

Our Place Renfrew West

**Coming Together
Working Together**

**The Community's
Shared Vision for
Delivering Change in
Renfrew West...**



August 2010

The Shared Vision



Figure 1 - Coming Together (Moorpark Youth Centre)

The Community's vision for Renfrew West is to see their area blossom into a bright, vibrant and colourful place to live. A place where all residents have fun, live safely, peacefully, and are confident and happy.

This shared vision is for a neighbourhood where everyone comes together and works together to get things done; a place of growth and opportunity for residents and community groups alike; a place where children have a better future and where there's more things to do - for everyone.

Local people recognise opportunities already exist to make significant improvements in community life, which if developed, will help to bring their shared vision to fruition i.e.

- Local facilities and amenities – improving usage and developing new provision
- Activities for children, young people, families and older people – bringing together a variety of affordable things to do and enjoy
- Community Transport – to enable residents to get out and take part in community activities
- Community safety – so that everyone feels safe and secure
- Providing more information about what's on in the community – so that everyone can take part
- Improving green spaces and the local environment
- Addressing health issues – through a variety of activities
- Restoring community spirit

“Bright and vibrant with a sense of equality”

“Fun, confident, happy and safe”

This vision for a fairer, safer, smarter, healthier and greener community is set in the context of an area, where in 2008, almost one-quarter (24.30%) of the total population (6125 residents) were income deprived (7% higher than Scotland as a whole), and 3.4% of the working age population Renfrew West were claiming JSA in 2008 (0.6% higher than Scotland as a whole).

Almost a fifth of the population are aged 0-15yrs.

In relation to school leaver destinations, a relatively high percentage of children in Renfrew West (37.2%) in 2007/08 went in to 'Further Education' compared to Scotland as a whole (24.8%). Conversely, a low percentage of children went in to 'Higher Education' (21.8%) compared to Scotland as a whole (31.1%). Almost one-quarter of children went into 'Employment' and a very small percentage (1.3%) went into 'Training'.

“More things for kids – interacting with older people so people feel less threatened”



Figure 2 – Picturing the Future (McMaster Centre)

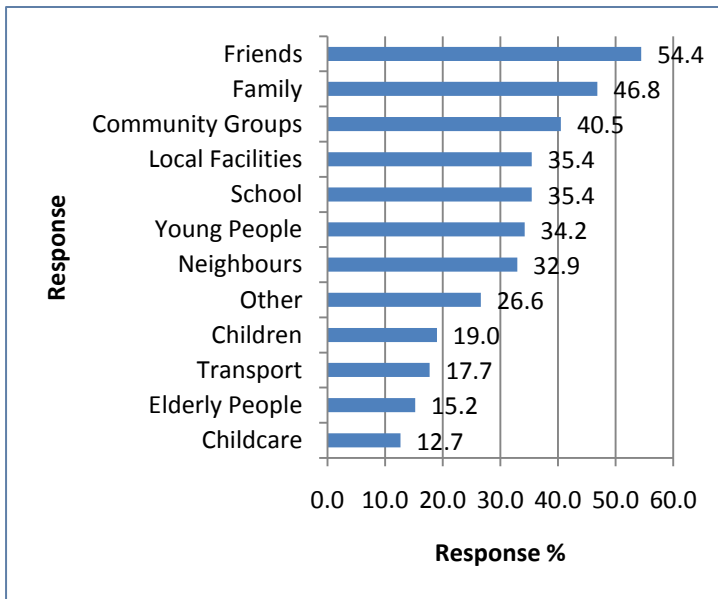
“Encourage people to be involved...to taste and try opportunities”

Health indicators show that within Renfrew West, one of the key problems faced is alcohol misuse. The rate per 100,000 of the population admitted to hospital for alcohol misuse in the area (841) far exceeds Scottish levels (722). Although other health indicators including hospital admissions for both coronary heart disease and drugs misuse are high, they are both lower than Scotland as a whole.



Figure 3 - Working Together (Cherrie Centre)

What makes up the community of Renfrew West?



