

Portgordon Community Trust Action Plan

2021-2026





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This Action Plan summarises the views and information about:

- Our vision for the future of Portgordon
- Main strategies and priorities

Introduction

- Current projects –what you said, what we have done

- This plan is a guide for what we – as a community- will strive to make happen throughout the next 5 years



Previous Action Plans and Consultations

- The community had previously prepared a Community Action Plan in 2017 through a “Planning for Real” exercise. It was felt that although this had been a good community engagement process, there had not been the follow up co-ordination or resources to take forward the priorities identified.

- In 2019, through support from tsimORAY, we held an event called “The Four Pillars of Sustainability” which was attended by the community as well as a public meeting. The results of these interactive sessions confirmed that there remains a desire to see elements of the Planning for Real progressed. Around the same time, there was an external report commissioned by Crown Estate Scotland to look at the viability of the Harbour. This indicated that should the Community wish to take over the management and operation of the harbour, then they needed to look at other ways to generate income by using assets around the harbour estate.

- Immediately after these events, the country fell under full lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic which restricted the ability to have face to face meetings and open events, however there were a further 2 consultations carried out online, by consultants ‘appointed by the PCHG Ltd’ Community Enterprise and Delfinity.

- Simultaneously, several active groups had the desire to amalgamate together to strengthen and support each other and to form a Development Trust – which was an aspiration in the Planning for Real of 2017.

- Portgordon Community Trust is a fledgling organisation that has evolved from the Portgordon Community Harbour Group. The following groups have also come under its umbrella: The Village Hall, The Portgordon Post and The Lampie Hoose.



A brief history

- In 1797 Portgordon, or more precisely Port Gordon, was the third new village to be founded by Alexander 4th Duke of Gordon. This was some twenty years after the establishment of Tomintoul and Fochabers and gave them all important access to the sea. Stones shipped from Lossiemouth were used in the construction of the harbour and for many years it was a more important port than Buckie. Apart from fishing there was a considerable trade in the export of grain from the hinterland and the import of salt, coal and bones for processing into fertiliser.

- Not surprisingly, almost 100 years later, the harbour was unfit for purpose and was totally reconstructed and enlarged to accommodate the increased number of boats registered at Portgordon. This time it was under the auspices of Charles Gordon-Lennox, 6th Duke of Richmond. It was to be another hundred years before the next improvement came.

- This time in the shape of the 69th Gurkha Independent Field Squadron who addressed the major decay to the historic structure. The Moray Firth Coast Railway came to Portgordon in 1886 increasing transportation for business and work opportunities. Shipbuilding in nearby Kingston had almost petered out by the beginning of the 1900s and the years 1903 – 1915 may be regarded as the golden age of boat building in Portgordon.

- Steam drifters were in great demand and the village was a hive of industry. Not only boats, but many substantial houses were built reflecting the increased prosperity and shops and public houses flourished. Most households in Port Gordon did not benefit from electricity until 1940s or 50s. this resulted in its dubious title 'Paraffin City'.

- The community however warmed to this and in 2001 happily chose the name "The Lampie Hoose" for the community hub housed in the historic building in Gordon Square. Through it all – the ups and downs of village life – Portgordon has retained its school, central to the community where education for all has been paramount and lifelong friendships have been forged.

How Portgordon got to this point

(Taken from the Planning for Real 2017)

