



Stracathro and Inchbare Community Action Plan

2023 to 2028

Produced in association with



**Angus Rural
Partnership**

supporting vibrant, sustainable communities

Stracathro is the name of the parish, and lends its name to the school, church and community hall. Inchbare is the hamlet located on the B966 between the A90 and Edzell. Together they comprise approximately 120 households.



Stracathro Cottage



Entrance to Inchbare on B966

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Stracathro Parish Church



SETTING THE SCENE

INTRODUCTION

Stracathro and Inchbare are situated within the rural countryside of North Angus; approximately four miles north of Brechin, to the west of the A90.

Stracathro is the name of the parish, and lends its name to the school, church and community hall. Inchbare is the hamlet located on the B966 between the A90 and Edzell. Together they comprise approximately 120 households.

The area is rich in history, with evidence of Neolithic Cursus monuments by Inchbare. The Romans under Agricola built a fort in AD75 on the banks of the West Water, and whilst it was used for only thirty years, it remains the Romans' most northerly site of permanent occupation.

On 16 April 1130, the Battle of Stracathro (also known as the Battle of Inchbare) took place between the forces of King David I and the rulers of Moray. The Royal forces, led by Edward, Constable of Scotland, were victorious.

Established in the grounds of Stracathro House in 1939, Stracathro Hospital was a wartime Emergency Hospital Service facility during World War II. Afterwards, it was developed as a District General Hospital and since 2005 it has been the site of the Scottish Regional Treatment Centre.

In the past, Stracathro Primary School has been threatened with closure. However, in 2018, local families fought a successful campaign for it to remain open.

Inchbare now benefits from a new affordable housing development. This public private partnership was delivered by Stracathro Estates in partnership with the Scottish Government's Rural and Islands Housing Fund Scheme. Named 'Stracathro Gate' after the distinct clavicular gateways of the Roman Camp, the new housing development welcomed six new families in 2022.

Whilst there is no main employer, the surrounding countryside is dominated by agricultural activity and the local population consists of households ranging from young families to retirees.

The community hall was built in 1932 and was extensively used until recently. There were monthly dance meetings, an active youth club and the primary school held their gym lessons there. Regular services at Stracathro Church ceased in 2021.

The area is rich in history, with evidence of Neolithic Cursus monuments by Inchbare.



STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The vision of the Angus Community Plan 2022 to 2030 is "Angus is a great place to live, work and visit".

The Community Plan comes at a time when many challenges are being faced, not least reducing funding for the public sector. The Plan outlines a commitment by Angus Council to work more closely and effectively together with stakeholders to deliver positive change and secure the best possible future for communities.

The Plan focuses on 3 key themes which collectively will create the greatest impact for local people - Economy, People and Place - and incorporates new 'Place Planning' legislation. This coupled with Community Wealth Building principles will pave the way for more effective partnership working.

COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) puts communities at the centre of identifying local needs and challenges as well as what projects and activities can address them.

Including communities in this bottom-up approach further empowers local people to become involved in developing solutions in response to the social, environmental and economic challenges their local areas face. When carried out correctly, CLLD can be an effective tool in generating a shared sense of commitment and ownership.

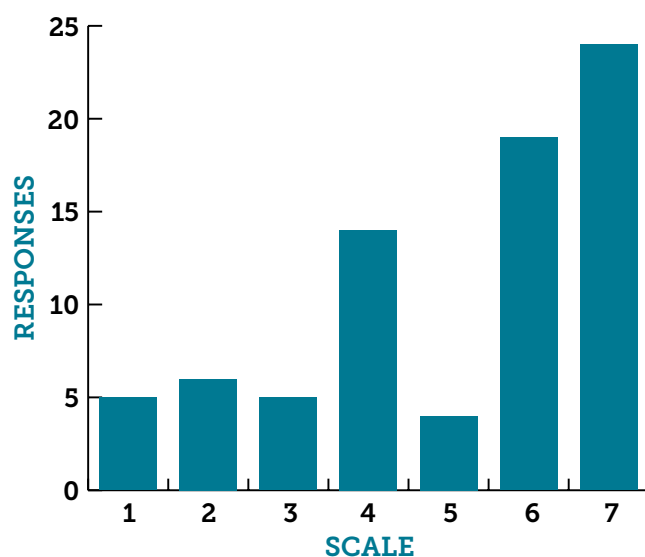
COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS

Community Action Plans are a participatory tool used to build the capacity of communities in taking action in accordance with the issues, needs, and potential of the community. They describe what the community wants to achieve in the short, medium and long term through community and partnership activity.

