



Gourdon Community Action Plan

November 2017



Gourdon is a coastal fishing village in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. South of Inverbervie and North of Johnshaven, with a natural harbour. It has a growing population of 830.

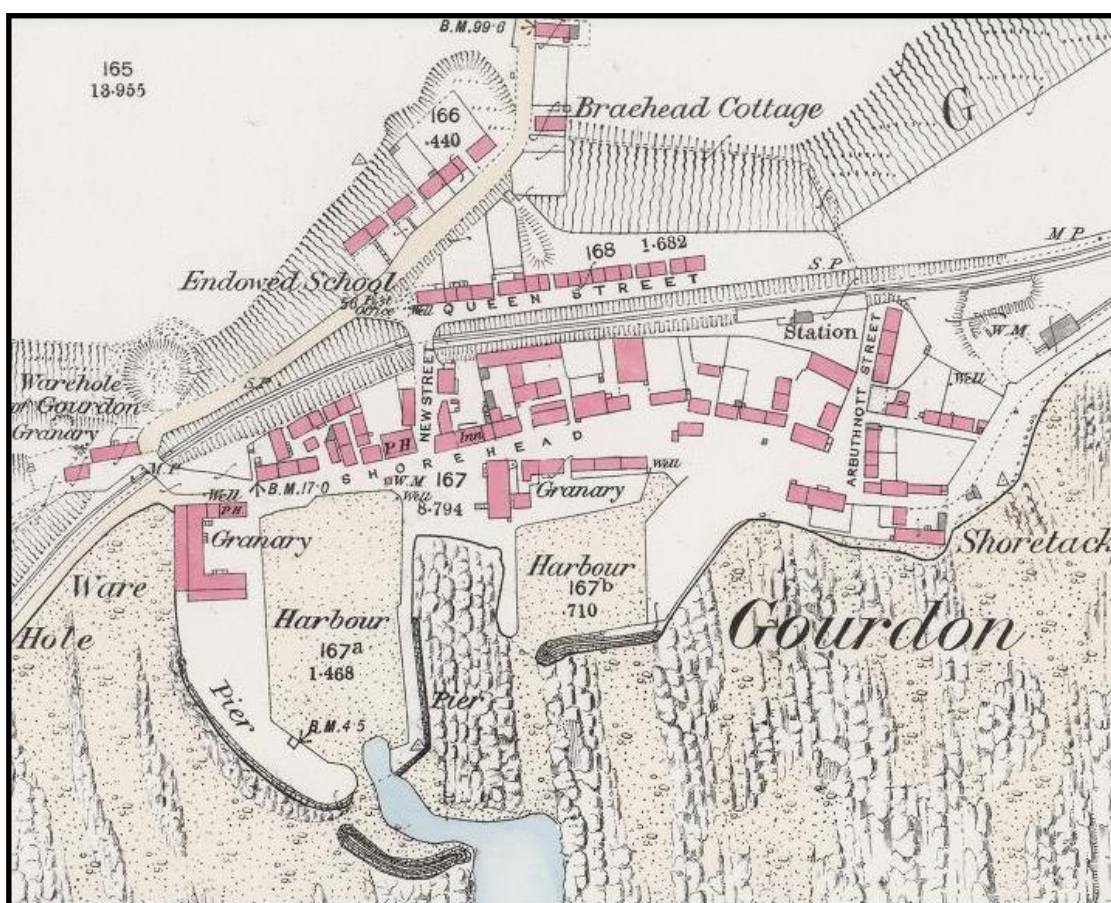
The village of Gourdon lies behind the harbour and rises in terraces up the hillside towards the line of the A92, which bypasses the village as it makes its way North into Inverbervie. Its original harbour, built in 1820, was restricted with space for only 8 boats. In 1958, the east breakwater was built followed by the west breakwater built in 1970.

