

COLINSBURGH AND KILCONQUHAR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2016 – 2021

Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar Community Action Plan Steering Group





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INTRODUCTION

COLINSBURGH AND KILCONQUHAR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

This Community Action Plan summarises community views about:

- Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar now
- the vision for the future of Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar
- the issues that matter most to the community
- our priorities for projects and action.

The plan will be our guide for what we - as a community - try to make happen over the next 5 years.

WORKING TOGETHER

The preparation of the plan has been organised by Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar Action Plan Steering Group – a group of local organisations and residents initiated by the Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar Community Council. They carried out the work with support from project staff from ENCAP (East Neuk Community Action Plan).

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

The Action Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement carried out over a five-month period from January 2016 to May 2016.

The process involved:

- carrying out a community views survey of all households;
- stakeholder interviews and meetings - with community organisations, schools, service providers, local businesses and public agencies;
- preparing a community profile detailing facts and figures about the community;
- organising a Community Futures Event.

159
COMMUNITY
VIEWS SURVEY
FORMS WERE
RETURNED FROM
OUR **297** HOUSES

30
STAKEHOLDER
MEETINGS AND
INTERVIEWS
WERE HELD

100 +
PEOPLE ATTENDED
THE COMMUNITY
FUTURES EVENT

THANKS TO EVERYONE
WHO TOOK PART!

OUR COMMUNITY NOW

COMMUNITY PROFILE 2016 SUMMARY

We have summarised below the main facts and figures from the Community Profile and some of the views from the Community Views Survey. Full copies of these reports are available from the steering group on request.

Location

Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar are 2 small villages within the picturesque East Neuk of Fife, both villages lie just off the A917. Colinsburgh was founded by Colin Lindsay who inherited Balcarres Estate in 1662. The estate lies just north of the village. The village of Kilconquhar dates back to the 12th century and was built on the north shore of Kilconquhar Loch.

Population

In total there are approximately 649 people living in the Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar Community Council area. There is a relatively older population with less people of working age than for the Fife Council area or Scotland.

Housing

- There are 297 households in the Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar community council area.
- There is a significantly lower level of social rented housing compared to the Fife Council area and especially compared to the rest of Scotland – and there are high levels of private rented accommodation.
- A large amount of ‘other’ tenure housing. This includes buildings owned by the government and tied farm cottages.

Local Economy

Features of the local economy include:

- A high percentage of self-employed people compared to North East Fife and especially compared to Fife and Scotland
- Lower rates of unemployment compared to Fife and Scotland.
- Higher percentage of retired people living in Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar than in the compared areas.
- Higher levels of income deprivation (9.1%) than for the rest of North East Fife (7.1%).



Schools and Education

- Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar are served by St. Monan’s Nursery (4 miles from Colinsburgh). The bus to and from the nursery for children from the area will be discontinued by Fife Council in August 2016.
- Colinsburgh Primary School serves children from Colinsburgh, Kilconquhar and Arncroach. It is currently split into 2 classes - P1,2,3 and P4,5,6,7.
- Waid Academy (Anstruther) serves all the villages in the East Neuk. The new school is under construction is planned to open in 2017. The new school will also be home to the local council offices, library and provide a base for the police.

Health and Care

Facilities and Services include:

- Pittenweem and Elie Medical Practice.
- Community midwives based in St Andrews Community Hospital.
- Weekly antenatal clinics in Skeith Health Centre in Anstruther

Community and Recreational Facilities

Community Facilities

Facilities include Colinsburgh Town Hall, Colinsburgh Church Hall, Kilconquhar Church Hall, Masonic Lodge (Colinsburgh), Meeting Room (Colinsburgh Library).

Colinsburgh Town Hall is the main community facility and is used by the primary school and for a community cinema, youth group, badminton club, the annual Horticultural show and Christmas craft days.

Open Spaces

Colinsburgh play park, Colinsburgh Sports Park (big park), Kilconquhar Play Park.

