

Oxton and Channelkirk

Community Action Plan



Our vision for the future

“Oxton & Channelkirk is beautiful, peaceful and historic. Together, we will make our community vibrant - a place to be enjoyed by everyone, now and in the future.”

Our Community, Our plan

About this plan



Over the last year, we have been collecting your views on the future of Oxton & Channelkirk. You told us what you like, what you don't like, and what you feel is missing from your community. This is the result of your feedback—a Community Action Plan that sets out a shared vision of how local people want to see Oxton & Channelkirk flourish now and in the future.

The Community Action Plan has been commissioned by Oxton & Channelkirk Community Council on behalf of everyone in the community.

You told us...

We really like:

- Our History and Heritage
- Our strong community spirit
- The picturesque countryside
- Our primary school - "the best in the borders!"

"I love the peacefulness and tranquility, the school and the friendly community"

"The school is fantastic and we have made very good friends here. It is genuinely a very good friendly little place, it also has a great community spirit."

In the future, we would like:

- An adequate community facility
- Things for young people to do
- Our village to be even prettier with flowers and welcome display
- A post office
- More frequent and later bus services to the village from Edinburgh
- Recycling facilities
- Cycle and walking paths

"Although it is friendly, more activities are needed to bring people together."

Simple things like a lunch club, cafe, community cinema, zumba, walking clubs etc."

Vision for the future

Village Hall Project

You said it is important that Oxton & Channelkirk has a village hall that can accommodate a range of leisure, cultural and social activities for people of all ages. The 'Village Hall Project' theme promises to explore the available options and address this issue.

Village Improvements

You said you want to see improvements such as more car parking in the village, street lighting along the A68, and making the roads and footpaths safer. The 'Village Improvements' theme promises to make Oxton & Channelkirk beautiful and safe for residents and visitors.

Energy & Green Initiatives

You want to look at ways that homes could be more energy efficient, and how the community could become greener and more sustainable. The 'Energy Efficiency' theme will explore your suggestions and ideas.



1 Theme

Village Hall Project

Aim: We will have a village hall that is fit for the future

You said it is important that Oxton & Channelkirk has a village hall that can accommodate a range of leisure, cultural and social activities for people of all ages. The 'Village Hall Project' theme promises to address this issue.

The results from the community survey show that 43% of local people would like to see the existing Memorial Hall refurbished or extended, while 57% supported the idea of a new 'community hub' for the village. As these results were so close, the Community

Action Plan will examine both options in detail - looking at costs, viability and other factors, and will produce a viable proposal. This will consider all the things you said you would like to have in a village hall – such as more things for young people to do, more space for leisure and sports activities, space for health and well-being activity, and a community cinema.

This theme will examine the options to:

Invest in the existing Memorial Hall

Built in the memory of people connected to Oxton & Channelkirk who fell during the Great War, the hall is one of the main cornerstones of the village. Local people who were in favour of investing in the hall said they would like to see it refurbished and extended to make the kitchen bigger, to incorporate more storage space, and general improvements to make it fit for purpose.

New community hub

This will explore the option to create a new community hub for the village, as part of a joint venture with Scottish Borders Council to also build a new school for Channelkirk Primary.

Project Timescales

In the next 12 months

- Feasibility research and fully costed appraisal of all options
- Select preferred option

In the next 1 – 5 years

- Progress with the preferred option

Village Improvements

Theme 2

Aim: Oxton & Channelkirk will be beautiful and safe

You said that things could be done to make Oxton & Channelkirk even more beautiful and safe. You suggested planting colourful flower beds and hanging baskets in the village, and putting up welcome signs for visitors.

You said that you would like to see street lighting along the A68, improvements to

the roads and footpaths to make the village safer, and improved public transport services to and from the village. The lack of car parking in the village is clearly an issue, as many of you mentioned this in the survey. You also said that as a community, you need to be better equipped to cope with severe snow, and lots of interesting suggestions for this were put forward and will be explored.