Gourdon now has a double harbour extending to 7200 square metres and offers 330 metres of quay space. The main section is totally given over to fishing and the original, or "Gutty Harbour", is used by pleasure craft. There is still a small fleet of trawlers operating from the port and over 20 boats have regular moorings there. Harbour services are extensive, including diesel fuel, water and electricity and a marine engineering firm.

Gourdon is a South facing harbour with a sheltered inner basin protected by a storm gate. The entrance to the Gutty Harbour is rocky and can be difficult to navigate, but the main harbour entrance is more accessible. Halfway up the hill there is a small lighthouse or "Leading Light".

Visitors can buy fish from the filleting sheds by the Harbour.

There are attractive coastal walks in both directions from the town.



This is the Community Action Plan for the Coastal fishing Village of Gourdon. It has been developed by the local rural partnership for Kincardine & Mearns, Kincardineshire Development Partnership (KDP). It is the result of an extensive range of engagement activities undertaken by a steering group formed of Gourdon Community Members with the support and guidance of the Partnership.

Community members consulted the residents of Gourdon using questionnaires, with additional input & comments from two community coffee morning events and an engagement exercise with the pupils of Gourdon School.

Overall feedback was received from 25% of the community.

The information gathered and contained within this booklet can now be used to guide the community and the Community Planning Partners in compiling detailed action plans to take forward the top priorities, as well as addressing other issues which have been identified.

All the ideas in this booklet came from the community. The table at the back shows those ideas that can be taken forward by the community on its own, those which require help from an external partner and those which can only be taken forward by one or more external agencies, which could provide moral, technical and possibly financial support.

It is recommended that this Action Plan has a maximum lifespan of three years. Some projects may be completed quickly whilst others may take much longer but all should be reviewed regularly to ensure that they are still relevant.

It is important that this booklet is seen by all interested parties, not only the local community but also the other partners that may be able to assist with the implementation of any actions set out in the table.

Kincardineshire Development Partnership is one of six rural partnerships in Aberdeenshire. These partnerships facilitate the Community Action Plan initiatives which are sponsored by Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership.



Community Poster



Engaging with pupils at Gourdon School



Fishing for ideas

History, Origins and Development of Gourdon

Gourdon is one of the few natural harbours along the stretch of the East-facing Aberdeenshire coast. It is believed that a fishing settlement existed here in Neolithic times, 5,000 years ago, with residents burying their dead in the Long Cairn on Gourdon Hill to the west of the village.

The first written reference to the village was in 1315, to a farming and fishing settlement called Gurden, which is how the name of the village is still pronounced by those living here. A busy port was in operation by the 1500s and by the end of the 1700s the population had grown to 200.

By the 1830s, Gourdon was exporting grain grown in the area and importing coal for fuel and lime for agricultural improvements. Gourdon lost much of its sea-borne trade to the railway operating to this part of the east coast in 1865. Fishing then became the predominant activity and in the 1881 season over 8,000 barrels of herrings were exported from Gourdon. The herring declined in the early 1900s and by 1912 fishermen from Gourdon had switched to long line fishing from motor boats, some of the first in Scotland to do so.

At least one vessel operating from Gourdon was still employing this labour intensive method of fishing into the 1990s. Others had moved more to seine net or cod net fishing, supplemented in spring and summer by lobster and crab fishing.

The original harbour was simply a gap between rocks, but in 1819 Thomas Telford built what is now known as the Old Harbour or West Harbour. This was expanded in 1842 and another harbour added in 1859.

Gourdon's chief attraction for visitors is its strong sense of being a working fishing port. Lobster pots are piled around the harbour and traditional fish merchants still fillet and smoke fish in sheds on the harbourside and sell it from their fish vans across the area. A lot more Scottish ports used to be like Gourdon, and it is hoped that Gourdon weathers the uncertainties of the fishing industry as it has in the past and that it continues to thrive.

