

Imagine Udney:

Past – Present – Future

The original Imagine Udney project was conducted across the course of 2018 and early 2019 and ended with a final report that was delivered and made available to the public on the Udney Community Trust website. The results of the project and the ideas emergent from the community can be found in the Community Action Plan and the Spatial Report on the Udney Community Trust Website, under the heading of 'Past Projects' (<https://udnycommunitytrust.org.uk/projects/>). These two documents outline the concerns and wishes of the parish of Udney as of 2019 and are a wonderful insight into where the community's interests laid at the time and directions for growth.

It has now been five years since the Spatial Plan and the Community Action Plan were published and we are interested in the past, present, and future of any community projects taken forward that were included in the original Community Action Plan. Thus, the Udney Community Trust is checking on the status of points raised in the original Community Action Plan and seeing where the parish's interests lie in 2024 through a community questionnaire.

The Past:

The Community Action Plan and the Spatial Plan showed that the main interests of the community of Udney focused on a handful of larger projects. These projects were:

1. A community hub;
2. Updates to the central village in Pitmedden;
3. A greater connected paths network;
4. The creation of a Pitmedden Green;
5. The development of a Quarry Park;
6. Updates to the central parks;
7. The repurposing of the village hall;
8. A new community school; and
9. The creation of Pitmedden gateways.

Ideas to achieve these projects can be found in detail in both the Action and Spatial Plans.

The Present:

1. A Community Hub

The community hub project has been fulfilled by The Medan Centre, which acts as an open community space and multigenerational and multipurpose hub with bookable meeting rooms, a small sharing library, and is home to the Udney Community Shelf. The Medan Centre hosts a wide range of activities, some run by the Trust and others by community groups, throughout the year that cater to different folks and interests ranging from Baby and Toddlers to Repair Cafes. The presence of Cafe48 serves as a warm and welcoming community cafe with a dedicated team and delicious food and drink, which furthers the Centre's purpose as a place of community and connection.

2. Updates to the Central Village in Pitmedden

Recent updates to the central village in Pitmedden include improved accessibility in the village with a ramp at the Medan Centre as well as resurfaced, wide paths; the development of a community bike storage and maintenance facility; and updated parking at The Medan Centre. New planters have been purchased for the village and are maintained by P.U.T. People care about their village and keep it clean with regular litter picks: equipment can be hired through Cafe 48.

3. A Greater Connected Paths Network

The initiative for a more connected paths network has been well-met with a map of local paths, new signage at the Fisher Walk, and the creation or improvement of many paths. The Udney Paths Group have developed paths: at the end of the Millbend section between Milldale and Udney Green; from the westerly end of Pitmedden to Pitmedden Garden; parallel to the road between Pitmedden and the Formartine United Football Ground; and between Pitmedden, Formartine, and Buchan Way through Milldale, which is called the Oldcraig Path. They have also helped to maintain the surfaces of paths like the one from South Mains to Bronie Burn.

4. The Creation of a Pitmedden Green

This project has not yet been acted on.

5. The Development of a Quarry Park

Please note: the development of the Quarry Park has been reviewed. This is private land, and it is not possible going forward to include this in Imagine Udry.

6. Updates to the Central Parks

Pitmedden Park has had some trees removed and new ones planted to maximise the use of the space and continues to be maintained by the Pitmedden Amenities Trust (PAT).

7. The Repurposing of the Village Hall

The desire for a repurposed village hall has been largely met with the refurbishment of the Pitmedden Village Hall, which is newly painted with new curtains and a well-maintained floor. The Hall hosts classes like martial arts and different dance styles and serves as an event space.

8. A New Community School

Regarding a new community school, we will ask the community if they still feel this is something they need in the future.

9. The Creation of Pitmedden Gateways

Although distinct gateways to Pitmedden have not been developed, the Pitmedden Udry Tarves (PUT) and Udry Climate Action (UCA) group have planted over 1200 trees in the past three years on publicly accessible land around the village, which has made the entrances to the village lush and welcoming.

The Future:

As the parish looks to the future, especially after the disruption of COVID-19, the Udney Community Trust is seeking insight into the minds and interests of the community to understand what Udney wants for itself in the coming years. As such, the Trust has designed a questionnaire to see what may remain in the wishes of the community and what may have changed and is always happy to hear feedback and ideas for projects, activities, and otherwise.

This community questionnaire will be open during the end of June and most of July for responses, seeking opinions on local parks and paths, facilities, activities, priorities, and more. If you live, work, attend school, volunteer, or attend any of the groups or activities in our Parish, we would love to hear your voice on what you feel the community needs. All questionnaire responses are anonymous with the only required demographic information being a rough age group and the closest village to the respondent.

We look forward to hearing from you!

You can find paper copies of the community questionnaire in The Medan Centre and Cafe48.

Please take a copy, fill it out, and leave it in the Imagine Udney box on the Quarry Room bar at The Medan Centre **before 22 July 2024!**

Questionnaires submitted after this date may not be included in the results.

You can also fill it out online by scanning the QR code here:

