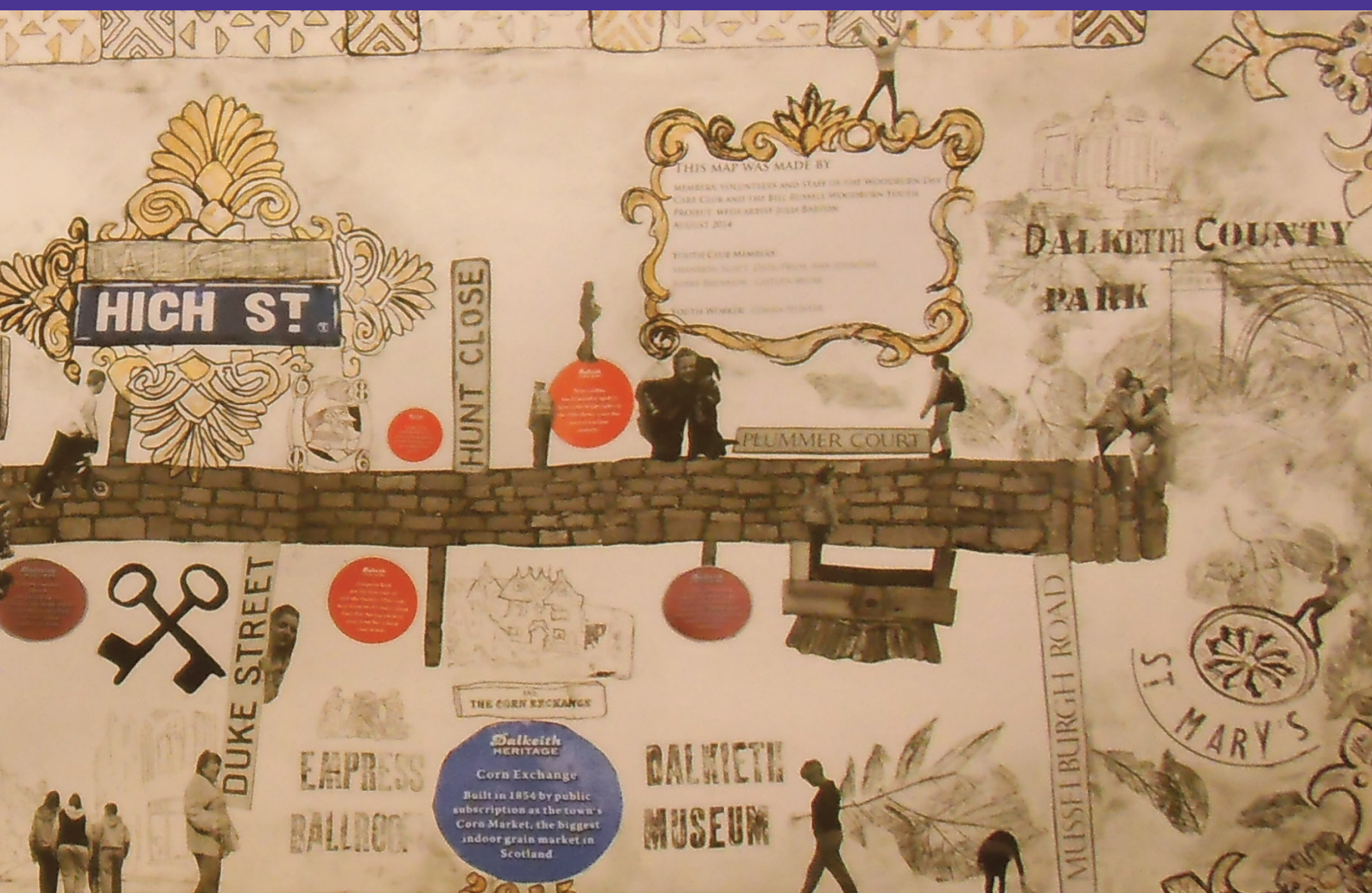


# Woodburn/Dalkeith Community Action Plan 2016-2021



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## Introduction

- Over **200** residents views are represented in this Action Plan from the 75 Household Surveys that were returned.
- **101** people attended the Community Futures Open Events.

