to access greenspace, leisure and recreational activity.
- The need to create more spaces for young people and the wider community to socialise.
- The need to invest in the small streets/closes.
- The need to promote better local and greenspace opportunities eg at The Crichton.

### Bright Ideas

- Better link greenspace/open space / parks with walking and cycling routes and with green space outwith the town centre eg at The Crichton.
- Make more of the street ‘closes’ eg lighting, use, maintenance, signage, colour, access points, use as a tourist attraction.
- Develop more play-led design interventions/installations in the town centre (eg pump track/skate track), and create more spaces for young people to socialise.
- Create a clear colour material/palette (eg granite) for the town centre to continue both historical and visual links.
- Establish a regular street and building cleaning programme.
- Develop a litter and dog fouling education programme.
- Develop a civic pride programme.
- Provide more shelters and shop canopies to encourage year-round use.
- Make more of the River Nith.
- Plant more flowers, trees and greenery.
- Use creative lighting to brand/energise the town centre.
- Make more of the town’s statues.

*Is there a need for new parks/greenspace? If so where?*

*How can we make Dumfries Town Centre look better?*

*What streets and spaces would you like to see improved? And how?*

*How can parks/green space be made more useable?*

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