

ACTION PLAN: WALKING PLACES PROJECT REPORT

Troon and Muirhead Action Plan ReportLiving Streets
April 2024

Introduction

This report describes the findings of the Walking Places project in both Troon and Muirhead, which was delivered by Living Streets.

The Walking Places project aims to support walking and wheeling in Troon with Troon Primary and St Patrick's Primary Schools as the centre of a 20-minute neighbourhood.

The Walking Places project was also delivered in Muirhead with Struthers Primary School as the centre of a 20-minute neighbourhood.

Living Streets is the UK charity for everyday walking. We want a nation where walking is the natural choice for everyday local journeys. Our mission is to achieve a better walking environment and inspire people to walk more.

The Walking Places project is funded by Paths for All through the Active Nation Fund.

Walking Places brings together Living Streets' expertise across our school programme and community work. It incorporates the following elements:

- WOW the walk to school challenge from Living Streets: WOW sees
 pupils record how they travel to school. If they travel actively, they are
 rewarded with a badge at the end of the month. This has been launched with
 Troon Primary, St Patrick's Primary and Struthers Primary Schools to support
 walking to school.
- Living Streets' Out & About approach: This initiative helps people to remain
 or become more physically active in their community to stay socially
 connected, and to be active in improving the walking environment for
 everyone.
- Living Streets' Community and School Street reviews: Our street reviews
 evaluate the walking quality of local streets and helps build a case for
 improvement to the walking environment. Troon Primary, St Patrick's Primary
 and Struthers Primary Schools and members of the Troon and Muirhead
 communities have participated in self-led community street reviews.
- 20-minute neighbourhoods: This approach focuses on walkable neighbourhoods, where people can get most of their daily needs within walking distance (10-minute walk each way). In this case, Troon Primary, St Patrick's Primary and Struthers Primary Schools are the focus for the 20minute neighbourhood in Troon and Muirhead.





The infographic below shows which features should be found in an ideal 20-minute neighbourhood.



Fig 1.1 - an infographic showing the features of a 20-minute neighbourhood

Living Streets talked to lots of people in both Troon and Muirhead about their views and experiences. They asked which issues stopped residents from walking more in Troon and Muirhead. This took place through street reviews, surveys, and meetings with different groups.

N.B. Troon Primary and St Patrick's Primary Schools have a joint action plan due to their proximity to each other within the 20-minute neighbourhood. Muirhead has its own action plan as this is a separate neighbourhood area.

Local context and changes





- There are discussions on the redevelopment of the shopping units on the corner of Brassie Street and Academy Street. A decision is yet to be agreed.
- South Ayrshire Council are consulting with the community on a proposal to move Troon Early Years Centre to Troon Library, and to relocate the Library to the Municipal Building on South Beach.
- The Royal Troon will host the 152nd Open Championship in July 2024 with an increase in the number of people travelling to and around Troon.
- The Troon train station is being redeveloped, with the work due for completion in summer 2024.

Troon Community and School Consultation:

Troon 20-minute neighbourhood map.

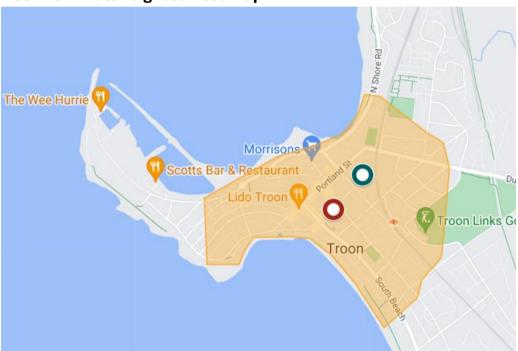


Fig 1.2 - A map showing the 20-minute neighbourhood focused on Troon.

Map key: The light orange area represents the 20 min neighbourhood area including: Troon Primary (green circle) and St Patrick's Primary Schools (red circle), leisure facilities, dentists, GP Practice, train station, library, Municipal Buildings, beach and various retail and food outlets.

Troon Community and Schools Consultation Feedback

The following community consultations took place:





- Walking Places community workshops were held with tenants from St Meddans Court Sheltered Housing and Logan Drive Sheltered Housing in January and March 2024.
- Market stall activity at the Experienced Drivers event in September 2023.
- An online survey was conducted between November 2023 and February 2024 and a household survey was undertaken in early 2024.