Churches

Church of Scotland, Colinsburgh and Church of Scotland, Kilconquhar

Community Groups

Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar Community Council, Colinsburgh Our Colourful Community, Beautiful Kilconquhar, Colinsburgh Library Users Group, Women's Group, The Guild, Scottish Women's Institute, Horticultural Association, Community Cinema, Book Group, Poetry Share, Youth club, Rhyme Time

Outdoor Activities and Sport

Badminton Club, Youth Badminton Club, Charleton Golf Club
Charleton Stables and Livery, Incharvie Equestrian Services, Scholland Equestrian Centre

Community Events

Colinsburgh Horticultural Show, Beautiful Fife campaign, Beautiful Scotland campaign

Environment

Designated Sites

- Barnyards Marsh (Kilconquhar) managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust.
- Kilconquhar Loch (Site of Special Scientific Interest) - an important site for breeding and wintering water birds.

Gardens and planters

- Quiet Garden - created as a place for quiet reflection and maintained by the Beautiful Kilconquhar group. It is located to the side of the Kilconquhar Church and looks onto the Loch.
- Herb Gardens - Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar have their own community herb planters.

Paths and Access

Fife Council designated 'core paths' in the area can be viewed on line at: http://publications.1fife.org.uk/uploadfiles/publications/c64_AdoptedCorePathMapsforWebsite-Map__36.pdf

Recent path improvements have been carried out by the Community Council to create a link path to the Colinsburgh – Newburn core path. The primary school developed the now popular walk round the woods behind Colinsburgh.

Heritage

Both villages are in the Parish of Kilconquhar. The history of Colinsburgh dates back to 1705 when Colin Lindsay, son of the first Earl of Balcarres created the village with the purpose of housing his Jacobite supporters and their families after his exile in Holland. Kilconquhar dates back to the 12th century.

In the 18th century the villages were thriving with many businesses and shops. The main industry in Kilconquhar was weaving with other work including boot and shoemaking, dressmaking, tailors and farming.

Heritage assets in the communities include:

- Colinsburgh Town Hall, built in 1894
- The Galloway Library (Colinsburgh)
- Colinsburgh Church (currently shut)
- Kilconquhar Castle (now a well known holiday resort) dates back to the 1500s.
- Kilconquhar Church - the ruins of the original Church built in the 12th century and later added to in the 15th century remain and three of its arches with Norman Pillars can still be seen. The present Church was opened in 1821. There are beautiful stained glass windows in the Church.
- The Kinneuchar Inn dates back to the 1700s and retains the old village name.



OUR COMMUNITY NOW LIKES

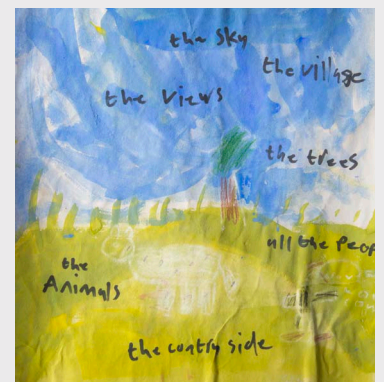
COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY

LIKES	% OF RESPONSES
Shops, facilities and services	66%
Community spirit and activities	54%
Nature of community	52%
Environment and outdoor recreation	33%
Location	21%
Nothing	2%



What people said:

