

MUIRKIRK COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2026- 2031

OPEN DAY

Welcome to Muirkirk Action Plan voting event.

Over the last few months, we have been carrying out a community consultation to find out what people think of Muirkirk and what should be done to make it a better place to live, work in and visit.

The consultation has been organised by the local Community Action Plan Steering Group which brought together representatives from community organisations and residents.

This display reports on the findings so far...

COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY – find out the results today!

Survey forms were distributed around the village and were also available online. In total **266 surveys** were returned from **653** households which is a 40.7% return and is representative of all parts of the community. Thanks go to the local volunteers who worked so hard to distribute and collect the survey forms.

The pupils from Muirkirk Primary School and Robert Burns Academy also took part in the survey and shared their views.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS – see what they all said!

We have also been out talking and listening to a wide range of stakeholder’s views from different groups and sectors of the community. These have included: Muirkirk Community Council, Muirkirk Community Association, Muirkirk Creatives, Muirkirk Juniors FC, EJM Cars, Muirkirk Enterprise Group, Muirkirk Parish Church, Pagan Walk Shop and Tanyard Chemist.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES – make your choice!

Today is the opportunity for the community to vote for your own priority projects and actions and tell us what needs to be done to make Muirkirk a better place to live in, work in and visit over the next five years.

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The results of this voting event, as well as the other consultation, will help us to prepare a 5 year Community Action Plan for Muirkirk. The Action Plan will be used to help support the development of priority projects and to make representation on behalf of our community.

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

The preparation of the Action Plan is being supported by East Ayrshire Leisure’s Vibrant Communities team.

PLANNING INTO ACTION

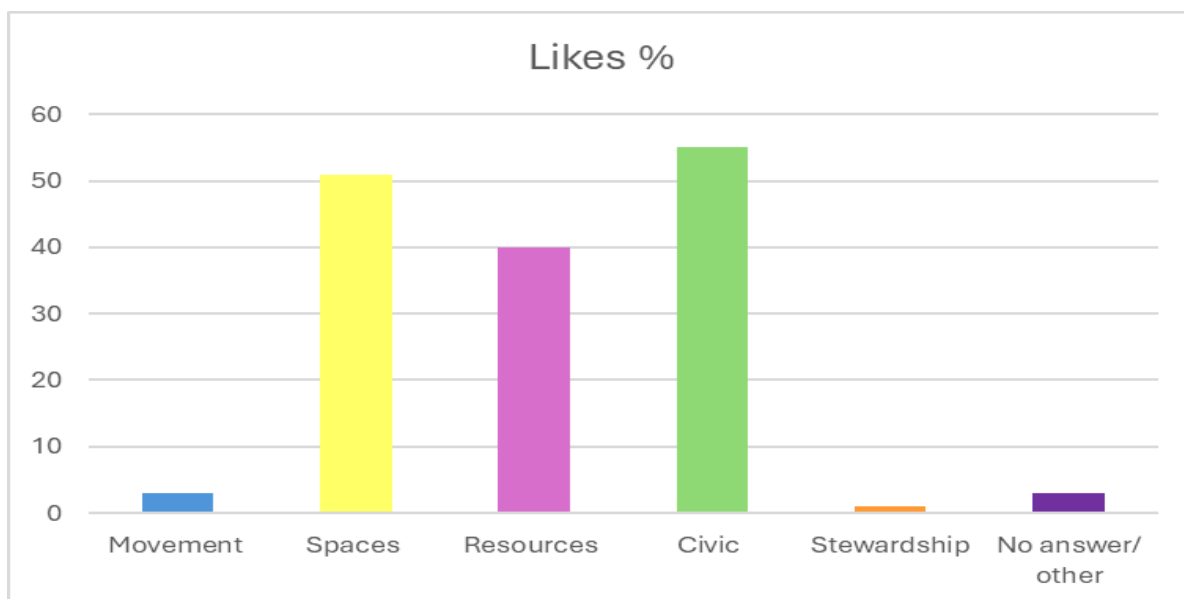
We need local support and interest in taking forward the projects and ideas in the plan. So please get involved in your community and in the things that matter to you. Join the local organisations and groups that will help to turn Planning into Action.



