

ourplace ourplan



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

Our Neighbourhood Plan for

Strutherhill and Birkenshaw

Annual
Progress
Report

**2021-
2022**



South Lanarkshire Council

**Can Do
Community**

Introduction

Strutherhill and Birkenshaw have been involved in neighbourhood planning, led by local people, since 2017.

Neighbourhood planning is a solution focused, asset based approach to involving local people, increasing community involvement and creating lasting improvements through community led decision making.

The area encompasses Strutherhill North, Strutherhill North West, Strutherhill South East, Strutherhill South West, Strutherhill West, and has datazones in the top 5% most deprived in Scotland (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020)

Strutherhill and Birkenshaw has a population of 3,526. 53% of the population are female and 47% are male.

The total number of households is 1,602

- 322 lone adult households
- 259 households with dependent children
- 209 lone adults with dependent children
- 209 children aged under 16 in lone parent households

Community assets include:

- 2 primary schools (1 community wing)
- 1 nursery and 1 in construction
- 1 church with lettable space
- 2 play areas
- 2 MUGA's (Multi use games arenas) and Playing fields
- Access to Morgan Glen, a natural woodland and a Friends of group
- 2 youth projects
- Women's Guild
- Scouts and Army Cadets
- Breakfast clubs and after-school care
- Pre five and family focused groups



History

- ▶ In November 2017 an awareness raising event was held involving residents contributing to community life and those working in the neighbourhood.
- ▶ The community engagement process is co-designed with local residents. The four big questions were devised.
- ▶ The survey opened in November 2017 and closed in February 2018, 106 households participated.
- ▶ March 2018 the Community Group is established. 10 priorities themes identified through the survey form the basis of the neighbourhood plan. Thematic working groups are formed.
- ▶ March 2018 £10,000 is secured from the lottery along with £20,000 from South Lanarkshire Council. This is aligned to support the delivery of early actions in the Plan.
- ▶ May 2018 early actions are agreed. Ongoing deliberative priority setting has been a key feature of neighbourhood planning activity since.
- ▶ A participatory budgeting approach was used to allocate funds. 101 residents cast their votes, 21 projects were proposed and 6 new projects were designed and delivered.
- ▶ A further 2 rounds of participatory budgeting activity took place in 2019 (201 votes) and 2020.
- ▶ January 2019 the Neighbourhood plan is launched.
- ▶ The Community Group and working groups continued to meet regularly, working collaboratively to bring the neighbourhood plan to life. Post the first lockdown the group resumed with online meetings, these have continued to date.
- ▶ The group are currently developing 3 project proposals aimed at addressing priority themes.

Information

In 2021/2022, £4200 was allocated to the Strutherhill and Birkenshaw area to support Place Based Participatory Budgeting.

In 2021 consultation carried out to inform the participatory budgeting process, 151 residents participated.

Participants were asked to select from the following:

- ▶ Invest in live projects being pursued by the group (a cycling initiative, development of open space and play area developments). (53%)
- ▶ Small grants model – request proposals based on 10 priority themes in the Neighbourhood plan. (26%)
- ▶ The ten priorities are put out to public vote, local people will be asked to identify the top 3 priority themes for investment. (20%)

The consultation ran from 25/11/2021 until the 5/12/2021.

Having gone for option 1 the Community Group were required to:

- ▶ Carry out further community consultations to generate community support and involvement.
- ▶ Building projects proposal including costings for a bike initiative, land and play park development.
- ▶ Securing partner involvement, advice and support.
- ▶ Obtaining appropriate permissions going forward.

The Community Group agreed that this would take time and decided to defer participatory budgeting spend until 2022/2023. This would allow robust proposals to be in place.



Priority

Progress that has been achieved

1

More leisure, recreational and social opportunities



- Discussions with the council's School Modernisation Team has resulted in funding being identified to upgrade the MUGA at Robert Smillie.
- Projects plans are in development for 3 community led initiatives.

2

Physical environment improvements



- Discussions are ongoing with Housing and Technical Resources and Grounds, regarding the positive use of land at Primrose Lane, other sites have also been identified.
- Benches have been installed in various locations through participatory budgeting investment.
- The group are working with Ground Services taking actions to address fly tipping.

3

Easier to get about/moving around



- The shopping bus continues to deliver a much-valued service. Larkhall and District Volunteer Group successfully secured external funding to sustain the service for another year.
- Funding opportunities are continually being explored to sustain the shopping bus, this includes the involvement of local businesses.

4

Greater community safety



- Sites synonymous with fly tipping and anti-social behaviour are being considered for development.
- Discussions are underway regarding CCTV.

5

Stronger and better communities



- A community consultation was undertaken to shape the participatory budgeting process.
- A consultation was carried out to seek early opinions on a bike initiative.
- A survey was carried out seeking the views of residents who live in the vicinity of Primrose Lane, a possible site for development.

