

# Greenhead Area Community led Plan

## Greenhead Area Local Community led Plan



2010

## Greenhead Area Action Plan

Greenhead area in Wishaw is one of 4 communities that have been selected to take part in the preparation of a Community led Plan for the future of their area over the next few years. It is a new and exciting way for communities to become more involved in the Community Planning Process and to heighten awareness of the partners and processes of Community Planning.

The community has prepared its Community Led Plan with the assistance of Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (formerly Volunteer Centre) and the financial support of Big Lottery Fund in Scotland.

The plan summarises the community views about:

- Greenhead area past and present
- The community's vision for it's future
- Priorities for action

The plan makes a clear statement about the type of place Greenhead aims to be and what needs to be done.

The plan will be used to highlight the community's needs and aspirations in discussions with public agencies and other partners as evidence of community support for priority projects.

## Methodology

The plan was prepared following extensive consultation within the community.

Consultation included:

A community survey

A series of Focus groups

A Community Visioning event

The plan was prepared by Keith Bence, Greenhead area's Community led Plan Facilitator.

Several members of the community agreed to form a local co-ordination group to take forward the priorities of the community as defined by the plan.

The plan has been separated into those actions which the community itself can act upon and those the community can influence.

Throughout the process and in particular during the Visioning event, the community have reality proofed the suggestions put forth to generate a realistic plan in the understanding that there is no funding attached to the plan yet, and the co-operation, efforts and support of the community will be required to make real the vision the community shares for its future.

*At every stage of the process it was emphasised that:*

## The Local Community Led Plan was...

An opportunity to participate and feed into a community focused Local Action Plan prepared by the residents

An opportunity to understand, participate in and influence Statutory Community Planning

An opportunity to highlight the priorities for Greenhead area

An opportunity to define what can be actioned by the community and what needs to be developed in partnership with other organisations

An opportunity to organise and progress some local initiatives by the community itself

## The Local Community Led Plan was not ...

A Local Authority Scheme

A wish list of things that should but may never happen

A promise of substantial additional funding coming into the area

A temporary unsupported project with no future

## Our Community Now...

### Community Views on Greenhead

The summary below shows some of the main findings of the Community Survey. All of the findings will be available through Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire.

### What We Like...

Central Location (33.6%)      Neighbours / People (25.8%)

Peace and Quiet (16.2%)      Shops (15.9%)

*"familiar faces, close to amenities, good schools"*

*"it is very quiet, it is safe for our children, there are local amenities"*

*"community, friendly people. people willing to help "*

*"central for everything, near nature reserve, quiet"*

*"close proximity to town centre, Greenhead Moss for walking & cycling, all other amenities relatively handy"*

*"great area, friendly neighbours"*



*local area known as "Cow Park"*

# What we don't like...

Neds / Unruly Youths (15.1%) Litter / Lack of cleanliness(12.2%)

Dog Fouling (10.3%)

Lack of Play Areas (9.6%)



*"anti-social people in area, street is a mess, broken fences, etc, environment could be vastly improved"*

*"busy road, dirty streets"*

*"condition of gardens/ public walkways - filth, litter, etc, neds gathered at bottom of lane drinking, shouting, swearing, etc, general run-down feel to the area"*

*"dog fouling not being picked up, groups of youths hanging around"*

*"extremely noisy drunken neighbours, youths who destroy others property, dog dirt all over the pavements"*

*"hangabouts in area, not enough to do for young ones that's why they hang about streets and drink and drugs"*

## Community Profile Background, Heritage and Environment



It is not certain where the name Wishaw derived from but one theory is that it comes from the Latin for "Wicket Gate in the wood" and it used to be called Wygateshaw. One other theory that the town was named Viashaw 'meaning way or road through the wood' which in turn dates back to when the town was surrounded by woodland. The

arrival of railways and the establishment of a gas works increased the local population quite considerably during the 1800's. There was also a number of collieries developed in the Wishaw area at this time. When the Caledonian Railway's main line came through Wishaw in 1848, it was a major mining centre, fuelling an important part of Scotland's industrial heartland. This led to the creation of steel and Iron works in the area. The early 1900's saw truck manufacturing becoming important to the local community too. Wishaw benefited from the growth of the huge Ravenscraig steel works in the early 1960s



## Community Profile Background, Heritage and Environment

While employment there reached many thousands in the mid-1970s, the works declined throughout the 1980's, and closed in 1992. The mining industry had already ceased to exist in this part of Scotland and for a time, Wishaw had some of the worst unemployment levels in Scotland.



**Greenhead** is an area in Wishaw that lies in between Cambusnethan, Stewarton and Coltness. On the north side lies Cambusnethan and to the east of there is Greenhead Moss.

