



# Loanhead Neighbourhood Plan Review

November 2014

# **LOANHEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW 2014**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Following a community consultation undertaken in 2011, a Neighbourhood Plan for the Loanhead & District Community Council area was published in April 2012. This was part of a community planning initiative with Neighbourhood Plans being produced in each of Midlothian's sixteen Community Council areas.

A Neighbourhood Plan allows the local community to identify local priorities and the changes, developments and improvements local residents would like to see happen. This is done through consultation with the local community aimed at finding out the most important issues that need to be addressed. The process is designed to help a variety of agencies to work together with local people to build strong, safe and attractive communities.

The Neighbourhood Plan for Loanhead has been reviewed in 2014. A Steering Group consisting of community representatives, together with representation from various public agencies, has undertaken the review. This group has conducted a consultation to discover the views of local residents on a range of issues. The consultation has included the delivery of questionnaires to all homes in Loanhead. The results of this consultation form the basis of the updated Neighbourhood Plan for Loanhead.

## **ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN THE 2012 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The 2014 review is intended to build upon and add to the findings of the 2012 Plan as opposed to supplanting it. The review has not set out to cover the same ground as the 2012 Plan. Many of the findings of that Plan are still entirely relevant and remain to be addressed. The 2014 Review should therefore be read in conjunction with the 2012 Plan with particular reference to the results concerning:-

- Loanhead Town Centre
- Parking in the Town Centre
- Cleanliness of the Local Environment
- Public Transport
- Roads & Pavements
- Education
- Health Services
- Social Housing
- Community Safety
- Services for Older People
- Access to Information
- Facilities for Young People (and the results of a separate consultation undertaken with young people).

## **POPULATION**

Using figures derived from the 2011 Census, Loanhead had a population at that time of 6,294. 18% of that population comprised children and young people. 59% comprised adults of working age. 23% comprised people of pensionable age which is higher than the national average.

Since March 2011, 36 new homes have been built in Loanhead. The Housing Land Audit for Midlothian indicates land for 204 new homes is available in Loanhead all of which are likely

to be built by 2021. The forthcoming Local Development Plan for Midlothian is likely to identify land for 25 additional homes, but with more possible through additional development opportunities further into the future.

In total, an estimate of additional homes in Loanhead from 2011 to 2021 would therefore be 265. The average number of persons per household in Loanhead is 2.2. If this ratio is maintained for both the existing and future housing stock, then the future population of Loanhead at approximately 2021 could be 6,877, an addition of 583 people.

## **ISSUES COVERED IN THE 2014 REVIEW**

The 2014 Review has been conducted against the background of proposals for the replacement of Paradykes Primary School, potentially including some form of community hub incorporating other community facilities. This could possibly involve the replacement or upgrading of existing community facilities such as the Leisure Centre, the Library, the Community Learning Centre and health facilities. The Review has therefore sought detailed views on community facilities.

The Review has also sought to address issues of community identity and community spirit, a number of traffic, highways and parking issues and particular environmental issues. It has also provided an opportunity for local residents to identify other issues and make suggestions on how Loanhead can be improved.

The intention of the Steering Group is that the Plan should define particular outcomes which will hopefully assist in delivering improvements at a local level.

## **THE RESPONDENTS**

Questionnaires were distributed to every home in Loanhead. Copies were also available from a number of public venues such as the Library, the Leisure Centre and the Kabin. The questionnaire could also be completed on-line. There was also a presence from the Steering Group at the Loanhead Street Fair in August 2014.

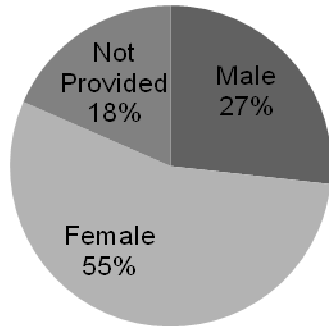
A total of 168 responses were received. 105 were in a paper format. 63 were submitted on line. 45 of the respondents were male and 92 female, although gender information was not provided by 31 respondents. The age breakdown of the respondents is as follows:-

Under 12	0	(0%*)
13-16	9	(5%*)
17-21	6	(4%*)
22-49	78	(47%*)
50-65	42	(26%*)
65+	29	(18%*)

Age information was not provided by 4 respondents.

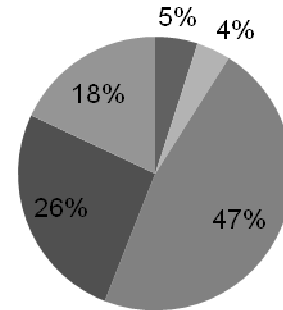
\* Percentage figures given are based on respondents to individual questions and ignore those who skipped the question.