On William Street, there is a small building housing the Maggie Law Maritime Museum. The Maggie Law was a double ended surf lifeboat capable of assisting vessels having difficulty entering the harbour. From its launch in 1890 until it ceased operation in 1930 it saved 36 lives. The Maggie Law supplemented the RNLI Lifeboats which were based at Gourdon from 1878 until 1969, when it was decided coverage could be maintained by the lifeboats at Aberdeen and Montrose.

Conservation

Gourdon had been proposed as a conservation area for some time and in 2012 was the subject of a conservation area appraisal by Aberdeenshire Council.¹

Following extensive consultation and consideration it was decided that the area did not warrant designation as a conservation area. However, the appraisal did identify special features and interest in respect of the historical development and association of the village. The report identified that the village illustrated the very important relationship between the built environment, the topography and the coast.



A working Harbour



Catch of the Day



Maritime Heritage

It also recognised that the community valued their heritage and wished to protect the singular identity of the village. Therefore, it was agreed in 2012 that the appraisal document should be used as planning advice to inform and guide future development and environmental improvements in Gourdon. It was hoped that it would still provide the necessary guidance to encourage sympathetic development and redevelopment in the area.

Regeneration

Until recently, Gourdon lay within the Coastal Mearns Regeneration Area. In 2011/2012 Aberdeenshire Council provided funding for the regeneration of the area, tackling the provision of quality improvements around the Harbour and potential improvements to the coastal path through initiatives relating to regeneration areas and strategic priorities.

As the principal public space, the harbour warranted regeneration. The improvement recommendations made included:

- Refurbishment of the memorial to the son of the Laird.
- Tidying up piers and removal of weeds from the walls,
- Partial resurfacing
- Lighting
- Railings
- Litter bins and other street furniture
- Replacement/additional signs and Interpretation.
- Refurbishment of the Maggie Law Museum
- Planting and other small environmental improvements

During April and May 2012, Regeneration funds were used to employ an Artist to undertake a public art opportunity. This was used as a way of engaging the residents creatively on how they felt about, understood and lived in their community, what was important to them and what they would like to see change or improve.

A steering group of interested residents was formed to drive forward the "Gourdon Placemaking" initiative. Following a number of engagement activities, a report entitled "In about Comer"² was produced. The following recommendations under the heading "Heritage and Culture" were progressed:

Heritage and culture: to support and extend the work that the Maggie Law Museum were working towards and also link in with some improvements around the Harbour.

Gateway Project : A desire to celebrate and mark the entrance to the village in a more effective way had been talked about by the village and the council .

Notice Boards : Two large notice boards erected in the village; one in the top part of the village perhaps by the toilets or bus stop and another down by the harbour. A key problem identified was the lack of a clear point of communication.

Hut.: To replace the small white hut next to Hornblowers on the harbour .

Boat Building Project.: Skill sharing between young people and the fishermen in the village

Other recommendations under the headings "Film Club" and "Community Support and Skills" have yet to gain traction.

The area is no longer designated as a Regeneration area in the Local Development Plan (LDP).



Harbour Improvements



The Gateway project



Memorial Refurbishment



X7 Route to Stonehaven or South to Montrose



Coastal path leaving the village



To Inverbervie

Services and Community Activities

Accommodation in Gourdon

Just 2 minutes from the Harbour Bar is the Harbour Bar B&B with excellent views of Gourdon Harbour.

There is also The Lilybank Guest House and the School House B&B

Places To Visit

An interesting place to visit is the museum for the "Maggie Law", which was a shallow draught surfboat capable of assisting vessels having difficulty entering the harbour. It saved 36 lives between its launch in 1890 until it ceased operation in 1930. The Maggie Law supplemented the RNLI Lifeboats which were based at Gourdon from 1878 until 1969, when it was decided coverage could be maintained by the lifeboats at Aberdeen and Montrose. The museum was completely refurbished in 2013 and is well worth a visit. More information at www.maggielaw.co.uk

Places To Eat

The Quayside Take-Away & Restaurant
The Harbour Bar

Shops

There is one general store in the village

Parking

Parking is available in the Harbour Area for coaches and cars.