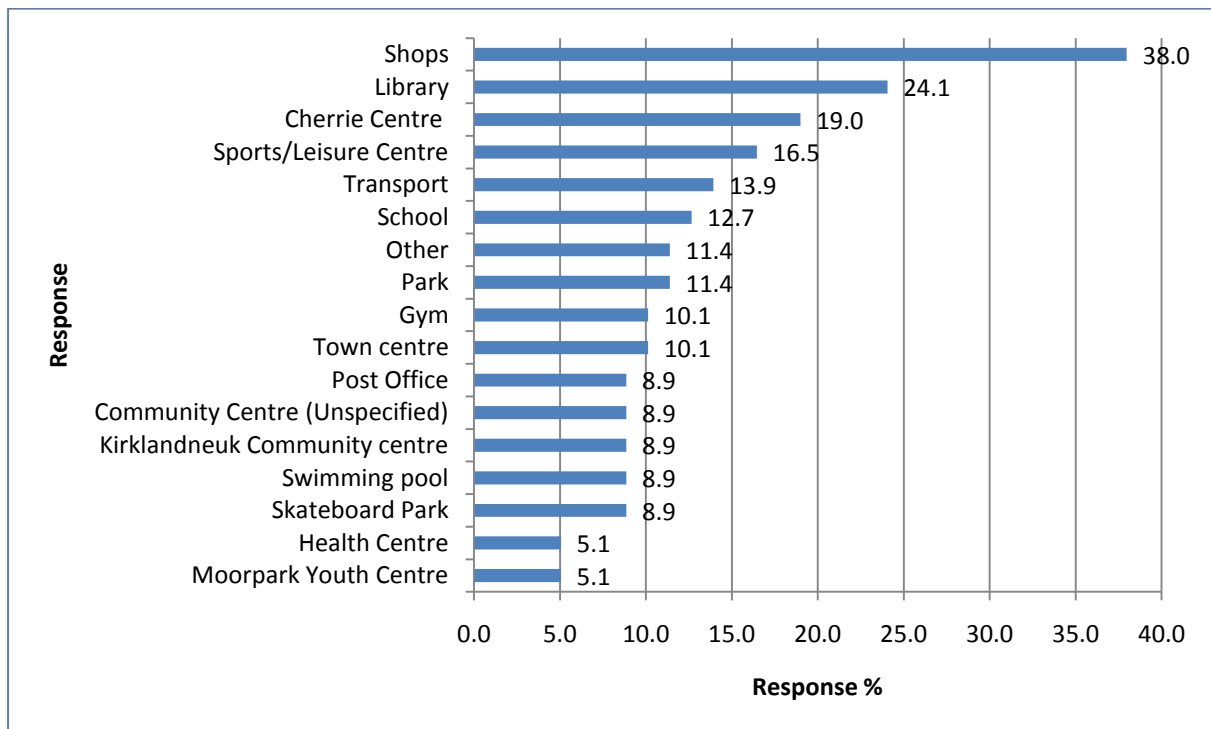
The community of Renfrew West is made up of five neighbourhoods: Kirklandneuk, Porterfield, Moorpark, Loanhead and Arkleston & Newmains.

It was clear from those individuals who took part in the consultation events that residents were particularly passionate about the area they called ‘home’ and this was reflected in the questionnaire responses and focus group sessions.

For the majority of respondents, their community was defined by ‘family’ and ‘friends’.