Portgordon Now – from the 2011 census

Population 844 Households 374

- Overall Portgordon's population is growing and it has a higher percentage of older people in comparison with the rest of Moray. In 2011 Portgordon had 5.6% more of those over 60 than the Moray average.
- There is also a high percentage of over 65s living alone in Portgordon. Relatively 3% more than the population of Moray and Scotland.
- The other large difference in age profiles between Portgordon and Moray and Scotland is the proportion in the 16-29 year old group. Portgordon has 4.3% less than Moray and 5.7% less than Scotland.
- 71% of the homes in Portgordon are owner occupied which is well above the Moray average of 66%.
- The unemployment rate is fairly high compared to Moray (5.4% versus 3.9%). The unemployment rate was around 5% at both the 2001 and 2011 censuses.
- There are many more part time posts compared to the Moray average. Just over a quarter of economically active Portgordon employees are part time compared to 22% for Moray.
- Portgordon has a higher proportion of skilled trade occupations than the rest of Moray and much more than Scotland.
- There are comparatively high percentages of jobs in process, plant and machine operation and in the service sector.
- Disability is slightly greater in Portgordon than for Moray as a whole or Scotland, the older demographic in Portgordon compared to Moray may be the reason for higher levels of reported disability.
- There is also more incidence of long term physical disability in Portgordon compared to the rest of Moray.
- The percentage of the population reporting long-term health conditions in Portgordon was 5% and 4% more respectively than for Moray and Scotland. Portgordon has much less Antisocial behaviour per capita than for Moray as a whole.
- In 2012 Portgordon was ranked in the third quintile for crime in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) rankings. This shows that there is not any particular issue with crime in Portgordon with crimes per capita around the Scottish average.



Purpose, Values and Mission

The purpose:

Create a Connected and Thriving Village.

The generic values of the organisation:

Authenticity, Competence, Responsibility, commitment and Integrity.

The differentiating values of the organisation:

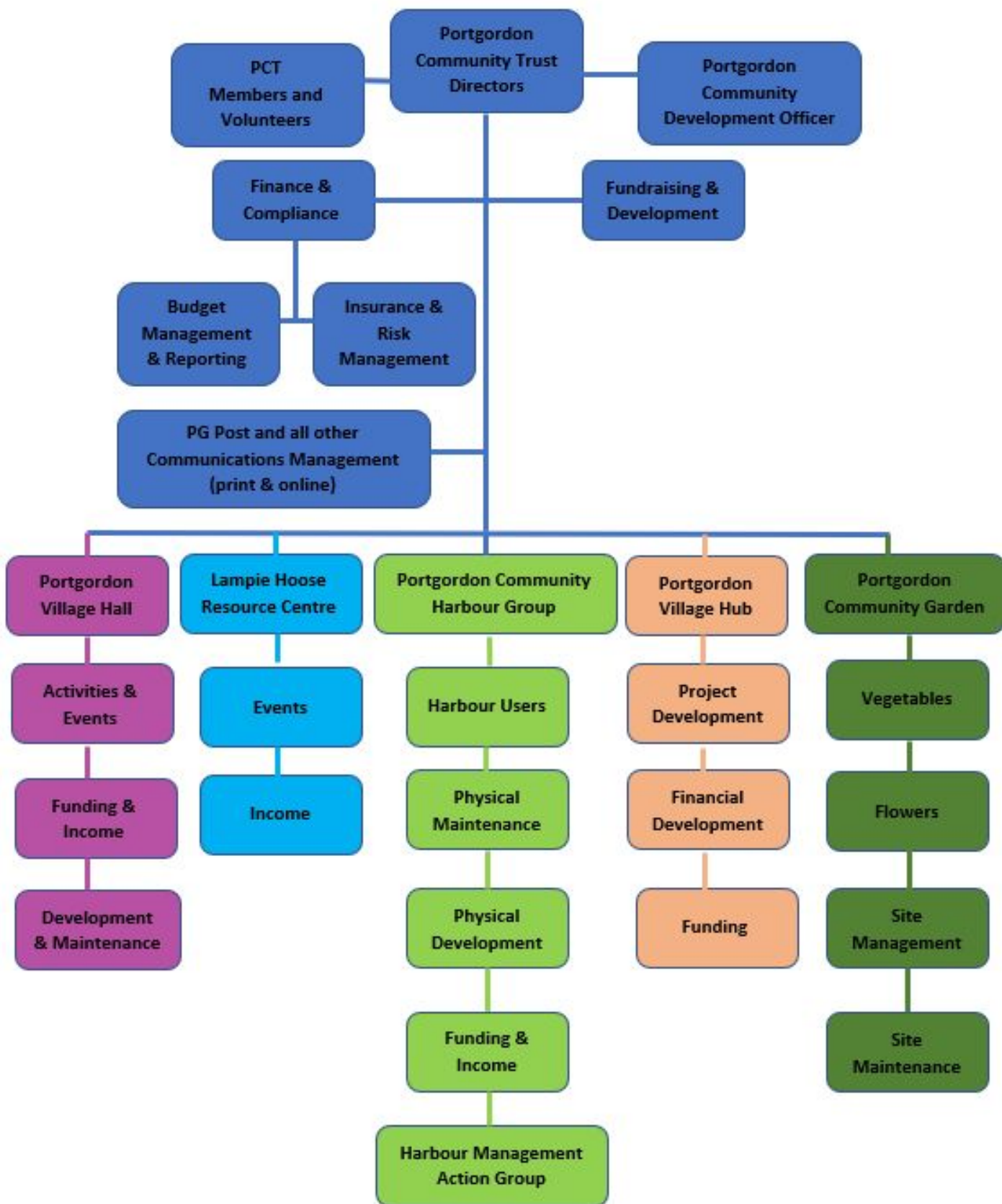
Fun, Community Inclusion, Wellbeing, Cooperation and Stewardship.