Harbour depths

Both harbours dry out at low tide.

It is advisable to consult the Harbour-master about arrival times and access.

Other Facilities

Sea angling

Post Office

How To Get To Gourdon

If travelling by car, motor bike or bicycle, take the A92 Coastal Road from Stonehaven, pass through Kinneff and Inverbervie.

Shortly after Inverbervie you will see a turn off on the left to Gourdon.

Follow that road and you will arrive at the Harbour

Getting Around

Buses (Nos 107, 113, 117 & X7) run between Montrose, Gourdon and other coastal settlements up to Stonehaven and onward to Aberdeen.

The nearest airport is at Aberdeen approximately 40 miles (64 km) to the north.

Gourdon Primary School is a non-denominational school which serves the village of Gourdon and the surrounding area.

The school has five classrooms and a hall which can be screened off from the dining room where meals are served from the kitchen. The playground area surrounds the school and is a mixture of grassy areas and tarred surfaces with benches and flower tubs to enhance the landscaping.

The school has an active Parent Forum know as the TAG Group (Together at Gourdon).

The school has an enthusiastic Pupil Council and a newly formed Rights Respecting School Group. The school currently hold a silver ECO School award and are working towards accreditation as a Rights Respecting School.

What we Asked?

Community members consulted the residents of Gourdon using questionnaires, with additional input & comments from two community coffee morning events and an engagement exercise with the pupils of Gourdon School.

What do you like about Gourdon?

Overall feedback was received from 25% of the community. The vast majority of responses related to the community spirit, friendly people and general 'village life' of Gourdon.

The most popular responses were:

- Community Spirit, friendly people
- The picturesque scenery, beach and location
- The chip shop
- Local school
- The harbour (and its flowers)
- The Park
- Heritage & history (Inc. Museum)
- Peace, quiet, space & freedom
- The pub
- Feel safe
- Walks and the coastal path
- Local shop
- Football Pitch
- Living here / everything!
- New homes
- Bus service
- Tadpoles (parent & child group)

What would make Gourdon Great?

Responses to Questions 2, 3, 4 and 5;

How would you make Gourdon even better?

If funding became available, how would you like to see it spent?

What have you seen elsewhere which you would like to see in Gourdon?

Any other comments?

from the questionnaires and engagement activities were combined.

There is a clear desire to develop facilities and activities for children in the village. The greatest number of responses related to the provision of outdoor play areas, parks and play equipment, followed by a desire to have a café/coffee shop. A number of responses which came from the children centred around particular activities such as a Trampoline Park; this has been passed onto the Gourdon Lower Park Development Group to inform the design of this project. There were also significant numbers of concerns about the general cleanliness and tidiness of the village, toilets and traffic issues.

There are also opportunities for building inter-settlement relationships;

- between Gourdon and Inverbervie with the progress being made in the development of the "Bervie Skate Park" which will be located at the edge of Inverbervie close to Gourdon. A number of Gourdon residents are involved in supporting fundraising for this project.
- Between Gourdon and Johnshaven through local heritage and connection made through the "Visit Mearns" initiative.



What do you like about Gourdon?



What would make Gourdon Great?



Coffee Morning Engagement



A community space for everyone



If funding was available, how would you like to see it spent?



20mph Repeater signs

The consultation has and will continue to inform the Gourdon Lower Park Improvement Group who are working to create a community garden with a number of features including creative play areas for local children.

Comments relating to the closure of the Public Toilets opened some discussion on potential alternatives. Innovative ideas such as “dry compost” toilets at some point along the coastal path may warrant further discussion and exploration. However, there is a drive to reopen the Toilet Block located at the Playing Fields at the top of the village. Community members supported by the Community Council are exploring the option of a Community Asset Transfer of the facility.

