

ourplace ourplan



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

Our Neighbourhood Plan for Springhall and Whitlawburn

Annual Progress Report 2021–2022



South Lanarkshire Council

**Can Do
Community**

Introduction

Springhall and Whitlawburn is one of three neighbourhoods identified in 2017 by the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) to test a new collective approach to tackling inequalities, taking preventative action and improving the lives of local people. Neighbourhood planning has its roots in the Community Empowerment Act which requires CPP to develop neighbourhood plans with communities.

Neighbourhood planning is being delivered using a solution focused, asset based approach to build community confidence, increase community involvement and to bring about lasting improvements through community led decision making.

Springhall and Whitlawburn has a population of 3,639.

52% of the population are female and 48% are male.

The area has 2,162 households

- 854 lone adult households
- 220 households with dependent children
- 302 lone adults with dependent children
- 403 children aged under 16 in lone parent households

Community assets include:

- 1 community resource centre
- 1 community centre with integrated library
- 1 standalone nursery and 1 in a school setting
- 3 MUGA's (Multi use games arenas)
- 2 play areas
- 1 community garden
- 1 state of the art recreational space with integrated community growing facility

My biggest ambition in this community is to improve my environment not only for me, and local people but most importantly for our children who are our future and it is upon us to provide equal opportunities for them.

**Whitlawburn
Resident**



History

- In October 2017 the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership agreed to test a new collective approach to tackling local inequalities and improving the lives of local people.
- 3 areas were chosen to test this approach including Springhall and Whitlawburn.
- In November 2017 an awareness raising event was held involving residents involved in community life and those working in the neighbourhood.
- The community engagement process is co-designed with local residents. The four big questions were devised.
- Survey opened in November 2017 and closed in February 2018, 271 households participate.
- March 2018 the Stakeholder Group is established. 10 priorities themes identified through the survey form the basis HUB neighbourhood plan. Thematic working groups are formed.
- May 2018 early actions are agreed. Ongoing deliberative priority setting has been a key feature of neighbourhood planning activity since.
- March 2018 £20,000 is secured from the Lottery matched with TP funding. This is aligned to support the delivery of early actions.
- A participatory budgeting approach was used to allocate funds. 378 residents cast their votes 8 new projects were designed and delivered.
- A further round of participatory budgeting activity took place in 2019 when votes cast, participatory budgeting funds were allocated but not expended in 2021.
- January 2019 the Neighbourhood plan is launched.
- Stakeholder 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.
- Let's Talk About Our Place online sessions are used to engage the community in neighbourhood planning throughout the pandemic.

Information

In 2020/2021 £4,200 was made available for participatory budgeting activity.

In the past the Stakeholder group have been actively involved in devising and delivering participatory budgeting in the Springhall and Whitlawburn area and in 2020 this was no different. To help support the decision making process a discussion paper was developed exploring a variety of participatory budgeting approaches/options.

After much deliberation the Stakeholder group decided to defer spend until 2021/2022. Their decision was made in direct response to Covid-19 restrictions and the impact this could have on community engagement and involvement. Issues included:

- The inability to have face to face contact, group meetings, community conversations and public events.
- Timing, the group felt that the timing just wasn't right, as many people were adjusting to new ways of living and working due to Covid-19.
- The development and delivery of proposals could be compromised because groups weren't meeting or were in the process of having to find a new way to involve their members or service users.

The overall feeling was the participatory budgeting funds could be better utilised invested in recovery, and as restrictions ease further and when the conditions are right the wider community will be much more receptive to engage in this opportunity. Processes like participatory budgeting are more important than ever in helping to strengthen and build community connections and empower local communities through local decision making.



1

More leisure and social opportunities

- The Cage is completed and is in full use.
- Springhall Centre and Library refurbishment is complete soft launch planned late June 2021.
- Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre provide an extensive programme of activities including online ranging from online cookery classes, digital Hubs and social opportunities for children and families.
- Springhall and Whitlawburn Youth Development make a short film on their work during the pandemic and share it.

2

Stronger and better communities

- Let's Talk About Our Place online sessions are introduced to maintain community involvement during Covid-19.
- 15 sessions took place between November and March total attendance 93 and the sessions continue.
- The CamGlen Covid-19 response group was established. Extensive collaboration between the community and voluntary sector and CPP partners ensured the welfare of vulnerable individuals and families during the pandemic.
- Stakeholder group begins to identify priorities for the year ahead.

3

Housing improvements

- Whitlawburn Master planning activity continues 98 have been let to date and a further 132 properties are planned by SLC.

4

Greater community safety

- Fire Scotland promote online home safety checks.
- Police Scotland offer an online Q and A session with local residents.