In identifying our community aspirations, it is intended that the Stracathro and Inchbare Community Action Plan will assist Angus Council, Community Planning Partners and funding organisations better understand local issues and in turn allocate resources.

Natural Space

Can I regularly experience good quality natural space?



1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

METHODOLOGY

STRACATHRO AND INCHBARE COMMUNITY STEERING GROUP

Following a preliminary meeting on 31 August 2022, the Stracathro and Inchbare Community Steering Group was established. Working with Angus Rural Partnership, the Steering Group oversaw the community consultation activities.

Every household within the study area was asked to complete the Place Standard Survey.

PLACE STANDARD FRAMEWORK

The Place Standard framework is a Scottish Government tool which allows places to be assessed by their assets, strengths and weaknesses. It consists of 14 themes and short questions which cover both the physical and social environment for health, wellbeing and quality of life. The survey results were used to inform our community workshops and identify our Themes and Actions.



Entrance to Inchbare from the West

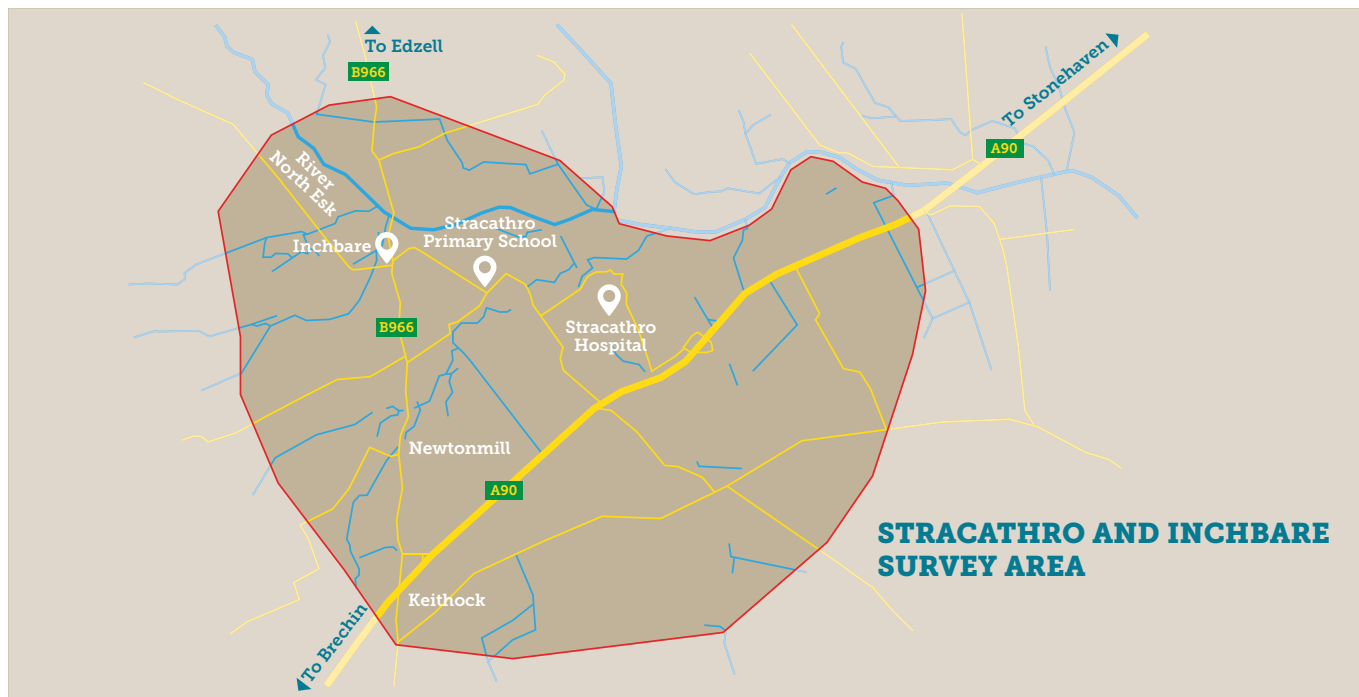
Table 1: Place Standard Themes and Questions