## Gender



## Age of Respondents

■ 13-16 ■ 17-21 ■ 22-49 ■ 50-65 ■ 65+

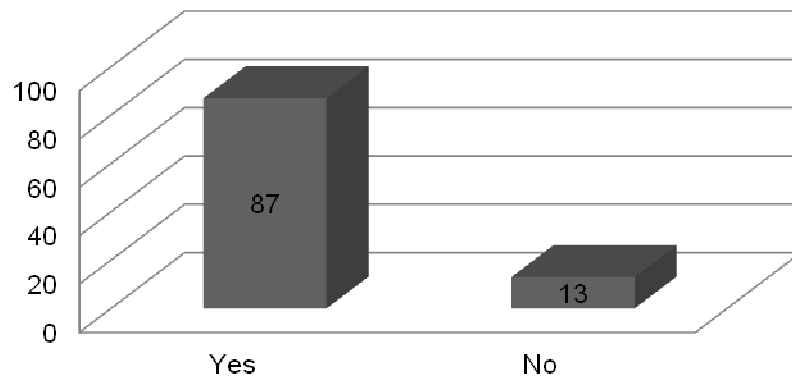


## THE LOANHEAD COMMUNITY

### Questions and Responses

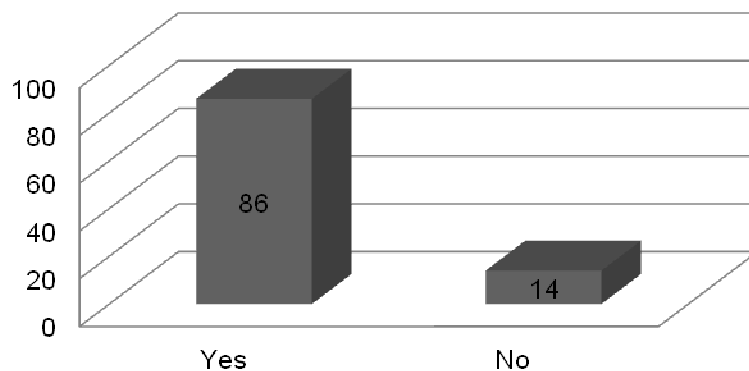
Respondents were asked a number of questions on issues relating to community identity and community spirit. The questions and responses were as follows:-

#### Do you think that Loanhead has a strong identity as a community?



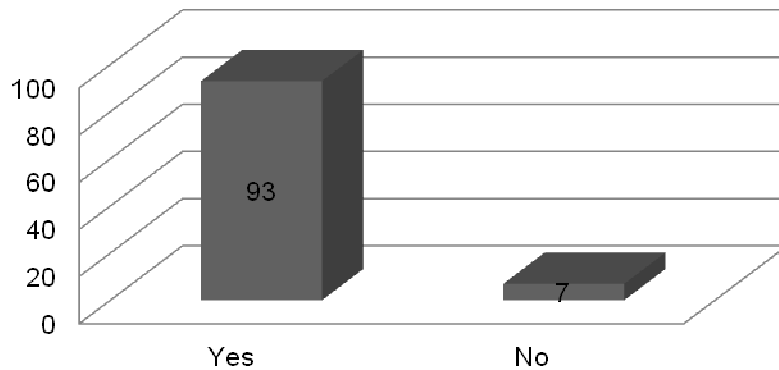
Total Responses 162 Yes 141 (87%\*) No 21 (13%\*)

#### Do you think that Loanhead has a good community spirit?



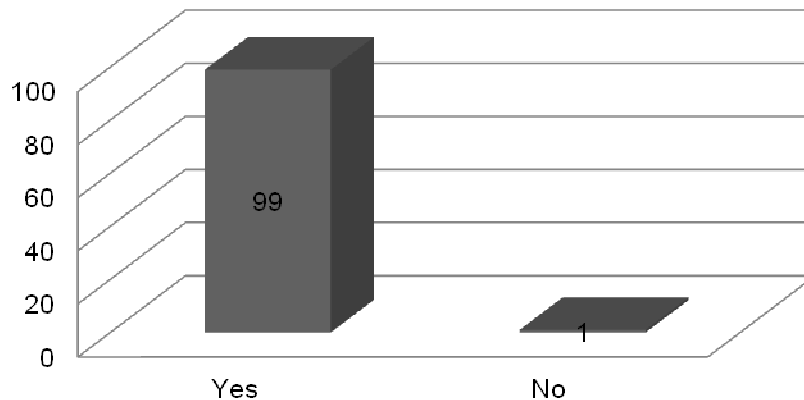
Total Responses 161 Yes 139 (86%\*) No 22 (14%\*)

**Do you think it is important to take steps to enhance and improve Loanhead's separate identity as a community and the town's community spirit?**



**Total Responses 161 Yes 149 (93%\*) No 12 (7%\*)**

**Do you think that events for the whole community such as the Gala Day and the Community Fireworks Display are of importance to the community?**



**Total Responses 160 Yes 158 (99%\*) No 2 (1%\*)**

\* Percentage figures given are based on respondents to individual questions and ignore those who skipped the question.

### **What things make you proud to be part of the Loanhead community?**

The Gala is obviously a source of great local pride. 31 respondents mentioned this as something which made them proud to be part of the Loanhead community. Community events generally are highly valued, 7 respondents referring to such events in a general sense or to events such as the Fireworks Display and 5 mentioned the manner in which the community rallies to attend and support such events.