The mission:

Portgordon will be a sustainable community with a strong local economy and a resilient capacity to manage change

The Structure of Portgordon Community Trust

Portgordon Community Trust Ltd were formed in October 2021 and currently have 8 Directors. The Trust is a limited company (ref SC282180) and a registered charity (ref SC040805).





What has driven activity to date?

<http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file113796.pdf>



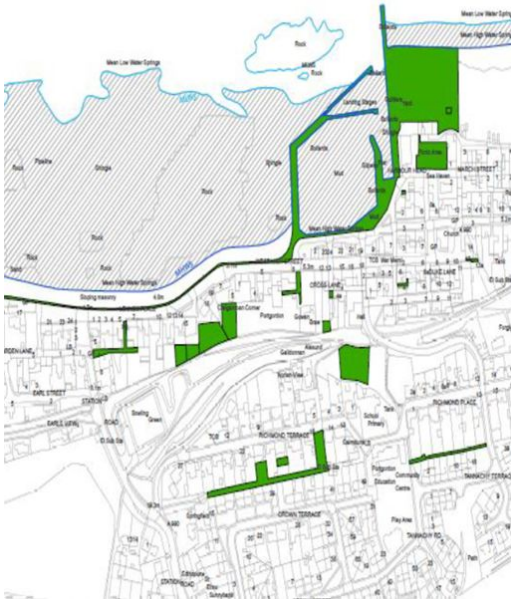
LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

AS YOU WILL APPRECIATE, WE CANNOT ACHIEVE EVERYTHING THAT WAS IDENTIFIED IN THE PLANNING FOR REAL.

VIEWS WERE, THAT THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN OVER CONSULTED, WITH NOTHING TANGIBLE AS A RESULT.

HOPE WAS FADING, ESPECIALLY WITH THE CLOSURE OF THE SHOP, THE PUB AND THE LACK OF DEVELOPMENT WITH THE HARBOUR.

AS WELL AS PROVIDING A RESPONSE & SUPPORTING OTHER COMMUNITIES THROUGH COVID 19, WITH CERTAIN FUNDING ACCESSIBLE , WE IDENTIFIED SOME PRIORITIES FROM THE PLANNING FOR REAL 2017, THAT WOULD BE ACHIEVABLE AND ARE PRESENTED ON THE NEXT PAGE.



Theme 1 –
Leisure and
Tourism
Harbour
Development

- Formation of a Harbour Management Action Group – with representatives from Crown Estate Scotland (CES), Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE), Moray Council (MC) and Portgordon Community Trust (PCT), working together to support the transfer of the Harbour and associated assets into community ownership by Dec 2023.

