

MEIGLE AND ARDLER ACTION PLAN

COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2021



Meigle and Ardler Community Council

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Introduction	3
2. What we like about the Meigle and Ardler area	4
3. What we don't like about the Meigle and Ardler area	8
4. What would make the area better to live in, work in or visit?	12
5. What are the priorities?	17
6. Our Vision for the future of the Meigle and Ardler area	20
7. Making the Meigle and Ardler area more Sustainable and Resilient	21
8. Meigle and Ardler & the Pandemic	23

Acknowledgements

The Survey was carried out and analysed using guidelines and templates provided by STAR Development Group.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This report summarises the findings of the Community Views Survey carried out as part of the community engagement process designed to inform the preparation of the Meigle and Ardler Community Action Plan. The plan will help guide community development over the next 5 years in the Meigle and Ardler area, help define priorities for action, and be a focus for the work of our community organisations working in partnership with the public and private sector.

Other elements of the community engagement process include:

- Stakeholder interviews (zoom) and online questionnaire
- Preparation of a community profile
- An online Community Futures Event week

The Community Action Plan is being led by a Steering Group which brings together representatives of Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust, Meigle and Ardler Community Council, GrowBiz, Perth & Kinross Council including a local Councillor, and local residents.

1.2 Survey Organisation

The Survey Form was designed by STAR Development Group and tailored with the Steering Group, who particularly thought it was also relevant to include questions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. An Easy Ready version was made available where relevant.

The Steering Group agreed there was a sense of perspective regards the pandemic across both villages and that the community would respond well to the traditional method of physical delivery and collection of a Household Survey, but with modifications. The survey was delivered to approximately 300 houses across various defined areas of Meigle and Ardler. The survey was also available online and the online link/associated QR Code were promoted heavily on the paper copies and through various networks and social media platforms.

1.3 Survey Response

A total of 86 completed Community Views Surveys were received, including 51 online surveys and 35 collected from households. Of those who responded and provided their age:

2 were aged 5-11 years
2 were aged 12-17 years
0 were aged 18-24 years
15 were aged 25-44 years
19 were aged 45-59 years
21 were aged 60-69 years
20 were aged 70-79 years

1.4 Themes & Quotes

- Key themes were verified after two independent reviews were performed
- The report provides a rich illustration of sample quotes selected from all data received

2. WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE MEIGLE AND ARDLER AREA?

Like	% of Responses
Nature of the Place	67%
Environment and Open Spaces	49%
Community Spirit and Friendliness	48%
Location	36%
Services and Transport	35%
Community Facilities, Activities, Groups, Events	14%

2.1 Nature of the Place

A significant number of residents (67%) recognised the rural and quiet nature of their villages and felt it was a safe community to live in. They also acknowledged that it was an attractive place of a small size.

Breakdown of comments

Rural, quiet, tranquil	69%
Size, mixed age groups, safe/low crime	21%
Well maintained appearance	6%
Historic sites, character	4%

Sample Quotes

“Rural feel but close enough to Dundee, Perth and Forfar”

“You can step out your door and be a short walk to the peace and tranquility of nature”

“The quietness of a rural setting”

“Rural area but services reasonably close on hand”

“Peaceful countryside living”

“Very peaceful”

“I like the peaceful, rural setting”

“I have lived in Ardler since 1960 and enjoy the quiet village life”

“We have chosen the area rather than the other way round”

“Fairly peaceable and not too big at the moment”

“Not a great deal of crime, a fairly safe place to live”

“It’s quiet and feels safe”

“The quietness of the area...safe for kids”

“Safe, low crime”

“The villages are very attractive to live in”

“The picturesque village that has everything you need”

“It is a quiet little village – not built up (yet). Has character.”

“Cultural attractions”

2.2 Environment and Open Spaces

There is a strong sense of appreciation for the beauty of the Meigle and Ardler area and the ability to walk out of the front door and access magnificent scenery, many walking routes and an abundance of wildlife.

Breakdown of comments

Walk/cycle routes, access to outdoors/green spaces from the door	44%
Views/scenery, landscape/countryside	38%
Wildlife, nature, clean air	13%
Parks	5%

Sample Quotes

"Lots of green areas surround it to walk and explore"
"Plenty of walks all around as well as Victory Park which is always kept in good nick"
"The ability to go for walks straight from home"
"Lots of walks, the railway walks"
"Quiet roads round about for walking/running/cycling"
"Natural landscape, good access for walking, cycling"
"Great to be able to walk, cycle etc from your front door"
"Walking and cycling friendly roads"
"We love walking in the Belmont"
"Beautiful countryside"
"Beautiful surroundings and clean air"
"The fantastic scenery, the fresh air"
"Easy reach of amazing countryside"
"Amazing range of landscape types within easy access"
"This is a beautiful part of the world to live in"
"There is an abundance of wildlife all about"
"Access to nature and stunning views"
"Red squirrels in our garden!"
"The play parks and fields, the Belmont Centre for walks, red squirrels and birds"

2.3 Community Spirit and Friendliness

Community spirit featured highly with many commenting on how they valued the friendliness and the fact people speak to and support each other. In particular, the community response to COVID-19 made residents proud to be part of the area.