There was a great deal of feedback supporting the work undertaken using the Regeneration investment which helped to improve the appearance of the village, the harbour area in particular. There is a wish to ensure that this continues and focuses on other areas throughout the village. Perhaps there is scope to work with the “Gourdon Grafters” group and look at how they can be better supported and consider projects working with young people from the village which could address another concern raised around engaging the younger population.

With youth in mind, there is interest in refurbishing the old tennis courts and looking at creating a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) and the purchasing and siting of a youth pod.

Many responses could be supported by action from the re-established Community Council. The feedback presents opportunities to undertake some meaningful activities going forward.

A café /coffee shop or an informal meeting space continues to be a popular theme. Under the theme, “Community Support and Skills”, this was also highlighted through engagement work undertaken back in 2011/12. Attempts through the parent group TAG (Together at Gourdon) to hold a community café at the school were not as successful as hoped largely due to being held at the school. This will prove challenging to fulfil due to the lack of suitable property available. Aberdeenshire Council and the Rural partnership undertook an audit of the empty and derelict properties in the village to see if there was any scope for community development. There are a number of properties privately owned and perhaps under new legislation the community or Community Council could make an approach to the owners.

Throughout the ongoing consultation, community members have been responding to what the community have been feeding back. For example; a quick win was achieved after the initial questionnaire responses were received. Concerns had been raised about the speed of traffic through the village, The whole village of Gourdon is a 20mph zone, however the only speed limit signs were located at the entrance. With the assistance of the Community Council a request was made for 20mph repeater signage to be erected throughout the village. In October 2016 repeater signs were located right through Gourdon. This was an encouraging result, reminding drivers of the speed limit, however, stronger measures aimed at drivers continuing to ignore the speed limit are still needed. There is not a strong desire for traffic calming measures such as "speed bumps" but residents are keen to see "vehicle activated signs" in place, especially along William and Queen Street and near to the school on Brae Road.

The Priorities

Gourdon Lower Park Improvement

As noted previously, the greatest number of responses related to the provision of outdoor play areas, parks and play equipment. Work on the development of the Lower Park into a Community Garden is well underway. Gourdon Lower Park Improvement Group are working in partnership with other local groups and businesses and Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Services. Through consultation with residents the group have been able to demonstrate support for the project and a range of creative and innovative suggestions on what might be included in the site and other considerations have been identified.

These include:

- Free form play areas created to encourage active play and learning
- Structures should be sufficiently robust to withstand seashore weather including strong cold winds and salt-laden rain
- Health and safety compliant
- Infused with a sense of humour and an element of fun in the design.
- Relatively maintenance-free
- Designed with capacity to incorporate some planting either as an integral part of individual components or as part of the surrounding landscape for the larger areas
- Where possible and appropriate reclaimed or recycled materials could be sourced,(for example top soil).
- Linked with a theme to clearly expressing the settlement's identity
- Opportunities presented for local artists to work with the community to run community art projects.

The aim is to rejuvenate key public space which is accessible and offers something for everyone. It is hoped that this will promote a sense of ownership and civic pride among residents of all ages.

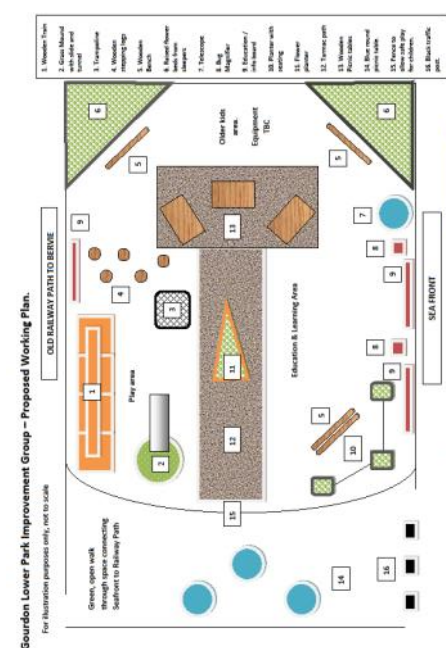
The Group are now in a position to explore funding options. At the time of preparing this Community Action Plan, the Group with funding from Aberdeenshire Council's K&M Area Committee Budget and the support of the local community and local business have raised enough funds to purchase a wooden train, which will be installed by March 2018.