The following school consultations took place:

- Meetings were held with Troon Primary and St Patrick's Primary Schools about their participation in WOW – the walk to school challenge in October 2023.
- St Patrick's Primary Schools participated in the Walking Places interactive school workshop with Junior Road Safety Officers and upper school House Captains in October 2023.
- Walking Places community workshops were held with the Parent Councils from Troon Primary and St Patrick's Primary Schools to gather feedback on walking and wheeling in the Troon in January and February 2024.
- An intergenerational Walking Places session was held with pupils from St Patrick's Primary School and tenants from St Meddans Court Sheltered Housing in February 2024.

Data analysis

The following section shows a summary of the key findings from the survey conducted in Troon and Muirhead between October 2023 and April 2024.

Troon residents prioritise convenience and cost when making transport choices. While they acknowledge the health and environmental benefits of walking, car is the dominant mode of transport even for short distances. Residents are generally positive about walking infrastructure and safety, but weather and time limitations discourage them from walking more often. There's potential to encourage walking for leisure, errands and short trips, especially by addressing weather concerns.

Travel Habits:

- Troon residents rely heavily on cars (75% use cars regularly), with low use of public transport (71% don't use public transport regularly), cycling (95% don't cycle regularly) and walking for everyday journeys (only 49% walk regularly).
- o Short trips are dominated by car (63% drive for journeys under 1km).
- Walking for leisure and exercise is less frequent compared to other areas (36% walk several times a week).
- Walking for errands and to green spaces is also less common (49% walk to shops regularly, 23% walk to green spaces several times a week).

Attitudes towards walking





- Like other areas, health (70%), environment (58%), and affordability (57%) are motivators for walking.
- Interestingly, convenience is a less significant factor for walking compared to cost and safety, which are both equally important (87%).

Challenges to walking

 Weather (61%) is the biggest barrier to walking more, followed by time constraints (45%).

Many comments praised Troon as an attractive location for leisure walking, highlighting positive experiences with walking and cycling routes, including new ones. However, safety concerns were raised, particularly regarding speeding vehicles and large commercial trucks. Uneven pavements caused by tree roots and insufficient sidewalks in certain areas were also noted. The lack of pedestrian crossings emerged as another issue.

Positive aspects

- Residents find Troon attractive for leisure walking and appreciate new cycling paths.
- Some areas have good walking and cycling paths.

Safety concerns

- Speeding vehicles, especially large lorries, pose a major risk, particularly for children.
- Lack of proper pedestrian crossings and infrastructure like barriers make walking dangerous in some areas (e.g., North Shore Road).
- Uneven pavements due to tree roots and missing pavements in some areas create walking hazards.
- Poor lighting on paths during winter discourages walking in the evenings.

Disjointed cycling network

 Existing cycle paths don't connect well to key destinations like schools and amenities, limiting their usefulness for everyday trips.

Recommendations:

- Address safety concerns by reducing traffic speeds, install proper pedestrian crossings, improve pavement conditions, and enhance lighting.
- Promote walking for short trips, highlighting the convenience of walking for errands and local trips through campaigns or community initiatives.

Troon Community Consultation Findings:





The following key themes were identified through consultation with Troon community members and parents at Troon Primary and St Patrick's Primary Schools:

Traffic

- There is congestion around the school at drop off and pick up times. Families
 and residents are concerned about pedestrian safety.
- There is need to reduce speed of traffic or introduce traffic calming measures on school roads: Church Street, Brassie Street, Academy Street and on South Beach.
- To cross the road safely, there is need for yellow lines to stop parking on corners and blocking view of traffic.
- There is need for safe crossing outside Academy Court Sheltered Housing.
- Enforcement needed for pavement parking and parking on corners and zig zag lines.
- Concerns were raised due to substantial increase in traffic (construction, media and visitors) and possible inappropriate parking in the lead up to, during, and dismantling of tournament infrastructure following the Open in July.

Local amenities

- Proposal to move the nursery to the Troon Library site and move Troon Library to the Municipal Buildings has raised concerns across all ages of community members as limited parking and safe crossings.
- No safe crossing from Troon Library to Municipal Buildings or to get to the beach.
- Concerns of the possible loss of several parking places if shopping units on Brassie Street and Academy Street are redeveloped. School families currently use spaces as Park & Stride option.

Street infrastructure

- Lack of benches on Portland Street and Ayr Street.
- Uneven pavements (trip hazards) were identified by community members as barriers to walking.