- CES will be undertaking some Health and Safety related structural works going on which are hoped to be finished by November 2022.



We have continued to carry out community beach cleans with more planned for the future

The Village Green has seen the additions of wheelchair accessible benches, seating stones, Heritage style signing to places of interest, 3 community grills and a bicycle repair stand.

We now have a Community Garden: In under a year, the site has been transformed and is now.

Theme 2 –

Environment & Sustainability

Clean ups
Create an Orchard,
Flowering Shrubs and
Street Flowerbeds

1. Producing a variety of food for the community,
2. Attracting tourists and friends from neighbouring towns across Moray & the globe.
3. Offering a space for members of the community to enjoy, offer their skills and practical support, with additional seating areas.
4. A carbon-neutral demonstration space – it is completely off grid
5. Developing a food growing strategy to support the community cafe



Theme 3 –

Facilities and Services

Access to disabled toilets
Upgrade Electrics

The Village Hall has seen some serious transformation in 2022:

- Insulation of the inner walls and roof space
- New windows and doors
- Re-pointing of the walls and removal of the old harling.
- Upgraded toilets to include accessible toilet facilities.
- The addition of an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging point.



Theme 3 –

Facilities and Services

Have a Community Cafe

Portgordon Community Trust has recently secured funding to purchase the former Richmond Arms- this will become a Community Hub that will be developed in 3 stages, but will have the following function:

- Volunteer run café
- Meeting space
- Village Heritage Information
- Some of the former Lampie Hoose Activities
- 2-bedroom flat

This will allow income to be generated for Harbour Development

That's not all...

Work that is in progress

PCT secured funding through a joint partnership with CES and HIE, to fund a full time Development Officers position, who in part of her wider remit, will be focusing on the following:

- Strengthening the organisation by improving our Governance
- Building up our membership and volunteer network
- Increasing the Trust's presence in the village
- Building connections with other third, public and private sector organisations.
- Identifying and securing funding to achieve the aspirations of the residents of Portgordon
- Engaging volunteers and "experteers" to be a part of the current projects.

Engaging with developers: not to stop progress & investment in Moray, but:

To represent the local voice on matters that affect you.

To balance & mitigate any & all development.

To preserve or improve current environmental standards as well as support inward development, and, to;

Advocate to future proof the prospects and economy for Portgordon

| | |
|---|--|
| Theme 1 – Leisure and Tourism | |
| Priority 2 | <p>Harbour Redevelopment:</p> <p>Leisure Sailing – Skiff Rowing</p> <p>Re-develop Harbour</p> <p>Harbour Management / Dredging Plan</p> <p>Health and Safety Works Nov 2022</p> <p>Funding/Income Generation ✓</p> <p>Form a Development Trust ✓</p> <p>Continue working with Moray Council to support camping infrastructure</p> |
| Action by | PCT, Local Sea Schools |
| Supported by | Harbour Management Action Group |
| Theme 2 – Environment & Sustainability | |
| Priority 5 | <p>Improve areas of land around the Harbour:</p> <p>Community garden – continue to develop surrounding space ✓</p> <p>Food growing – to support café in Community Hub</p> <p>Sustainability – develop a strategy to generate income for sustainability</p> <p>Develop the Carbon Neutral Demonstration Space ✓</p> |
| Action by | Garden Group |
| Supported by | PCT, Links with other Community Gardens/Cafes. |
| Theme 3– Facilities and Services | |
| Priority 1 | <p>Village Hall:</p> <p>Move towards a more carbon-neutral footprint ✓</p> <p>Upgrade insulation ✓</p> <p>Upgrade Electrics</p> <p>Renovate Toilets ✓</p> <p>Improved Heating</p> <p>Continue to engage volunteers to increase its usage</p> <p>Recruit a Hall Manager</p> |
| Action by | PCT |
| Supported by | Local Contractors, Funders, residents and groups |
| Theme 1 & 3 – Harbour Development & Facilities and Services | |
| Priority 1 | <p>Community Hub:</p> <p>Purchase Hub</p> <p>Phase 1 – Volunteer run cafe</p> <p>Phase 2 – Lease café and meeting space for community use</p> <p>Phase 3 – 2-bedroom flat</p> <p>Engage volunteer support</p> <p>Identify potential lease opportunities</p> <p>Funding for development of 3 phases</p> <p>Restart Lampie Hoose Activity</p> <p>Identify and engage services that support the community</p> |
| Action by | PCT |
| Supported by | CES, Project Manager, |
| Other activity in pipeline | |
| - opportunities that arise in support of the village economy, environment, sustainability, future impacts | <p>Significant capital growth projects impacting Portgordon:</p> <p>William Grant & Sons</p> <p>Grissans Pipeline</p> <p>Aultmore Wind farm</p> <p>Strengthen organisational policies, Procedures, Membership, Governance, Presence, Strategies for Communication – Income</p> |
| | 15 |
| | Portgordon Community Trust Action Plan |