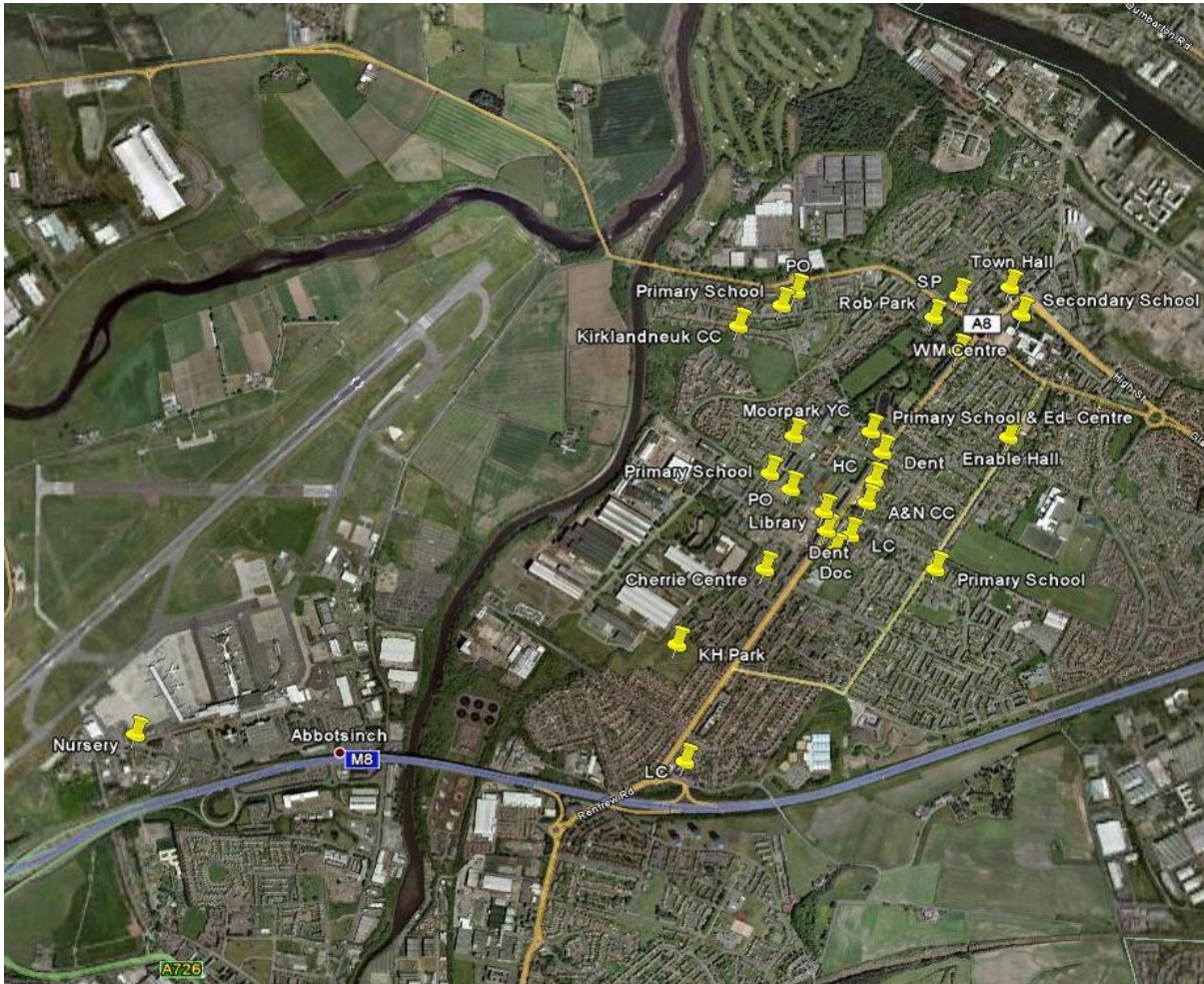
‘Community Groups’ were also a focal point, with many of the individuals surveyed, using their local community centre to access a range of volunteer-run activities, such as bingo, afterschool clubs, crèche activities and lunch clubs etc.

Young people were seen as being a significant part of the community, reflecting the fact that a high proportion of the population are aged 0-15yrs.



Local facilities such as shops, the library, schools, the health centre and community centres were also viewed as part of the make-up of the local community, and a high proportion of respondents accessed local services and activities through these facilities.

The map below shows the location of these facilities and amenities.



Service/Facility	Number
Primary School	4
Secondary School	1
Library	1
Park	2
Community centre (CC)/Facilities	6
Education Centre	1
Swimming pool (SP)	1
Health Centre (HC)	1
Doctor	1
Leisure Centre (LC)	2
Moorpark Youth Centre (YC)	1
Post Office (PO)	2

Within Renfrew West there is a mix of volunteer run activities operating alongside local authority services, amenities and facilities, and third sector / private sector service providers. The table below details current provision in the area.