Priority

Progress that has been achieved

5

Physical environment improvements



- Application is made to the unpaid work team for work at WCRC.
- Community growing initiatives continue and one community clean up takes place.
- Love food hate waste offer input regarding food waste and sustainability.

6

Easier to get about/moving around



- Stakeholders and partners are working together to develop actions

7

Better financial wellbeing



- Rutherglen and Cambuslang CAB facilitate online input for residents.
- Lanarkshire Credit Union promote "It's Your Money" a financial wellbeing course.
- HES offer inputs around fuel and subsidies.

8

Better education and training opportunities



- Stakeholders and partners are working together to develop actions

9

Health improvements



- The health improvement team promote Well Connected and mental health and emotional wellbeing services.

10

Better employment and business opportunities



- Whitlawburn Digital Hub offer their service by telephone and online.
- SLC Employability Team promote the Parental Support Programme.

Development plans

The Stakeholder Group are currently setting goals/key actions for 2021/2022. Emerging issues for action include:

- The need to support recovery, build community connections and community spirit.
- Reducing the impact of Covid-19 on young people educationally, socially and emotionally and similar impacts affecting the wider community.
- Actions to address poverty, cost of the school day and promotion of financial support services have been discussed.
- Short online inputs will take place targeting those who are less inclined to attend meetings but still interested in having a voice in issues that will be fed to the stakeholder group.
- Developing a skills exchange via asset mapping and intergenerational activity.
- A Community Partnership involving representatives from Our Place Our Plan Neighbourhood Planning Stakeholder Groups and the four Community Councils in the Cambuslang Rutherglen locality is in development. The group will act as an intermediary to strengthen local decision making, building links and interconnections between neighbourhood planning priorities and the wider work of the Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Boards. Discussions have taken place with staff from across the CPP to harness advice and expertise to ensure communities are adequately resourced to pursue emerging priorities.
- Develop and deliver the participatory budgeting process.



I have been active in Springhall for many years, in the Community Resource Group the OPOP Stakeholder Group, The Cage development and the Centre and Library Renovation Group. I can honestly say that the area has been transformed over the last few years. The place is welcoming, uplifted and that makes me very proud. The new nursery is simply the icing on the cake!

Alison Black
from Springhall



Case study

Zoom and Teams are now a key feature of all our lives, but that wasn't the story at the start of lockdown. Finding new ways to communicate with each other has been a challenge, but not an insurmountable one.

As with most things the best way to find a solution has been to listen to the people around us. Recognising that, for lots of people, circumstances and work arrangements had changed significantly, allowed us to understand that priorities had changed. For most this meant time was limited, with home schooling, home working and many other factors at play. Although online activity has always been part of community engagement, we have, until recently, preferred to meet face-to-face with communities. However, the pandemic meant we had to look again at how we communicate.

Coming out of the first lockdown, we were keen to keep residents involved and connected - a big part of the Our Place Our Plan neighbourhood plan, and wider community life.

It was clear, however, that the time wasn't right to host in-person meetings. So, we had to think flexibly about how best to reignite interest in the plan, in the face of our changed ways of life. And that's where the 'Let's Talk about Our Place' online weekly sessions came in. The aim was to enable residents to find out more about services and activities taking place, planned, or being adapted and delivered in response to Covid-19. Alongside this we could reconnect with people, at the same time reconnecting them to the priority themes that are the basis of the Springhall and Whitlawburn neighbourhood plan.

Using Zoom, residents have also been able to take part in a range of short meetings where there is the opportunity to put forward questions via the chat function, or verbally, during or post the presentations a range of community, voluntary and public sector representatives. So positive has the response been that we are going to continue using 'Let's Talk About' sessions as a way of giving voice to those less inclined or unavailable to attend meetings.



“ I don't like formal meetings. So, this has been good. You're anonymous, so can ask any questions you like.

Whitlawburn Resident

“ I've enjoyed the sessions. It was strange at first, but I enjoy video calls now. They're quick, but there's lots of information and you just listen in or ask a question.

Springhall Resident

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

Communities Team **0303 123 1017**
www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Jan Taylor
Email: **jan@healthynhappy.org.uk**



“What I like the most about Our Place Our Plan is I feel it responds to Scottish Government legislation and really is strategic, but communities are at the centre of everything and things are happening. Local people are involved and treated in a friendly way and with respect. Our opinions and views on issues are taken into account, local residents have a say and we are kept up to date with any progress.”

Erika Laznova
Stakeholder Group Member
from Whitlawburn

If you need this information in another
language or format, please contact us to
discuss how we can best meet your needs.

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