*“The way the whole community comes together for the Gala Day – an outstanding community event, amongst the best in Scotland”;*

*“Admire people who have made the effort to keep things like the Gala Day going”;*

*“Community events like the Gala Day is something I grew up with and now my children are experiencing it”;*

*“the community pull together for things like the Gala Day and all activities surrounding Gala Week and Santa – more people could and should get involved as we have a very small amount of people doing a massive amount of work”.*

10 respondents referred to a long personal link with the community such as having been born in Loanhead and having lived here for all or most of their lives.

*"I was born here and have lived here all my life and just love the sense of community you don't get in the city".*

17 respondents mentioned Loanhead's community spirit. There were also 6 references to community identity and several references to the retention of local traditions, history and the heritage of the community.

*"strong community spirit and sense of belonging. History and heritage worth preserving and developing";*

*"It is a community";*

*"it's a friendly place and has a distinct identity";*

*"independent identity from an ever expanding Edinburgh".*

16 respondents referred to the friendly nature of the local community with others referring to a supportive community, a sense of togetherness and a nice atmosphere. 4 respondents simply said it was the people which made them proud of the Loanhead community and there were also references to people helping each other and people caring.

*"Very nice friendly place to live";*

*"Because the people are so friendly and helpful";*

*"friendly, caring community – very distinctive from other places we have lived"*

5 respondents made reference to Loanhead being a good place to bring up children and there was also comment on the community particularly caring for its children.

*"Fantastic place to bring up a family, love it";*

*"It's a great place to raise a family, couldn't name any other town that does so much for families!";*

*"children are at the heart of the community".*

A number of respondents expressed pride in the level of voluntary work going on in operating youth clubs, youth organisations and the football club and in activities in connection with the Parish Church and other community groups. One was proud of the way in which local organisations help one another.

*"In recent years I have found a strong voluntary working environment developing among many Loanhead residents particularly since the opening of the Kabin";*

*"Only moved here last year but impressed with how much there is going on";*

*"Most local people here help each other and want to look after our community area"*

8 respondents referred to their pride in local amenities whilst others made special mention of outdoor spaces and walkways, the public art works in the centre of the town and in still having local shops.

Although the vast majority of those who responded to this particular question were very positive, 3 respondents indicated they found little or nothing which made them proud to be part of the Loanhead community.

### **Actions Required**

93% of respondents consider it is important to take steps to enhance and improve Loanhead's separate identity as a community and the town's community spirit. 99% of respondents consider that events for the whole community such as the Gala Day and the Community Fireworks Display are of importance to the community.

What steps can be taken to enhance and improve our separate identity as a community, to boost the town's community spirit, to support and strengthen our existing community events and possibly to expand the existing portfolio of community events?

In May 1669 a Royal Charter was granted permitting the holding of a weekly market every Thursday and a free annual fair beginning on 8<sup>th</sup> October and lasting for three days in the Burgh and village of Loanhead in Lasswade. This was the first official recognition of Loanhead as a community of some note and importance and is therefore a hugely significant event in the history of the Burgh.

The 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the grant of the Charter was celebrated in 1969 with a programme of events arranged by the then Town Council. Illuminations were purchased from Blackpool and erected around the town centre for the Christmas and New Year period. Marquees were erected on vacant sites in the town centre with stalls and entertainment provided for the thousands of locals and visitors who attended on the evening when the ceremonial switch on took place.

The 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the grant of the charter will occur in 2019. This anniversary offers an excellent opportunity to celebrate the history, heritage and traditions of Loanhead. All of the developments and improvements which it is hoped will follow on from this Review could be built around a “**Loanhead 350**” celebration. This could include:-

- A gradual introduction of the various ideas and improvements identified in this Review over the period 2015-18 with the aim of having as many of them as possible in place by 2019.
- The new primary school and associated community facilities are due to be completed by 2017 and could therefore form part of this programme, with the new facilities being available for special events in 2019.
- The strengthening of existing community events.
- The introduction of new community events which would be expected to become annual events.
- The involvement of the local schools with local history projects being introduced in the curriculum.
- A special programme of events in 2019 itself.

To strengthen our community identity, special attention requires to be given to new housing developments on the outskirts of Loanhead and the new residents moving into these developments. We must ensure that these new residents consider that they are part of the Loanhead community.

Some residents in the Burnbank development have previously wondered whether or not they are part of Loanhead. The new developments at Ashgrove are situated outside of the current marked boundary of Loanhead on the road from Straiton. It is therefore suggested that the “Welcome to Loanhead” signage should be relocated to a point close to the roundabout at the top of the hill, with similar signage also being provided on the Edgefield Relief Road.

Similar steps could be taken on the road entering Loanhead from Nivensknowe with the boundary signage being moved towards Nivensknowe with a view to signalling to the businesses on the Bilston Glen and Pentland Industrial Estates that they are within Loanhead. Signage could also be erected close to the entrance to the Burnbank development to make clear that the area is within and part of Loanhead.