Working with Muirkirk Community Action Plan Steering Group.

COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY: LIKES

What we like – and some of the comments from the survey:



“The friendliness of the people. Like living here safe place to live”

“The fact that it is remote and in beautiful countryside”

“Its people are friendly “

“Great school and lovely scenery for walks”

“People and low crime”

“The people, nice pub and take aways. Good school, post office and shops”

“Peace and quiet”

“I love the effort that's clearly been put into the community organisations here, and that they continue to work for the good of the community. Maintaining the history of a place, providing an engine to push for and to deliver change, and providing continuity are the key differences between a community and just a place people live”

“The friendly people. The feeling of feeling at home”

“Local shops and the amazing playgroup on a Tuesday”

“Best walks in Britian”

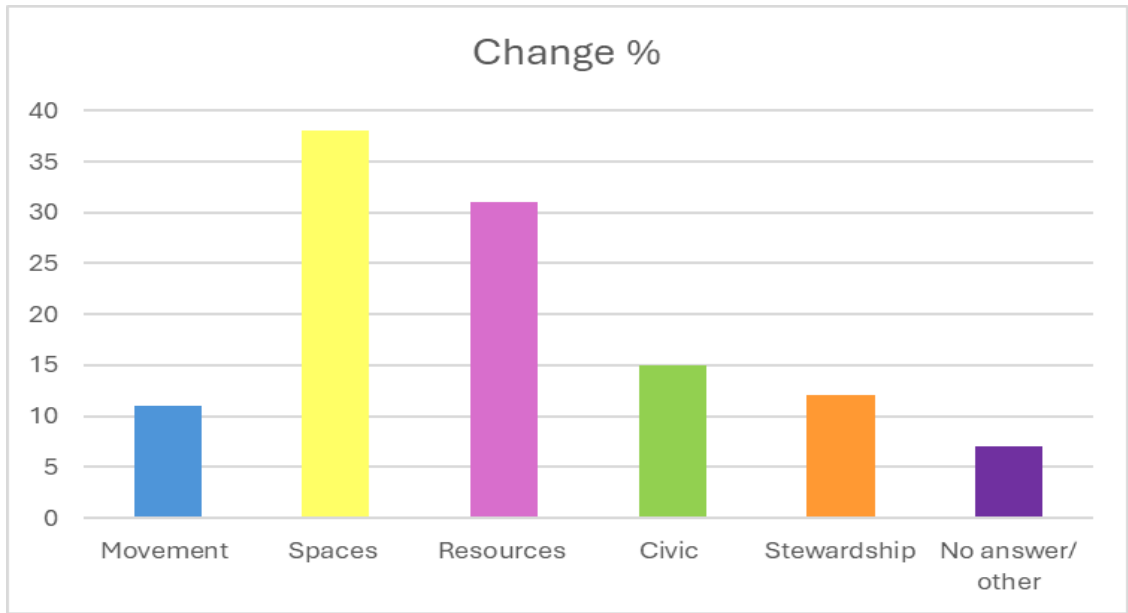
“Muirkirk is home. All my family live in Muirkirk. There is a real sense of community in Muirkirk and the people really do make Muirkirk great!”

“The scenery and walks”

“Golf course, Dunbar’s and the Astroturf”

COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY: WHAT WE WOULD CHANGE

What we would change – and some of the comments from the survey:



“Derelict buildings and overgrown spaces”

“Need new shops creating new jobs”

“People’s attitudes”

“More activities for younger people”

“Improve Transport links”

“More community cohesion”

“Priority housing for local residents”

“Improve Bus Service”

“Tidy Streets”

“Introduce / Attract small industries to improve employment”

“More Parking”

“Buildings could do with a bit of paint, more civic pride”

“More houses”