Sample Quotes

"It's a very friendly village"
"I like the fact it's a friendly small close community, where most people look out for each other"
"Friendly community of mixed age groups of families, young & older"
"It is a friendly village and everyone speaks to one another"
"A friendly neighbourhood"
"Reasonable social atmosphere, friendships can develop. Many good folk"
"Community spirit"
"We just love how everybody is so friendly and love the sense of community"
"The tight knit community spirit"
"Great village life and a strong sense of community. The Covid response was exceptional where the community pulled together and ensured that everyone was supported and safe – that was a moment to be proud to live in our local area"
"I like the way people acknowledge one another on meeting/walks especially this year"
"Friendly & supportive nature of the local community"
"I get to see my friends and teachers at school"

2.4 Location

Over a third of respondents said they liked the fact that they could live a quiet village life but were easily within reach of other close by communities or larger cities. The hills and mountains also appealed when describing the location.

Breakdown of comments

Close to larger towns and cities	65%
Convenient for commuting/onward travel	20%
Close to mountains/hills/glens	15%

Sample Quotes

"It's close to larger towns and cities"

"Central location for Dundee, Perth and Angus"

"Small village within easy reach of larger towns"

"Being close to facilities yet in a private spot"

"Proximity to transport links and other larger conurbations"

"The convenient location for commuting for work and shopping in local towns, and the location for walking in the local hills"

"Easy travel to Perth and Dundee, so good for onward travelling"

"Good commuting distance"

"Close to major traffic routes and well placed for reaching other parts of Scotland"

"It's not far to the mountains and glens, the sea, cities etc"

"Close to the Mountains"

2.5 Services and Transport

Local services were valued and said to be more than sufficient for such a small area. In Ardler, the local pub was viewed as the hub of the community. Transport was said to be very good.

Breakdown of comments

Shops, pubs, cafes, farm vending	45%
Post Office, healthcare, school, recycling	37%
Transport (bus service/route), parking	18%

Sample Quotes

"We have a lovely and friendly pub"

"Good range of facilities – school, shop, 2 x café, gift shop and farm vending at Ardler"

"Good local shop and cafes/restaurants"

"Nice local businesses"

"All the amenities we need within walking distance"

"We like having a local shop and post office within walking distance"

"Excellent amenities for such a relatively small community"

"The Tavern being a central hub!"

"Good school"

"Excellent GP practice (Coupar Angus) and access to Ninewells and PRI"

"Excellent primary school"

"Good doctor nearby in Alyth"

"A fantastic primary school"

"The recycling point and kerbside recycling collection and compost collection"

"Nice wee school"

"Small school which provides lots of different opportunities for kids"

"The bus service is very good if you time them"

"Frequent bus service"

"We have access to buses if required"

2.6 Community Facilities, Activities, Groups, Events

Some positive reference was made to community events and facilities and in particular the efforts made for the Christmas Lights. The ongoing work at the bowling club was also noted and the local cricket club was highlighted as the main sporting activity.

Breakdown of Comments

Church	36%
Christmas Lights, Fetes etc	22%
Village Hall, Community Garden	21%
Sport	21%

Sample Quotes

“Church (roll-on the re-opening!)”

“Lovely social amenities – church, village hall”

“Fantastic sense of community e.g. village garden, work at bowling green, Xmas lights etc”

“The local fairs and fetes (when they return)”

“Aside from this awful year, the light switch on is a wonderful activity (with dreadful singing and santa practically sitting in the dark, but still wonderful)”

“The garden in the centre of Meigle”

“Cricket club great for children”

“Top cricket team!”

“Plenty choice of golf courses within reasonable travel distance”

3. WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT THE MEIGLE AND ARDLER AREA?

Dislike	% of Responses
Roads, Traffic and Parking	40%
Nature of the Place	30%
Environment and Village Appearance	24%
Transport	22%
Amenities and Services	14%
Community Facilities and Activities	8%

3.1 Roads, Traffic and Parking

In Meigle the two main routes, the A94 and the Dundee Road, were said to be increasingly busy with speeding vehicles of all types. In Ardler, the main issues focused on the frequency and size of articulated lorries driving through, which in turn resulted in further comments regarding persistent noise and vibration. Generally, comments were also made about the potential impact of the Cross Tay Link Road.