Within each of the Border Burghs a scheme has been adopted in recent years where street name signs adopt the colours of the town – green in Hawick, maroon in Galashiels, red in Peebles, blue in Innerleithen and so on and with each sign also incorporating the coat of arms of the former Burgh. This successfully reinforces local identity and it is suggested that this is a scheme which we could adopt using Loanhead’s colours of royal blue, white and



gold. New signage at the entry points to Loanhead could also adopt the same colour scheme and incorporate the former Burgh crest.

Again with a view to making new residents feel they are part of the local community, a welcome pack could be produced for distribution to each family as they move into their new home. This could provide information on local services, facilities, events and organisations. Perhaps the house builders would meet the cost of producing such a pack and arrange for copies to be distributed through the site sales office?

The devolution of certain decisions on local issues from Council officials to the local community would also help in reinforcing the town's separate identity. This would perhaps involve a body such as the Community Council deciding upon local priorities in certain areas and some items of expenditure.

The creation of the role of "Honorary Provost", perhaps filled by either a local Councillor or the Chair of the Community Council. Such a role exists in towns in other parts of Scotland and creates a "civic head" for ceremonial roles at local events.

As regards community events, Loanhead already has a fairly impressive portfolio headed by the Children's Day and associated Gala Week which, together with the visits made by Santa's Sleigh to all areas of the town, are organised by the Gala Committee. The Community Development Association has responsibility for the Street Fair and the Community Fireworks' Display. That organisation has also now assumed responsibility for organising the Remembrance Sunday Parade and has commenced a programme to replace the town's Christmas Lights which could in future give rise to the revival of an event to mark the switch on. There is also the Music Festival with its own organising body.

Many of these events require the assistance of volunteers to undertake a variety of tasks such as stewarding, deliveries of various printed materials to households throughout the town, erecting marquees, setting out and later removing equipment and many other such roles. The initiative of the Gala Committee and the Community Development Association to establish a Community Events Support Team of volunteers willing to turn out and assist with a variety of tasks should be supported. The successful establishment of such a team of volunteers would greatly improve the resilience and sustainability of these community events. It would also make the creation of new events as part of a Loanhead 350 programme much more feasible.

There is scope for the formation or re-establishment of a number of community organisations which could be viewed as representative of the local community and add to a sense of local identity. These could include a re-birth of Loanhead Mayflower FC as a junior football club, a pipe band based in the town, a Loanhead Community Choir and a community drama group.

A 5 year community regeneration programme (2015-19) could potentially qualify for grant funding from sources such as the Coalfield's Regeneration Trust's Community Futures Programme.

**The Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group suggest that the Loanhead Community Development Association should be the lead group to progress all of these actions, working with Midlothian Council, other public agencies and other local groups and organisations where necessary and appropriate.**

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN LOANHEAD

### Questions and Responses

In the period since the commencement of the review, Midlothian Council has secured Scottish Government funding to build a replacement for Paradykes Primary School with its associated Nursery School. Midlothian Council is currently considering the possible creation of a community hub incorporating a range of community facilities alongside the new school.

The construction of the new facility could therefore provide an opportunity to obtain some additional facilities. Respondents were asked, if there was an opportunity for additional facilities, which of the following did they consider should be included:-

- (a) A public hall suitable for large public events. **124 (74%\*\*)**
- (b) Meeting rooms available for use by a range of local groups. **111 (66%\*\*)**
- (c) Arts facilities. **60 (36%\*\*)**
- (d) Exhibition space. **59 (35%\*\*)**

\*\* Percentage figures given are based on the total of 168 who submitted a completed questionnaire.

Respondents were asked to identify additional youth facilities. Suggestions made and the numbers making those suggestions were as follows:-

- Youth Clubs/Activities 18
- Improved facilities for After School Club/Community Nursery 15
- Youth drop in cafe or similar 11
- Skatepark 9
- Meeting place for youth groups 4
- BMX track 3
- Support existing facilities (Kabin & Miners' Community Wing) 3
- Designated area for trail bikes 2
- Soft Play facilities 2
- Facilities for special needs children 2
- Scouts/Guides/Boys Brigade 2
- Dance & Drama facilities 2
- Church facilities for youth 1
- Leisure cafe associated with library 1
- Music group facilities 1
- Dry Play 1
- 2 respondents also suggested a specific youth consultation

Respondents were asked to identify additional sports facilities. Suggestions made and the numbers making those suggestions were as follows:-