Street cleaning

 Dog mess on pavements around schools and along shopping routes raise concerns with community members.

Information sharing

- Community members felt their views, experiences, and concerns were not valued or listened to.
- Community members felt they didn't know what was going on, or how decisions are made.





I've fallen over on the pavement three times because they are uneven.

The pavements are as rough as guts.

I have to go out onto the road, between the parked cars and peek out to see if it is safe to cross. I'm not keen to let my kids walk to school, it's too busy.

I can't cross Academy Street, the cars drive too fast to get across the road, they don't stop for you.

St Patrick's Primary Pupil Consultation Findings:

The following key themes were identified through consultation with pupils at St Patrick's Primary School. Pupils shared their views in the workshop and during a school street review.

Attitude to walking

- Pupils said they enjoyed walking as it was good for their physical and mental health.
- Pupils were concerned about pollution and the affect cars have on climate change.





Crossing points

- Pupils noticed that there is a need for more double yellow lines at busy crossing points as people had to step out onto the road to see oncoming traffic.
- Pupils discussed lowering the speed of cars on Church Street and Ayr Street.
- Traffic lights at Troon Cross are uncoordinated for pedestrians.

Footway conditions and obstructions

- Pupils raised that there are puddles at some dropped kerbs and bins on pavements.
- Pupils said there is need for wider pavements in some areas to allow people to pass each other.
- Pupils discussed the amount of dog mess/fouling.
- Pupils discussed how uneven pavements can cause pedestrians to trip and fall.

The following quotes were made by pupils as part of the School Street Review:



Next Steps for Walking Places in Troon

The Walking Places project's main focuses are based on the findings from the consultation. These focuses are outlined in the table below, known as the Living Streets Action Plan.

For schools

- Continue participation in the WOW programme to encourage active travel with Troon Primary and St Patrick's Primary Schools.
- Expand Living Streets schools programme, such as Little Feet and Next Steps.
- Facilitate workshops with pupils and their families/carers to raise awareness and develop understanding of active travel.





- Collaborate with South Ayrshire Council on initiatives to improve safety around the school during pick-up and drop-off times.
- Campaign for crossing on Academy Street and Brassie Street.

For the local community

- Work with the Troon Community Council to advocate for road crossings or traffic calming measures near schools and Sheltered Housing.
- Work with the Troon Community Council to advocate to improve the walking infrastructure on Troon main shopping routes.
- Work with Troon Community Council to ensure the voices of the wider Troon community are heard.
- Create a working group (Academy Court, Troon Primary School and St Patrick's Primary School) to complete the petition on safe crossing routes on Academy Street.
- Work with other groups in Troon with an interest in active travel and road safety in Troon.
- Investigate potential for supporting visually and hearing-impaired pedestrians and using walking to reduce social isolation.

For local authority

- Work with South Ayrshire Council to address dog mess, investigate the need for more benches and improvements to pavement surfaces, pavement parking enforcement and possible traffic calming measures.
- Work with Troon Community Council to ensure the voices of the wider Troon community are heard regarding roads crossings near schools, Sheltered Housing and council facilities.
- Work with South Ayrshire Council Walking Development Officer to promote the benefits of walking and support the wider community to access local walking groups and increase levels of walking in Troon.

Muirhead community and school consultation:

Muirhead 20-minute neighbourhood



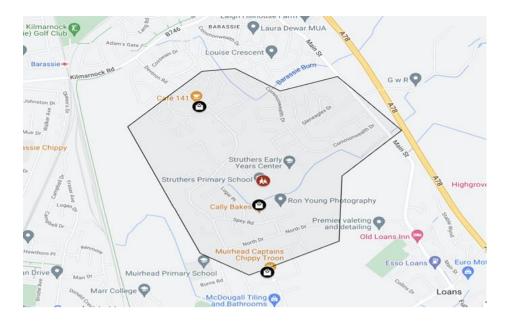


Fig 1.2 - A map showing the 20-minute neighbourhood focused on Muirhead.

The light grey area represents the 20-minute neighbourhood area including: Struthers Primary School, leisure facilities and a small number of food and retail premises.

Data analysis

Muirhead Survey analysis

Survey analysis of results for Muirhead showed that Muirhead residents value multiple transportation options, with a significant focus on walking for everyday activities and short trips. While car use is prevalent, there's a positive attitude towards walking and a desire to increase it, despite challenges like time constraints and infrastructure.

