



COALFIELDS
COMMUNITY
FUTURES

KINGSEAT COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

2020 – 2025



FOREWORD

Tradition states that some of the King James of Scotland, while passing from Falkland to Dunfermline, would stop and take a seat to look at the views over the River Forth, the Pentland Hills and King Arthur's Seat. Hence the site was named King's Seat thought to be situated in the area of the Craigencaat Quarry (south easterly end of Henderson Street). The stone where they sat has long since disappeared.

Back in 1856 maps showed no houses on the site later to be known as Kingseat, only the farm of Kingseat at the northern edge of the present village, but by 1886 there were about 800 inhabitants. So what acted as the catalyst for his change? Black gold – coal!! Fife is full of coal mines, and in the local Dunfermline Journal of 1885 it is noted that the Halbeath Coal Company, owned by Messrs Wallace and Henderson, spread into the Kingseat area. At that time Main Street (now called Wallace Place) had private properties but the rest of the housing was owned by the coal company.

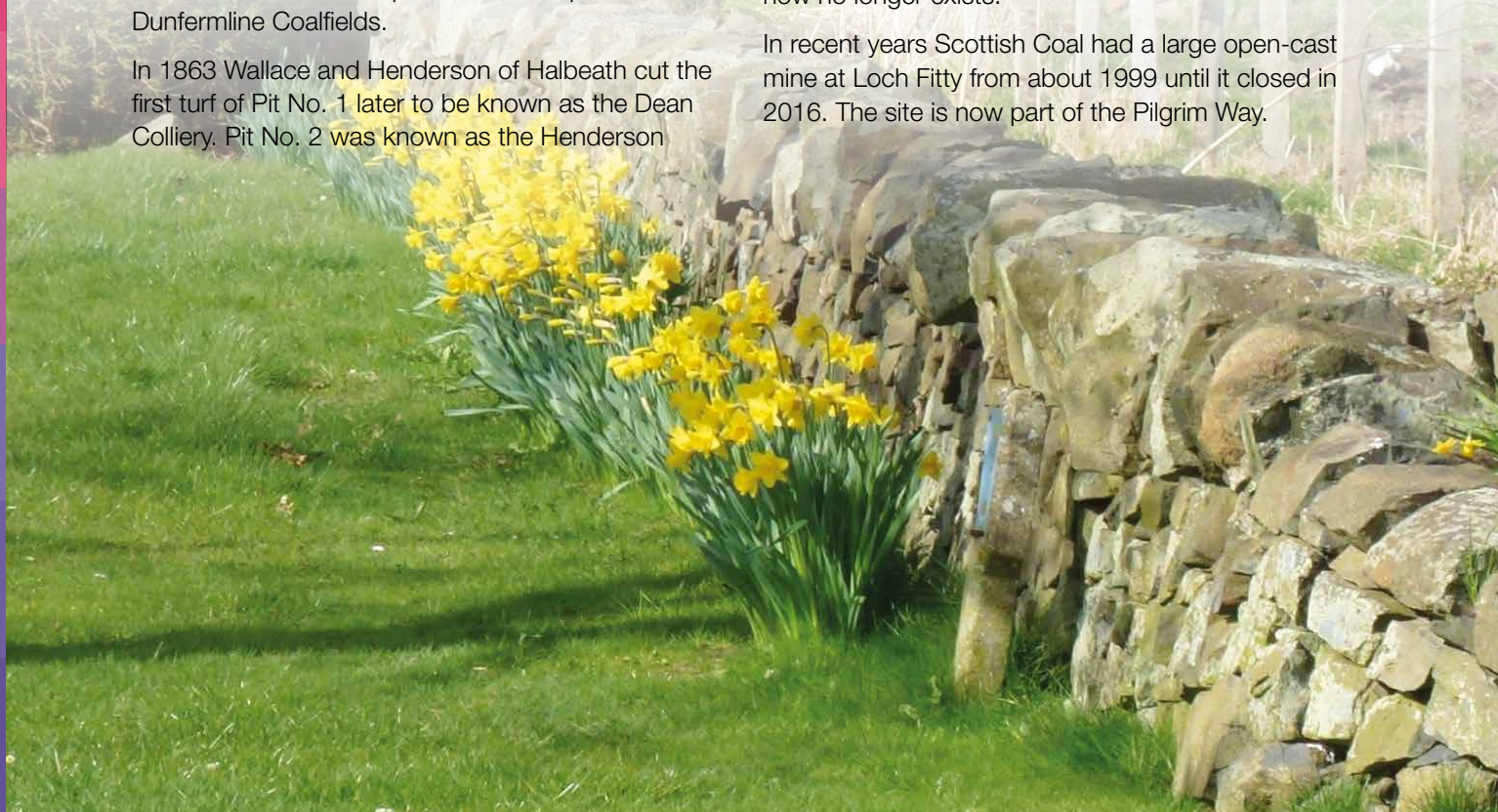
In 1856 the West Fife Mineral Railway Company proposed the construction of a line from Loch Fitty to Milesmark and to Kelty with branches to Saline, Roscobie and Townhill. This survived into the middle of the 20th century and was an important foundation for the next phase of development of the Dunfermline Coalfields.