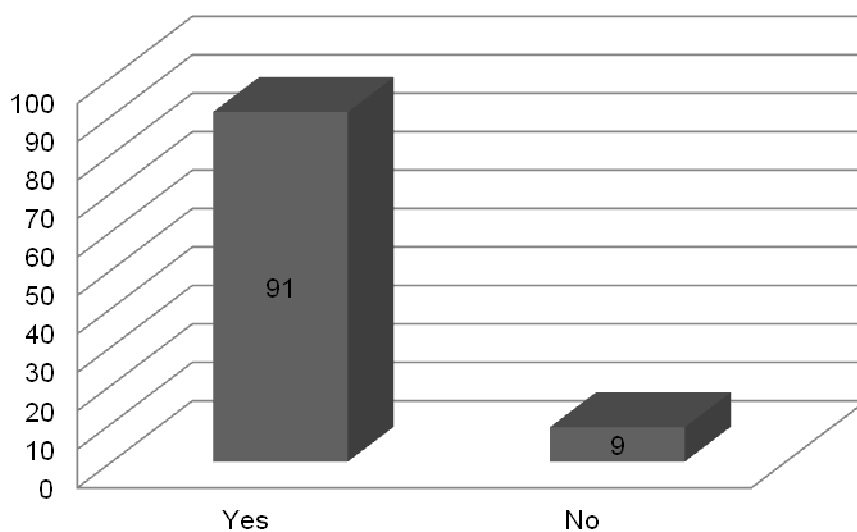
- Increased gym facilities 13
- Full size artificial football pitch 12
- New or refurbished Sports Centre/sports facilities 11
- Improved Swimming Pool 10
- Badminton Court 6
- Indoor Sports Hall 4
- Tennis Courts 4
- Indoor 5-a-sides 3
- Additional sports grounds/football pitches 3
- Squash Courts 2

Better use of existing facilities 2  
 Table Tennis 2  
 Increased sessions/classes at Leisure Centre 2  
 Basketball Court 1  
 Running Trail 1  
 Outdoor fitness equipment in parks for Adults 1  
 Free swimming in summer for children 1  
 Swimming lessons/pool time for teenagers 1  
 Jelly Club 1

Respondents were asked to identify other potential additional facilities. Suggestions made and the numbers making those suggestions were as follows:-

New/larger medical centre 7  
 New/expanded Library facilities 6  
 Dance Studio/classes 3  
 Physiotherapy services 2  
 Cafe/restaurant 2  
 Cafe with outdoor seating at Fountain Green 1  
 Juice/coffee bar at Sports Centre 1  
 Podiatry services 1  
 Music rehearsal rooms 1  
 Storage space for music and arts groups 1  
 Clubs for young adults 1  
 General performance space with performance/event facilities 1  
 Community hub (Library/Leisure Centre) 1  
 Theme Park 1  
 Replacement for Paradykes School 1  
 Additional play equipment at Hunter Avenue children's playground 1

Respondents were asked if they would consider it is essential that, in any new development, all existing facilities are maintained on a like for like basis with those currently provided. The response was very much in the affirmative.



**Total Responses 150 Yes 136 (91%\*) No 14 (9%\*)**

\* Percentage figures given are based on respondents to individual questions and ignore those who skipped the question.

### **Actions Required**

Approximately three quarters of all respondents support the inclusion in any new development of a public hall suitable for large public events. Two thirds of respondents support the provision of meeting rooms. This indicates strong support within the community for the inclusion in any new development of a building which would form a new Loanhead Town Hall, effectively replacing the building demolished a number of years ago.

The responses also indicate support for the provision of the following facilities, either as part of any new community hub development or elsewhere in Loanhead:-

Facilities for youth activities including a drop in cafe or similar.

An enhanced Leisure Centre incorporating increased gym facilities, an improved swimming pool and a sports/games hall.

Improved facilities for the After School Club and Community Nursery.

A full size artificial football pitch and/or additional grass pitches.

A skatepark.

A new and larger medical centre with an expanded range of facilities and services.

Enhanced library facilities.

Arts facilities.

Exhibition space.

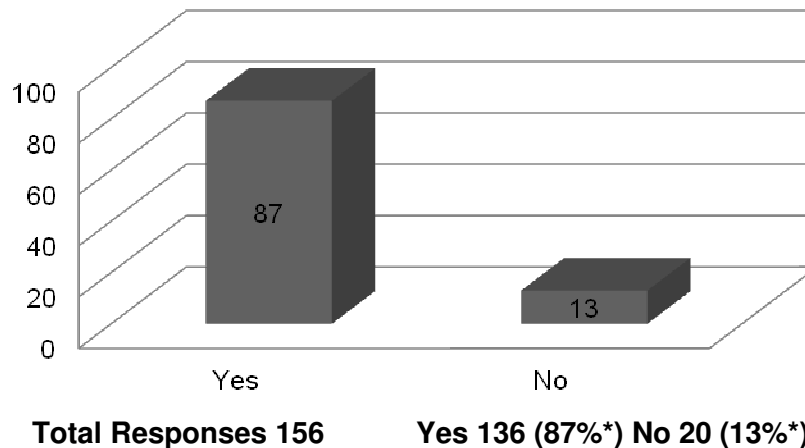
<p><b>The Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group presents the findings on Community Facilities to Midlothian Council with a request that these findings are taken fully into account in determining the course of action to be followed in the development of community facilities in connection with the replacement of Paradykes Primary School.</b></p>
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## TRAFFIC / HIGHWAYS / PARKING ISSUES

### Questions and Responses

Respondents were asked if they would support the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in all residential side streets throughout Loanhead.

Would you support the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in all residential side streets throughout Loanhead?



\* Percentage figures given are based on respondents to individual questions and ignore those who skipped the question.