The 'Village Improvements' theme promises to make Oxton & Channelkirk beautiful and safe for residents and visitors over the next 5 years, by exploring the most popular projects that you suggested, which were:

Project Timescales

In the next 12 months

- Make sure the village is better able to cope with snow
- Put up hanging baskets and flowerbeds to make the village more attractive
- Put up welcome signs on the way into the village
- Improve the bus shelter
- Continue with the programme of work to tidy the cemetery
- Hold a meeting with the bus company and residents to see if current services could be improved (later service from Edinburgh, installing a bus tracker in the village, etc)
- Improve access to walking and cycling tracks in our countryside
- Install traffic calming measures – such as 'smiley face' flash boards

In the next 1 – 5 years

- Improve car parking provision in the village
- Make improvements to the roads and footpaths in the village
- Put up street lights along the A68 on the way into Oxton
- Investigate the possibility of high speed broadband provision for the area

3 Theme

Energy & Green Initiatives

Aim: We will work together as a community to reduce our carbon footprint, and make Oxton & Channelkirk a greener, more sustainable place to live both for ourselves and for the benefit of generations to come.

You want to look at ways that Oxton & Channelkirk could be 'greener' and more environmentally sustainable. Lots of good ideas were put forward to make this happen, like setting up community growing projects linked to enterprise, recycling facilities, and a local wood supply.

There was also resounding interest to explore whether the village could be linked to the mains gas supply, and if measures

could be taken to make homes more energy efficient.

You also said you would like to know more about the option for the community of Oxton & Channelkirk to invest in its own renewable energy supply – such as owning a wind or hydro turbine that could be used to power the village, and perhaps generate income by selling excess power back to the National Grid.

Over the next 5 years, the 'Greener Oxton & Channelkirk' theme promises to explore the most popular projects you suggested, which were:

Project Timescales

In the next 12 months

- Set up community growing projects, such as allotments / community garden
- Investigate the potential to link local households to the mains gas supply
- Install recycling facility in the village

In the next 1 – 5 years

- Explore ways to mitigate fuel poverty for local households starting with loft and cavity wall insulation.
- Investigate the possibility of the community owning its own wind or hydro turbine

What next?

The suggested actions outlined in this Plan will be taken forward. Where needed, more research will be done. Oxton & Channelkirk Community Council will guide the delivery of the Action Plan. However, its success depends on local people getting involved and helping out.

Here's what will happen next:

- Three 'working groups' will be set up for each key theme. These will be made up of representatives from the Community Council and local volunteers. The working groups will explore, research and take the lead on the ideas and proposed projects.
- A simple 'project plan' will be prepared for each of the 3 key themes that will detail who is taking the lead on each project, what needs to be done to make it happen, costs, timescales and other information. This will be updated and discussed at the Community Council meetings.
- The Community Council will keep people informed of what's happening via the website www.oxtonchannel.org.uk and regular notices will be put up in the community.

How will this activity be funded?

The activity in this plan will be supported by the significant 'community benefit funding' that Oxton and Channelkirk will receive from the wind farm developments in the area. However, some things (such as road improvements) will be a responsibility of other agencies, such as Scottish Borders Council.

Additional sources of funding will be explored, such as charitable trusts and foundations, and rural development funding. Early in the process, the Community Council and the working groups will look at estimated costs for each of the projects and ideas that have been proposed, and identify potential funding sources.

How can you get involved?

Your community needs you. You can join 1 of the 3 working groups and help to lead change in Oxton & Channelkirk for the better. To join a working group, or to find out more, please come along to one of the Community Council meetings which are held on the last Monday of every month in Oxton Memorial Hall.

A full report of the community consultation and research findings is available on the Oxton and Channelkirk Community website www.oxtonchannel.org.uk

Contact

To find out more email us at cap@oxtonchannel.org.uk
or contact one
of your
Community Councillors



This community consultation was carried out by Community Enterprise, a social enterprise that supports people to change their local community for the better.

Oxton and Channelkirk Community Action Plan



What residents like about Oxton & Channelkirk ...