Vision Themes	Current provision	Gaps in provision
Improving local facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherrie Centre (Moorpark) • Kirklandneuk Community Centre • McMaster Centre (Robertson Park) • Arkleston & Newmains Community Centre • Moorpark Youth Centre • Renfrew Town Hall (closed for refurb) • Sandy Road Hall (Enable Renfrew) 	There are a number of community facilities in the area which are owned by the local council and operated by volunteer management committees. Issues therefore relate to extending usage / longer-term sustainability and viability.
Activities for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renfrewshire Youth Services (local authority) • 'The Hut' Drop in (Paisley YMCA) • Renfrew Youth Forum • Cherrie Afterschool / Tweenie Club • Moorpark Youth Centre • Thirty Acres Club • Cherrie Boys / Victoria Football Club • Knockhill and Robertson Parks • Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs etc 	In addition to the statutory primary and secondary school provision and Reid Kerr College (located out with the area), there is a range of private and voluntary sector activity for children and young people in the area. However issues identified relate to: lack of grant support to sustain delivery, the need for new delivery routes, improved partnership working and awareness raising of existing provision.
Activities for older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renfrew Senior's Forum • Local community centres (McMaster, Cherrie Centre, Kirklandneuk, Arkleston) • Renfrew Senior Citizen's Club (Bingo) • Volunteer-run interest groups 	Current provision relates to social activities i.e. lunch clubs, bingo, sequence dancing and interest groups. Reaching Older Adults in Renfrewshire project is planned for the area. Gap in provision relates to intergenerational activity
Community Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arriva • Dial-a-bus 	Provision of public transport is limited during evening times.
Support for families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Work Department (local authority) • Citizen's Advice Bureau • Credit Union • Tenants Associations 	Whilst there are agencies such as 'Home Start' providing parental support activities / volunteering opportunities, they do not currently operate in Renfrew West.
Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Wardens (local authority) • Renfrew Community Policing Team • Strathclyde Fire & Rescue • Williamsburgh Housing Association 	The gap in provision relates to encouraging effective links between the residents and community wardens / policing team re: dog fouling and anti-social behaviour.
Community Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renfrew Community Library • 'My Renfrew' website • Paisley Daily Express • Renfrew Town Hall (closed for refurb) • Renfrew Community Council 	Perceived gaps in provision stem from lack of up-to-date information about services and activities delivered within the area. Better communication within the community would help to address this.
Community growing spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paterson Park Allotments (located outwith the geographic area covered by Our Place). 	There is currently no provision for a community growing space in the area.
Community Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Health Initiative Project • Renfrew Leisure Centre • David Lloyd Health Centre • Private sector provision • Enable (Renfrew) 	Improving awareness of existing fitness and healthy living activities is required alongside the provision for affordable alternatives i.e. a green gym

Opportunities and challenges faced by the community

Renfrew West has benefited from local authority investment and grant-support through the Renfrewshire Common Good fund. This investment has resulted in the creation of a skate park and upgraded tennis courts (Robertson Park), community safety improvements in Knockhill Park and Moorcroft Park, a youth diversionary project and a five year programme of kitchen / bathroom improvements to council housing-stock. A new-build primary school (St James Primary) and the



Figure 4 - Identifying priorities for the Community
(Moorpark Youth Centre)

refurbishment of the Renfrew Town Hall and Victory Swimming Baths are also underway. Prior to its temporary closure, the Town Hall was a central point for local information and a meeting place for many local groups including the Renfrew Town Seniors Forum.

The community identified Robertson Park and Knockhill Park as areas of 'opportunity' within the Community. A number of respondents suggested the provision of additional toilets in Robertson Park for skate park users during the evening and the inclusion of baby swings within the existing children's play area. Anecdotal feedback about the new skate park was positive, with views indicating it was an accessible place for young people to meet and have fun.

However views were also expressed that there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour in

the skate park, particularly late at night. For Knockhill Park, local individuals identified improvements to the overall facilities and equipment within the park.

Other opportunities identified by the community related to:

- Better use of existing community resources and facilities – such as local community centres including The William McMaster Centre (located in Robertson Park).
- Developing new community facilities and amenities – such as a community growing space and a community shop/café providing access to fresh fruit, vegetables and healthy living activities
- Developing social enterprise opportunities – such as a community re-use facility
- Providing safe spaces and affordable activities for children and young people

- Supporting families by supporting parents - including activities for young parents, debt and welfare rights advice
- Providing activities for older people, reducing isolation and building community relationships through inter-generational work
- Exploring the potential for a community transport project – to enable people to get out and about and take part in community-life
- Improving community safety – so that everyone feels safe and secure
- Improving access to community information - so that residents know what's on and how to get involved
- Reclaiming green spaces and enhancing the local environment – through community gardening and maintenance activities
- Addressing health issues – through fitness and healthy eating activities.