Breakdown of comments

Traffic	60%
Roads	36%
Parking, electric car charging	4%

Sample Quotes

"The speed of the traffic passing through the village is horrendous"

"Speed of traffic from 30mph entering village at Dundee Road to the Belmont Arms"

"Increasing levels of road traffic, noise & pollution"

"Atrocious driving through villages"

"Relentless heavy non-agricultural traffic (mostly 40 ton articulated lorries) on Main Street between Washie Brae and East Ardler Farm...sometimes from early morning to late at night"

"Noise from gears, revving engines, vibration can make conversation and enjoyment of music etc. difficult"

"The volume of traffic on the A94 that doesn't know what 30mph is"

"Tractors/lorries/local taxis not keeping to the new speed limit"

"Concerns about how the new link road around Perth will impact on excessive traffic on A94"

"Tractors that speed through Ardler village at a much much greater speed than 20mph"

"Our house is inches away from Dundee Road and we dislike the volume of traffic and the speed at which some of it passes our front door"

"We have an abundance of heavy vehicles going to and from Pete Grewars farm"

"Despite recent works – which have been poorly planned – traffic through Meigle is still as problematic as ever, & this will only be exacerbated by the proposed Cross-Tay link"

"In the dark, junctions on Forfar Road poorly marked"

"Meeting big articulated trucks as they come down Washington Brae"

"There are no electric car charging points"

"For public transport we need to go in the car to Meigle where parking is very limited"

3.2 Nature of the Place

Some respondents felt more people need to get behind community activities and also raised concerns that people living in the area, but commuting to work elsewhere, were not integrating. A lack of communication was mooted and, in some cases, respondents felt the Community Council should be more accountable. A very small number of respondents also referred to feeling unsafe due to nearby residents but lacked support to resolve this. Residents living in the more outlying areas also reported they felt isolated from the villages.

Breakdown of comments

Community Spirit, feel unsafe	50%
Social cohesion, integration	31%
Increased housing/character of housing, population	19%

Sample Quotes

"Lack of community engagement in projects – always the same people who get involved"

"Social cohesion could be better...more 'community activity'"

"Increase in theft in rural areas"

"The lack of speed and communication from P&K regarding issues with one of their tenants and as a result the area does not feel safe"

"I have heard the community council give older people a voucher to eat out locally – how is this funded, what is the purpose of this, how are people selected?"

"Can be difficult/impossible to know what is on in the area unless you have correct contacts or in right group on Facebook"

"Meddling by community council to change things not needed"

"Wee village mindedness"

"Hear of things going to happen in Ardler, but never does"

"Living on the periphery of the village, apart from dog walking, it's difficult to make new social contacts"

"It feels like those new to the area take time to be accepted locally"

"I feel very much on the outside – my postcode is Ardler and I feel that I live in Ardler but I don't think I am always "officially" in Ardler"

"Number of commuter residents who do not use local services and do not engage with the local community"

"Concerns about the volume of new houses either under construction or future proposed construction"

"The lovely glenluie new builds. They have totally spoilt that part of the village"

3.3 Environment and Village Appearance

Only 24% of all respondents said there were factors they did not like about the Environment and Village Appearance but of those, a large number said they were unhappy with inconsiderate locals and visitors dropping litter, the level of flytipping and dog fouling in the area. Over a third also stated that the constant damage to verges and muddy roads needs to be addressed. Some respondents also disliked the fact different areas of the community are difficult to access in a walking/cycle friendly way.

Breakdown of comments

Litter, fly tipping, dog waste, chemical farming	52%
Verges, muddy roads	36%
Safe walk/cycle paths (lack of to outlying areas etc.)	12%

Sample Quotes

“Litter is a problem especially hospital road and rural roads in summer months”

“Amount of fly tipping in the area”

“Dog fouling on pavements/walk ways/litter”

“The constant problem with dog walkers not picking up dog poo”

“People dumping Christmas trees in the wood behind Franklin Street”

“The dominance of intensive pesticide, herbicide and artificial fertiliser dependent agriculture”

“Some roads and verges are in an appalling and dangerous state, especially in winter”

“Grass verges continually torn up by vehicles”

“Muddy roads – farmers should be made to clean up just the same as construction sites must do”

“Farmers not cleaning mud off the roads”

“No footpath/cycle path out to Lanlogie area – road too busy and fast moving to risk without this”

“Unable to walk into Meigle – road far too busy and no pavement”

“The square is lovely but the rest of the village, in particular Dundee Road, is not as aesthetically pleasing, despite there being lots of space”

3.4 Transport

Whilst there is a reasonable bus service to Meigle, the main criticisms were aimed at insufficient route options. A smaller number of respondents also described evening and weekend services as being inadequate. In Ardler, there is no bus service at all and it is unsafe to walk 2 miles to Meigle to catch a bus.

Breakdown of comments

Lack of, variety etc.	75%
Frequency, duration, timings	25%

Sample Quotes

“Lack of varied public transport routes”

“Poor bus service”

“The bus service takes too long to get to Perth”

“Public transport connections very limited – not frequent enough, especially weekends”

“Lack of public transport (Ardler)”

“No bus service to Forfar”

“In Ardler we have absolutely NO access to Public Transport. It’s a worry if you can’t drive”

“Need to walk to Meigle to get a connection to Dundee”

“I would like more frequent buses especially in the evening”

3.5 Amenities and Services

Comments from over half of respondents clearly indicated a lack of facilities such as a shop or a village hall in Ardler and that poor broadband/phone signals also impacted negatively on Ardler village life and outlying houses. A third of residents disliked the lack of shops, takeaways etc. and voiced concerns around the school potentially closing.