Where traffic calming is considered necessary, respondents were asked to indicate the type which is most desirable. The responses were:-

“Sleeping policemen” extending over only part of the width of the road. **55**

Raised tables or humps extending over the entire width of the road. **62**

Priority chicanes. **35**

Aside from the main area of local shops in Clerk Street (where congestion was identified in the previous Neighbourhood Plan) respondents were asked to identify other places in Loanhead where there are particular issues with parking and where they consider some remedial measures are required. The areas identified and the numbers referring to each location were as follows:-

Polton Road in the vicinity of the LO-GY centre 21  
Mayburn Avenue/Walk (Paradykes Primary School/LCLC/Kabin) 13  
Mayburn Avenue (Mayburn shops) 11  
Fountain Place (Dental Surgery) 9  
Loanhead Primary School/Edgefield Road 6  
George Drive 5  
The Loan (Post Office) 5  
Mayburn Avenue (Sutherland House) 3  
Gaynor Avenue 3  
Kennington Avenue (Hermon Hall/Bowling Club) 2  
Paradykes Avenue 2  
George Avenue 2

Hunter Terrace 2  
 The Loan (at Miners' Club) 2  
 Park Crescent 1  
 Hawthorn Gardens (Trust Housing) 1  
 Hunter Avenue 1  
 Mayburn Terrace 1  
 Mayshade Road 1  
 Mayburn Avenue (general) 1  
 Engine Road 1  
 Dryden Avenue 1  
 High Street (at former Post Office) 1  
 The Loan (at Parish Church) 1  
 Mavisbank (lack of parking bays for residents at certain points) 1  
 Burghlee Terrace/Crescent 1  
 Church Street (non enforcement of time limits at parking bays at Fountain Green resulting in long term usage) 1  
 On football pitches at Burghlee 1  
 Too many cars parking on pavements 1

A number of other traffic issues were also highlighted, being:-  
 Need to re-open road at Dryden Terrace (access to Pentland Industrial Estate and adjacent retail units) with possible restrictions on commercial vehicles 9  
 Encourage greater use of driveways/off street parking for residents' cars 2  
 Possible use of one way systems in certain streets such as Gaynor Avenue/Paradykes Avenue 2  
 Tight openings onto The Loan 1  
 Speed bumps too close to the Kennington Avenue junction with The Loan) 1  
 Issues arising from speed of vehicles entering Muirfield Gardens from The Loan 1  
 Need for a pedestrian crossing at Hawthorn Gardens 1  
 Traffic failing to stop at the Burghlee Terrace/Church Street junction 1  
 Encourage use of Edgefield Road to bypass town centre 1

A very considerable majority of respondents favour the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in all residential side streets. Views on the best method of traffic calming are however fairly evenly divided. Although the issue of traffic calming was raised on the basis of selecting the best method where it is acknowledged that traffic calming is required, some respondents did indicate a preference for having no such measures in place.

The 2012 report indicated that many people considered the state of repair of roads to be bad or very bad and issues concerning road maintenance and potholes have again surfaced in the course of the review. Streets with "sleeping policemen" such as George Drive and George Avenue are amongst those where road surfaces are currently extremely poor and the existence of these traffic calming measures may be contributing to maintenance problems by concentrating the positioning of vehicle wheels on certain parts of the carriageway.

As regards parking issues away from Clerk Street, four particular "hotspots" have been identified, being Polton Road in the vicinity of the LO-GY centre; Mayburn Avenue/Walk in the area adjoining Paradykes Primary School/LCLC/the Kabin; Mayburn Avenue in the vicinity of Mayburn shops and Fountain Place in the vicinity of the Dental Surgery. Ten other locations received more than single mentions. Particular problems arise with residents' parking in residential areas developed prior to the 1960's (i.e. prior to the era of mass car ownership).

## **Actions Required**

With all of the various parking issues and various other traffic issues highlighted by respondents, it would appear appropriate to formulate a comprehensive traffic management plan for Loanhead, with further consultation being undertaken where appropriate with residents in particular streets and locations on individual issues and suggestions. Issues to be addressed could include:-