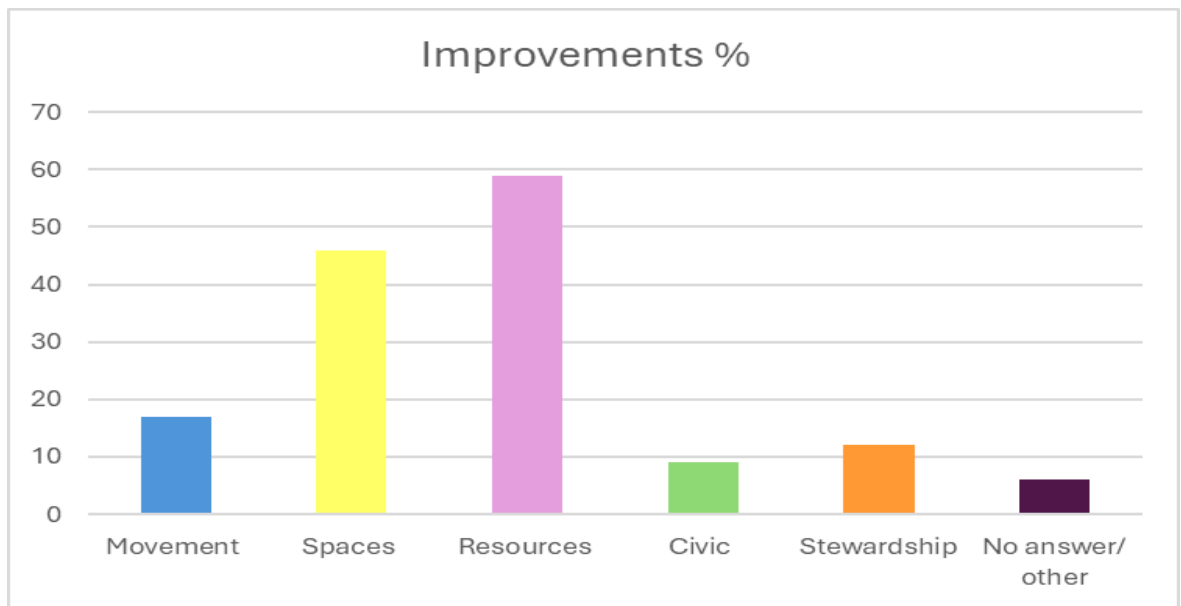
“Better roads into the village making it easier to visit”

“Improve walking routes around the village like Cairn Table and Tibbies Brig”

“Gid rid of old properties that are left to rot”

COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY: IMPROVEMENTS

Here are your priorities to make things better...



“A community cafe, an area for teenagers to go once/twice a week”

“More social/community events”

“More job opportunities”

“Improved transport links to Glasgow / Lanarkshire”

“Better shops”

“Making the village more presentable, painting buildings, sorting pavements etc. If we had more to do, even a coffee shop or something”

“Public toilets”

“Community groups working together”

“More affordable housing”

“Upgrades to play parks”

“More car parking spaces”

“A more modern approach with some exciting outdoor pursuits”

“More murals painted”