Place Standard Theme	Place Standard Question
Moving Around	Can I easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?
Public Transport	Does public transport meet my needs?
Traffic and Parking	Do traffic and parking arrangements allow people to move around safely and meet the community's needs?
Streets and Spaces	Do buildings, streets and public places create an attractive place that is easy to get around?
Natural Space	Can I regularly experience good quality natural space?
Play and Recreation	Do I have access to a range of space and opportunities for play and recreation?
Facilities and Amenities	Do facilities and amenities meet my needs?
Work and Local Economy	Is there the opportunity to work locally?
Housing and Community	Does housing support the needs of the community and contribute to a positive environment?
Social Interaction	Is there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people?
Identity and Belonging	Does this place have a positive identity, and do I feel I belong?
Feeling Safe	Do I feel safe?
Care and Maintenance	Are buildings and spaces well cared for?
Influence and Sense of Control	Do I feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better?

Participants were asked to rate their place on a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 meant there was a lot of room for improvement and 7 meant there was very little room for improvement. In addition, open comments boxes allowed specific issues to be identified. Scores and comments were then used to inform and identify Themes and Actions.



Stracathro Gate



STRACATHRO AND INCHBARE SURVEY AREA

SURVEY PROCESS

107 surveys were hand delivered by members of the Steering Group week commencing 31 October 2022. Recipients had the option to complete a paper version of the survey or complete it online.

In total, 81 surveys were returned. This equates to a response rate of 75.7%.

SURVEY RESULTS (ranked by Weighted Average)

In total, 81 surveys were returned. This equates to a response rate of 75.7%.

Place Standard Theme	Place Standard Question	Weighted Average
Feeling Safe	Do I feel safe?	6.0
Care and Maintenance	Are buildings and spaces well cared for?	5.3
Natural Space	Can I regularly experience good quality natural space?	5.1
Streets and Spaces	Do buildings, streets and public places create an attractive place that is easy to get around?	4.8
Housing and Community	Does housing support the needs of the community and contribute to a positive environment?	4.6
Identity and belonging	Does this place have a positive identity, and do I feel I belong?	4.6
Moving Around	Can I easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?	4.3
Traffic and Parking	Do traffic and parking arrangements allow people to move around safely and meet the community's needs?	3.8
Facilities and Amenities	Do facilities and amenities meet my needs?	3.8
Work and Local Economy	Is there the opportunity to work locally?	3.6
Influence and Sense of Control	Do I feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better?	3.6
Play and Recreation	Do I have access to a range of space and opportunities for play and recreation?	3.4
Social Interaction	Is there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people?	3.4
Public Transport	Does public transport meet my needs?	3.0

Table 2: Survey Results (ranked by Weighted Average)

Stracathro and Inchbare's results range from Public Transport at 3.0 to Feeling Safe at 6.0. The average score is 4.2. 7 themes are below average and 7 are above average.

The vision of the Angus Community Plan 2022 to 2030 is "Angus is a great place to live, work and visit".