- The introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in all residential side streets.
- Consider the re-opening of Dryden Terrace to through traffic.
- Consider changing Muirfield Gardens to two way operation, possibly with a “no right turn” arrangement for traffic emerging onto The Loan and a “no right turn” arrangement for traffic travelling westwards on Burghlee Terrace (thus limiting the use of Muirfield Gardens for northbound traffic to that travelling from Burghlee Terrace/Crescent and Park View).
- Identify areas in side streets where additional parking spaces can be created for residents by forming parking bays in areas currently occupied by grassed areas of public amenity land. The area on the bend of Dryden Avenue is one such possibility.
- Consider the traffic arrangements to apply in Edgefield Road following the opening of the Edgefield Relief Road, including the possibility of closing Edgefield Road on the western side of the junction with Edgefield Industrial Estate/access to the relief road (thus making Edgefield Road a cul-de-sac) or alternatively introducing a one way section between the entrance to the school campus and the junction with Edgefield Industrial Estate/access to the relief road.
- Measures to address the parking problems at Polton Road in the vicinity of the LO-GY Centre which could include (a) no waiting restrictions on one side of Polton Road between the junction with Mavisbank and the Police Station and (b) liaising with the management of the LO-GY Centre to have them direct their customers to appropriate locations for parking and in particular to discourage dangerous and inconsiderate parking on the corner of Polton Road and Church Street.
- Ensuring that issues concerning car drop off/pick up zones for Paradykes Primary School and parking for the shops at Mayburn are satisfactorily addressed in the design of the layout for the new school and other facilities on the King George V Park site. In conjunction with such matters and parking arrangements for these facilities, the immediately adjacent roadway may require to be re-aligned and the issue of the poorly maintained car park adjacent to the Mayburn shops should be addressed.
- Measures to address the parking problems at Fountain Place which could include no waiting restrictions on one side of Fountain Place between Clerk Street and the junction with Edgefield Road. When the site currently occupied by the Library HQ and former Social Work offices comes to be redeveloped, hopefully this can include a public car park which can be used by patients at the dental surgery, persons attending services at St Margaret’s Church and generally for town centre shopper parking.
- Consider a one way arrangement in Gaynor Avenue and Paradykes Avenue (westbound traffic in one and eastbound in the other). This would allow for the formation of residents’ parking bays occupying one side of each street and with sections of such bays on alternating sides of the street to create a chicane effect and assist in reducing traffic speed.
- Measures to address the problem of traffic emerging from Burghlee Terrace into Church Street without slowing or stopping to give way to traffic travelling from Polton Road. These measures could include the repositioning of the Give Way sign at the foot of Burghlee Terrace in order that it is much more prominent and better road markings at the junction.
- A review of all existing traffic calming measures.
- Consideration of a means of enforcing parking regulations following the removal of Police Traffic Wardens.

**The Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group suggest that the Loanhead & District Community Council should be the lead group to progress all of these actions, working with Midlothian Council, other public agencies and other local groups and organisations where necessary and appropriate.**

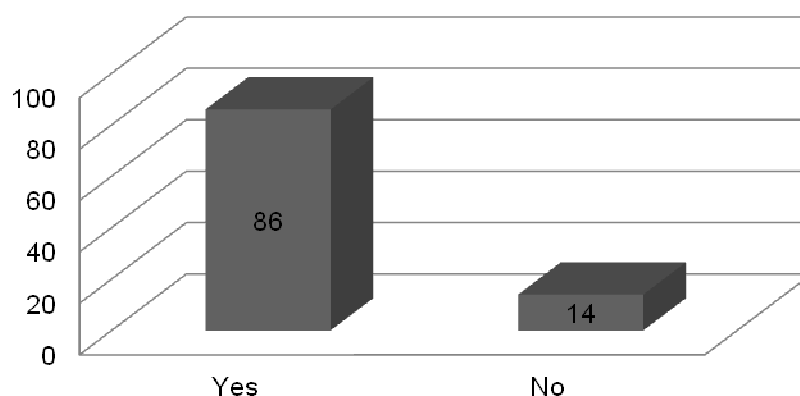


## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### Questions and Responses

Council cutbacks are resulting in a reduction of formal planted flowerbeds in parks and other public spaces. Respondents were asked if they would support members of the community taking responsibility for certain flowerbeds to allow them to be retained and even enhanced.

**Would you support members of the community taking responsibility for certain flowerbeds to allow them to be retained and even enhanced?**



**Total Responses 149 Yes 128 (86%\*) No 21 (14%\*)**

\* Percentage figures given are based on respondents to the individual question and ignore those who skipped the question.

Dog Fouling was identified as an issue in the 2012 report. The issue has again been raised by a number of respondents. Whilst there remains an issue as regards dog fouling, it appears that a larger number of dog owners are now cleaning up after their pets. This has however given rise to a new problem with dog owners picking up and bagging dog waste but then not disposing of that bagged waste in an appropriate manner. A number of respondents are now calling for the provision of more bins for dog waste.

Litter was also an issue identified in the 2012 report and one which continues to be raised by respondents.

### Actions Required

There is clearly a high level of support for members of the community taking over responsibility for the maintenance of flowerbeds in parks and public spaces. It will be necessary to identify locations where such flowerbeds and the like are to be removed from Council maintenance and are essentially available for "adoption" by groups of residents.

It will then be necessary to create a process to identify volunteers in particular areas of Loanhead who would become responsible for one or more flower beds and establish a procedure for the operation of such groups with liaison with the Council in relation to the provision of plants and possibly tools.

A strategy requires to be developed to deal with a range of environmental issues including:-

1. Feature floral displays at prominent new locations such as the roundabout at Pentland Retail Park (McDonalds) and the grassed area at Nivensknowe. Also the introduction of planters at appropriate locations. These ventures could involve community volunteers and commercial sponsorship.