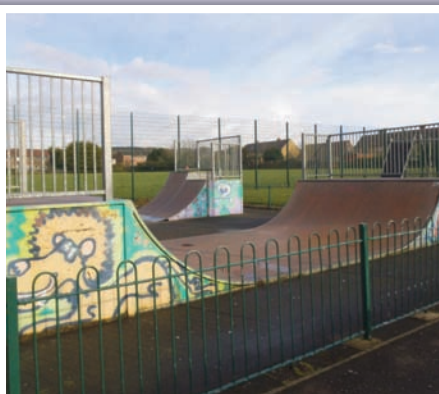
### Woodburn/Dalkeith Community Action Plan

The Action Plan summarises community views and information about:

- Vision for Woodburn/Dalkeith
- Our community now
- Priority Themes and Identified Actions

### Woodburn/Dalkeith Community Futures Steering Group

The Steering Group brought together representatives from One Dalkeith, Bill Russell Woodburn Youth Project, Dalkeith and District Community Council, NHS Lothian and Midlothian Council Communities Team.





## Our vision for the future

A safe community with a place where the community can meet people of all ages, and particularly where young people can enjoy activities that are affordable and accessible.

An attractive community with good roads, pavements and parking, with a regular public transport service that supports the needs of all the local housing areas and a vibrant shopping area that is attractive and welcoming.

An active community where people make the most of all the available green space, and where residents respect and care for their gardens and come together to keep public spaces clean and litter free.

A community with a strong community spirit where people communicate clearly and freely and where groups and individuals work together for the benefit of the whole community.



# Our Community Now

## Background

This Profile has been produced to give an insight into the Woodburn/Dalkeith area. It is part of a wider Community Futures process being delivered by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust across Scotland's coalfield communities to assist them reflect on what is good within their community, what could be improved and how. This five year plan builds on existing community engagement. Back in 2010 the Dalkeith Neighbourhood Plan was produced and while not every issue raised has been resolved progress was made. This new five year Community Futures Plan will address many of the issues facing the area in 2016.

## Population

At the time of the 2011 Scotland census the total number of residents in Woodburn/Dalkeith was 8,615. Woodburn's number of residents was 3,499.

Woodburn/Dalkeith is home to 10.4% of Midlothian's population.

If it is assumed that this demographic does not change over the time period then the Woodburn/Dalkeith projected population in 2037 will be 10,306.

## Housing

Most of the housing in Woodburn is social housing maintained by Midlothian Council or Melville Housing. The Council has invested in new build in Woodburn on sites of the former primary school and former community centre.

## Health

The number of people living with a limiting long term illness is slightly higher than in Scotland as a whole, with Woodburn/Dalkeith having 21.5% and Scotland as a whole having 19.6% of people of all ages incapacitated.

The nearest hospital is Midlothian Community Hospital. The nearest hospital with an Accident & Emergency department is the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Source: Census 2011

## Employment and the Economy

More people are economically active (just over 70%) than inactive (just under 30%). Of the economically active just under half are full time at just over 42.1% with 5.4% self employed. This breakdown is broadly speaking similar to Scotland as a whole. Source: Census 2011

## Education and Training

The % of households where no one aged 16-74 has qualifications or is in full-time education is almost 34% which is significantly higher than Scotland with figures of just under 27%. Source: Census 2011

In 2005 Dalkeith High School, St. David's Roman Catholic High School and Saltersgate (Special Education) School were co-located on a new site on the edge of town. Dalkeith Campus has generated wide interest and has been commended for its success in bringing together different denominational groups and children with special educational needs

The Campus offers shared facilities which include assembly, library, dining, administration, and sports and leisure facilities.

Sports and leisure facilities provide a competition sized swimming pool, hydrotherapy pool, fitness suites, grass and all-weather pitches, all-weather running track and athletics facilities.

### Social and Community

#### Facilities for Older People

The Midlothian Ageing Well project (for those aged 50+) includes various activities to meet all needs such as walking clubs, line dancing, Tai Chi/Chi Gong classes. New innovations like Walking Football and New Age Kurling are very popular and there is a singing group which goes around care homes and sheltered housing entertaining residents.

Dalkeith Welfare Hall runs bingo and whist sessions in a friendly atmosphere. There is Old Thyme dancing run by volunteers in Dalkeith Miners Club.

Woodburn Day Care Club offers a lunch club along with social interaction to tackle isolation for the less able; this service is via a referral from various bodies such as Social Work or Red Cross.

There are IT learning opportunities weekly at Crystal Mount.