Funding to date

PCHG - Portgordon Community Harbour Group
 PCT - Portgordon Community Trust
 V. Hall - Village Hall



Since 2020 to date, we have managed funds in the following way:

THE GORDON & ENA BAXTER FOUNDATION

| Funder/Grant Sponsor | Approximate Date between | Purpose | Requestor | Grant Request | Grant Award |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| HIE Anchor Fund | 2020 | Covid-19 | PCHG | 41,341.00 | 41,341.00 |
| Beatrice Micro via Lennox Comm Council | 2020 | Publishing expense | Portgordon Post | 185.00 | 185.00 |
| W.M. Grant | 2020 | Publishing expense | Portgordon Post | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| Beatrice, Small (£10,000 or less) | 2020 | HUB Feasibility Study | PCHG | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| Beatrice Micro via Lennox Comm Council | 2020 | Covid-19 response | PCHG | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| CORRA Foundation | 2020 | Covid-19 | PCHG | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Community Fund Grant | 2021 | Grills, tables, bike repair station | PCHG | 3,850.00 | 3,850.00 |
| HIE Community Led Tourism | 2021 | Tourist benefit projects | PCHG | 38,600.00 | 38,600.00 |
| Beatrice | 2021 | Windows, doors, remedial works | V. Hall | 30,000.00 | 30,000.00 |
| HIE Early Development Fund | 2021 | Stage 1 SLF | PCT | 2,010.00 | 2,010.00 |
| Lennox Community Council | 2021 | Community Garden | PCHG | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| Janice Mutch aka Mutch4Less | 2021 | Community Garden security systems | PCT | 1,256.00 | 1,256.00 |
| Beatrice | 2022 | Bathrooms | V. Hall | 50,711.14 | 50,711.14 |
| HIE, Community Development Officer | 2022 | Payroll and related expenses | PCT | 23,294.50 | 23,294.50 |
| CES, Community Development Officer | 2022 | Payroll and related expenses | PCT | 23,294.50 | 23,294.50 |
| HIE Greening Community Assets | 2022 | Insulation Project | V. Hall | 30,539.00 | 27,485.00 |
| Portgordon Theatre Group | 2022 | Contribution to Hall renovation | V. Hall | 3,500.00 | 3,500.00 |
| HIE Consultant Funding SLF stage 2 | 2022 | SLF Application | PCT | 8,690.00 | 8,690.00 |
| Carbon Neutral Communities - tsIMoray | 2022 | solar system-pumps | PCT | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 |
| Scottish Land Fund | 2022 | | PCT | 147,623.00 | 147,623.00 |
| Arnold Clark Community Fund | 2022 | Garden Group | PCT | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Springfield | 2022 | Garden Group-Bench | PCT | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| SSEN | 2022 | Resilience Planning | PCT | 15,666.17 | 10,000.00 |
| DR Capital - HIE | 2022 | Hub Development -Phase 1 | PCT | 78,400.00 | 78,400.00 |
| HIE Capital Underspend | 2022 | Hub Development -Phase 1 | PCT | 162,000.00 | 162,000.00 |
| CARES - Local Energy Scotland | 2022 | Heating Village Hall | PCT | 26,364.00 | 26,364.00 |
| HIE, Community Development Officer | 2023 | Payroll and related expenses | PCT | 23,294.50 | 23,294.50 |
| CES, Community Development Officer | 2023 | Payroll and related expenses | PCT | 23,294.50 | 23,294.50 |
| SLF Year 2 | 2023 | Consultancy | PCT | 7,875.00 | 7,875.00 |
| | | | | 769,775.89 | 756,700.72 |