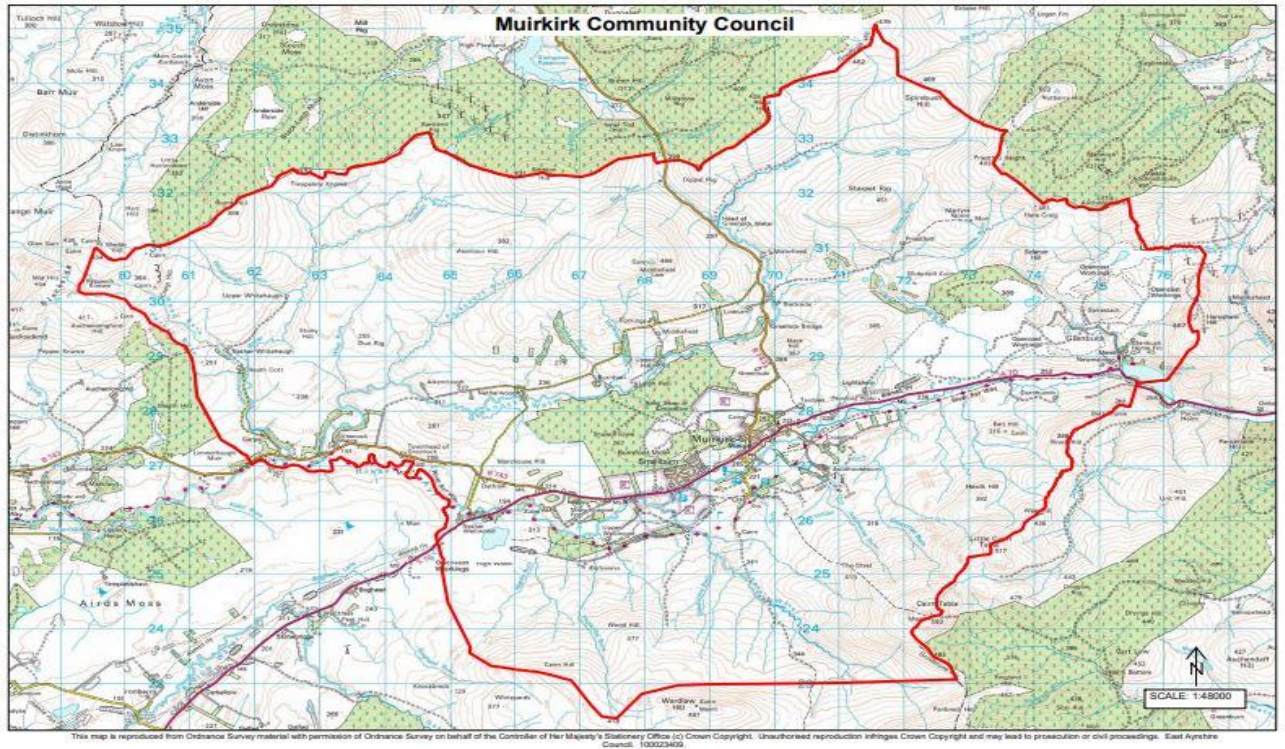
“Regular visible policing”

“Keep Muirkirk Tidy and remove litter from streets”

STAKEHOLDER VIEWS: Stakeholders' Views of THE COMMUNITY ...

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring community. • Very nice people. • Community Spirit. • Community Activities. • Market / Switch on. • Community Ownership - everyone takes pride in where they live. • Many people are able to signpost about what help is available in Muirkirk. • We have a lot of amenities in the village including a golf course, bowling club, angling club, motor racing club, a junior football club, a number of public halls, fitness suite and many more active groups. • Community Spirit. • Community Support. • The council take an interest and Muirkirk has wonderful elected members who seem genuinely interested. • Community spirit. Not as strong as it was though. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not much interest in the church, few things for the youth, lack of restaurants, museums or other similar places. • Travel. • No public toilet. • Lack of employment opportunities in village. • Trotters building needs looked at. • We lack employment and have poor public transport. • Travel. • No public toilet. • Not much for kids to do in the village. • Lack of opportunities. Lack of public facilities like no public toilet.
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With such a caring community, all the weaknesses could be overcome, parks could be improved and Muirkirk could be a place that both locals and tourists love to linger at. • Volunteering opportunities within groups, there is lots going on. • Community Groups help the community and become a point of contact. • The opportunities probably stem from the community benefit which will arise from the wind farms which are looking to come on stream around 2028. • Volunteering opportunities. • Community Events. • MEG looking to push forward for young people to get involved. • There are limited opportunities - used to be great race days starting from the games hall. • Poor public transport making it hard for kids growing up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer employment opportunities, fewer restaurants impacts tourist stopping, lack of interest in church (and other stakeholder institutions) would mean they cease to exist in the community. • Bus passes for teenagers increase in antisocial behaviour from kids further afield. • Vandalism. • The lack of younger volunteers coming forward may result in some of the groups disbanding, as has already happened with the boy's brigade. • Loss of people due to lack of opportunities and lack of jobs. • The village is under threat main shop can't afford to keep running. The lack of footfall is causing a steady decline. Hard for shops to keep open.