***“nothing much in the community:
no affordable shops, nothing to do,
no places to go”***

However a significant number challenges for the community were identified during the course of the consultation sessions:

- Dog fouling in children’s playing areas, parks and communal green spaces
- Antisocial behaviour and criminal activity linked to alcohol & drug abuse/ underage drinking.
- Community safety and poor street lighting specifically for the residential areas and communal spaces within Kirklandneuk and Moorpark¹
- ***“fear of attack if you say to someone to stop their anti-social behaviour, fear of reprisals on the children.”***
- ***“Older generation is too scared to go out”***
- Poor variety of local shops, with Kirklandneuk and Moorpark identified as areas which lacked access to affordable, good quality fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Social isolation for particular groups within the community such as older people and carers
- Limited access to public transport specifically during the evening time which prevented people for taking part in community activities.
- Lack of information / awareness about existing activities and services delivered in the area
- Loss of community identity, spirit and respect.

Although a range of positive and negative views were expressed about Renfrew West, it was clear from the individuals who took part in the consultation sessions that they cared deeply about their community and the people in it.

¹ Amongst focus group participants from Moorpark, there was strong feeling that newer council tenants in the area brought with them a number of related social problems such as alcohol and drug abuse, anti-social behaviour, and an increase in fear and crime.

For some aspects of community life, views differed significantly between older people and children & young people. Older respondents predominantly expressed a sense of loss for a community with

“I just want a sense of community spirit to come back”

a proud Burgh heritage and a desire for the return of community identity and spirit. However the view of children and young people who took part in the consultation sessions was of their neighbourhood

being a place where they felt close to family and friends and where people talked to one another.

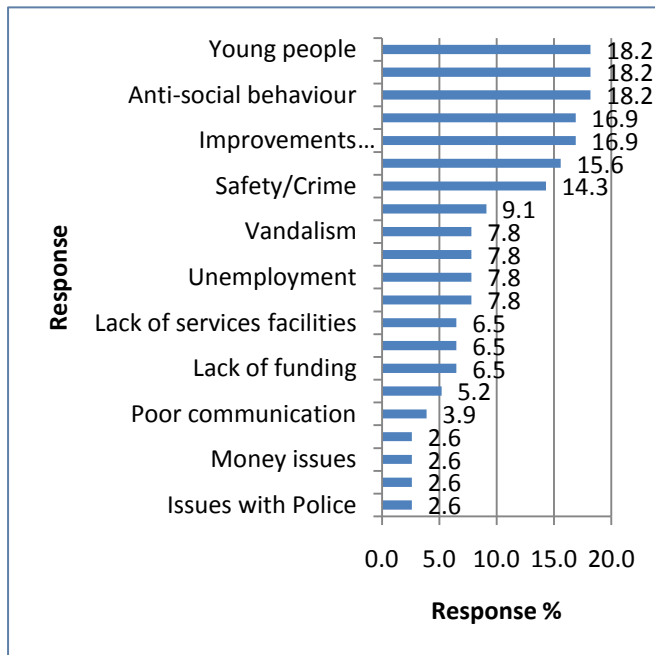
*“many people are close together”
“everybody talks to each other”*

Feedback from focus group sessions indicated local people were particularly concerned about the future of children and young people within the community, and wanted more activities for them to take part in as well as opportunities to develop and grow.

Among the barriers cited to community growth and change were: territorialism, financial pressures due to short term funding and internal capacity of community groups.

Territorialism was identified as a significant barrier within the community, particularly for young people living in Kirklandneuk and Moorpark. Despite young people mixing feely in the skate park,

many young people indicated they would not venture into each other’s neighbourhood.



Short term funding was also cited as barrier to delivering change within the community. Groups faced ongoing financial pressures to maintain existing services as well as ensure their own survival. In addition many of the community groups were reliant upon unpaid volunteer support to operate effectively. As a result, the ability of groups to plan and manage services in the longer term had been significantly affected. Feedback indicated a need to address capacity issues such as:

- Sustainability and viability of community facilities and project delivery
- Strategic planning and visioning activities including creative and positive thinking
- Business Planning
- Social enterprise development
- Succession planning and youth involvement

Study visits to other communities as well as campaigning and influencing skills would also create opportunities for the groups to come together to tackle broader issues impacting on community life such as community safety.