#### Youth Facilities

The Drop In at MARC building for young people runs on Saturdays and provides a supportive and friendly environment. There are games and computers and other activities. It provides a focus for youth work in the area and works alongside the police and other agencies.

There is a local thriving football club which gives training and support for budding young football players. The club also offers snooker and other activities.

A local amateur boxing club provides training and support for young people with a fully functioning gym. There is also a rugby club that operates a youth section to support and encourage youngsters interested in the game. Cowden Park has a skate park that is well used and there are various play parks and green spaces around the area.

Guides and Brownies meet in church halls in Dalkeith and there is also a Brownie group which meets in MARC.

### Environment

There is an extensive path network for walking and cycling as well as a number of parks all within walking distance including, Cowden Park, Riverside Park, Waterfall Park (includes a kids playpark), Ironmills Park, and Kings Park which has an impressive War Memorial. It also has a Green Flag and good sports facilities.

### Transport

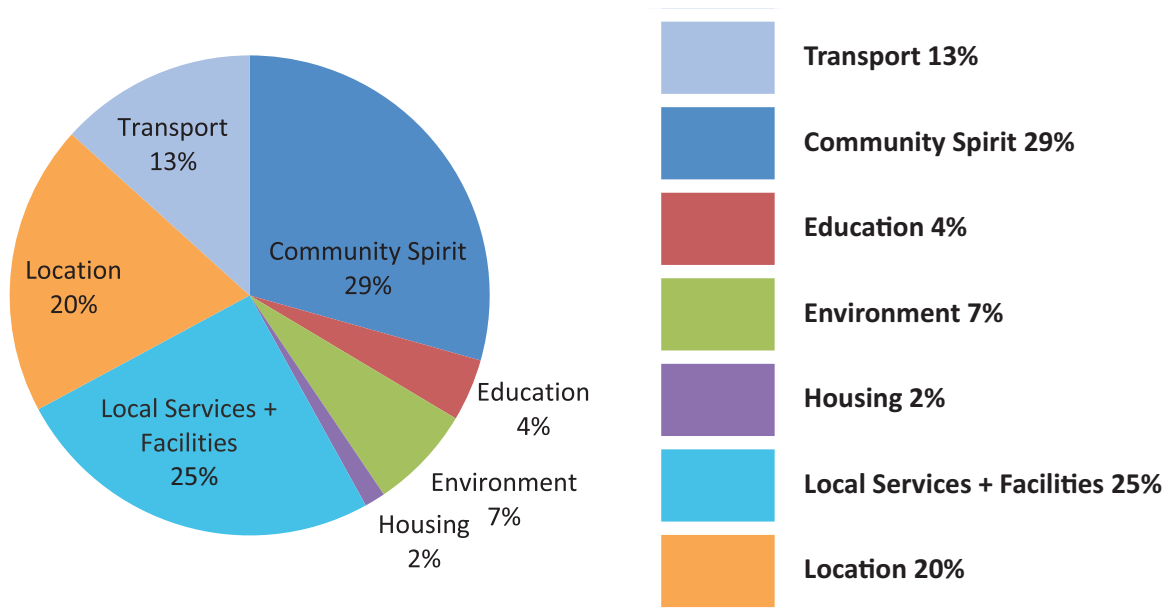
Dalkeith is well served by buses. It sits on the long-distance Edinburgh – Jedburgh/Kelso service. There are regular services linking Dalkeith to other towns in Midlothian, and a Monday to Saturday daytime frequency of 15 buses an hour between Dalkeith and Edinburgh city centre (8 of the 15 run via Edinburgh Royal Infirmary). The Woodburn local bus 39 links the estate to Dalkeith Town Centre every 20 minutes Monday to Saturday daytime. The 39 extends to both Eskbank Tesco (the nearest bus stop to Eskbank Station on the new Borders Railway) and Midlothian Community Hospital (where the 39 bus stop is nearer the main entrance to the hospital than the car parks). The latest addition to the bus network in Dalkeith started on 11 April 2016 with the Monday-Friday daytime provision of a new half-hourly bus service to Dalkeith Heights and Dalkeith Campus.

### Community Action Plan: Considerations

Some key considerations include the increase in house building and the likely impact this will have on local services as population increases. Lack of car parking provision is leading to inconsiderate parking within the town and in the local area; this needs to be addressed. Increased use of local public transport should be encouraged. Town centre regeneration requires further community engagement to consider proposals for increased community facilities.