COMMUNITY PROFILE: Muirkirk Community Council boundary map

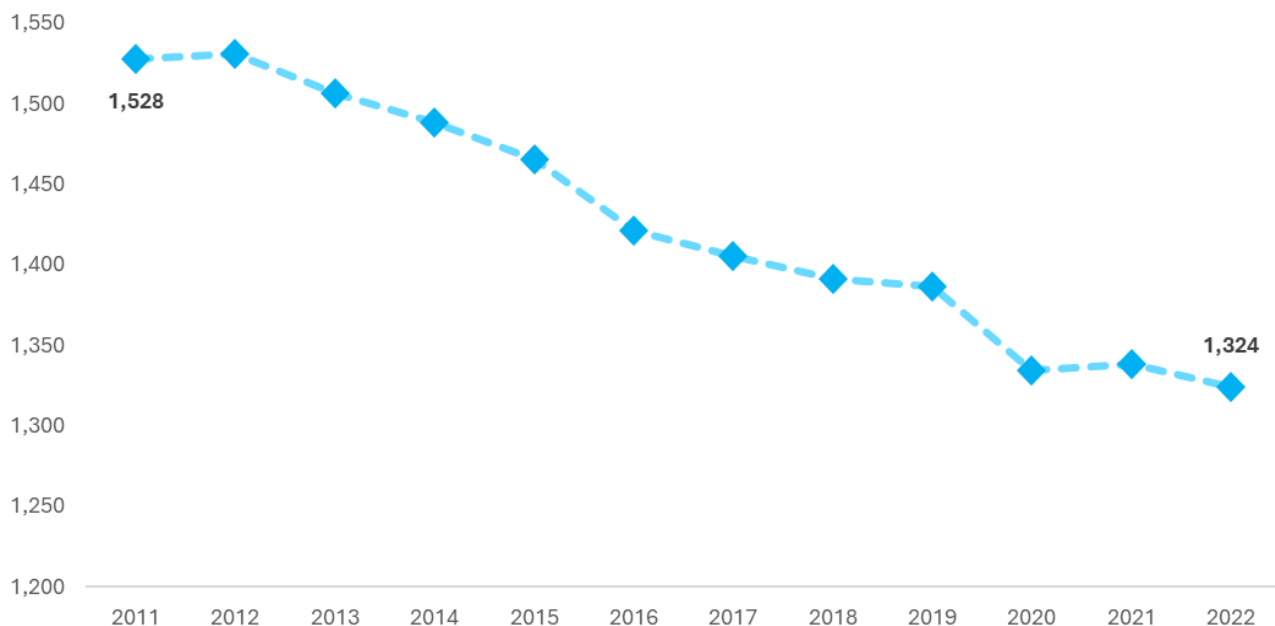


COMMUNITY PROFILE: Facts, figures and information about our community:

POPULATION

The population of Muirkirk has experienced an overall decrease of 13.35% since the 2011 census. At the last census over 1,528 people lived in Muirkirk. The sex split in Muirkirk found a slight favour towards the female sex, which follows the pattern present within regional and national levels.