- "I like the school and the town hall, it feels like a community"
- "Great primary school ... lovely library"
- "I like Colinsburgh Town Hall and all the clubs, meetings, parties, flower shows etc. that are connected with it"
- "For a small village Colinsburgh has a variety of facilities which help make it a great place to live"
- "Cinema club is a great facility for the community"
- "Having the corner shop and petrol station is good, which is something we can't afford to lose"
- "Low crime rate, safe place to bring up a family"
- "A feeling of a safe environment especially for children"
- "Kilconquhar is charming, peaceful and friendly"
- "Lovely flowers and gardens"
- "Peaceful, quiet, low crime rate. Picturesque"
- "I like the quiet peaceful village of Kilconquhar and enjoy staying here"
- "Good swing park"
- "Walking access to open countryside in every direction"
- "Barnyards marsh is good to visit in the summer"
- "Lots of outside space, walks and space for children to play"
- "The fact that you can walk round the estate and lovely gardens is a joy"
- "A nice rural area, plenty of wildlife on our doorstep"
- "Love sitting on the bench looking at Loch"
- "Always tidy and clean and has good woodland walks and parks"
- "Situated in a lovely part of the East Neuk"
- "Close enough to (but far enough away from) Dundee, St Andrews, Perth and Edinburgh"
- "The nearness to many beautiful villages"



OUR COMMUNITY NOW DISLIKES

COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY

DISLIKES	% OF RESPONSES
Roads, traffic and parking	73%
Shops, services and facilities	31%
Telecommunications	12%
Community activities and organisations	11%
Nature of community	11%
Housing	7%



What people said:

- “The traffic – speed, volume, weight”
- “I don’t like the speed that the traffic travels at through Colinsburgh. It is horrific the speed that some people drive through our village”
- “The potential danger to pedestrians is alarming. Vibrations caused by speeding lorries and buses are damaging houses on Main Street”
- “People parking out with parking bays causing traffic jams”
- “Parking is a big problem in Kilconquhar”
- “Kilconquhar roads in very poor condition, poor repairs when they get done”
- “Expensive bus fares. Little public transport for anybody to use so I feel we are a little cut off from the rest of the East Neuk”
- “No bus shelters at bus stops”
- “No coffee shop/café”
- “The threat of the library closure”
- “There is no playgroup or nursery here for the younger children”
- “There has been a slow but steady decline in the facilities available in the village”
- “Fife council in the process of phasing out nursery bus”
- “Poor paths between villages”
- “Narrow street pavements – impossible for disabled people” “The blacksmiths work place is an eye sore”
- “Small minority of people who throw litter”
- “Poor broadband. Poor mobile phone reception”
- “Poor telecommunications – lack of mobile signal and limited broadband”
- “The football goals are rusted and the nets are ripped. They aren’t maintained well”
- “Lack of interesting play areas/sports facilities for kids”
- “Lack of promotion of groups/events happening – unless you hear about things by chance”
- “Not enough activities for kids”
- “Increasing number of holiday homes and buy to let”
- “Slowly turning into a retirement village”
- “Lack of affordable housing”



COLINSBURGH AND KILCONQUHAR 2025 OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

This statement has been prepared using local residents and organisations answers to the question - how would you like to imagine Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar in 2025?

Effective traffic calming through the villages will have helped to improve the quality of village life

A sustainable place to live and work with a balanced population of all ages

A place with good community facilities and activities

A place that has retained its character as friendly, attractive and safe

A place that is good for walking and cycling

A place with good transport links and good access to services and facilities both locally and in the wider area

MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public, private and third sector partners and supporters.

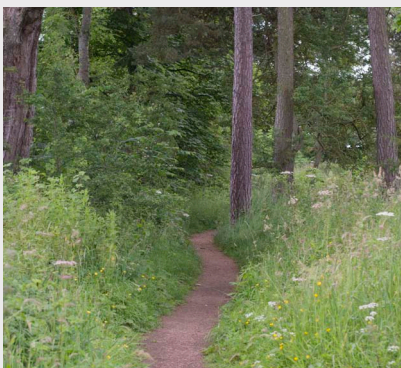
THEME 1: COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

The Library has been under threat of closure and the community has already begun the process of looking at how they could take ownership and develop it as a community hub for a range of activities and services. Local people identified this as a top priority at the Community Futures event.

There was also seen to be a need to improve play areas and other facilities for young people as well as a desire to see more community events to bring people together.