Gourdon Lower Park



*First of the improvements to go
into Lower Park March 2018*



*Gourdon Lower Park Development
Plan*



Gourdon Harbour



Christmas Tree at the Harbour



Beach Clean

Traffic

In addition to the concerns raised about the speed of traffic through the village anxiety was also voiced over congestion at the Harbour area. Following the Harbour improvement, the popularity of Hornblowers (which is now under new ownership as the Quayside Fish Restaurant) and the drive to increase visitor numbers to the Mearns and the South East Coastal strip, the harbour area is becoming increasingly choked. Gourdon is a working harbour and there are safety concerns especially in the Summer months. There is carparking on land between the Harbour Bar and the Quayside Restaurant. If this could be developed, traffic could be diverted behind the Harbour Bar away from the quayside. Work to establish ownership of the land is still ongoing.

Public Toilets

There is much disappointment at the closure of the Public Toilets. The Community Council are driving forward actions exploring the possibility of reopening the facility. The village is keen to promote itself to tourists, with the harbour attractions and the coastal path. It is felt that these public amenities are crucial to its success as a visitor destination.

Gourdon Community Council (GCC)

Community Council activity ceased for almost a year during the Community Action Plan consultation period. Previous members of the GCC were involved in a number of community activities for the period April 15 to March 16 in and around the village of Gourdon, some examples being:

- Harbour Improvements such as maintaining the planters, some of the paintwork and reaffixing of the information boards.
- Gateway: maintenance of the seats, anchors and general gardening work.
- Farquhar Memorial: maintenance of seats and memorial.
- The above work was kindly part funded by a grant for some £250 from an initiative by Tesco and Keep Scotland Beautiful.
- Gardening projects around the village including strimming of harbour and warehole areas, Mission Hall steps and pensioner steps, miscellaneous planters, etc.
- Fun day with Climbing Wall
- Inner harbour clean
- Beach clean
- Remembrance Day organisation
- Christmas Lights and Tree
- Gourdon On Line and Facebook websites.

Gourdon Community Council has also assisted other groups in the village with either financial, manpower, publicity or a mix of such support;

- Gourdon's Coastal Rowing Club
- Maggie Law Museum
- Mearns Creative Community Fund
- Gourdon Primary School
- Lower Park Regeneration Group

The Community Council has recently reformed with a new group of local residents. The Community Council is a valuable resource for the village and as the feedback from the consultation revealed, Gourdon needs a robust and active team on board given the following issues raised:

- Concerns about the cleanliness and tidiness of the village, litter, street cleaner, bins etc
- Concerns about traffic calming, speed bumps, repeater signs
- Reopen the public toilets
- Cap on new build housing development
- Dog poo – more bins / in different places / fines imposed
- Repair street lighting and extend to Bervie
- Improve street signage to Hall / harbour / museum / bar
- Better internet / 3G access
- Community compost heap
- Salt bins

Other comments included:

- Hold annual beer / fish / fireworks / music festival or Gala
- Community Social Events
- Children's Activities/Youth Clubs
- More / better sports facilities – an all-weather multi-use pitch, reopen tennis courts, sports classes and lessons

Much relies on the support of the community to drive forward many of the themes, for example Galas, and other community annual events need people more than funding to make these happen.

A Village Café, Coffee Shop, Tea Room, Wine Bar

Raised in the previous consultation in 2012, a place to drink coffee or tea or somewhere to sit and socialise is still desired. The challenge is the lack of a suitable building to house such a business or social enterprise.

The current local businesses featured frequently in the consultation as part of what makes "Gourdon Great." There may be scope or opportunities to enhance what is already on offer.