In 1863 Wallace and Henderson of Halbeath cut the first turf of Pit No. 1 later to be known as the Dean Colliery. Pit No. 2 was known as the Henderson

Pit and Pit No. 3 as the Wallace Pit – all were near the south side of Loch Fitty. It was noted in the Dunfermline Journal of 1886 that 5 haulage engines and about 30 horses were required to get the coal from the bottom of the shaft – 112 fathoms down to the surface. At that time 600 tons were mined daily and 500 people were employed. Working conditions were dangerous and over the years 27 men and boys lost their lives working in the Kingseat Pits, one as young as 11 and 2 aged 14years. Many more received horrific injuries.

The Dean Pit was taken over by the Kingseat Company Ltd and continued to work into the 1930's but was largely closed by 1938 and eventually abandoned in 1945 after underground flooding. The nearby Lassodie Coalfield was worked until 1931 and on its closure the village became deserted and now no longer exists.

In recent years Scottish Coal had a large open-cast mine at Loch Fitty from about 1999 until it closed in 2016. The site is now part of the Pilgrim Way.



There is some information available about the War years with about 25% of the miners joining the armed forces and several dying serving their country. One resident, Joseph Pollock, lost his life on Main Street when a German bomber dropped 4 bombs over the village on his way home. There is also mention of the difficulty of travel for residents, the effect of rationing, but also the great community spirit helped by meeting at the Village Hall for social events – whist drives and dances – and to play badminton. The Village Library, a gift from the Andrew Carnegie Trust, was well used having a public bath facility, a billiard room and a ladies sitting room with a sewing machine.

In 1948 some of the local children interviewed some of the residents for the school magazine. The interviews were about occupations and hobbies. Some of the residents were miners, mechanics, silk factory workers, engineers, shop keepers, blacksmiths, a train driver, marine engineer and post-office worker. Hobbies included football, boxing, dog racing, walking, motor bikes, sewing and knitting, gardening and raising pigs and hens.

The village has changed much over the years. Wallace Place was originally called Main Street but was renamed possibly after Sir John Wallace who was recognised for his services to the constituency of Dunfermline Burgh from 1918. The Cuddyhouse Road became Henderson Street possibly named after John Henderson of Fordell whose name was

added to the role of Free Burgess of Dunfermline in 1624 or the Rev. Ebenezer Henderson who died in 1858. Quarry Street has disappeared and was near the Craigencaat Quarry. Church Street was originally Porch Row but was renamed after the church, built between 1893 and 1896 and opened in April 1896. Eagle Glen streets are named after famous golfers as the estate is built on the old golf range. More recently in the Taylor Wimpey development are Russell Avenue named after Elizabeth Russell who served as post mistress in Kingseat for more than 50 years, and Colin Smith Place, named after Colin who did much to ensure the cycleway/walkway to Whitefield Road was built and formed Bloom in Kingseat, a group that continues to do all it can to enhance the floral appearance of the village.

Some of the residents can still remember the Co-op with the butcher, the baker and drapery department (where the Community Centre now stands), 2 chip shops (one on Henderson Street and the other where the old post-office used to be on Main Street, 2 barber shops (one on Main Street close to the old post office and the other at the top of Church Street), and the old School on the Enco Road, but now even the Wee Shop selling necessities and fulfilling the role of Post Office has recently closed.