Main priorities:

- Community ownership of the library
- Improve play areas
- Develop facilities for young people
- Organise more community events



THEME 2: ENVIRONMENT

There is much support for the need to develop and maintain the path networks both within and surrounding the villages. The feedback from the community consultation was that people wanted improvements to walking paths and cycling routes and to be able to access the surrounding countryside. A better connecting path between the two villages was particularly highlighted.

The communities would like to see more ways in which housing could be more energy efficient but find the current conservation status is prohibitive. There is support from the villages to work with the relevant authorities to find solutions to this. It was also thought to be important to investigate the potential for the community to develop a renewable energy project perhaps in association with local landowners.

Main priorities:

- Develop local paths network
- Develop community renewable energy project
- Energy efficient housing



THEME 3: LOCAL ECONOMY AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

Certain parts of the village are well served with broadband whilst others have very poor service, the community would like to see superfast broadband rolled out across all houses in the area. Mobile phone coverage is also very patchy with some areas not able to get a signal at all.

The main bus service to St Andrews, Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes is not thought to be frequent enough and this causes difficulties in getting to work or college in time. In particular it was noted that since Further Education services have been moved it is more difficult and expensive to get to college using the bus service.

Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar children have to go to nursery school at St Monans. The free bus service for the nursery has been cut (as of August 2016) by Fife Council and this will make access to the nursery more difficult for local families. The community and families affected are keen to work with the Council to find a solution to this issue.

There is an issue with lack of job opportunities within the East Neuk. It was thought that the provision of workspace would encourage more people to work and live in the area.

Main priorities

- Better telecommunications
- Improve bus service
- Reintroduce the free nursery bus service to St. Monans Nursery
- Support the development of workspaces, and help to expand existing business
- Support and promote tourism in the East Neuk

THEME 4: ROADS TRAFFIC AND PARKING

The consultation has highlighted the concern over the volume, nature and speed of traffic going through the villages – with particular concern expressed over the extent and effect of heavy goods vehicles in Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar. Existing measures are not sufficient and suggestions for improvements include a weight limit for vehicles through Colinsburgh, enforcement of speed limits, an extension of the 20mph zone, zebra crossings and a bypass.

A need for a car park in Colinsburgh was also identified to make the main street a safer place to be for cars and pedestrians.

Reinstating the railway was seen as important for the future sustainability of the community – with its potential to make it more attractive to live and work in and to contribute to the local economy and tourism in the East Neuk.

Main priorities:

- Traffic calming measures through the villages
- Car park in Colinsburgh
- Reinstatement of the railway
- Improve the roads



THEME 5: HOUSING AND VILLAGE ENHANCEMENT

There is concern that housing in Kilconquhar is too expensive for young people particularly as many homes are bought as second homes. This has a negative effect on the balance and sustainability of the community. The consultation showed there was a desire to broaden housing opportunities and to try to reduce the impact of second home ownership on the future of the community.

In general there was a hope that the good work of village enhancement would go on – and include improvements to street lighting, signage and provision of dog waste and litter bins.

Main priorities:

- Develop more affordable housing
- Look at strategies to prevent too many second homes
- Investigate street lighting options
- Better signage in the villages
- Village enhancement



ACTION

A guide to the first steps to be taken

THEME 1: COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

PRIORITIES	ACTION
Community ownership of the library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support community ownership of the library • Look to gain charitable status for the Library Users Group • Develop additional activities for library • Look at additional funding options to develop community initiatives within the library • Develop a group of volunteers to support this initiative.
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Fife Council, Fife Voluntary Action, The Library Users Group</i>
Improve play areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve football goal posts • Upgrade parks and keep park equipment clean • Develop new action group to support this initiative
<i>Action by</i>	<i>East Neuk Estates, Fife Council, Skate Park Group</i>
Develop activities for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth club • Youth film club • After School Clubs
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Fife Council, Community Cinema, Town Hall Management Committee, Colinsburgh Youth Clubs, Primary School, Colinsburgh PTA</i>
Organise more family events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer fair • Picnic/bbq • Seasonal events
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Town Hall Management Committee, Community Cinema, Colinsburgh Youth Club, Church, Rhyme Time and other willing volunteers.</i>