Travel habits

- Residents prioritise convenience (66%), cost (61%), and safety (92%) when choosing transport.
- Many residents (74%) use cars regularly, but a significant portion also use public transport (43%), cycle (24%), and walk (49%).
- Walking is common for short trips (33% walk under 1km) and everyday activities (65% walk daily/several times a week for errands, leisure, and dog walking).
- Walking is less frequent for social visits (59% never walk to visit friends/family) and some commutes (27% walk to work daily/several times a week).
- Despite high car use, most residents (96%) feel confident and safe walking in their neighbourhood and find it easy to access amenities by foot (95%).





Attitudes towards walking

- Health (72%), relaxation (69%), and environmental benefits (58%) are strong motivators for walking.
- Affordability (54%) and lack of car access (43%) are also factors for some residents.
- Nearly a third of residents (29%) would like to walk more often.

Challenges to walking

- Time constraints (34%) is the biggest barrier to walking more.
- Weather (32%) and poor condition of footpaths (25%) are other significant challenges.

Common concerns in Muirhead were the condition of roads and pavements and poor street lighting. The following themes were identified from comments received through surveys:

Poor condition

 Many comments highlighted potholes and uneven pavements that make walking difficult or dangerous.

Lighting issues

• Lack of street lighting, especially in winter, was a safety concern, particularly for pedestrians with limited mobility.

Impact on accessibility

 Poor road and pavement conditions were seen as a barrier for disabled people.

Recommendations:

- Improve street lighting, especially in parks and around playing fields, to enhance safety during darker hours.
- Address uneven pavements and potholes to create a smoother and safer walking experience, particularly for people with mobility limitations.
- Continue to promote walking as a healthy, affordable, and environmentally friendly transportation option.

Community and school consultation

The following school consultations took place:

- Meeting with Struthers Primary School about their participation in WOW the walk to school challenge in October 2023.
- Walking Places workshop for Struthers Primary School staff held to gather feedback on walking and wheeling in Muirhead in January 2024.





The following community consultations took place:

- Attendance at the Good Companions Group at Muirhead Activity Centre in November 2023.
- Attendance and market stall at the Experienced Drivers event in September 2023.
- An online survey was conducted between November 2023 and February 2024 and a household survey was undertaken in early 2024.

The following key themes were identified through consultation with Muirhead community members and staff at Struthers Primary School

Traffic

- Congestion around the school at drop off and pick up times. Families and residents raised concerns about safety for pedestrians.
- Pavement parking near the school was raised as an issue at drop off and pick up times.
- A need to reduce speed of traffic or traffic calming measures on Deveron Road was raised.
- A need for yellow lines to stop parking on corners and blocking view of traffic was raised.

Street cleaning

- Dog mess on pavements and paths around school was raised by most participants and a lack of bins for dog mess.
- Uneven pavements (trip hazards) were identified by community members as barriers to walking.
- Poor street lighting was raised as a barrier to walking in the winter afternoons and in the dark.

Street infrastructure

- Lack of benches in areas surrounding the school was raised.
- Lack of bright street lighting was raised by community members.

Local amenities

 Proposals to move the Troon Library to the Municipal Buildings has raised concerns from community members in Muirhead, who use this facility as limited parking and safe crossings across South Beach.

Information sharing

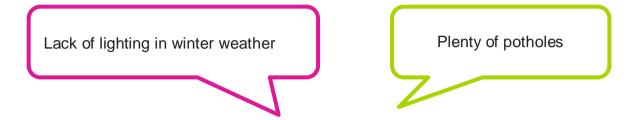
 Community members felt their views, experiences, and concerns were not valued or listened to.





 Community members felt they didn't know what was going on, or how decisions are made; for example, the proposed move of Troon Library.

The following quotes were given by Struthers primary staff members:



Next Steps for Walking Places

The Walking Places project's main focuses are based on the findings from the consultation. These focuses are outlined in the table below, known as the Living Streets Action Plan.

For schools

- Continue participation in the WOW programme to encourage active travel with Struthers Primary School.
- Expand Living Streets schools programme including Little Feet and Next Steps to Struthers Primary School.
- Facilitate workshops with pupils in Struthers Primary Schools and their families/carers to raise awareness and develop understanding of active travel.
- Collaborate with South Ayrshire Council on initiatives to improve safety around the school during pick-up and drop-off times.