Much information about the mining history of Kingseat can be seen on the plaques situated outside the Community Centre and at the entrance to the village from Dunfermline.

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the **coalfields**
regeneration trust

INTRODUCTION

Coalfields Community Futures

The Coalfields Community Futures Programme is an approach to local community planning and sustainable community development that aims to encourage active citizenship and build local democracy. It enables communities to devise a community action plan which makes a case for the things that the community thinks are important and wishes to make happen.

The process builds on existing processes of community action research to identify local needs and priorities, using residents as co-researchers. We work with local residents and groups to develop a common sense of purpose and assist them to produce a deliverable community action plan.

To support the action planning process the community receive a Participatory Budget of £20,000 which is available to local constituted community or voluntary groups for soon, seen and successful projects.

This budget enables the community to fund small projects that are identified by the community through the results of the household surveys, stakeholder interviews and the community open event.

Kingseat Community Action Plan

The plan summarises community views and information about:

- Our community now
- Our shared Vision for Kingseat
- Priority themes and actions
- Making the links to Community Planning

The Steering Group brought together representatives from Kingseat Community Council, KASH, Nibble & Natter, Bloom in Kingseat.

Thank you to everyone who took part in helping Kingseat plan for a bright future!

80
people attended the
Community Futures
Voting Event.

97
surveys
representing over
290
peoples views.

OUR COMMUNITY NOW

Location

The village of Kingseat is in the Kingdom of Fife in Scotland and is situated on the B912 road being 1.5 miles north east of Dunfermline and lying between Dunfermline and Kelty.

Population

The total population of Kingseat is 745 with a working population of 425, 225 over 65's and 95 young people aged between 0-15 years of age. (Source: Mid-Year Estimates (ONS) 2017)

Housing

Kingseat has a range of different housing including detached, semi-detached, terraced and flats/apartments with a number of new developments happening in the area over the last 10 years. 80.8% of housing is owner occupied with 18.6% being council/housing association tenants, according to the 2011 census. The total number of home units is approximately around 340.

Source: Census 2011

Health & Care

Most residents are registered with GPs, dentists and opticians in Kelty, Dunfermline and Cowdenbeath. The Queen Margaret Hospital is around a 5-10 minute drive from Kingseat however the hospital is only equipped for minor injuries. If residents require more serious health treatments the closest hospital is the Victoria in Kirkcaldy. At the time of the last Census, 20.7% of all people in Kingseat are living with a limiting long-term illness. The figure for Scotland as a whole is lower at 19.6%.

Source: Census 2011

Local Economy, Shops and Services

There are currently no shops in Kingseat for the community to buy essential groceries from. A fish van comes once a week, a local pizza van comes once a month and a mobile library bus visits the village fortnightly. There are a few local self-employed tradesmen operating in the village providing a range of different services. A local

garage is also situated in the village for those who require repairs and maintenance to their vehicles. Shops and services are available in Cowdenbeath and Kelty, and there is a large retail park in Dunfermline which includes large retail chains. At the time of the last Census, 65.9% of people aged 16-74 were economically active with 43.1% of people in full time employment. This is lower than Scotland as a whole at 69%. Source: Census 2011

Education and Childcare

The catchment area primary school for children in Kingseat is Townhill Primary School which is 1.3 miles away from the village. St Brides Primary School is 2.2 miles away. There is also a Nursery for pre-school children. After-school clubs such as football, hockey, badminton and music lessons run weekly with some running seasonally e.g. bowls. A local childminder operates within the village providing good childcare supervision for working parents. There is a choice of local secondary education: Dunfermline High School (3 miles away), Queen Anne High School (2.4 miles away) and St Columbus High School (1.9 miles away).