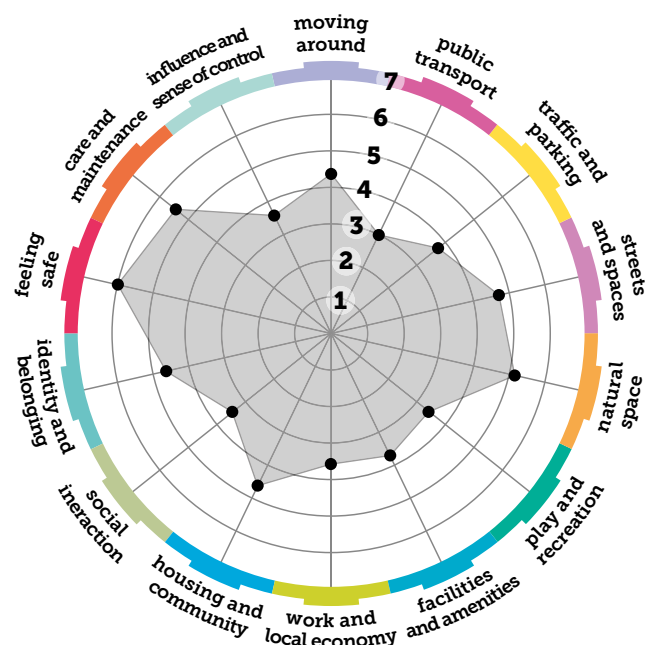


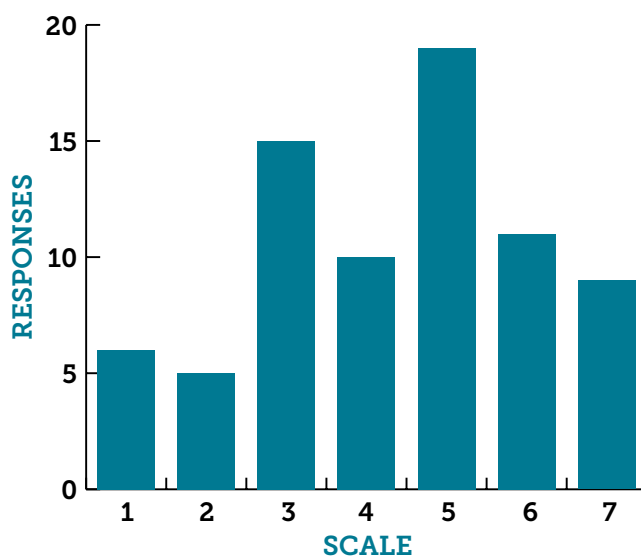
Figure 1: Place Standard Diagram

The Weighted Average scores are plotted on the diagram. Those towards the edge indicate there is little room for improvement whilst those closer to the centre indicate there is room for improvement.

However, the Place Standard Survey was more than just numbers. It was the beginning of the process and provided a starting point for further community consultations.

Moving Around

Can I easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?



1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.



Stracathro Parish Hall

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community events were held on Sunday, 4 December 2022 and Wednesday, 7 December 2022. Both events allowed residents to view survey responses and engage with members of the Steering Group and Scott Petrie from Angus Rural Partnership.

The responses to the Place Standard Survey and community discussions subsequently helped identify key Themes and Actions.

KEY FINDINGS

The community consultation activities identified a number of key findings:

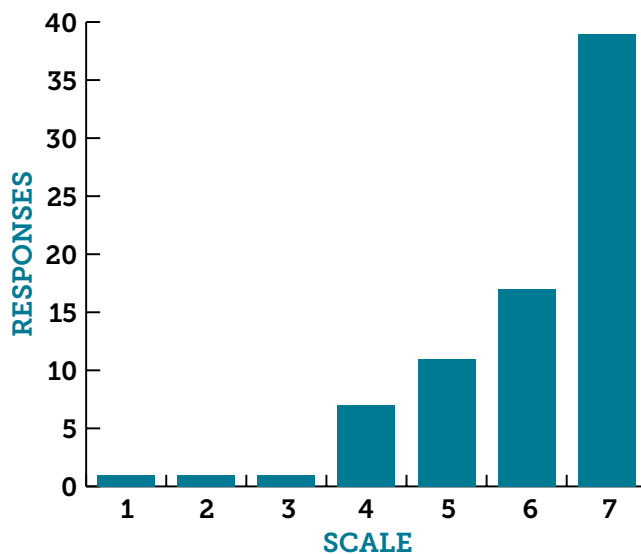
- Residents feel safe living in Stracathro and Inchbare.
- There is a sense of community spirit, but community activity has reduced in recent years.
- Residents value the quality of the natural surroundings.
- The area is rich in heritage and history.
- There are few opportunities for residents to come together for social activities.
- Parking at the Primary School is an issue, especially when dropping off/picking up children.
- Broadband and mobile signal provision is inconsistent and at times poor.
- There is a lack of safe cycling and walking routes.
- There is no play area for children.
- A number of roads and pavements are in need of repair.
- The building formerly owned by Edzell Engineering at the north side of Inchbare is in poor condition and an eyesore.
- Speeding traffic through Inchbare is an issue.
- Public transport is infrequent and unreliable.
- Street lighting is inconsistent.