6
Housing improvements


- SLC have completed 20 new build homes at Glengonnar Street site. All are occupied by the new tenants, and work has started on site, building a further 38 new homes at Avon Road in Birkenshaw.
- Housing investment works are ongoing in Strutherhill with phase 1 of external fabric improvement works.
- Links have been established with Planning concerning housing developments, the group receives the weekly planning list raising awareness of plans/proposals.

7
Better employment and business opportunities


- Job vacancies are shared locally via the group's Facebook page.
- Residents have been signposted to SELECT for employability support.

8
Better financial wellbeing


- Back to school activities are planned to reduce financial pressure on families.
- Individuals and families are actively signposted to Home Energy Scotland, Larkhall Network provide 200 fuel vouchers which are distributed via local primary schools.
- Food from Fairshare/ASDA is distributed via pop up stands.
- Free Sanitary Products have been delivered to 84 residents in Strutherhill and Birkenshaw.

9
Better education and training opportunities


- Actions will be taken in 2021/2022 to help address this priority.

10
Health improvements


- Birkenshaw Women's Guild successfully secured external funding to sustain and develop their activities, helping to reduce social isolation and build community connectedness.

Development plans

The Community Group have been working together to identify realistic and achievable goals in 2022/2023 agreed actions include:

- ▶ A consultation will take place to rerank priority themes and identify actions for the year ahead, an action plan for the year ahead will be based on this.
- ▶ A recruitment drive will take place to build the membership of the Community Group.
- ▶ Community led projects will be designed and delivered via participatory budgeting.
- ▶ Wider community use of the MUGA will be encouraged once work is complete.
- ▶ Further collaboration will take place to develop outdoor recreational opportunities for young people.
- ▶ The Community Group will pursue the development of vacant and derelict land, establishing partnerships and undertaking consultations to achieve this.
- ▶ Opportunities to work in partnership will be maximised build the community infrastructure.
- ▶ Extensive partnership working will enable a series of back to school events to take place.

Our Place our Plan is a great forward planning community group. We believe strongly in building partnerships with the council and other stakeholder working together to tackle everyday issues in the community. OPOP brings together neighbours with common goals for the area. Those who have lived here all their days and those newer to the area but plan to bring up their young families in Strutherhill and Birkenshaw.

Davy McAinsh
Community Action
Group Member

Our Place Our Plan has been a lifeline to the Birkenshaw Welfare Guild Women's Group in the past year. It was looking as if Covid would close our doors for good. So the decision was taken to look for help. It took just one phone call to get both Liz and Anne on board which was fantastic. They have pointed us in the right direction for funding opportunities and partnership working has improved our situation beyond our expectations.

Gillian McKitting
Guild Member

Case study

Successful neighbourhood planning relies on building relationships and effective partnerships, responding to local needs and collaborating to make the most of the resources everyone brings to the table.

The Birkenshaw Welfare Guild Women's Group offer an outstanding example of the power of partnership. Established after the second world war the Guild has a long history of supporting women and the community and generations of women have enjoyed the solidarity of this group.

At the end of last year due to Covid it looked as if the Guild was about to close its doors.

Numbers had reduced significantly - some members were concerned about being in a group setting, others had experienced a deterioration in physical health and mental wellbeing.

As plans to reopen were made the barriers seemed insurmountable, at a time when the Guild was needed more than ever.

The decision taken to look for some help, it took just one phone call to get Liz and Anne on board. (Development staff)

"It has been a lifeline, they set us in the right direction for funding and encouraged partnership working improving our situation beyond expectations. A survey helped build the membership, assess members needs and develop a programme of activities.

Our membership has grown from 10 to 38.

In four months we secured 9 funding opportunities including the Mental Health and Wellbeing fund, SLC Community Grant and Arnold Clark, we have also forged fantastic relationships with other groups and organisations.

We now provide a mini bus to collect less mobile members, and we recently had our first outing in over 2 years."



There is no doubt with the support of neighbourhood planning, the Guild will go from strength to strength and be here for women for many years to come.

Gillian McKitting

Welfare Guild Women's Group
and Community Action
Group Member

If you would like to find out more or
get involved please contact:

Communities Team **0303 123 1017**
communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Liz Jamieson, Development Worker **01698 827583**
or email **liz@communitylinkssl.co.uk**

Our Place Our Plan Facebook page
www.facebook.com/ourplaceourplanhub



“ I grew up in Strutherhill, it's great being involved with a group of locals just like myself - people who want to help better the scheme. Working alongside the Community Engagement Team and Community Links has helped us build contacts, relationships and partnership, this has helped us involve public bodies, community organisations and businesses and turn our ideas into reality.

It would be great to see more locals get involved and bring across new ideas and strength to the group.

Margaret Gilfillan

Community Action
Group Member

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