Muirkirk population 2011 to 2022

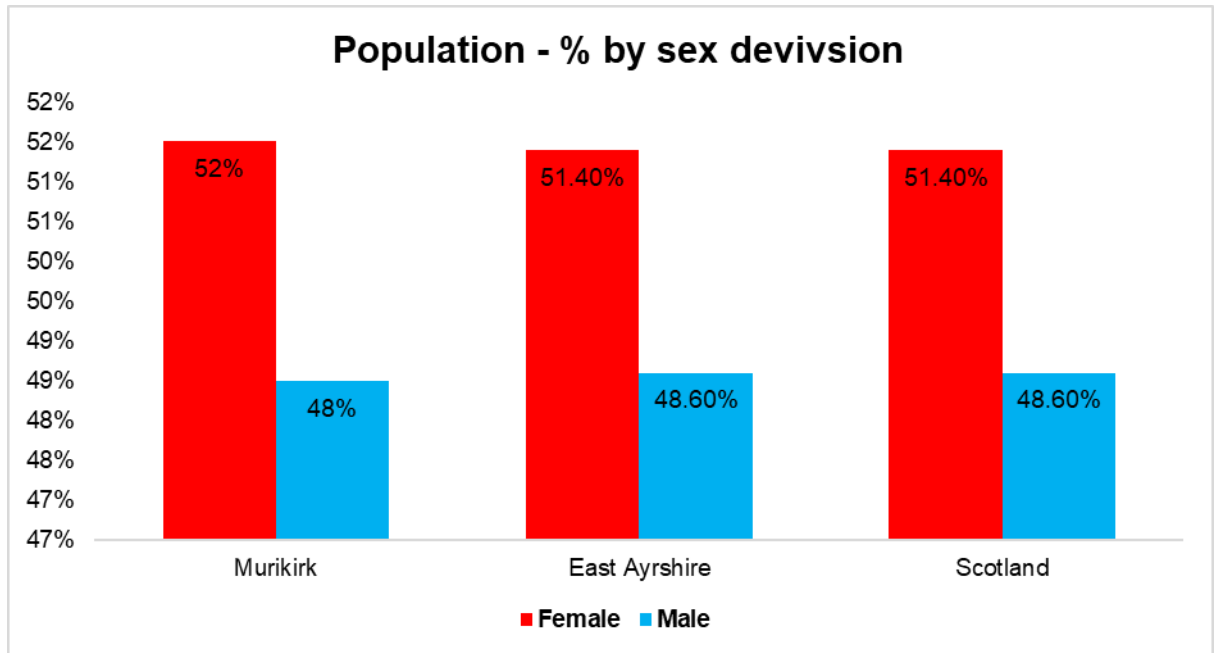


Source: Population – Census 2011/22, NRS Mid-Year population estimates –

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Facts, figures and information about our community:

POPULATION



Source: Population by Sex – Census 2022

AGE STRUCTURE

Age	Total Number	Percentage of survey population
Under 5	56	4%
5-9	79	6%
10-15	82	6%
16-24	85	6%
25-44	271	20%
45-59	274	21%
60-69	198	15%
Over 70	274	21%
Total	1324	100%

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Facts, figures and information about our community:

AGE RANGES AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION

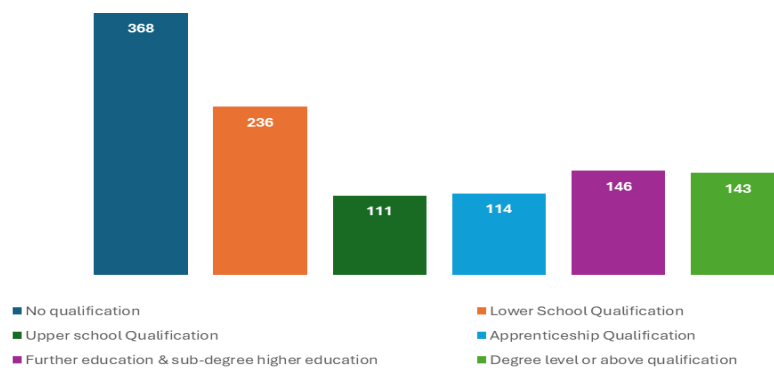
Age	Muirkirk	East Ayrshire	Scotland
Under 5	4%	5%	5%
5-9	6%	5%	5%
10-15	6%	7%	7%
16-24	6%	9%	11%
25-44	20%	23%	25%
45-59	21%	22%	21%
60-69	15%	14%	13%
Over 70	21%	15%	14%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Source: Population by age - Census 2022

Muirkirk has a larger percentage of those ages over 70 compared to the national regional figures. However, there is a small distribution between 25-44 in Muirkirk.

EDUCATION

School Qualifications



The population above 16 was observed through their highest academic achievement. 33.39% of individuals stated to have no qualification, whilst only 10.07% of individuals' highest qualification was at upper school level.

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Facts, figures and information about our community:

HOUSING

Tenure	No. of houses	Muirkirk percentage	East Ayrshire percentage	National Percentage
Owned	374	57.27%	63.51%	63.2%
Owned Outright	261	39.97%	34.01%	33.92%
Owned with a Mortgage or Loan	110	16.85%	29.04%	28.42%
Shared Ownership	2	0.31%	0.08%	0.25%
Shared Ownership Equity (LIFT or Help-To-Buy)	0	0%	0.37%	0.6%
Social rented	240	36.75%	25.72%	22.5%
Private rented	34	5.12%	9.53%	12.87%
Living Rent Free	9	1.38%	1.24%	1.43%
TOTAL:	653	100%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Households – Census 2022

Muirkirk has a lower proportion of owned households compared to both East Ayrshire and the national average. While outright ownership is slightly higher than average, the number of households owning with a mortgage or loan is noticeably lower. This indicates an older ownership profile, with fewer younger families buying homes and borrowing.