West Water Bridge



Feeling Safe

Do I feel safe?



1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

STRACATHRO AND INCHBARE COMMUNITY THEMES AND ACTIONS

The following Themes and Actions are based on the community consultation activities, discussions with the Steering Group, anecdotal evidence and observations by the study group. They are not ranked in any order of importance or priority.

THEMES

- Community and Recreation
- Environment and Heritage
- Access to Services

ACTIONS

- Develop Community Facilities
- Improve Play and Recreation Areas
- Run More Community Events
- Develop Footpaths and Cycle Routes
- Create Community Garden and Floral Displays
- Record Local Heritage
- Improve Parking Arrangements at Stracathro Primary School
- Make Roads and Pavements Safer
- Improve Broadband and Mobile Phone Signal Provision
- Improve Recycling Facilities



THEME: COMMUNITY AND RECREATION

Action:	Develop Community Facilities
Lead:	S&I community organisation
Potential Partners:	Angus Council, Angus Rural Partnership, Inveresk Community Council
Timing:	Short to Medium Term
Comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop community facilities for community groups/use. • Consider refurbishing Stracathro Parish Hall. • Investigate asset transfer of Stracathro Parish Church. • Establish a Resilience Centre within Stracathro Parish Hall. • Install a Defibrillator.

Action:	Improve Play and Recreation Areas
Lead:	S&I community organisation
Potential Partners:	Angus Council, Inveresk Community Council, Stracathro Estates
Timing:	Medium to Long Term
Comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise funds for design and development of play facilities.

Action:	Run More Community Events
Lead:	S&I community organisation
Potential Partners:	Local community groups and organisations
Timing:	Short, Medium and Long Term
Comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make better use of community facilities. • Peripatetic classes/exhibitions/healthcare/community events.

THEME: ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Action:	Develop Footpaths and Cycle Routes
Lead:	S&I community organisation
Potential Partners:	Angus Council, Landowners, Sustrans Scotland
Timing:	Medium Term
Comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential footpaths and cycle routes. • Develop a walking and cycling map/app.

Action:	Create Community Garden and Floral Displays
Lead:	S&I community organisation
Potential Partners:	Angus Council, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Stracathro Estates
Timing:	Short to Medium
Comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish demand for Community Garden. • Investigate potential site for community garden. • Identify volunteers to oversee floral enhancements. • Develop a seasonal plan for floral enhancements.

Action:	Record Local Heritage
Lead:	S&I community organisation
Potential Partners:	Angus Council
Timing:	Short, Medium and Long Term
Comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish local historical society. • Record and value local heritage.

THEME: ACCESS TO SERVICES

Action:	Improve Parking Arrangements at Stracathro Primary School
Lead:	Angus Council
Potential Partners:	S&I community organisation
Timing:	Medium to Long Term
Comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Stracathro PS and local landowner to improve parking at school (drop off/pick up).