Breakdown of Comments

Ardler	54%
Shops	31%
Broadband	15%

Sample Quotes

“Lack of amenities in Ardler. No shop or post office. No village hall.”

“The feeling of becoming more remote because of limited services”

“Lack of shop (Ardler)”

“The lack of facilities/shops/takeaways”

“No shops in Ardler. No recycling. General lack of amenities”

“Absolute rubbish broadband because I live a mile out of the village”

“Weak phone signals (Ardler)”

“Threat of school closure”

“Lack of post school childcare facilities”

3.6 Community Facilities and Activities

A small proportion (8%) referenced a lack of activities for different age groups but also concerns that clubs had closed. One person thought there were no events but perhaps this was down to poor communication of things happening.

Breakdown of comments

Lack of activities (all age groups)	62%
Lack of facilities/events, clubs/groups closing	38%

Sample Quotes

“Lack of activities”

“Nothing much to do for younger people”

“The lack of activities for the young and old”

“Limited opportunities for meeting up with other parents of young children without having to travel to other villages”

“Seeing community clubs close down”

“No facilities for youngsters, especially teenagers”

“There seems to be little community events”

4. WHAT WOULD MAKE THE MEIGLE AND ARDLER AREA BETTER TO LIVE IN, WORK IN OR VISIT?

Improvement	% of Responses
Community Facilities, Activities, Groups, Events	45%
Transport	27%
Village Enhancement and Environment	24%
Local Economy and Tourism	23%
Traffic, Roads and Parking	23%
Amenities and Services	20%

4.1 Community Facilities, Activities, Groups, Events

The need for more activities for all age groups is clear but people wanted more events/gatherings to bring everyone together more frequently. Better communication about what is happening in the area was mentioned several times and for this to be available in different formats other than Facebook. Ardler residents felt strongly about the need for a community focus such as a community garden or village hall, with the focus in Meigle aimed at a more modern hall fit for purpose. Some residents also proposed bigger parks to accommodate the growing population in the area.

Breakdown of comments

More clubs, activities, sports for all ages	37%
Events/Social gatherings	18%
Better communication	15%
Facilities	11%
Hall in Meigle, Hall & Garden in Ardler	11%
Parks	8%

Sample Quotes

"More varied clubs, activities"

"Community activities that bring people together for all different ages and interests"

"Stronger community connections and activities to bring people together, something for everyone; children and young people, adults and the elderly"

"Regular activities like a youth club"

"More activities/things to do – all clubs are in Alyth"

"Classes such as keep fit etc."

"A skate park, basketball court, outdoor gym etc"

"Generally great, but not much provision for younger residents"

"Introduce more community events – local potato competition – spud off, local strawberry competition, open mike nights in the hall, summer BBQ in the park, tractor show, jam tasting competition"

"Better communication from both P&K and the community council"

"Directory of local agencies, groups & services"

"Simple monthly or quarterly newsletter like Alyth Voice or CanDo"

"Increase community communication outside of Facebook. It seems a lot gets talked about or information shared, which is fine, if you are on Facebook. Which then excludes all the people who rightly choose not to be on Facebook"

"More communication between the 2 communities"

"Better communication with what groups are available or how people can be involved in community projects"

"Public tennis courts"

"Having all weather sports facilities (tennis courts etc.)"

“Having a local bowling club and tennis club in summer, also local football and badminton clubs in winter”

“Kinloch needs a major rethink/rebuild to accommodate a wider range of activities”

“Modern and spacious community hall”

“Better accessibility for those in wheelchairs or using buggies/prams”

“A community type garden area/square in Ardler utilising the spare land in Wallace Street”

“A community space in Ardler”

“A village hall or meeting room to enable groups to start up and support those living alone” [Ardler]

“A bigger play park”

“A bigger swing park. The one in the village is very small as it is and with the new builds it won’t be able to accommodate all the extra children”

“An enormous playpark”

“The park area is a blank canvas that could be a far more attractive place to visit. More seating would be a small start”

4.2 Transport

Across the board, people wanted a wider variety of route options as well as shorter journey times. Thirty two percent of residents also commented on the need for a better timetable across the whole day/week. The Ardler residents expressed very clearly that there is a need for a bus service to be started, even if it is only a few times a week.