For the local community

- Work with the Troon Community Council to advocate for road crossings or traffic calming on Deveron Road.
- Work with the Troon Community Council to advocate to improve the walking infrastructure in Muirhead.
- Work with Troon Community Council to ensure the voices of the Muirhead community are heard.

For local authority

 Work with South Ayrshire Council to address dog mess, investigate the need for more benches, improvements to pavement surfaces and street lighting, pavement parking enforcement and possible traffic calming measures.





- Work with Troon Community Council to ensure the voices of the Muirhead community are heard regarding street lighting, pavement parking, dog mess and need for benches.
- Continue to work with South Ayrshire Council Walking Development Officer to promote the benefits of walking and support community members to access local walking groups and increase the levels of walking in Muirhead.



Troon Action Plan Table

Action	How?	Who is involved?	Who is responsible?	Timeline
Hold a workshop with parents and families to raise awareness of the benefits and importance of active travel	Development of resources /information for parents/guardians and carers that promotes walking and links to Troon motivations. Facilitate pupil workshop sessions. Information and awareness sessions with parents/guardians and carers (after school or evening)	Head Teachers Troon and St Patrick's Primary Schools Troon and St Patrick's Primary Parent Council Chairs Ayrshire Roads Alliance - Barbara Rae Living Streets	Head Teachers Troon and St Patrick's Primary Schools	June 2024 – August 2025
Investigate the potential for all primary schools in Troon to participate in WOW to promote walking and active travel to school.	WOW Travel Tracker (Dependent on Living Streets funding)	Living Streets Head Teachers at all Troon Primary Schools	Living Streets	By December 2024
Action	How?	Who is involved?	Who is responsible?	Timeline





Addeniy Godit cittanice.		Academy Court - Ria FitzGerald Living Streets Technical Team	Troon Primary School Academy Court - Ria FitzGerald	
Investigate crossing point and/or traffic calming measures for pedestrians opposite the Troon Primary School and Academy Court entrance.	Coordinate a discussion with South Ayrshire Council to discuss traffic calming measures	Ayrshire Roads Alliance – Barbara Rae Head Teachers Troon and St Patrick's Primary Schools	Troon Community Council Head Teachers	By December 2024
Investigate the potential for Early Years settings to participate in the Little Feet programme.	Living Streets Little Feet resource package (Dependent on Living Streets funding)	Living Streets Early Years Teacher at Troon Nursery	Living Streets	By December 2024
Investigate the potential for P7 pupils and Marr College S1 secondary school pupils to participate in Next Steps Transitions and Walking Challenge to promote walking and active travel to school	Living Streets – Next Steps programme (Dependent on Living Streets funding)	Living Streets Head Teachers Troon and St Patrick's Primary Schools Head Teacher – Marr College Ayrshire Roads Alliance - Barbara Rae	Living Streets	By December 2024





Create a small working group to expand the Academy Court petition and campaign for a safe crossing on Academy Street	Distribute Troon action plan to key partners. Contact key partners to arrange a joint meeting to discuss this action. Create a short-term working group with key partners. OR/ Hand over responsibility to key partners to action	Head Teachers Troon and St Patrick's Primary Schools Troon and Patrick's Primary Parent Council Chairs Academy Court - Ria FitzGerald Police Scotland Ayrshire Roads Alliance - Barbara Rae SAC Community Partnership Officer - Paul Scully Troon Community Council Local SA councillors • Kenneth Bell • Craig Mackay • Bob Pollock • Philip Saxton Living Streets	Troon Community Council Head Teachers Troon and St Patrick's Primary Schools Academy Court - Ria FitzGerald	By December 2024
Action	How?	Who is involved?	Who is responsible?	Timeline





Investigate crossing point and/or continuous pathways for pedestrians on South Beach, opposite Troon Library and Municipal Building.	Coordinate a discussion with South Ayrshire Council to discuss traffic calming measures	South Ayrshire Council Ayrshire Roads Alliance – Barbara Rae Head Teachers Troon and St Patrick's Primary Schools Academy Court Manager - Ria FitzGerald Living Streets Technical Team	Troon Community Council	By December 2024
Investigate partnership funding streams to support crossing point and /or continuous pathways for pedestrians at Academy Court entrance.	Investigate and coordinate funding streams with interested partners and undertake funding applications	South Ayrshire Council Ayrshire Roads Alliance – Barbara Rae Head Teachers Troon and St Patrick's Primary Schools Academy Court Manager - Ria FitzGerald Living Streets Technical Team	Academy Court - Ria FitzGerald	
Action	How?	Who is involved?	Who is responsible?	Timeline
Feedback community concerns about uneven	Distribute Troon action plan to key partners.	South Ayrshire Council	Troon Community Council	December 2024.