## Woodburn/Dalkeith Likes

From the 200 respondents we can see what local people like most about where they live.



'It still has a community friendly feel to it. There are still people who look out for their neighbours.'

'There is still a local Festival event which is well attended and there is another fun day event which is becoming popular.'

'There are people in the community who still give of their time for the local football clubs.'

'We now have a choice of shopping with Sainsbury coming in.'

'Lots of open space, parks that are well maintained.'

'The community feel, the location to town and country, and there is a real feeling of improvement.'

'A lot of green space. Plenty of parks and cycle tracks.'

'Easy access to shops.'

'People you know are friendly'

'Nice parks'

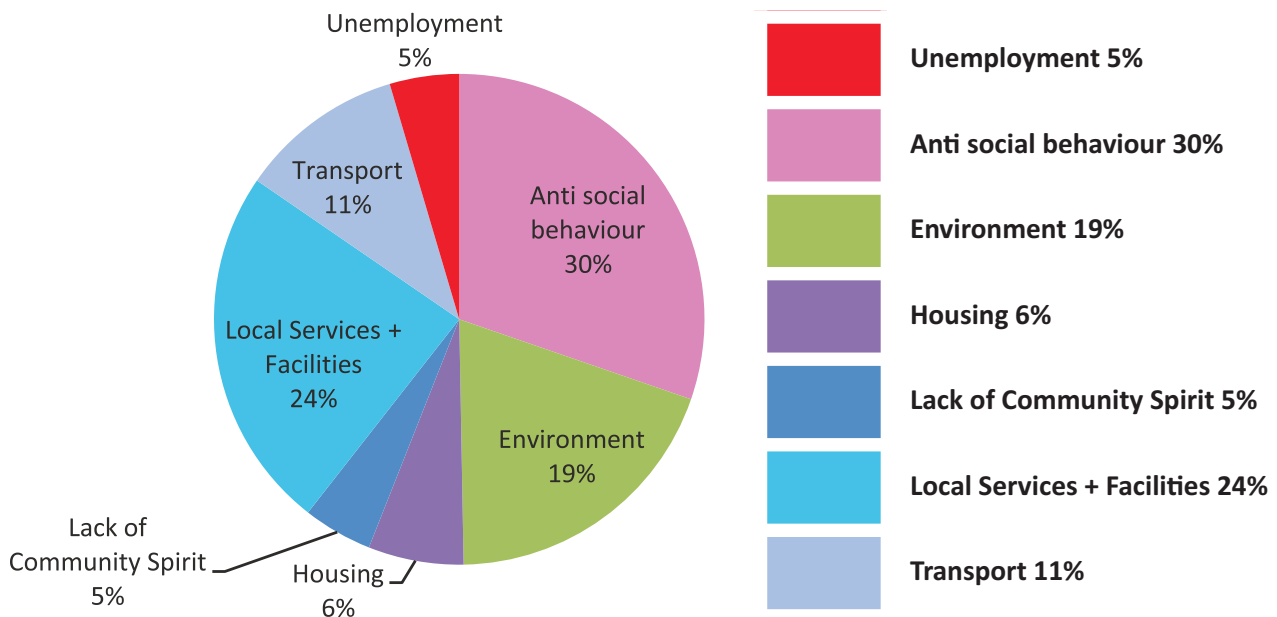
'Close to local amenities.'





## Woodburn/Dalkeith Dislikes

From the 200 respondents we can see what local people dislike most about where they live.



'It is difficult to get involved with different people, and meet people from all parts of the community.'

'Lacking facilities'

'The anti social behaviour and dog fouling'

'The state of some roads and pavements.'

'Youth crime'

'Rent prices'

'The vandalism and thefts within our estate'

'Town centre looks drab.'

'Not a lot for youths between 15 -18 years to do.'



The following themes are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters

### THEME 1: Community Facilities and Activities

This theme is an essential aspect of building social capital in a community. It's the glue that holds communities together and there are some fundamentals that require to be in place for it to grow and develop. There is a need to ensure that there is good, clear and effective communication between people, organisations and service providers to make sure that people are being listened to, that their needs are being met and that this is done through ongoing engagement with an enthusiasm for partnership working at all levels.