At the time of the last Census, 27.2% of people living in Kingseat had no qualifications, higher than Scotland as a whole at 26.8%

Source: Census 2011

Community Activities and Facilities

There is an active Community Council which holds monthly open meetings and work tirelessly to improve the community of Kingseat. The Community Centre is a useful resource to the community however due to budget cuts; the access to the centre has been restricted with it now only being open when it has been booked by groups or members of the community. There is currently Yoga classes and Elderly Art classes running in the Community Centre. The only other community facility is the Bowling Club which is currently under development and hoping to gain its license to become a social hub for the community. There is a not fit for purpose children's play park

next to Community Centre however it is aimed more at smaller children meaning there is a lack of recreational facilities, especially for teenagers and adults. The Nibble & Natter group is a popular lunch club for our senior citizens however all ages are welcome. The group meets fortnightly and operates in Kingseat Church. A Hobbies & Crafts group also operates fortnightly out of the Church and offers new and experienced members to come along and enjoy knitting, sewing and other craft making skills whilst socialising with each other. The Certain Age Club also runs in the village and is a group for retired people which meets monthly in the Community Centre on a Wednesday from 2pm-4pm. In the winter time the community come together to show their community spirit through a neighbourhood winter watch where everyone comes together to support each other in the bad weather.

Environment

As a semi-rural village many residents, young and old, appreciate being close to nature and wildlife, animals such as; deer, pheasants and heron have all been spotted in and around Kingseat. On the outskirts of the village is Loch Fitty which used to be run as a fishery, and is still a popular place for anglers and dog walkers. The village continues to be surrounded by countryside with several paths and walkways for those who enjoy walking or cycling e.g. Pilgrims Way, and for those who enjoy horse-riding there is an Equestrian Centre also within the village. There are various open spaces which could be explored for potential projects with one piece of land already being purchased by the Community Council who wish to turn it into community garden/allotments for members of the community to enjoy. Bloom in Kingseat is a group of dedicated volunteers who work hard to look after the horticultural and visual aspects of the village which has allowed the village to enter many awards including a 'Gold Award' for 'Best Small Village in Fife' in 2015, 2016 and 2017. The group raise funds for flowers and equipment with an annual 'Open Day/Coffee morning' in the Community Centre and through donations from members of the community.

Traffic & Transport

With its proximity to the motorway (M90) local roads have become very busy with traffic wishing to head out of the village to access better amenities and services that are only accessible by car or other transport. According to the 2011 Census, 47% of people owned at least one car to travel in and out of the village. For those commuting for work or for social outings the nearest train station to Kingseat is the Queen Margaret Station (1.3 miles away) which has trains running regularly to Edinburgh and other big towns although parking at the station can become quite a challenge. The 7B bus route runs every half an hour week days to give people access to Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Kelty and Cowdenbeath. The service is only available hourly on Sundays.

Community Action Plan: Considerations

Points to expand on include:

1. Community Hub

The main key concern for the local community is the lack of community facilities for people and groups to meet and socialise in. People often thrive through social interaction and the enjoyable and fulfilling sharing of interests, skills, projects and recreation however there is very little access to community spaces for this to happen. The community of Kingseat is in need a community facility which offers meeting space for people to socialise, potentially a community café and a space for people to host community events. The derelict Bowling Club is an ideal building to be turned into a thriving community facility.

2. Voluntary service and involvement

A key priority is for as many people to volunteer and be as involved with the local groups as they possible can in order to work together and improve the community of Kingseat. The community spirit will thrive upon promoting active engagement to meet the needs of young and old alike, for example through leading youth activities.

A SHARED VISION FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Kingseat will:

- Be a community that takes pride in itself, with the safety, care and respect for others as a top priority.
- Be a community who invests in facilities (indoor and outdoor) that cater for all ages in the area, that are accessible and affordable.
- Remain a tidy well-kept village with flowers, benches and trees planted wherever possible to encourage and support the surrounding wildlife and biodiversity.
- Have a thriving community garden with raised beds, grounds for walking and growing allotments for people of all ages to be involved in and enjoy.
- Have a range of social amenities which will encourage all residents to enjoy meeting up and socialising, such amenities will be created by the emergence of a vibrant Hub within the existing Bowling Club.
- Be a community where tourists and walkers are encouraged to visit and enjoy the beautiful landscape surroundings.
- Be a community that works well together in supporting local groups, activities and events for all to enjoy.
- Remain a close knit community with a village identity in the countryside.
- Encourage everyone from all walks of life to volunteer and use their talents and experiences to benefit the local community.



