

Working towards the development of a Sustainable Action Plan for Falkland

We have been asking how we can all ensure that Falkland is a thriving and vibrant community in 10 or 20 years time, a place with a strong sense of community and a great place to live, work and play.

We know there are likely to be big challenges ahead as the effects of climate change and reduced oil availability become more apparent. So we are also asking how can we work together towards making Falkland resilient enough to ride the changes rather than get knocked sideways by them?

There are many other communities asking these questions and fine examples of some who are working well towards solutions and willing to share their experiences.

Falkland has a wealth of things to appreciate and celebrate and a great deal of community activity. How can we both make sure what we've got is still good in 20 years time, plus ensure it is a community where the basic needs of everyone are met - for local food and healthcare, for transport and access, for affordable homes and where there is a strong sense of belonging and connection?

Falkland Centre for Stewardship is taking the first steps towards developing an action plan for a sustainable Falkland. We've begun finding out what is important to people who live here. We have been asking people what they like about the village and what changes they'd like to see. We've been finding people who want to work together to address some of the challenges.

What form a 'Sustainable Action Plan' takes depends totally on the way we want to take it forward as a community. Many great projects and initiatives exist; this process is simply about drawing everyone together towards a common long term-goal. Individuals will most likely continue to work where their passion lies, knowing that it is through working collectively that we can make a significant difference.

Local questions we might address include: how do we deal with traffic issues and improve public transport? How might younger residents feel more engaged? How do we work with tourism to our advantage? How do we process conflict? How can we create a new 'sense of community' that reflects the changing composition of the community?

Wider questions we might address include: What actions can we individually and collectively take in response to the challenge of climate change? How can we become less dependent on oil? How can we work towards relocalising food and energy? How can people everywhere enjoy a high quality of life, within the carrying capacity of one planet, now and in the future?

We can draw on the experience of village and town communities that are forging forward in answering such questions including Biggar, Stirling, Alyth, Portobello, Ashton Hayes, Kinsale and other 'transition towns' and 'carbon neutral' villages. Our situation in Falkland is also unique; as we embark on this adventure and find our own way we will also have much to offer other communities in Fife and Scotland.

If this sounds like an exciting or urgent project then please get in contact and come and be part of it. Falkland Centre for Stewardship 01337 858 838
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