Priorities	Actions required to take priorities forward
More community facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dalkeith Miners will resubmit an application to the lottery for a multi-purpose centre (Woodburn Hub) adjacent to the existing club. The evidence gathered during the CRT consultation will be used to support their application.</li><li>• One Dalkeith have set up a Development Trust and have considerable local support. They are exploring new opportunities for community facilities. There will be ongoing community engagement to explore ideas and gather further support.</li><li>• Support for a town centre based community centre has already been shown; we want to build on this through ongoing engagement.</li><li>• Explore the potential of improving availability to existing community premises eg Dalkeith Arts Centre, Corn Exchange and the new Lifelong Learning and Employability shop in Woodburn which will provide a range of community based adult learning opportunities including IT, child development, job club, employability skills, literacy and numeracy and family learning opportunities for adults and children to learn together.</li><li>• Update and make widely available a list of all the available community facilities within the area.</li></ul>
Create more activities for young people of all ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raise the profile of the early actions funded through the Participatory Budget.</li><li>• Evaluate the early actions funded, build on successes and plan for further improved youth activities in the future.</li><li>• Encourage Dalkeith Library to continue to support young people's activities.</li><li>• Review and improve transport access to activities in adjacent areas.</li><li>• Pilot a young people's café.</li><li>• Explore the potential of using facilities at Croft Street in the evening as an ICT centre for young people supported by the voluntary sector and LLE (Lifelong Learning).</li><li>• Widely promote activities that are currently available.</li><li>• Identify gaps / needs for involvement of young people through creative engagement with young people.</li><li>• Explore and raise the profile of the activities available at the Dalkeith Country Park.</li></ul>



<b>Encourage people to be more active in their community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct an audit of what is currently taking place and promote participation.</li> <li>• Work with organisations to promote volunteering opportunities.</li> <li>• Encourage participation in Dalkeith and District Community Council.</li> <li>• Identify gaps/needs to enable and encourage people to become more active in their community, increasing its social capital.</li> </ul>
<b>Improve communication between local groups and promote what is going on in a more co-ordinated manner</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Dalkeith will organize further community engagement events, one of which will be aimed at bringing together local groups to look at how best to improve communications and work together eg newsletter, facebook page, directory.</li> <li>• Dalkeith and District Community Council will review and improve the community notice boards.</li> <li>• Make the most of the local community radio, Black Diamond FM.</li> <li>• Approach the churches to find out what they are doing and include this in wider promotion of community led activity.</li> <li>• Encourage use of Social media as a key element of communication strategy e.g. electronic notice boards.</li> <li>• Make better use of the Advertiser.</li> <li>• Learn from other local initiatives e.g. Bonnyrigg Residents Forum Facebook.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential partners</b>	<b>Bill Russell Woodburn Youth Project, Dalkeith Thistle CYP, Boxing and Keep Fit clubs, Uniformed Youth Organisations, Y2K, MARC, Bike workshop, Midlothian Council, Police Scotland, NHS, Newbattle Abbey College, Churches, One Dalkeith, Dalkeith and District Community Council, Lothian Buses.</b>



## THEME 2: Safer Communities

“Fear of crime” is one of the main drivers for how safe people feel, rather than how much crime actually takes place. A key ingredient for creating strong, active and thriving communities is developing a sense of safety. With this in mind, a large percentage of the Participatory Budget funding has been directed toward supporting this theme. A range of activities that are aimed at encouraging and nurturing the members of our communities, especially young people, is just the beginning. From here we will reflect on what works, learn through listening and continue to improve on our ability to embrace and encourage everyone in our community.

Priorities	Actions required to take priorities forward
Increase police presence so people feel safer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work closer with the local beat officers.</li> <li>• Support Link Officers at the schools.</li> </ul>
Create activities for young people to engage them in a constructive way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with local organisations to create engagement opportunities.</li> <li>• Build on existing good practice eg late night swimming.</li> <li>• Encourage traditional uniformed organisations eg Brownies.</li> <li>• Work more collaboratively to maximize opportunities.</li> </ul>
Set up neighbourhood watch schemes in new housing developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make information available in relation to setting up new schemes.</li> <li>• Work with local police service to help with setting up schemes.</li> </ul>
Use detached youth workers to engage young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work collaboratively with the existing and any future detached youth workers.</li> </ul>
Support people in greatest need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness locally of agencies set up to support those who are affected by domestic abuse.</li> <li>• Raise awareness of support available to individuals and families eg Midlothian and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership MELDAP.</li> <li>• Promote and support peer support groups eg Horizons Café.</li> </ul>
Potential partners	Police Scotland, Community Safety, Community Justice Team, NHS, MELDAP, Horizons Café, Midlothian Council, Women’s Aid, Bill Russell Woodburn Youth Project, One Dalkeith, Dalkeith and District Community Council, local community groups and residents.