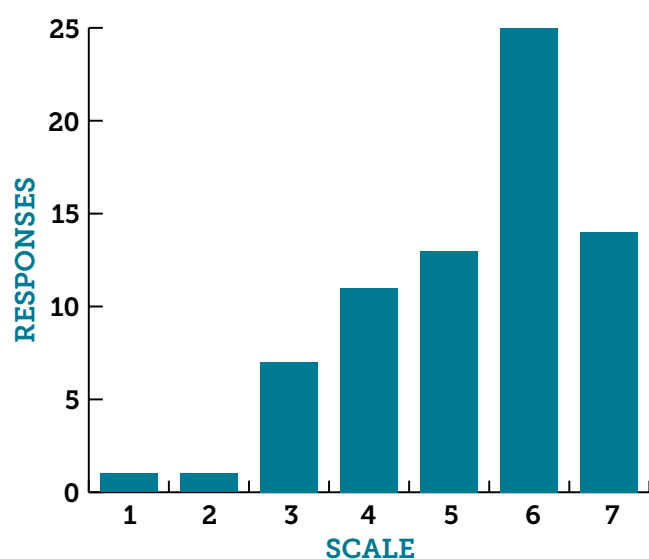
Action:	Make Roads and Pavements Safer
Lead:	S&I community organisation
Potential Partners:	Angus Council, Police Scotland, Sustrans
Timing:	Medium to Long Term
Comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Police Scotland and Angus Council (Roads) to raise concerns about speeding traffic and dangerous parking. Improve traffic calming measures at entrance and exit points to Inchbare. Improve pavement provision and maintenance. Improve street lighting. Improve road maintenance.

Action:	Improve Broadband and Mobile Phone Signal Provision
Lead:	Angus Council
Potential Partners:	Broadband and Mobile Network Providers, Inveresk Community Council, S&I community organisation
Timing:	Medium to Long Term
Comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm infrastructure rollout/upgrade plans. Work with Angus Council/broadband providers to find solutions.

Action:	Improve Recycling Facilities
Lead:	S&I community organisation
Potential Partners:	Angus Council, Inveresk Community Council
Timing:	Medium Term
Comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update local recycling facilities. Encourage recycling. Keep public spaces clean and maintained.

Care and Maintenance

Are buildings and spaces well cared for?



1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Path from Stracathro Primary School to Inchbare



MAKING IT HAPPEN

This Community Action Plan sets out the Themes and Actions for Stracathro and Inchbare between 2023 and 2028. These have been identified by the community through a series of community engagement activities carried out between August 2022 and December 2022.

To date, the Steering Group (with support from Angus Rural Partnership) has overseen the community consultation activities which have informed the Themes and Actions.

Going forward, an important first step in preparing to deliver the Actions will be to create a new organisation. There are different legal structures available, and this new organisation must be:

- owned by the community,
- an incorporated body,
- able to own land and buildings,
- able to raise its own funds, and
- willing to work in partnership with other community organisations and stakeholders to take forward the Community Action Plan.

The new organisation will act as an umbrella group for the co-ordination and delivery of the Actions. Angus Rural Partnership will continue to provide support to the Steering Group as it transitions to the new Stracathro and Inchbare community organisation.

THEMED ACTION GROUPS

Whilst the new organisation is being developed, themed action groups will be established in order activity can be progressed. These will consist of interested community volunteers.

REVIEWING THE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

This Community Action Plan has been produced with considerable input from the residents of Stracathro and Inchbare. We wish to build on that participation and enthusiasm and commit to keeping residents informed of progress and activity.

Community Action Plans are a participatory tool used to build the capacity of communities in taking action in accordance with the issues, needs, and potential of the community.

STAY IN TOUCH

If you are interested in helping deliver any of our Actions, please stay in touch.

The Stracathro and Inchbare Community Group Facebook page has been created for local residents to have a community space and share community-related information. To join this group, search for Stracathro and Inchbare Community Group on Facebook, or visit www.facebook.com/groups/274221764954980

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Stracathro and Inchbare Community Steering Group would like to thank all individuals, groups and organisations who helped inform and shape this plan.



Stracathro Primary School



Former Edzell Engineering premises

Stracathro and Inchbare Community Action Plan 2023 - 2028



Established in 2022, Angus Rural Partnership supports Angus communities to address their own local challenges through Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) activities. Find out more about us online at: www.angusruralpartnership.org.uk.

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