Action	How?	Who is involved?	Who is responsible?	Timeline
Muirhead Action Pla	an Table			
walking and support local community to walk more.	motivations in Troon based on survey results and any required, additional primary research. Determine what activity should take place in Troon to support walking, based on motivations for Troon residents (e.g. walking diaries, events etc.) as well as potential around walking reducing isolation for visually/hearing impaired.	Walking Development Officer Troon Community Council Local Press Living Streets	Council Walking Development Officer	March 2025
pavements, pavement parking, dog mess to South Ayrshire Council. Promote benefits of	Hand over responsibility to key partners to action Build understanding of walking	SAC Community Partnership Officer – Paul Scully Troon Community Council Chair Local SA councillors • Kenneth Bell • Craig Mackay • Bob Pollock • Philip Saxton Living Streets South Ayrshire Council	South Ayrshire	On-going un





Investigate the potential for all primary schools in Muirhead to participate in WOW to promote walking and active travel to school	WOW Travel Tracker Dependant on Living Streets funding	Living Streets Head Teachers at all Muirhead Primary Schools	Living Streets	By December 2024
Hold a workshop with parents and families to raise awareness of the benefits and importance of maintaining an active travel routine	Development of resources /information for parents/guardians and carers Facilitate pupil workshop sessions Information and awareness sessions with parents/guardians and carers (after school or evening)	Head Teacher Struthers Primary School Struthers Primary School Parent Council Chairs Ayrshire Roads Alliance - Barbara Rae Living Streets	Head Teacher Struthers Primary School	By December 2024
Investigate the potential for P7 pupils and Marr College S1 secondary school pupils to participate in Next Steps to promote walking and active travel to school	Living Streets – Next Steps programme (Dependent on Living Streets funding)	Living Streets Head Teacher Struthers Primary School Ayrshire Roads Alliance - Barbara Rae	Living Streets	By December 2024
Action	How?	Who is involved?	Who is responsible?	Timeline
Investigate the potential for Early Years setting to	Living Streets Little Feet resource package (Dependent on Living Streets funding)	Living Streets	Living Streets	By December 2024





participate in the Little		Early Years Teacher at		
Feet programme.		Struthers Early Years Centre		
Feedback community concerns about street lighting, uneven pavements, pavement parking, dog mess, need for benches to South Ayrshire Council.	Distribute Muirhead action plan to key partners. Hand over responsibility to key partners to action	South Ayrshire Council SAC Community Partnership Officer – Paul Scully Troon Community Council Local SA councillors (Kenneth Bell, Craig Mackay, Bob Pollock, Philip Saxton) Living Streets	South Ayrshire Council	December 2024.
Promote benefits of Walking and support local community to walk more.	Build understanding of walking motivations in Muirhead based on survey results and any required, additional primary research Determine what activity should take place in Muirhead to support walking, based on motivations for Muirhead residents (e.g. activity, event, paper resources) and launch with residents		South Ayrshire Council Walking Development Officer	On-going until March 2025
Action	How?	Who is involved?	Who is responsible?	Timeline





Determine who can take	Distribute action plan and conduct	Troon Community Council	Troon	By December
on responsibility for	stakeholder mapping to understand	Local organisations in	Community	2024
advocating and moving	makeup of local organisations and	Muirhead	Council	
this action plan forward	where their priorities link to action plan	Living Streets		
	Start process for working group			



APPENDICES

The issue of safe crossing routes on Academy Street was identified and raised by the wider Troon community, including pupils and their families/guardians attending Troon Primary School and tenants at Academy Court Sheltered Housing.

Further investigation will be undertaken to identify possible funding streams and suggested improvements to benefit with wider Troon community.



A photo (above) showing Academy Street looking west from junction with Barassie Street (Academy Court is the large building on the left and the shops are to the right) - a crossing point could be put close to the roundel on the LHS of the road. This could be a zebra crossing or an informal crossing point with pinch points.









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