### THEME 3: Town Centre Improvements

Town Centre improvements have been hot topics for consideration and are in the top 3 of the most popular issues people voted on during the Open Day events. Improving the look of the town centre, encouraging more shops and improving parking behaviour are all important issues for people.

Something that can be worked on right away is to look at how to make the most of the existing community facilities, such as the Dalkeith Arts Centre, where more could be done to help it reveal its full potential as a community space. A partnership approach is essential if we are serious about making the positive changes needed and having the ability to encourage other businesses into the area.

Priorities	Actions required to take priorities forward
<b>Make the town centre more attractive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A feasibility study has been commissioned on the future of Dalkeith Town Centre. Woodburn/Dalkeith residents should be encouraged to voice their opinions on the proposals when these are made public.</li> </ul>
<b>Encourage a wider variety of shops</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One Dalkeith is working locally with High Street businesses to explore opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>Improve parking culture in the town centre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Midlothian Council with their plans to decriminalise parking offences which will result in robust enforcement of parking regulations.</li> <li>Promote and raise awareness of all available parking locally to make sure it is used effectively.</li> </ul>
<b>Brighten up the area with floral enhancements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community groups could work in partnership with Midlothian Council on this. The council has offered help with providing plants etc. but they would be looking for local help in maintaining them throughout the growing season.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential partners</b>	<b>Midlothian Council, community groups and local residents, local businesses and retailers, One Dalkeith, Dalkeith and District Community Council.</b>



## THEME 4: Health and Wellbeing

Making the most of unused outdoor spaces was one of the top ten most popular issues people voted on at the open days. This linked with a desire by many for a community garden space indicates that people are interested in spending time out of doors, whether to grow things, explore the pathways by walking or cycling or just enjoy keeping fit outdoors. This is a theme that has lots of potential for development and funding. By working together to identify opportunities through mapping the local area, a way forward can be found that will support an increase in the health and wellbeing of local people.

Priorities	Actions required to take priorities forward
<b>Affordable fitness classes and health opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness of existing opportunities.</li> <li>• Work with Midlothian Lifelong Learning to see how best to provide services.</li> </ul>
<b>Make the most of outdoor spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with appropriate organisations to carry out a mapping exercise locally to identify any unused spaces that exist and explore ideas for their best use for the benefit of the community.</li> <li>• Set up a community garden.</li> <li>• Create a green gym.</li> <li>• Create attractive outdoor spaces to be enjoyed by all.</li> <li>• Carry out further community engagement in order to find out what people would like to see happen and gather local support for projects that would be led and maintained by the community.</li> </ul>
<b>People being healthy and happy where they live</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote good communication using well located noticeboards and good use of social media is important so people know what's happening, and what they can get involved in locally.</li> <li>• Encourage people accessing local services and opportunities to improve their health – eg health checks, welfare rights advice, physical activity groups such as Ageing Well, stop smoking support, domestic abuse services, boxing club,</li> </ul>
<b>Promote cycle routes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council is embarking on an Active Travel Strategy this year and it is likely that additional short cycling links will be identified within Woodburn for consideration.</li> <li>• Relevant community groups to work with Midlothian Council to look at funding for the creation of new cycle paths.</li> <li>• Work with Midlothian Council to promote local cycle ways.</li> </ul>
<b>Accessible and affordable bikes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make links with the Bike workshop in Loanhead.</li> <li>• Maintain and support the Woodburn Youth Bike Workshop.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential partners</b>	<b>Midlothian Council, NHS Lothian, RUTS, local residents, Dalkeith and District Community Council, Paths for All, Greenspace Scotland, community organisations, Midlothian Association of Play (MAP).</b>



## THEME 5: Local Services

We need to work closely with Midlothian Council and other service providers to ensure that the issues raised by people throughout this process are not forgotten but duly considered, prioritized and acted upon. Progress may be made more readily where there is an opportunity for the community and the service providers to take their full share of responsibility for making our community cleaner and greener, better connected and our young people nurtured and encouraged.