OUR LIKES

Quotes taken from the survey:

“Friendly atmosphere, the village is always kept tidy and looks beautiful when Kingseat is in bloom.”

“I like the close community feeling about living in a small village. It’s access to the motorways and the park & ride at Halbeath.”

“Quiet, safe, pretty clean and friendly place to live.”

“Love the Kingseat in Bloom effort and I like the park but it’s in need of updating.”

The results from the community survey show us what the people of Kingseat like.

What do you like about your community?



OUR DISLIKES

Quotes taken from the survey:

“Too many houses being built in the area and there are not enough schools, doctors, pharmacy’s etc. to accommodate the influx of people. The roads are not coping with the extra traffic.”

“The lack of space to meet with friends and family, there are no pubs, cafes or restaurants in the area.”

“Access to the football and basketball is difficult due to the drainage issues at the park.”

“I don’t like the derelict hotel, the abandonment of Loch Fitty as a visitor/ fishing attraction and the ever increasing housing with no accompanying infrastructure or facilities.”

The results from the community survey show us what the people of Kingseat dislike.

What do you not like about your community?

52%
LACK OF
AMENITIES

39%
LACK OF
FACILITIES

20%
INCREASE IN
TRAFFIC

29%
HOUSING
DEVELOPMENTS

19%
DERELICT
BUILDINGS

19%
LACK OF
ACTIVITIES

18%
SPEEDING
TRAFFIC

9%
POOR ROAD
MAINTENANCE

10%
DOG
FOULING

THEME 1: AMENITIES & SERVICES

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

Public services rank high on the priority list for the people of Kingseat. Services including improved local amenities and healthcare provision have been highlighted in the community survey. A joined up approach to service delivery with partnership working and sharing of resources is key to moving forward.

Upgrade playpark to suit all ages and abilities

- Carry out community engagement with the young people in the village to identify what they would like in the park.
- Ensure community representatives link in with the Fife Council Play Park Strategy.
- Identify suitable funding streams.

Better access to services e.g. pharmacies & doctors

- Explore opportunities for creating a Pharmacy and Health Service within the Community Centre or Bowling Club.
- Visit/communicate with other communities who have carried out similar projects.

Upgrade the Community Centre building

- Work with Fife Council to establish what work needs to be carried out and the costings.
- Identify suitable funding streams to cover the costings.

A meeting place for people to socialise e.g. community hub/ café

- Support the plans to re-open the Bowling Club for community use and socialising.
- Engage with the local community to identify the needs for everyone for the use of the Bowling Club.

Potential Partners

- Fife Council, Local Community, KASH, NHS, Young People, Local Primary & High Schools.



THEME 2: ROADS & TRANSPORT

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

We need to work closely with Fife Council to help alleviate the issues relating to poor road conditions and traffic issues around the village. We also want to improve local resident's access to wider transport links and safety for pedestrians.

Traffic calming measures

- Identify priority areas for traffic calming measures.
- Work with Fife Council to explore enforcing appropriate traffic calming measures.

Improve public transport

- Identify what service provision is required by local residents.
- Lobby public transport providers around delivering a service that meets the need of the people of Kingseat.
- Explore opportunities for community transport initiatives.

Upgrade and maintain cycle paths and walkways

- Carry out a mapping exercise to establish priority areas for improvements.
- Work with Fife Council to carry out the improvements and to create a maintenance schedule.

Improved road maintenance

- Carry out a mapping exercise to identify work needing to be done, and work with Fife Council to prioritise their road maintenance schedule.

Potential Partners

- Fife Council, Local Community, Transport Providers.



THEME 3: COMMUNITY FACILITIES & ACTIVITIES

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

Building social capital is a key aspect of creating strong, resilient communities. Good quality community facilities that are fit for purpose with regular opportunities for communities to meet and share in activities and conversation, this is the glue that binds communities together.

Improve availability for the Community Centre

- Identify the need for better access e.g. who would like to use it and when.
- Lobby Fife Council to improve availability for the Community Centre.

More activities/clubs for young people

- Work with Fife Council to identify gaps in youth provision.
- Carry out community engagement with the young people of Kingseat to identify what they would like to see happen.
- Secure funding for sessional workers/equipment for youth groups and activities.