Improvements the community would like to see

The community indicated more activities for children and young people would significantly benefit the area. Their emphasis was on a future where children and young people were “happy”, “playing with friends and having fun”, and free to express themselves and develop confidence.

Respondents believed there was a lack of provision for 5 to 12 year olds in the area. Improvements related to the provision of affordable activities including music, dance, drama and singing, skate lessons and sports activities.



Figure 5 – Activities Identified (Cherrie Centre)

In addition local people also identified a number of improvements to local facilities and amenities. Robertson Park and Knockhill Park were identified for improvement along with the creation of new facilities such as a community allotment, community shop/café and a sports facility.

Activities for Older People and community transport were also identified as areas where improvements could be made. Activities identified included: combating isolation, lunch clubs, and intergenerational projects to encourage interaction between younger and older people. Many respondents linked community transport with improved mobility for older people and the opportunity to actively participate in community-life.

Other areas of change identified by the community related to:

- Activities for families including parental support activities, debt and welfare advice,
- Community safety through improved street lighting and CCTV
- Better communication about what’s on in the community, and how to get involved (volunteering opportunities).
- Improving community spirit through community events

The local environment was another area identified by the community for improvement. Among the ideas generated were: clean-up campaigns, addressing dog fouling, improved green space management and a gardening group.

Healthy living activities such as gyms, walking programmes, healthy-eating cookery classes, promoting the riverside walkway and a cycling project were also identified by focus group respondents.

Project ideas generated by the community

A broad range of project ideas were generated as a result of the consultation activities and through discussion, participants prioritised these ideas based on their fit with the community’s shared vision. The table below summarises the top five priorities for delivering change in the community.

<p>1st Improving Facilities and Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knockhill Park Robertson Park Community growing space Community shop / cafe Sports hall Children’s play areas Dance / Art Studio Re-use facility 	<p>1st Children & Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities for 5 to 10 year olds Training opportunities Music, singing, dance, drama Afterschool clubs and activities Roller-blade lessons Diversionary activities Sports activities 	<p>2nd Older People / Community Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities to combat isolation Lunch clubs and social events Intergenerational projects community transport
<p>3rd Activities for families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parental support activities Debt advice Welfare rights Credit Unions Activities for young parents 	<p>3rd Community Safety / Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved street lighting CCTV Encouraging links with Community Policing Community information Volunteering opportunities 	<p>4th Local Environment / 5th Community Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address dog fouling Clean-up campaigns Improve communal green spaces Local walks programme Cycle routes / riverside walkway Healthy living activities

As a result of the priorities identified by the community, the following project ideas have been identified for development as Stage One applications through BIG Lottery’s Our Place Programme.

Project Proposal	Outline of Stage One activity	Fit with Community Vision
Knockhill Park	Capital project to regeneration of Knockhill Park – including upgrading of children’s play equipment, football pitch and installation of a jogging path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving local facilities and amenities • Activities for children and young people • Activities for families • Community Health • Local Environment
Robertson Park	Capital project to extend the number of baby swings and provision of toilet facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for children and young people • Improving local facilities and amenities • Activities for families • Community Health • Local Environment
Community Growing Space	Capital project to investigate the potential for a community growing space(s) providing access to fresh produce and healthy living activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for children and young people • Activities for older people • Community Health • Local Environment
Community shop / cafe	Capital project to explore the establishment of a community shop / café thereby improving access to fresh produce and promoting healthy eating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for older people • Improving local facilities and amenities • Activities for families • Community Health
Reuse Facility	Capital project to identify potential for the development of a re-use facility / social enterprise activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Environment
Children and Young People Programme	Revenue project to develop an activities programme and linking agencies / existing provision to new areas of delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for children and young people • Community safety
Parental Support Programme	Revenue project to provide support to disadvantaged families and linking agencies and existing provision to new areas of delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for families • Community Safety • Community Health
Inter-generational Programme	Revenue project to encourage interaction between younger and older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for children and young people • Activities for older people
Community Information Project	Revenue project to bring together existing sources of community information and raise awareness of existing activities / services available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Information • Activities for families • Activities for children and young people • Activities for older people
Community Transport Project	Capital project to develop a community transport operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for children and young people • Activities for older people • Community Safety
Project to Empower and Up skill Community Groups	Revenue project to develop a capacity building programme for local community groups to instigate a positive change in perceptions and attitudes, and explore issues such as sustainability of existing facilities / services, social enterprise, succession planning, empowering & influencing, strategic planning and ‘visioning’.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving local facilities and amenities • Activities for children and young people • Activities for older people • Community Transport • Activities for families • Community Safety • Community Information • Local Environment • Community Health