Priorities	Actions required to take priorities forward
Public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to lobby for improved bus services to the outlying areas of Dalkeith and Woodburn.</li> <li>Investigate links to the Borders Railway and encourage people to come into the area.</li> <li>Encourage people to use public transport to ensure sustainable services can be provided.</li> </ul>
Promote Civic Pride!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make the most of floral displays.</li> <li>Link with Dalkeith History Society to promote the people of Dalkeith who have made a mark in society.</li> <li>Use promotional material to share civic pride stories.</li> <li>Support and promote local annual events.</li> </ul>
Reduce litter and dog fouling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve access to litter bins.</li> <li>Local group to join Keep Scotland Beautiful and undertake regular litter picks.</li> <li>Support ongoing education at primary schools.</li> <li>Work in partnership with the secondary schools, particularly where kids go out and purchase foods outside the schools, to campaign for a responsible attitude to dealing with waste packaging.</li> <li>Work with Midlothian Council to support the provision of new litter bins.</li> <li>Work with the Midlothian Council's Green Dog Walker Scheme to encourage people to pick up dog fouling.</li> <li>Ensure that information is available on how to dispose of larger items responsibly to avoid fly tipping.</li> </ul>
Cut back shrubbery to keep paths clear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Midlothian Council to highlight areas in most need of maintenance from Land and Countryside Services.</li> </ul>
Improve childcare provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome the new Family Learning Centre in Woodburn Primary School and encourage people to make the most of this new resource.</li> <li>Continue to support and encourage the local community run initiatives.</li> </ul>
Potential partners	Midlothian Council, Sure Start, Midlothian Travel Team, Lothian Buses Ltd, local groups, local residents, One Dalkeith, Dalkeith and District Community Council.

### Participatory Budget Awards for Early Actions

Coalfields Regeneration Trust as part of the action planning process provided £20,000 as a Participatory Budget to help local voluntary groups take early action on the themes and priorities that have been identified by the community. Midlothian Council match funded this budget which enabled the community to access £40,000. Listed below are all the groups which are now able to take action based on the 5 year plan.

Applicant	Name of Project
Pink Ladies 1st	New Equipment
One Dalkeith	Get Creative and Community Engagement
Dalkeith Miners CYP	New Equipment
5th Dalkeith Brownies	Sports, Science and Skills Development
Woodburn Family Fun Day	Woodburn Family Fun Day
Horizons Café	The Woodburn Recovery Drive
Bill Russell Woodburn Youth Project	Local environment improvements
Woodburn Womens Health and Motivation	New equipment
3rd Dalkeith Guides	Camping Equipment
Midlothian Association of Play	Out2Play in Thornybank Sq
Esk Place Tenants Association	New Greenhouse
Midlothian Amateur Boxing and Fitness Club	New Equipment
Bill Russell Woodburn Youth Project	Intergenerational & Youth Projects



# Making it Happen

This Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of Woodburn/Dalkeith over the next 5 years as identified by the community through an extensive process of community engagement carried out over a period of 6 months, June to November 2015.

## Going Forward

Following the production and launch of the plan in May 2016, the action plan will be progressed by the following:

1. **Presentation to the Community Planning Working Group for approval and to secure a commitment to the actions**
2. **Discussions with individual partnership agencies**
3. **Strengthen the steering group by engaging representatives from the Community Planning Partnership and from the local community.**

The Community Action Plan is not just for the few but for everyone. We hope you will read it, consider its content and help toward 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 Open Day a great success and to the local schools that enabled our young people to have their say. Thanks go to members of the community who contributed the images in this Action Plan. Special thanks go to Midlothian Council for match funding the Participatory Budget taking it from £20,000 to £40,000

There are 5 priority themes for action in this Community Action Plan:

1. **Community Facilities and Activities**
2. **Safer Communities**
3. **Town Centre improvements**
4. **Health and Wellbeing**
5. **Local Services**

To find out more information about the Action Plan or to volunteer with any projects please contact **WoodburnDalkeithActionPlan@gmail.com**



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The Registered Address is 1 Waterside Park, Valley Way, Wombwell, Barnsley