Breakdown of comments

Additional public transport routes	36%
Improved/shorter routes	32%
Start a new bus service for Ardler	32%

Sample Quotes

“More public transport routes”

“Shorter bus times to Perth”

“A regular bus service between Forfar and Meigle which could connect with No. 57”

“Public transport links”

“Better bus service (e.g. No.57 every half hour), morning and evening direct bus service to Perth/Forfar/Kirriemuir”

“A bus service to link Ardler to Meigle/Coupar Angus”

“A small bus service would be nice...once or twice a week would be nice” [Ardler]

“Ardler needs Public Transport in some form”

“Better transport links into and out of Ardler”

“Better bus route in Ardler”

4.3 Village Enhancement and Environment

Half of respondents felt much more could be done to link up different communities with new foot and cycle paths - safety would also be improved for walkers and cyclists in many cases too. Solutions to litter and flytipping were needed according to a small number of residents. And whilst one respondent would like expansion of the village to stop, another suggested eco-friendly housing would be welcomed. More should also be done to celebrate the uniqueness of the area and one of the youngest residents to respond proposed a central focus in the village.

Breakdown of comments

Paths and cycle networks	50%
Village appearance, celebration, focus	32%
Housing, flooding, biodiversity etc	18%

Sample Quotes

“Safer streets for all ages to be able to move around more freely”

“Cycle paths/off road walking routes to Alyth and Newtyle – maybe even Dundee”

“A footpath/cycling path to Newtyle or at least from Meigle to Belmont Arms”

“The footpaths along the A94 are getting very overgrown and muddy”

“Link up more of the old railway tracks”

“A further developed core path network joining up with Meigle and Newtyle”

“If the council would pick up the rubbish that has been fly tipped”

“Tidy clean looking place”

“I think the hedges and road verges could be maintained much better as there is not enough attention to detail”

“Local celebrating the uniqueness of their local area”

“A statue to look at”

“Stay as it is”

“Stop expanding it”

“Some affordable, eco-friendly housing”

“Less flooding”

“To be part of a sustainable and biodiverse food producing region, which supports people, the natural world and cuts carbon emissions”

4.4 Local Economy and Tourism

It was recognised that more needs to be done to attract visitors, offer them more amenities and to specifically develop the area with tourism in mind. It was suggested that the Belmont Estate and Castle/Stables could be developed and used to the area’s advantage. Almost a third of people said there should be more and bigger shops, with increased opening hours of the Post Office. Childcare was also highlighted as an area for development. It is clear from responses that residents felt more could also be done for businesses to start, to access office space and have ongoing support. A few residents also said they would like to have more local produce and crafts available.

Breakdown of comments

Shops, cafes, childcare	28%
Improvements for visitors	28%
Business units, support	17%
Belmont Estate/Castle/Stables	17%
Local produce and crafts	10%

Sample Quotes

“Return to a greater range of local retail and other businesses”

“Reduced post office opening times at Spar not convenient”

“Pre and post school childcare”

“Bigger shop”

“I would personally like the local cafes to be open earlier in the mornings but appreciate this may not be viable for them”

“We need to define what the central focus of the village is and where people can meet beyond a pub or a coffee shop”

“More amenities for locals and visitors. Visitors need more than we have to offer at the moment”

“The museum promoted more”

“There is an historical society and a choir, as far as I am aware, Meigle also has strong connections with the literary world, and there is the museum and the cricket pitch. These could potentially attract visitors”

“Better signage to attractions”

“Making Meigle a sustainable tourist destination”

“Redeveloping the Belmont Estate (including the castle) to make this a tourist hub where locals and visitors explore our local woodland”

“Small businesses providing employment”

“Provision for small business development ‘easy in/easy out’ licences for trade or retail workspaces. Easy access to good start up advice for small businesses”

“Redevelopment/re-use and restoration of Belmont Castle and Stables”

“Take opportunity to promote local produce/crafts etc. and market in square”

“More local produce”

4.5 Traffic, Roads and Parking

A significant number of residents were keen for the volume of traffic and speed of traffic to be reduced across the whole area, but in particular on the Dundee Road, A94 and through Ardler. Heavy vehicles are a particular issue noted in Ardler and whilst accepting of living in an agricultural area, better controls were recommended.

Breakdown of comments

Traffic (volume, noise, speed etc.)	67%
Roads (surfaces, access roads, mud etc.)	17%
Parking, electric car charging	16%

Sample Quotes

“Washington Brae in Ardler should be one way (by law), not an agreement with Grewar’s”

“Less traffic and 20mph speed limit”

“Speed cameras or speed checks, police presence”

“Reduced traffic & traffic noise etc, possibly bypass”

“Less heavy lorries in Ardler. Better vehicle speed control in Ardler (taxi’s bad)”

“A by-pass particularly for lorries”

“Tractor and other drivers that obey the speed limit”

“A by-pass to take the through traffic out of the village”

“Better road surfaces for cycling”

“Better maintenance of access roads e.g. pot-holes, verges and muddy road surface”

“Life for residents at west end of Main Street would be made much more bearable if there were a direct link to East Ardler Farm from the Washie Brae, avoiding Main Street”

“Create proper passing places up Washington Brae – there are some very wide vehicles coming down this road”

“Public parking that doesn’t block the Dundee Road including coaches that have nowhere to park when visitors go to the museum”

“Car parking”

“Electric car charging points would be one thing”

4.6 Amenities and Services

The need for improvements to broadband and mobile phone coverage were the most noticeable, particularly for those residents who live even a short distance outside the main villages. A request for a bigger post box in Ardler and a police presence occasionally was also noted. Over a quarter of respondents said there was a need for more and better pubs, and 11% indicated a need for public toilets.

