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The Carradale Community Trust (CCT) is a development charity that aims to advance the regeneration of our area and to provide facilities for community benefit. We have taken on the task of preparing the **2020-2024 East Kintyre Local Development Plan**. I have come here today to inform you of our progress, but also to ask you for your active engagement in helping us to bring this plan to fruition.

East Kintyre has not fared very well since the inception of the last local development plan in 2012 (<http://eastkintyrecc.org/resources/EastKintyrePlan.pdf>). Our population is aging, and permanent residences are inexorably becoming second homes. The lure of our area as an oasis of calm in an overstressed modern era is turning into a worry: the last permanent shop closed in August 2018, the last working harbour is in a progressive state of dereliction, communication facilities are patchy and our infrastructure is in need of repair. We are in serious danger of declining from a quiet oasis into a forgotten desert.

Our **2020-2024 East Kintyre Local Development Plan** seeks to not just halt, but to reverse this decline. Rather than being a wish list, our plan will be focussed on realistic targets, which we have begun to pursue ourselves via support from within our own community. Through our ongoing Visitor & Resident's Survey (www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Carradale), we have identified numerous initial categories for development, including:

- creating a permanent local shop
- renovating the harbour and developing it as a community asset
- improving transportation links
- retaining local GP services
- improving community communications
- recording and promoting our heritage
- improving local services and facilities
- meeting the needs of hard to reach groups
- planning for affordable housing
- supporting schools and adult further education

Under the auspices of the CCT, our community has already demonstrated its commitment to halt the decline of Carradale. We have established a temporary shop that is staffed and managed entirely by volunteers; we are creating the local development plan; we are running the self-funded Visitor and Resident Survey - and we are actively working to obtain the funds we need to achieve our objectives.

Accordingly, we know that our LDP must be more than a list of worthy objectives. We will require transformative projects that will provide a lasting legacy for East Kintyre - and that will convince our residents that the decline in our fortunes has really been stemmed. The CCT believes that this can be done by focussing our initial development efforts on crucial public spaces: reviving our village shop, reclaiming our harbour and renovating our cafe. We also want to create new spaces for visitors and residents: a micro-brewery and integrated, public spaces celebrating local crafts, culture, literature and history.

The Scottish Government devolved development planning down to the level where it matters - our communities. We are here to ask you to partner with us in that planning process. We ask that Argyll & Bute pro-actively give us all of the support available in order that our **2020-2024 East Kintyre Local Development Plan** is “planning for real”.