## Coalfields Community Futures

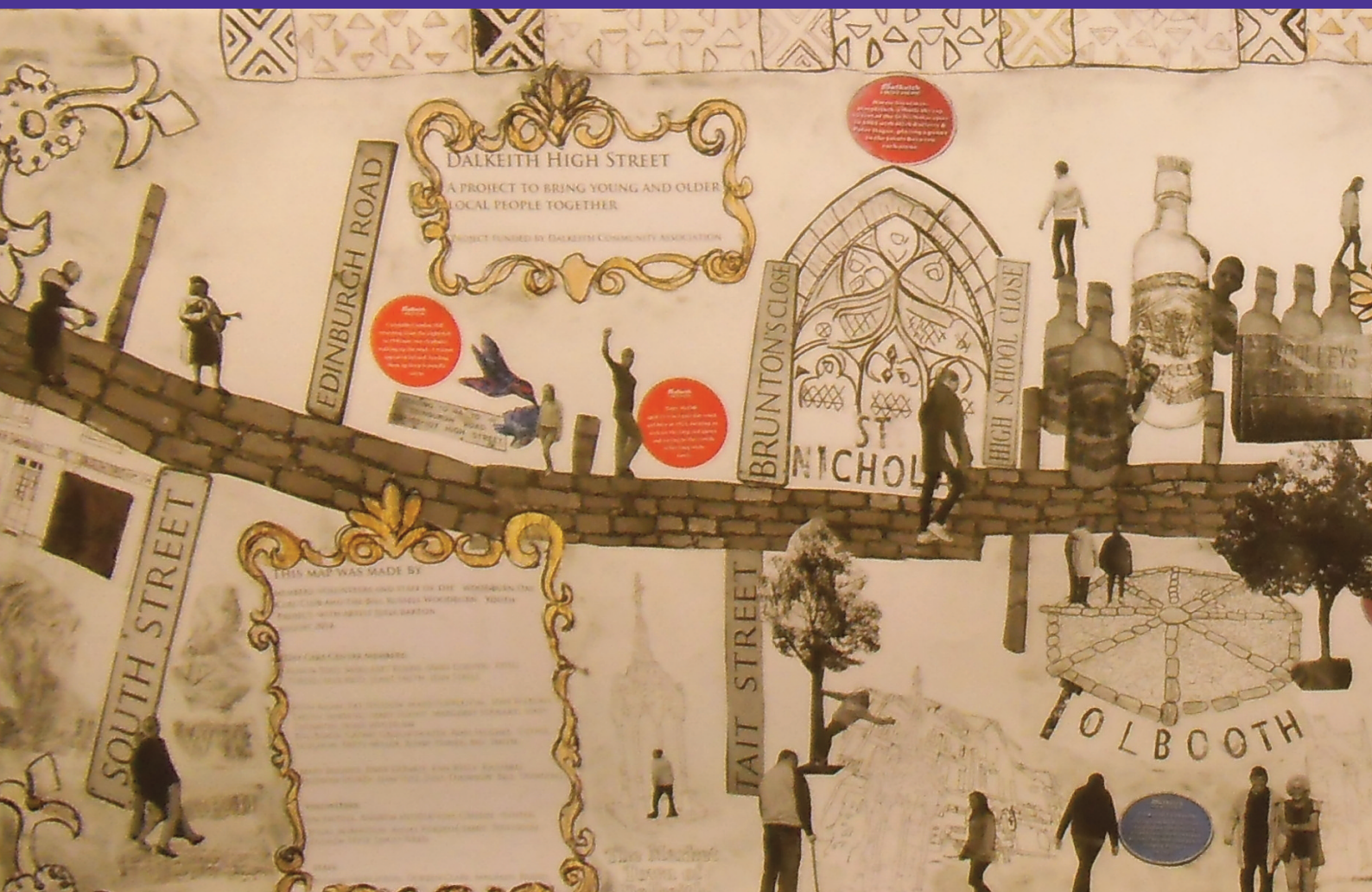
The Coalfields Community Futures Programme is an approach to local community planning and sustainable community development that aims to encourage active citizenship and build local democracy. It enables communities to devise a community action plan which makes a case for the things that the community 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 which is available to local constituted community or voluntary groups.

This budget enables the community to fund small projects that are identified by the community through the results of the household surveys and the Open Events.

These projects are aimed at being soon, seen and successful.



This banner was produced as part of an intergenerational project delivered by the Bill Russell Woodburn Youth Project and members and volunteers of Woodburn Day Care Club working with a local artist.