There is also some potential with buildings around the harbour but ownership or future plans are not clear at this point. Perhaps future economic gardening efforts to develop local entrepreneurs who will start businesses locally could address this if not a local group or organisation.



Gourdon Art Fair



Boat Building project



Gourdon Grafters



Gourdon Harbour



Our Mearns Tourism Association



Gourdon Public Hall

Other comments included:

- More/Improved shop(s)
- Improve and/or extend the coastal paths
- Demolish / compulsorily purchase / tidy up derelict buildings
- Improve beach area – picnic tables / BBQ areas
- Better internet / 3G access
- Establish Mains Gas supply
- Find ways to connect new villagers with older ones
- Cash machine
- Improve school playground security
- More parent / toddler / baby groups
- Improve Hall
- Art areas

Gourdon - Our Mearns Tourism Association (OMTA)

The drive to develop the Mearns, including the South East Aberdeenshire Coastal stretch, into an Arts, Cultural and Heritage Tourism destination should encourage Economic, Environmental and Social growth for Gourdon and the neighbouring villages. There are now three Bed and Breakfast businesses in Gourdon . It is hoped that the community will be able to build stronger relationships with the local business community to consider supporting a cash point, or even a cashback facility. It has been suggested that the lack of access to cash in the village can impact on the success of locally held events.

Projects looking at signage, improving the coastal paths and beach area could benefit from a collaborative approach working with partners such as OMTA who are looking to connect the coastal strip as part of their strategy to develop the area.

Again many of the listed suggestions depend largely on community capacity and willingness rather than funding. A drive to promote active citizenship and volunteering could resurrect some of the impetus and enthusiasm which followed the place making initiative in 2012. Recently the village has suffered from volunteer fatigue. The realisation of projects such as the Lower Park development will help revitalise the community and work to encourage more of the community to participate in this community's development.

Anecdotaly, concerns were raised about youths in the village. There is little for young people to become involved in within Gourdon itself. Most Seniors go to Mackie Academy in Stonehaven. There is still no point of focus for the 11+ age bracket in the village. Attempts to engage through new media have been unsuccessful.

This is an area that needs developing and is perhaps an opportunity for future engagement activities in the village. With no current activities for young people in the village they look to Inverbervie or Stonehaven where many of their fellow pupils are, and their focus is no longer in Gourdon. This is not a quick fix but some time and investment in the 11+ age group is needed if they are to engage with community activities.

The Community Council might want to explore working with local young people to address some of the concerns around litter and general tidiness of the village as an example.

The interest in refurbishing the old tennis courts and looking at creating a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) or the purchasing and siting of a youth pod, may provide a means of reaching out to young people.

Community Art projects, could offer a way to involve this age group.

Action Plan

In completing the Action Plan overleaf it is clear that the main thrust of activity relies largely on members of the community as individuals, through community groups , local businesses and the Community Council to take action and become involved.

There is much to like about Gourdon and there is a desire to continue to improve the presentation of the village, improve road safety, and welcome visitors. In addition to keeping Gourdon a great place to live, there is a strong wish to make positive changes to improve the lives of residents today as well as creating legacies to be enjoyed by future generations.

There is still work to do to build the community capacity. A lot of activity and investment of time coming from just a few members of the community, has resulted in volunteer fatigue. There is a need to encourage and foster citizenship with the wider community in particular younger people to keep the village vibrant rather than a commuter settlement.