Appendix 1

Area Context		Political Context	
The information ² below outlines issues facing Renfrew West relating to key socio-economic indicators identified.		The Local Outcomes identified in Renfrew’s SOA and Objectives in the Community Plan that align with each of the areas of need within the Renfrew West area are listed below	
	Local Need	SOA	Community Plan
Background	The total population of Renfrew West is 6,125. There is large child population and low pensionable age population relative to Scotland as a whole.	The purpose of the Renfrewshire Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2011 is to set out the agreed strategic priorities of the community planning partners	The community plan for Renfrewshire for the period 2008 –2017, sets out the vision for Renfrewshire in 2017.
Economic Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Throughout 2008 an average of 3% of the Working Age Population of Renfrew West were claiming Job Seekers Allowance – slightly higher than the national average of 2.5%. ➤ During the same period, an average of 10% of those aged 16yrs+ were claiming Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disability Allowance – 3 percentage points higher than the Scottish average ➤ In 2008, almost one-quarter (24.30%) of the total population of Renfrew West were income deprived, 7 percentage points higher than Scotland as whole. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local economy sustained by attracting and retaining business ➤ Sustained growth of the social economy sector ➤ An increase in the number and rate of the working age population in employment and a reduction in the number and rate of the working age population in receipt of employment related benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wealthier & Fairer - We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people

² Sources: www.sns.gov.uk; www.gcph.co.uk

<p>Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Health indicators show that within Renfrew West, one of the key problems faced is alcohol misuse. The rate per 100,000 of the population admitted to hospital for alcohol misuse in the area (841) far exceeds Scottish levels (722). ➤ Drug related deaths (1997-2007) in Renfrew West were also 63% above the national average. ➤ In Renfrew West between 2001 and 2005, the average annual rate of Coronary Heart Disease deaths in under 75's per 100,000 of the population was 45% above the Scottish average. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The health of our young children is improved. Children have positive early years learning experiences. ➤ Our residents have improved levels of health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Healthier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We live longer, healthier lives. - Good health is valued and promoted to assist people to be as active and healthy as they can be. - There is a significant reduction in the number of people whose consumption of alcohol is beyond safe levels. - People enjoy a healthy diet and can make informed choices about nutrition. - People enjoy an active lifestyle including access to a range of sporting and other exercise activities
<p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The average tariff score for S4 pupils in 2008 was 25 points lower than the national average. ➤ In relation to school leaver destinations, a low percentage of children went in to 'Higher Education' (21.8%) compared to Scotland as a whole (31.1%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our young people will enter into positive destinations on leaving school ➤ Our children will be well qualified and prepared for adult life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Smarter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our young people are successful learners, - confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. - People achieve high attainment levels and emerge well-rounded and confident. - Self-improvement is embedded in our culture
<p>Crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ From 2004 – 2006, the rate of serious violent crimes within the area (per 10,000 of population) was +76% above the Scottish average. ➤ Rates of Vandalism in the area are also high in relation to the Scottish average (+23%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sustainable reduction of antisocial behaviour and violence in our communities is achieved. ➤ Reduction in the numbers of injuries and deaths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Safer & Stronger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger. - Town centres are safe, attractive and alive by day and night. - We have strong, resilient and

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supportive communities where people take responsibility - for their own actions and how they affect other
<p>Deprivation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Of the eight data zones in the area, two are in the 5% and one is in the 10% most deprived data zones in Scotland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reduced levels of deprivation ➤ Increased access to cultural, sporting and learning activities is underpinned by equality of opportunity for children, young people and adults. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wealthier & Fairer - We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society