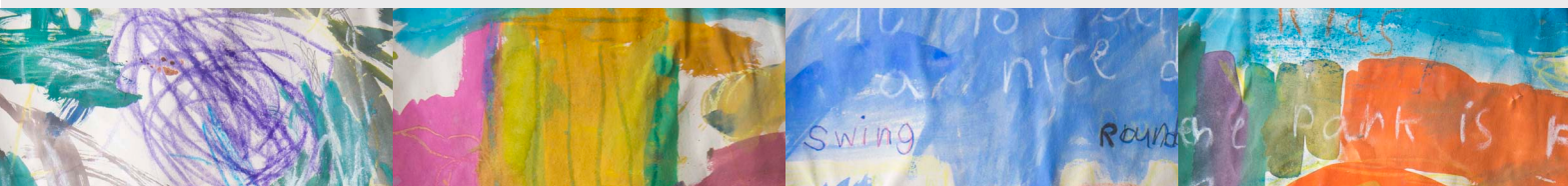


THEME 2: ENVIRONMENT

PRIORITIES	ACTION
Develop a local paths network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve path between the two villages • Develop plans for wider network of walking and cycling pathways
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar Community Council, East Neuk Estates, Fife Council, Sustrans, Scottish Natural Heritage, East Neuk Local Tourism Association</i>
Develop a community renewable energy project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a local action group • Research and visit other community renewable energy projects e.g. community solar array and hydro schemes • Develop plans for a local project
<i>Action by</i>	<i>New action group, Fife Council, St Andrews University, East Neuk Estates</i>
Energy efficient housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with planning department to agree solutions to energy efficiency measures in conservation areas • Promote and implement energy efficiency solutions with the wider community.
<i>Action by</i>	<i>East Neuk Preservation Society, Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar Community Council, Fife Council, East Neuk and Landward Energy Network</i>

THEME 3: LOCAL ECONOMY AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

PRIORITIES	ACTION
Better telecommunications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support Fife Superfast Broadband project • Lobby for better mobile phone signal
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar Community Council, Fife Council, COINEF -Superfast Broadband</i>
Improve bus service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby for better prices especially for young people accessing further education • Lobby for more frequent and more direct bus routes
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar Community Council, Fife Council, Stagecoach</i>
Reintroduce the nursery bus to St. Monan's nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby Fife Council for a solution for the current situation whereby non car owners cannot access the nursery
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Fife Council, Local Families, Primary Schools</i>
Support the development of work units and help expand existing businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at developing derelict buildings on the estates into work based units • Investigate suitable areas for work units • Investigate local business networks and promote in local area
<i>Action by</i>	<i>East Neuk Estates, Business Gateway, Community Council, Fife Council</i>
Support and promote tourism in The East Neuk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and support initiative to promote the East Neuk – including Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar.
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Visit Scotland, East Neuk Local Tourism Association, Fife Council</i>



THEME 4: ROADS, TRAFFIC AND PARKING

PRIORITIES	ACTION
Traffic calming measures through the villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with Fife Council to improve traffic calming measures through Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar • Community speed and volume check through village to inform any future calming measures • Explore the feasibility of weight restrictions through villages
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Community Council, Fife Council departments, Police Scotland</i>
Car park in Colinsburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at all possible areas in Colinsburgh to provide the village with a car park • Look into funding to develop a car park for Colinsburgh
<i>Action by</i>	<i>East Neuk Estates, Fife Council, Community Council, Local land owners</i>
Reinstate railway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore possibility of having railway reinstated • Look at Scottish Borders success and benefits to the area the railway now brings • Support LMRC and meet with relevant campaigners to investigate further action
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Community Council, LMRC-Levenmouth Rail Campaign, Transform Scotland</i>
Improve roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby Fife Council to improve the state of the roads such as filling in the pot holes
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Fife Council, Community Council</i>