In contrast, the proportion of socially rented housing is higher than both regional and national levels, reflecting the importance of affordable housing in the community. Private renting is less common in Muirkirk compared to East Ayrshire and Scotland, suggesting fewer options in the private rental market.

Overall, the housing profile highlights a community with strong levels of outright ownership, but also a higher reliance on social housing. This mix suggests both stability among older residents and ongoing housing need for others in the area.

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Facts, figures and information about our community:

ECONOMIC POSITION

Economic Position	Muirkirk	East Ayrshire	Scotland
Economically Active	555	58729	2768173
Employed - Part Time	25%	23.3%	23.2%
Employed - Full Time	56.8%	59.7%	59.9%
Self Employed	12.4%	12.1%	12.5%
Unemployed	6.5%	5%	4.4%
Economically Inactive	560	41228	1780416
Students	3.8%	7.5%	12.4%
Permanently Sick (Long term disability or sickness)	21.8%	15.6%	13.2%
Retired	61.4%	61.4%	59.6%
Other	5.2%	6.4%	6%

Economic Activity – Census 2022

The 2022 Census data provides an overview of Muirkirk’s economic activity compared to East Ayrshire and Scotland as a whole:

- Economically Active Population:

Muirkirk has 555 economically active residents. A slightly higher percentage work part-time (25%) than the East Ayrshire (23.3%) and Scotland (23.2%) averages. Over half (56.8%) are in full-time work, close to the regional and national figures. Self-employment in Muirkirk is at 12.4%, similar to East Ayrshire (12.1%) and Scotland (12.5%). The unemployment rate sits at 6.5%, which is above both East Ayrshire (5%) and Scotland (4.4%).

- Economically Inactive Population:

There are 560 economically inactive residents. While the proportion of students (3.8%) is lower than both East Ayrshire (7.5%) and Scotland (12.4%), Muirkirk has a significantly larger proportion of people who are permanently sick or unable to work (21.8%) compared to East Ayrshire (15.6%) and Scotland (13.2%).

- Retired Residents:

The retired population makes up 61.4% of those economically inactive, broadly in line with East Ayrshire (61.4%) and Scotland (59.6%).

This comparison shows that while employment levels in Muirkirk are broadly consistent with national averages, the community faces challenges with higher unemployment and a noticeably greater proportion of individuals permanently unable to work. This can have wider impacts on health, wellbeing, and local development.

COMMUNITY PROFILE:

Facts, figures and information about our community:

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Transport and Roads

The 2022 census indicated that there are 478 households with cars or vans owned within Muirkirk; however, 27.26% of households reported having no car or van.

	Percentage of households
Percentage of households with cars or vans None	27.26%
Percentage of households with cars or vans One	45.79%
Percentage of households with cars or vans Two	20.83%
Percentage of households with cars or vans Three	5.05%
Percentage of households with cars or vans Four or more	1.53%
Total number of households with cars or vans in the area	478

Source: Household Transportation – Census 2022

HEALTH AND CARE

ScotPHO data (updated for the 2022/23 financial year) shows significant variation in health across different areas. The information below highlights some key issues for Cumnock Rural, which includes Muirkirk:

- The rate of patients hospitalised with alcohol conditions is slightly above the Scottish average (531.9 per 100,000 compared to 502.4).
- Hospital admissions due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are also higher than the national figure (175.3 per 100,000 compared to 116.5).
- Coronary heart disease hospitalisation is a concern, with Cumnock Rural recording 556.5 per 100,000 compared to the national figure of 362.7.
- Emergency hospitalisations are significantly higher than the Scottish average (8,062.6 per 100,000 compared to 7,034.5).
- Older people are particularly affected: patients aged over 65 are admitted to hospital following an emergency at a rate of 5,868.6 per 100,000, compared to the national figure of 4,731.8.

These figures highlight that Muirkirk and surrounding areas experience health inequalities, with higher levels of hospitalisation than the Scottish average across several conditions