Peat formed in this area over 10,000 years ago and people began farming here over 4000 years ago. 2000 years later, local people cut the peat for fuel. 120 years ago coal mining was the industry of choice, and local legend states that a train track ran across the mining area and following a collapse, a burst pipe formed the area now called Perchy Pond. In 1989 the Perchy Pond was designated as a local nature reserve. In 1999 the site was acquired by North Lanarkshire Council and the Greenhead Moss Community Trust was formed.

In 2001 the initial regeneration works were completed with numerous awards for community engagement and site regeneration. In 2006 Greenhead secured Lottery funding and in 2007 the start of the Earthship Visitor Centre building began. Greenhead Moss is now an integral part of the Greenhead area with the community, walkers, cyclists and local schools using it for children's ECO classes and nature facilities. The potential of Greenhead Moss is significant for the local community creating jobs and volunteering opportunities.



## Community Profile Population

Information from the 2001 census shows the population of Wishaw to be 19,105. 98.9% of the population classed themselves as white with only 1.1% of people living in Wishaw classing themselves of ethnic origin. 52.4% of the population is female and 14.4% are 65yrs or older.

These statistics are in line with the national figures, however we have a higher rate of unemployment (17.4%) than the national average (12.9%) and a higher percentage of people claiming pension credit (24.6%) than in the country as a whole (19.8%)

## Employment

With higher unemployment than the national average, and job prospects in the local area quite low, the local community is quite disillusioned and many people feel they have little or no prospects for employment locally.

Large employers like British Steel, Barr's, Bone Connell and others closing down has impacted on other smaller employers in the town. Many small local shops, pubs and newsagents that relied on the passing trade from these organisations have closed down and the Main St shopping area has become one that is filled with hairdressers, charity shops and cafes.

The opening of the large Tesco has brought some employment to Wishaw, but this has also impacted on the smaller local shops. Many people also fear that the new Ravenscraig Site will mean even further deterioration of the local amenities in Wishaw.



*Old Ravenscraig Steelworks*



*New Ravenscraig Sports Facility*



*New Tesco store*

## Community Profile

### Housing



The housing stock in Greenhead is a mixture of privately owned, local authority rented, housing association and privately rented accommodation.

The survey results showed that 36.5% of residents in Greenhead live in a local authority rented home. 52.1% are privately owned, 11.4% rent from a registered social landlord or others.

Across North Lanarkshire, 62.5% of people own their own homes with 27.6% living in a local authority owned home.

This is further proof of the deprivation level in the Greenhead area as there is a much lower rate of owner occupiers and much higher rate of people in need of socially rented housing.



37.5% of residents who stated they were unhappy with their homes cited "problems with neighbours" as the reason although only 29.7% of the respondents wanted to move to a better neighbourhood.



## Time for Action

The community has identified a number of issues that it would like to see being dealt with more effectively. The household survey and focus groups have highlighted where local priorities lie. These priorities have been identified in three distinct categories:-

1. **Within the Community's Control**
2. **Within Shared Control - Community and partners working together**
3. **Outwith Community's Control**

### 1. In Our Control

#### **Priority 1: Create a community "Hub"**

It was discussed in great detail at each of the focus groups that there was a great need to have a facility that would allow services to come into the local community—i.e. Citizens Advice; Routes to Work; Health information etc.

This would present an opportunity for the local community to source information and advice as well as to meet other people living nearby.

#### PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- ◆ Contact local authority regarding the possibility of local unused premises being made available to local community.
- ◆ Consider applying for funding to purchase / rent premises

#### **Priority 2: Develop a community newsletter**

58.7% of people stated that they would like to find out what is happening in their community through a local newsletter. This requires a lot of preparation and commitment from local people as well as significant funding.

#### PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- ◆ Seek sources of funding utilising the knowledge of VANL (Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire) who have a Funding officer
- ◆ Seek sponsorship through local businesses—possibly sell advertising space to ensure sustainability of the newsletter following initial funding (if available)
- ◆ Seek interested locals from the community who are prepared to commit to producing a newsletter 2-4 times a year.

## 1. In Our Control

### Priority 3: Improve the appearance of the area

49.1% of people feel that the gardens in the community could be better maintained. It was suggested at the focus groups that this may be partly due to the residents concerned being too ill or too infirm to maintain their own garden. As it is not guaranteed that the local authority will be able to maintain gardens for people in this situation there was a suggestion that a "Hit Squad" could be developed to help those in need of such a service.