Breakdown of comments

Broadband/mobile phone signal	42%
Pubs	26%
Police, recycling, post box (Ardler)	21%
Public toilets	11%

Sample Quotes

“Improvements to broadband and 4G for those on outskirts of village who have poor connectivity”

“More fibre to cabinet connections for non-BT customers”

“Better WiFi. Only 1.5 miles from Meigle but not getting cable yet and no assurance of when this will happen”

“Improved mobile phone coverage”

“Better WiFi speeds”

“Attracting fibre service providers such as Virgin would make living and working in the village much more attractive”

“Top quality technology i.e. 5G better phone signal etc.”

“A thriving pub that is consistent in what it serves and when”

“A better pub in Meigle”

“More pubs”

“The local pub being used more for events”

“It would make people feel safer if from time to time we had a Police presence”

“Recycling bin area”

“Bigger post box in Ardler”

“Possibly toilet facility at Park”

5. WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR ACTION – BIG AND SMALL?

The priorities for action, both big and small are listed in order of the number of times they were mentioned.

THEME1: Community Facilities, Activities, Groups, Events	HOW MANY TIMES
Community woodland/orchard/village hall, Ardler	9
Community Communication/Spirit – upgrade/maintain Spar noticeboards, website, better visibility for all businesses, engage with new houses/people, include people living between villages, discussion boards, directory of clubs/organisations	9
Activities/clubs - for all ages, between villages, rotate children's classes with Live Active and/or Belmont	6
Develop a Community/Wellbeing Hub, Meet & Natter sessions (Tavern)	4
Community events/social gatherings – summer and autumn months	3
Outdoor facilities, Ardler - tennis, basketball, volleyball, environmentally friendly playpark	3
Bowling Club - renovate/maintain, tables and chairs for socially distanced meet ups, outdoor exercise equipment	3
More community involvement by different people in projects	2
Allotments, community press (fruit)	2
Christmas - more decorations, themed torchlight walk at Belmont	2
Outdoor facilities, Meigle - multi-purpose area Victory Park, bigger swing park	2
Belmont Park and Woodland donated to Meigle Community	2
Community Library	1

THEME 2: Transport	HOW MANY TIMES
Better public transport – Forfar Road, shuttle to link Kettins/Coupar Angus/Meigle to A57/A59	5
Improved transport/transport link service for Ardler	3
Set up a local transport system e.g. to doctor, shops etc	1

THEME 3: Village Enhancement and Environment	HOW MANY TIMES
Paths - re-establish core paths Meigle-Ardler, improve path surface Ardler-Camno road, clear old railway paths, make paths accessible, widen/clear path from Ardler turn off A94-Meigle, link paths to Belmont Estate	9
Improve appearance – clear up leaves etc on pavements, remove trees/discourage crows from Glebeway, tidy cemetery, cut back overhanging branches on pavement Dundee Road-Belmont	7
Floral enhancements - flower beds, planters, wild flowers on verges/wasteland	6
Litter/fly tipping - more bins, work with farmers, PKC, volunteers	6
Roadside/verge/hedge maintenance - Dundee Road, verge at Victory Park, other verges	6

Cycling - cycle lanes linked to walk/cycle friendly routes, improve tracks, more useable and additional bike racks/locking facility	5
Night/winter walking safety - circular street lit route, blue LED/solar lights on paths/back roads	3
Signage - information boards for core paths, reinstate street names where missing	3
No more housing, explore partnerships for affordable housing	2
Spar to improve bin maintenance/emptying	1
Introduce the Countryside Code	1
Fix the sink hole in park which floods	1
Dog waste	1

THEME 4: Local Economy and Tourism	HOW TIMES	MANY
Belmont Estate/Castle - maintain contact with Dundee City Council re condition, protect its future, community buyout	10	
Income generation Belmont Estate/Park - Music Festival, tee-pee camping	2	
Shopping - buy local, butcher/grocery van	2	
Services - longer Post Office opening hours, childcare provision	2	
Parking - Belmont Park, Bowling Club	2	
Annual Book Festival	1	
Meigle is the start of Dark Skies Strathmore	1	

THEME 5: Traffic, Roads and Parking	HOW TIMES	MANY
Road safety all routes – speed/calming measures, speed limits	17	
Reduce traffic flow – bypass, re-route heavy vehicles	7	
One way system Washington Brae/Ardler, create hard standing passing places	5	
Glebe way/Parkside – mitigation, signage (official no-through road sign)	2	
Roads – improve Spar junction, mud cleared	2	
Electric car charging points	1	
Create passing places on Meigle-Ardler road	1	
Agricultural machinery – traffic control/speed	1	