The Leading Light



Gourdon Harbour



Gourdon Harbour

Acknowledgement of Reference Sources;

¹Gourdon Built Heritage appraisal July 2012

²"Inaboot Comer"
by Lindsay Duncanson

Action	Independent Community Group/ Private Initiative	Partnership	Outside Agencies	Anticipated Delivery Date
Community garden at Gourdon Lower Park	Gourdon Lower Park Improvement Group Gourdon Grafters	Kincardineshire Development Partnership	Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Services, PAMIS	2018/2019
Investigate further traffic calming measures- e.g. 20 mph repeater, vehicle activated signage	Gourdon Community Council Individuals		Aberdeenshire Council	Ongoing
Reopen Public toilets - explore potential for and if feasible progress Asset Transfer	Gourdon Community Council Community Groups	Kincardineshire Development Partnership	Aberdeenshire Council	Ongoing
Concerns about the cleanliness and tidiness of the village, litter, street cleaner, bins etc	Gourdon Community Council Individuals			Ongoing
Dog waste – more bins / in different places /fines imposed Promote Green Dog Scheme and responsible dog ownership	Gourdon Community Council Individuals		Dog Warden - Green Dog Scheme Aberdeenshire Council	Ongoing
Investigate repairs to Gourdon street lighting and extend lighting to Inverbervie	Gourdon Community Council		Aberdeenshire Council	
Improve street signage to Hall / harbour bar/ museum / Mission Hall	Gourdon Community Council Local Businesses		Aberdeenshire Council Our Mearns Tourism Association Visit Aberdeenshire	
A village café, coffee shop, tea room, wine bar	Local Business Individuals			
No mains gas supply- need for cheaper alternative solutions- Establish a Fuel Club	Gourdon Community Council Individuals	Kincardineshire Development Partnership	Aberdeenshire Council Community Planning Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action Fuel Companies	2018

Action	Independent Community Group/ Private Initiative	Partnership	Outside Agencies	Anticipated Delivery Date
Improve sports facilities – Explore potential projects which may include an all-weather multi-use pitch, reopen tennis courts, sports classes and lessons	Community Groups Businesses Individuals	Kincardineshire Development Partnership	Aberdeenshire Council	
Install Cash machine	Local Businesses			
Community Events/Gala	Individuals Community Groups Community Council Gourdon Lower park Improvement Group	Kincardineshire Development Partnership		Ongoing
Engage with local young people <ul style="list-style-type: none">Possibly Art Projects/ Youth PodInvolvement in village maintenance/tidying activities - perhaps a project which could be developed with the local Primary school	Gourdon Community Council Community groups	Kincardineshire Development Partnership	Aberdeenshire Council Community Learning and Development (Youth Work Team) Aberdeenshire Council Community Planning Gourdon School	Ongoing
Increase range and level of activities available within the village	Community Groups Individuals Businesses Gourdon Community Council			Ongoing
Encourage Active Citizenship and Volunteering	Gourdon Community Council Local Community Groups Individuals	Kincardineshire Development Partnership	Aberdeenshire Council Community Learning and Development Stonehaven Local Learning Partnership Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action	Ongoing

Community Action Plan

This booklet is one of a series produced by the Local Rural Partnerships for a number of communities in Aberdeenshire.

This initiative is sponsored by Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership and run by Aberdeenshire Local Rural Partnerships. The aim is to provide community action plans in an attractive, easy to read, professionally printed format

This information can now guide the community and Community Planning Partners in drawing up detailed action plans to implement the top priorities as well as addressing the other issues which have been identified.

For each priority or issue this will involve agreeing who should be involved, what resources will be needed and target dates for completion. It is hoped that this process will be driven by representatives of the community with support -moral, technical & financial - from the relevant Partners.

It is important that this booklet is seen by all concerned as an account of the community's views at the time of the latest consultation, and that it will have to be regularly updated. As some projects are completed, other issues will arise and take their place in future versions of the community plan.

It is recommended that this plan has a maximum life of five years.

With grateful thanks to the Gourdon Community, Neal Weston for the cover photograph and additional images, Lynn Stephen of the Gourdon Lower Park Improvement Group, Emma Myatt of Gourdon Coastal Rowing Club, Emma Joynson of Gourdon Grafters, Gourdon Community Council, Headteacher Angela Wells and the pupils of Gourdon School, Gourdon Shop, The Harbour Bar and the Maggie Law Museum.

A special thanks to the Tadpoles Group for allowing us to engage with the community at two of their coffee mornings.

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