Delivered by

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
 Portgordon Community Trust Action Plan



Scottish Government
 Rìghaltas na h-Alba
 gov.scot

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Portgordon Community Trust has taken the lead in creating this 5 year action plan, with and for the community of Portgordon.

Using the Planning for Real 2017, to direct all activity since 2020, we all acknowledge the importance of working together and sharing resources to get things done.

COMMUNICATION

Despite the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, groups and organisations contributed fully to this Plan mostly through digital means. Now that face to face meetings will be again the norm, that communication will continue throughout the 5 year life of this Plan

SUPPORT REQUIRED

Throughout this process, groups have identified that they struggle to progress their plans and projects due to a continual need for more active volunteers, funding and expertise.

Having a paid Development Officer will encourage and co-ordinate volunteering and help progress plans and ideas into tangible projects as a vital resource to making this plan into a reality.

KEEPING THE ACTION PLAN UNDER REVIEW

The 5 year plan is a living document. Portgordon Community Trust will take the lead on keeping the Action Plan under review, ensuring that actions are progressed, and groups are supported and kept informed.

PCT will convene regular meetings of community organisations and stakeholders to get updates, and to bring new ideas to the table.



GET IN TOUCH AND GET INVOLVED

Although we have named the main groups that will lead on projects and initiatives, there is plenty of room in this Plan for every group and individual in Portgordon to play their part. If you are interested in getting involved in any of the projects or groups mentioned, or would like more information, please get in touch.

1 • Like the Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/711776022670377/about/>

- Share the good news; tell people and be proud of the progression
- Be added to the Portgordon Connected WhatsApp Group – this platform is to keep connected, ask for support, offer help and just keep an eye out for each other
- Be added to the Portgordon Connected Email Group

To be added to the WhatsApp and email, give Michelle a shout on 07399 031253 or michelle.good@prortgordon-ct.org

- 2. Have you thought, “some of these projects look interesting and I would like to become more involved?”

The good news is, there is something for everyone!! Whether ad hoc when you have the time, for an hour, a day, a week or longer, the Trust needs you! we want to enjoy your support and learn from you too!

- 3. Become a member of the Trust –

By becoming a member of the Development Trust, you are confirming your support for the actions of the Trust who aim is to make Portgordon a better place to live and work, through a community led plan of action which provides services, amenities and/or support to local initiatives. As a member, if you choose to get involved with our activities and help with the decision-making process to mould the future of the area, your expertise would be gratefully welcomed. If you are someone who cares about the area but doesn't have the time to get that involved, we still need your support by becoming a member. By just volunteering when you can at any of the events or projects, it strengthens the community involvement. Care about the area, but unable to provide 'hands on' support? Simply complete our membership form. By doing that, you give the Trust the much needed backing when we apply for funding for the projects we hope to complete, both large and small! If you aren't sure if there is a space for you, please give it a chance! Michelle will be happy to catch up with you and share some more information

It is without doubt, that what has been achieved to date is down to the people of Portgordon, the amazing folks that give their time and resources, our supporters and the connections across the communities of Moray