THEME 6: Amenities and Services	HOW TIMES	MANY
Larger post box, Ardler	7	
School – protect its future, renovations	6	
Connectivity – improve broadband, mobile phone coverage, range of providers, booster mast	4	
Bins – recycling bins, dog waste bins	3	
Re-open toilet block in Belmont Park	1	

Top 5

- Road safety all routes – speed/calming measures, speed limits
- Belmont Estate/Castle – maintain contact with Dundee City Council re condition, protect its future, community buyout
- Community woodland/orchard/village hall, Ardler
- Paths – re-establish core paths Meigle-Ardler, improve path surface Ardler-Camno road, clear old railway paths, make paths accessible, widen/clear path from Ardler turn off A94-Meigle, link paths to Belmont Estate
- Community Communication/Spirit – upgrade/maintain Spar noticeboards, website, better visibility for all businesses, engage with new houses/people, include people living between villages, discussion boards, directory of clubs/organisations

6. OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MEIGLE AND ARDLER AREA

Villages proud to live, work and grow together, making the most of their beautiful and green environment, character and history for everyone to enjoy, celebrate and develop

We asked people what they hoped for their community by 2040, their vision for the Meigle and Ardler area in 20 years' time. We have identified three key themes and provide some quotes to help illustrate them

♥ A Lively and Quaint Community for All ♥

- “Just the same, quaint small villages”
- “A strong, cohesive community that thrives on togetherness”
- “A greater sense of community and shared ownership”
- “A thriving community where people are encouraged to take an interest in their community and each other”
- “Not over developed! Village life is the charm to Meigle and Ardler”
- “A place that strives to look after all of its residents”
- “To have inter-dependent community identity and support at neighbourhood and settlement level”
- “This is where we all want to stay”
- “More of a community feel – more local clubs/groups”
- “Promotes an open, participative development process which is underpinned by a culture of trans-generational learning/working”
- “More young families”

🌳 Attractive and Green Historic Villages and Environment 🌳

- “Its own wind turbine to provide eco power plus on street electric car charging points”
- “Retain unique character, history and identity whilst controlling housing developments to fit in with existing character”
- “Green spaces to serve as recreational meeting places with seating/floral beds and possible toilet pod”
- “Preserved and celebrated”
- “To be a leader in carbon reduction and ‘green’ expertise”
- “To make more of our historic values”
- “A paradise for walkers and cyclists”
- “Meigle/Ardler to be progressive villages in terms of environmental sustainability”

🏠 Grow our local Economy and Tourism 🏠

- “Improved digital connectivity. Sustainable school roll. More tourism/heritage opportunities developed”
- “Belmont estate secured for community with possible business opportunities and spaces for start up businesses to operate”
- “A place of visitor attractions”
- “Better bus service would encourage people to live here as would facilities”
- “To offer far more amenities for visitors and grow the local economy and therefore create more employment opportunities for local youth”
- “There will be a thriving tourism hub across both villages”
- “A mixed economy of sustainable small businesses, services, light tourism. Mixed amenity developed at Belmont Estate”

7. MAKING THE MEIGLE AND ARDLER AREA MORE SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT

Respondents were asked to say what would make the Meigle and Ardler area a more sustainable and resilient community. Some quotes illustrate the range of suggestions made.

7.1 Energy and Environment

Energy and Environment	How many times mentioned
Electric car charging points	3
Wind turbines/generating electricity	2
Recycling facilities	2
Tree planting	2
Develop paths network	1

Sample Quotes

“Free to use electric charging points at Village Hall and Parks”

“It’s own wind turbine to provide eco power”

“Generating our own electricity”

“A recycling collection point for plastic materials which are not taken by the council recycling”

“More opportunities for tree planting in the area”

“A paradise for walkers and cyclists”

7.2 Local Produce and Services

Local Produce and Services	How many times mentioned
School, Childcare, Community Library	6
Support for homegrown produce/local farming	5
Timebank of skills and services	3
Community Larder, Allotment	2
Independent shops	1

Sample Quotes

“Areas of school need revamped. GP room is life expired and the space is not ideal – e.g. no toilet in that building!”

“Community Allotment/Community food garden area”

“Support the local farming community”

“A timebank or register of freely donated skills/services”

“Community Larders to address food waste issues”

“We need more independent retailers”

7.3 Resilience and Community Spirit

Resilience and Community Spirit	How many times mentioned
Connecting communities	23
Resources (people and equipment), emergency plans	9
Communications	4
Community engagement with projects	3
Recreational facilities/activities	3

Sample Quotes

“I think we need to work towards viewing the Meigle and Ardler Area as just that. Not separate villages or communities but one area where we can invest our collective efforts to help all parts of the area to thrive”

“Engage human and equipment assets to make our community able to quickly respond to and recover from emergencies”

“Easy-access community website”

“Enhance local community spirit to engage all sections of the community in village projects”

