

**ourplace ourplan**



South Lanarkshire  
**Partnership**  
Stronger together

Our Neighbourhood Plan for

# Fairhill

Annual Progress Report  
2021–2022



South Lanarkshire Council

**Can Do**  
**Community**

# Introduction

Fairhill is an area in Hamilton, South Lanarkshire, with a population of around 2800. The housing is a mix of social housing, private rent and owned properties. Fairhill has a number of organisations active in the area who provide social and recreational opportunities for the community.

In November 2020 Fairhill started to develop their neighbourhood plan. This was overseen by a group of local people, organisations active in the area and public sector partners. This plan is the beginning and will be reported on each year by the stakeholders group to show what difference has been made in the area.

To continue to grow and develop, the stakeholders would like to invite any local resident to join us and help to make Fairhill an ever-better place to live.

The neighbourhood plan aims to get everyone working together to make Fairhill an even better place to live. This is done through local people identifying and setting priorities to improve the area. Once the areas for improvement are identified everyone works together including local people, charities, community groups, businesses and the public sector to look at how the identified priorities can be improved.

Fairhill's neighbourhood plan has been created solely using local people's views and respects Fairhill residents as experts as their own area. We need everyone to get involved to continue to drive this plan forward for the benefit of all the residents of Fairhill.





# History

Fairhill is a new area for neighbourhood planning. A series of open meetings were held in September 2019 to generate interest in setting up a steering group for the neighbourhood plan. The consultation around the plan started in November 2019 and concluded in February 2020, 498 people took part in this consultation to identify the priorities for the community. The consultation was carried out by the community engagement team and steering group members. The plan was due to be launched in the community in April 2020, however, due to the pandemic this launch was unable to go ahead.

At the point of the pandemic priorities changed within the area and resources were pulled to ensure everyone was able to eat, receive medication they needed and generally support people where they could. Fairhill community group led on this in the area. The group worked in partnership with local businesses and other voluntary groups in the area to help out with shopping, collection of prescriptions, provisions of free food for children and general support for the local community.

Naturally, none of these services were identified as priorities on the neighbourhood plan as no one knew they would become so vital over the course of 20/21. The Fairhill community showed the resilience and strength of the community through the support provided to each other in an unprecedented year of challenges no one could have anticipated would have been faced.

Neighbourhood planning is a real opportunity for everyone to work together on improving Fairhill. Fairhill over the past year and a bit has faced the COVID pandemic as a community, supporting each other and ensuring no one was left behind. Moving forward we need to use this energy to make Fairhill an even better place for people to live.

**Craig Allan**

# Information

Due to the pandemic a participatory budgeting process was not carried out in the area over 2020/21. Micro Grant monies was given to organisations who were continuing to focus on the priorities highlighted in the neighbourhood plan.

Over the next year it will be a focus to ensure a full participatory budgeting process is ran to ensure local people have their say in how public money is spent.



Priority	Progress that has been achieved
<b>1</b> <b>Physical environment</b> 	<p>Everything around you, play parks, grass verges, street furniture, roads, pavements etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversations are ongoing with local groups to explore opportunities of how we can use open space in Fairhill more productively.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b> <b>More leisure and social opportunities</b> 	<p>Activities for you to engage in and socialise within your own community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to the restrictions due to the pandemic this point could not be actioned as activities were stopped to keep people safe. Actions will be developed when possible.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b> <b>Greater community safety</b> 	<p>How safe you feel in your community whether this be road safety or physical safety from crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions will be developed as the stakeholders begin to meet again.</li> </ul>
<b>4</b> <b>Easier to get about/moving around</b> 	<p>The ability to move in and around your community and access to other local areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions will be developed as the stakeholders begin to meet again.</li> </ul>
<b>5</b> <b>More variety of shops/businesses</b> 	<p>The choice of business in the area and what sectors are available locally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions will be developed as the stakeholders begin to meet again.</li> </ul>

## Priority

## Progress that has been achieved

# 6

### Housing improvements



The upkeep and presentation of local housing stock.

- Actions will be developed as the stakeholders begin to meet again.

# 7

### Stronger and better communities



Feeling connected to your local community and the sense of community spirit.

- Many people were isolated throughout 2020/21 due to the nature of the pandemic. This will be a crucial priority moving into the recovery phase.

# 8

### Better financial wellbeing



Locally available services to assist you to access financial advice and maximise income.

- CAB continues to offer support in the area throughout the pandemic through phone call appointments.
- Plans are being made to hold discussions around the affordability of services for local people.

# 9

### Health improvements



Opportunities within the community to access activities and services to improve health.

- Health was a consistent worry in 2020/21 due to the pandemic. The community rallied to support each other be it through mental or physical health. This was done through food parcels, prescription drop-offs and regular phone calls.

# 10

### Better education, training and employment opportunities



Locally available opportunities around employment and education for all ages.

- Actions will be developed as the stakeholders begin to meet again.

## Development plans

Moving forward from the pandemic the stakeholder's group will look to set up regular meetings to look at how we can successfully drive this plan forward and ensure it is still representative of the Fairhill communities priorities.

A full participatory budgeting process will be carried out to allocate monies in the area aligned to projects that look to meet the identified priorities within the area.

Overall, the focus will likely be based on recovery from the pandemic and ensuring that everyone in the community has an effective way to communicate their priority and work towards making Fairhill an even better place to live.



I'd like to say what a pleasure it's been getting to know the team, the partners and other residents who are like minded and want to make a difference to our community. I have especially appreciated how we have been able to sit round the table together, as equals, and recognise all the good things already going on here and how we can build on these to make the area even better. I can't wait to see how the project evolves going forward, and hope that many more people feel inspired to get on board.

**Local Resident**

# Progress in Fairhill

Due to the COVID pandemic the progress on the neighbourhood plan was delayed. However the stakeholder group were able to allocate £5000 to local community groups in order to carry out local activities. These activities will be coming soon as restrictions continue to ease and local residents can start to come together again.

There were 10 grants of £500 given out, decided by the stakeholders group made up of local people and organisations. Thanks to Fairhill's vibrant third sector there was a wide variety of activities, these were;

- ▶ Three themed community events
- ▶ Holiday youth programme
- ▶ 4 social events – older people
- ▶ Intergenerational reading club with local primary school
- ▶ Free fitness taster sessions
- ▶ Free hall lets for the community

These funding applications were approved by local people in direct response to the priorities identified by local people through the survey for the neighbourhood plan. Moving forward, we will be looking for you to directly vote on what projects receive funding, this will ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our local community.

Hopefully as we move out of the restrictions of the pandemic you will be able to participate in some of these activities and continue to let us know what is important to you in the Fairhill community.



The stakeholders have not been able to meet due to the Covid pandemic. We hope that as the situation improves we will be able to hold meetings again in the near future.

If you would like to get involved please contact **0303 123 1017** or email **[communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:communities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)**



During the pandemic we strengthened our links with locals, business and partners to support the community and address the immediate needs. We are looking forward to getting activities going again.

**Fairhill Community Group**

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

Phone: 0303 123 1015

Email: [equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