THEME 5: HOUSING AND VILLAGE ENHANCEMENT

PRIORITIES	ACTION
Develop more affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make representation to Fife Council to ensure the areas for housing in the Local Development Plan remain • Carry out a local housing needs survey • Work with Fife Council and local landowners to identify areas in villages for housing development
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar Community Council, Fife Council, East Neuk Estates, Kingdom Housing Association</i>
Look at strategies to prevent too many second homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at ways that housing stock can remain for permanent residents. • Investigate other rural community led housing initiatives that provide for local needs
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar Community Council, Fife Council, Kingdom Housing Association</i>
Investigate street lighting options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby for street lighting times to be changed • Look at different options for street lighting colours
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar Community Council, Fife Council</i>
Better signage in the villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and lobby for better signage through the village to benefit visitors and locals
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar Community Council, Fife Council</i>
Village enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue good work to improve the village and make it look attractive • Work with Fife Council to increase the number of dog waste and litter bins
<i>Action by</i>	<i>Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar Community Council, Fife Council, Beautiful Kilconquhar, Colinsburgh our Colourful Community</i>



BEING INVOLVED IN MAKING IT HAPPEN

WORKING TOGETHER FOR COLINSBURGH AND KILCONQUHAR

Progressing this Action Plan will require that local community organisations all take action either on their own or jointly to develop projects and make representation on behalf of the community.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

To achieve results we will need to work closely with a range of public, private and third sector partners including Fife Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, East Neuk Estates, East Neuk Preservation Society, Fife Voluntary Action, Fife Superfast Broadband Project, Sustrans and East Neuk Local Tourism Association.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED & CONTACT INFORMATION

Get in touch if you want more information or to let us know how you would like to get involved and to share your ideas

Colinsburgh & Kilconquhar Community Council

Name: Secretary

E-mail: colkilcc1@gmail.com

Town Hall Management Committee

Name: Karen Wilkinson

E-mail: karenwilkieson@btinternet.com

Telephone: 01333 340571

Library Users Group

Name: Peter Marshall or Karen McCormack

E-mail: colinsburgh.library@gmail.com

Telephone: 01333 340 360 (Peter Marshall)

Superfast Broadband Project

Name: Jaqueline Montador

E-mail: jacqueline@fifevoluntaryaction.org.uk

Keeping the Action Plan up to date:

We will organise an annual Community Action Plan Annual Review to report back to the Community on how the plan is progressing.

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2016 – 2021

This Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar over the next 5 years as determined by the community through an extensive process of community engagement carried out over a five month period from January – May 2016

The Plan contains:

- A summary of our Community Profile
- Our main likes and dislikes as identified in our Community Views Survey
- Our Vision Statement for the future of Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar
- The main themes and priorities for action
- Information on how you can stay in touch and get involved.

The Plan is for the whole community and is jointly owned by all the organisations and individuals that took part in its preparation. We will be working together to ensure its implementation over the next 5 years.

This Community Action Plan is also available on line at <http://www.colinsburghandkilconquharcc.org.uk>

Acknowledgements:

Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar have been assisted in the preparation of this plan by ENCAP (East Neuk Community Action Plan). ENCAP is a partnership initiative which brings together representatives from East Neuk Estates, local communities, Fife Council and Fife Voluntary Action.

Funding was provided by Fife Council and staff from ENCAP worked with the community to carry out the work.

STAR Development Group provided Community Action Planning training and advise.

Art work was made by children from Colinsburgh Primary School especially for the Action Plan. The winning painting was chosen at the Community Futures Event and is on the front page.



East Neuk Estates



STAR
DEVELOPMENT
GROUP