“Having facilities for children and also for the elderly. It needs all age groups to have a community”

7.4 Local Economy and Tourism

Local Economy and Tourism	How many times mentioned
Range of housing options, retain character	8
Tourist destination activities, celebrate uniqueness	8
Transport links/options, roads infrastructure	7
Businesses development, employment, connectivity	6

Sample Quotes

“Ensure that planning applications are in keeping with the village and not overdeveloped”

“Identifying, recognising and using what Meigle and Ardler already have available and building on this. Annual activities that attract visitors all year round”

“Securing Belmont may allow development of some small business spaces to be created that would provide employment”

“Better transport links”

“Somehow you need to create real local jobs – not just seasonal farm work”

Top 5

- Connecting communities
- Resources (people and equipment), emergency plans
- Range of housing options, retain character
- Tourist destination, uniqueness/celebration
- Transport links/options, roads infrastructure

8. MEIGLE AND ARDLER & THE PANDEMIC

The Steering Group felt it was very pertinent and important to ask residents about their views on how groups, organisations and services should continue to work together to support the wellbeing of everyone living and working in the area during the current pandemic. A significant number of comments received are below and these also demonstrate the level of appreciation for support to date.

Support each other
 Friendship circles for lonely
 Digital connectivity
 Create a space for local businesses to advertise or sell their goods
 Co-ordinate youth volunteers to befriend/dog walk/help out older residents
 Continue to encourage local events for local people

“We think support has been very good during the current pandemic, the support levels were there for anyone who required them”

Everybody should work together, that is certain
 At the present time we feel we are very well supported with plenty of help available which is much appreciated
 Continue talking and being friendly and keeping an eye on older and vulnerable people
 Encourage everyone to look out for their neighbours
 List of people to contact when needed
 Did well. Notices in windows was a great idea

“Recognition that not everyone has internet access so perhaps a community newsletter with updates”

Voluntary organisations checking on people’s well being and food bank collection points
 Even when we cannot eat out in the evening it is good to support takeaway services
 Our small community set up a WhatsApp group so that we can help one another with shopping etc or just to enjoy some fun/jokes!
 I think the Community Council have exceeded my expectations in what they have done for the elderly in the villages and it has been much appreciated. Thanks
 Improve communication and engagement by all sections of the community and all agencies
 I haven’t seen my family for many months, but I’ve felt isolated. My family are grateful to know if I need help I will be able to call on someone. So thankyou

“I think we are doing pretty well in this area”

As smaller communities I think we are far better placed to identify any residents that may need some extra help
 Holding regular meetings to explore and discuss ideas in a respectful, inclusive and supportive way
 Instead of issuing vouchers etc to all over 70’s, allow people who need the support to apply
 I think the Community Council and residents have done a good job and I am sure this will continue
 Continue to shop local and promote the quality of products that we have to offer
 Identifying individuals and groups to take forward innovations in a way that encourages participation from the wider community

“A well-being hub”

Just as we are doing at present

Build a website. Regular meetings on zoom. Facebook page

I think that we have done a very good job for such a small area, we need to continue to support our vulnerable but also encourage people to use our local businesses to help them to keep going

We should encourage people to use local businesses more

Be kind and thoughtful to each other and try to support local businesses/organisations where possible

Set up a Recovery Group/Back to Business Group and develop a Recovery Plan

“Promote the successes of local businesses and how they have adapted”

I volunteered at the community larder in Coupar Angus which was really well supported by the A&MCC but the only volunteers physically at the larder were women. Perhaps promote or provide a session on volunteering opportunities for all ages and genders

It is important to have a central point of contact to disseminate information, signpost individuals to where they can get specific help, or as a noticeboard providing information about volunteering opportunities

Local people use the shop but as a regular user of the cafes and gift shop I rarely find actual local residents using those businesses much

You do have to take into consideration that NOT all residents have access to modern Technology

Assist in transport for vaccinations

Clearer signs about social distancing

“What has been done for the communities is commendable”

Communication, communication

Ask...are you OK?

Involve organisations in communication so they can see what is available and how they can use this platform to showcase their services

Support them via visibility and reaching out to understand the services they provide

Buddy system (green/red thumbs) during lockdown was brilliant and we now feel we know so many more people as a result of everyone checking in on each other

A permanent food bank collection point

“Continuation of the ‘thumbs up/down’ scheme”

We may need to reboot the Covid action plan to ensure that all households feel supported and safe

Don't really believe we could have safely done much more

I know that even if I don't personally need help that it's there for someone who does

Communication other than internet is a good step

My home wasn't included in the handout of notices to put in the window to say if we needed help so I'm not sure what else has been in place to support residents

Make sure those in the village are cared for and not feeling alone

“Community councillors should be checking on elderly and infirm residents during the current crisis”

Buddy system (green/red thumbs) during lockdown was brilliant and we now feel we know so many more people as a result of everyone checking in on each other

Perhaps a community support group for going forward