- ◆ Carry out a survey of local people to identify :-  
Those in need of assistance through ill health / disability etc  
People who love gardening and would be prepared to help their neighbours
- ◆ Use the results of the survey to establish a "Hit Squad" of gardeners.
- ◆ Source funding to help purchase equipment to help the "Hit Squad"
- ◆ Find a local individual prepared to co-ordinate the "Hit-Squad"

## 2. Shared Control

### Priority 4: Safety of Crossing at Greenhead Road / Campbell Street

At each focus group there was concern expressed about the speed of traffic at Greenhead Road. There were also concerns regarding the number of cars parked on Greenhead Road that blocks the view for anyone trying to cross the road. This is a very busy area and any child from the Tinto estate who walks to school needs to cross this road.

#### PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- ◆ Carry out a survey of the Tinto housing estate to establish:-  
The number of school age children living in the area  
The age of the children  
How many children need to walk to school unaccompanied
- ◆ Use the results of the survey to enquire about the possibility of a school crossing patrol being established at Greenhead Road
- ◆ Establish links with North Lanarkshire Council's "Kerbcraft" scheme
- ◆ Look into the possibility of setting up a "Walk to School" group

## 2. Shared Control

### **Priority 5: Littering / Dog Fouling**

The results of the survey showed that 66.8% of the residents felt that dog fouling was an issue and 45.8% felt that littering was a concern. This contributed to the overall feeling that the area was not being taken care of. The dog fouling also raised issues around health and safety—especially in areas that children regularly play in.

#### PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- ◆ Raise local awareness of the dog fouling issue and associated health concerns
- ◆ Speak to Local Community Wardens regarding provision of poop scoops / bags and dog waste bins
- ◆ Request improved signage from local authority re littering and dog fouling

### **Priority 6: Improve Condition of Roads and Pavements**

63.1% of people feel that the condition of the roads, paths and pavements was poor. While it is understood that the severe winter has taken its toll on the roads and pavements across the country, it is still causing concern. There was also a strong feeling that that not enough was done to ensure the safety of the pavements and roads during the bad weather.

#### PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- ◆ Speak to local authority Roads department advising them of local issues and ask for information regarding the plan for the Greenhead area
- ◆ Suggest places for extra grit bins to be located in case of another severe winter
- ◆ Set up a team of volunteers to help ensure those residents in poor health or with limited mobility have their paths cleared as often as possible

Liaise with the Community Wardens to ensure local community are aware of contact details for relevant council departments.

### **Priority 7: Improve Relations with Police**

54.3% of residents stated that they “Hardly Ever” or “Never” saw the police in their area, and 69.4% of people felt that they would like to see more of the police.

#### PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- ◆ Ask local officers to attend meetings of the Greenhead Action Group to discuss any local issues
- ◆ Encourage local people to consider setting up neighbourhood watches with the support of the local police
- ◆ Invite police to community events

## 3. Outwith our Control

### **Priority 8: Improved Public transport**

Although 61.6% of people in the area use a car as their main form of transport, 25% of households do not own a car and 17.7% rely on public transport. 43.2% of people feel that the bus service is essential to the community. The biggest concern expressed during the focus groups was the lack of buses at the Greenhead Road / Tinto area. This area sits at the top of a hill and the lack of public transport is an issue for residents who are less mobile or who have small children.

#### PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- ◆ Liaise with local transport authority regarding the local bus routes, emphasising the issues caused by the lack of a stop at the top of the hill

### **Priority 9: Road Safety**

The community as a whole feel that there are a number of places in the Greenhead area where road safety is a concern. Danger spots were pointed out in various parts of the area and many people expressed concern about the speed of traffic on particular roads as well as issues with thoughtless, if not dangerous parking habits.

#### PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- ◆ Deliver a local campaign on road safety — possibly including the local schools and traffic police
- ◆ Liaise with local traffic wardens to ensure safe parking at the hot spots that have been identified
- ◆ Ask the Roads department at the local authority to improve signage and road markings

### **Priority 10: Street Lighting**

Many parts of the Greenhead area can be very dark at night as the street lighting is not adequate. 32.8% of residents felt that more street lighting would improve the area.

#### PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- ◆ Liaise with Roads department regarding places where street lighting could be improved
- ◆ Ask about plans to upgrade lighting from low sodium bulbs to high sodium for better quality of light.

## The Next Steps...

### Carrying Out These Actions

It is important that the local community take ownership of their area and its future. There is a small group of people who are already prepared to help with this, however they feel that more young people are needed before a proper group can be formed. It is hoped that the “Community Action” meeting that has been arranged for August will encourage more people to participate.

### Supporting These Actions

Support will be required from as many people and organisations as possible to ensure the priorities of this area can be taken forward and actioned. If you are interested in being involved in this, please contact us.

### Main Contacts

If you are interested in finding out more about our Community Led Plan or being part of the Action Group for Greenhead, please contact:

**Donna Morris at VANL— 01698 358866**

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Members of the community at a focus group discussing Greenhead area



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