More activities for older people

- Work with Fife Council to identify any gaps in provision.

- Carry out community engagement with the elderly to identify what they would like to see happen.
- Explore the potential for intergenerational projects.
- Identify suitable funding streams to help with costings.

More support for existing groups, activities and events

- Host an Annual Networking Event for groups to promote existing volunteering opportunities and to build community support.
- Identify funding streams to cover the cost of the event.
- Work with Fife Voluntary Action for support and recruitment of volunteers.

Potential Partners

- Fife Council, Fife Voluntary Action, Local Team, Local Groups, Local Primary & High Schools.



THEME 4: VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

A community that is attractive and cared for with local people taking responsibility for their actions on a day to day basis is essential in helping maintain a clean and tidy environment for everyone to enjoy.

Keep village size and sense of identity

- Work with Fife Council and the Community Council to ensure planning decisions are kept to a minimum.

Make best use of derelict buildings for community benefit

- Make good use of the Community Empowerment Act to ensure the derelict buildings which are fit for purpose can be owned and used for the benefit of the community.
- Identify suitable funding streams to cover costings.

Tackle dog fouling

- Liaise with Fife Council Dog Warden service for support.
- Identify worst areas & where more bins are needed.
- Explore idea to begin a campaign to raise awareness of the issue.

Make best use of open spaces for community benefit e.g community garden/allotments

- Carry out a mapping exercise to identify work needing to be done, and work with Fife Council to prioritise their road maintenance schedule.

Potential Partners

- Fife Council - Safer Communities Team, Local Groups, Trelis, Greenspace Scotland, Local Community, Local Primary & High Schools.



EARLY ACTIONS FUNDED THROUGH PARTICIPATORY BUDGET

Bloom in Kingseat	Floral displays
Hobbies & Crafts Kingseat	Fun, Friendship & Food
Kingseat Amenities Social Hub	A Community Space for Everyone
Kingseat Community Council	Youth Café & Certain Age Club
Kingseat Community Council	Frew Place Project

MAKING THE LINKS TO COMMUNITY PLANNING

The Fife Community Plan sets out four high level outcomes with each Community Planning Partner agreeing to work together to achieve these. We see our community action plan as an opportunity to link in these outcomes and help make action to achieve major improvements in the quality of life for the people of Kingseat.

Fife Community Plan High Level Outcomes	Kingseat Community Action Plan Themes
Opportunities for All	Amenities & Services
Thriving Places	Roads & Transport
Inclusive Growth and Jobs	Community Facilities & Activities
Community Led Services	Village Environment

MAKING IT HAPPEN

This report summarises the findings of the Community Views Survey carried out in Kingseat during October 2019 – January 2020.

The survey was carried out as part of the Coalfields Community Futures participatory process that informed the preparation of this five year community action plan. The voting event, which took the form of a family fun day in February, allowed the local community to review the results of the survey, make further comment on community issues and vote on which priorities were most important to them. The Participatory Budget from Coalfields Regeneration Trust of £20,000 has been used to help take forward local projects which support the key themes found in this action plan.

The Community Action Plan contains

A summary of Kingseat Community Profile	Our main Likes and Dislikes expressed in the community survey	Our Vision Statement for Kingseat
The main themes and priorities for taking action	The Participatory Budget projects that are helping kick start the Community Action Plan.	Making the links between the Kingseat Community Action Plan outcomes and those of Fife Community Plan.

Information on how to get involved or just be kept informed

The Kingseat Community Action Plan is not just for the few but for everyone, we hope you will read it, consider its content and help towards making it work by taking action where you are, in whatever way you can. If everyone did something positive for their community every day, then what a difference that would make!

Many thanks go to all those who took their time to share their views, to the volunteers and participants who made the Voting Day a great success.

Thanks go to members of the community who contributed the photographs in this community action plan.

To find out more information about the Kingseat Community Action Plan or to volunteer with any projects please contact Kingseat Community Council: peter_colville@hotmail.com. To find out more information regarding Kingseat Community Hub or to volunteer please contact Kingseat Amenities Social Hub: josie.crockett@icloud.com.