2. A gardens competition for householders throughout Loanhead.
3. With local communities in other parts of Midlothian understood to be considering arrangements for the involvement of community volunteers with formal planted areas and the like, Midlothian Council could perhaps be approached to organise a “Midlothian in Bloom” competition. Awards gained by communities are likely to encourage involvement in community initiatives and will also assist with issues concerning community identity and pride in local communities. This could develop to see communities such as Loanhead participating in national competitions of this nature.
4. The provision of more and perhaps larger bins for dog waste in areas commonly used by dog walkers with appropriate arrangements for the regular emptying of these bins.
5. A partnership with Sainsburys, ASDA, Costco, Pentland Retail Park, etc to deal with the issue of shopping trolleys regularly abandoned around Loanhead. These businesses could perhaps fund the provision of a pick up van which could be used by local volunteers to uplift and return shopping trolleys in addition to supporting other community ventures such as community litter picks, the scheme for community maintenance of flower beds, etc and the community events support team.
6. Creation of appropriate locations to house waste bins for commercial and domestic premises in the town centre to allow these to be removed from prominent locations in Clerk Street.
7. A general “spruce up” of the town centre. For example the feature lamp standards introduced in the town centre as part of a previous upgrade have not been painted for many years.

**The Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group suggest that the Loanhead Community Development Association should be the lead group to progress the use of community volunteers to maintain flowerbeds in parks and public spaces and also actions 1, 2, 3 and 5 above, working with Midlothian Council, other public agencies and other local groups and organisations where necessary and appropriate.**

**The Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group suggest that the Loanhead & District Community Council should be the lead group to progress actions 4, 6 and 7 above, working with Midlothian Council, other public agencies and other local groups and organisations where necessary and appropriate.**

## GENERAL

Respondents were asked to detail any other ideas or suggestions which they may wish to put forward which they consider would benefit or improve Loanhead. The ideas and suggestions made are as follows with the numbers indicating the number of respondents who mentioned any particular item.

Improved maintenance of highways and pavement surfaces / attend to pot holes 7  
Provision of a Town Hall/hub 4  
More bins for dog waste 5  
Campaign against dog fouling/dog warden 3  
Enforcement of dog fouling penalties 2  
Re-establish a junior football club (Loanhead Mayflower) 2  
Better maintenance (unblocking) of rainwater gulleys in streets 3  
Traffic Wardens to police parking regulations 2  
Theatre / Cinema 3  
Redevelopment of vacant Clerk Street site 2  
No more housing developments on farmland/green belt 3  
Better maintenance of grass verges, public planted areas 2  
Appointment of a "Clerk of Works" for the town to identify maintenance and repair issues and have these attended to 1  
Car exclusion zone for school drop off/pick up 1  
Establish a Pipe Band 1  
Use of the unemployed to undertake tasks for the community 1  
Provision of display board in the town centre detailing walks and places of interest 1  
Regenerate Mayburn shops 1  
Improve retail offering in town centre 2  
Bus service connecting to Lothian Road/Tollcross 1  
Bus service connecting to Royal Infirmary 1  
More Council housing (private lets too expensive) 1  
A High School 2  
Stop vandalism 1  
A water park 1  
More security / CCTV 1  
Retain Burghlee Farm / old colliery area with access for use of dog walkers, joggers, etc 1  
Remove tip at Edgefield Road 1  
Fruit/vegetable/flower beds – community gardens 1  
Removal of rubbish bins (for shops/houses) in Clerk Street 1  
Community litter picking 1  
More litter bins 3  
Address problem of "McDonald's litter" 1  
Residents take over maintenance of common areas currently maintained by the Council (eg in Mayburn estate) 1  
Ban horses from the railway walkway 1  
Address the issue of abandoned supermarket trolleys 1  
More Police on the beat 2  
Become a green nursery 1  
Annual picnic 1  
Gala Day to include children living in Loanhead but not attending local schools 1  
Fountain Green stage to be "dressed" when not in use 1  
Wildlife flower beds in parks are eyesores and should be removed – parks not large enough for these 1  
Upgrade/replace Christmas Lights 1

Better crèche times at Sports Centre 1  
Revamp LO-GY Centre 1  
Keep Ex-Servicemen's Club open 1  
Joint schools' activities 1  
Too many licensed premises 1  
Cut back bushes on walkways 1  
Better parking facilities 1  
Address issue of litter left by football teams on pitches 1  
Incentive for residents to keep gardens tidy 1  
Promotion of Community Council 1  
Attend to overhangs from gardens onto pavements 1  
Promote better community understanding of plans for homeless accommodation 1  
Ensure new building developments are in keeping with the surroundings 1  
Keep services together 1  
Direct access from Fountain Green to railway walkway 1  
Quarterly community newsletter 1

Many of the issues and ideas raised in this section have been covered in actions suggested elsewhere in the report. The suggestion to appoint a "Clerk of Works" for the town to identify maintenance and repair issues and have these attended to would link to issues such as maintenance of highways, pavements and rainwater gulleys. This could also link in to an expanded role for the Community Council with responsibility for various issues being devolved to local levels.

**The Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group suggest that the Loanhead & District Community Council should be the lead group to progress the actions detailed in the immediately preceding paragraph, working with Midlothian Council, other public agencies and other local groups and organisations where necessary and appropriate.**

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW STEERING GROUP

Chair:	<b>Alan McLaren</b> (Chair, Loanhead Community Development Association & Treasurer, Loanhead Gala)
Other Members:	<b>Jill Peacock</b> (Secretary Loanhead & District Community Council and Secretary Loanhead Community Development Association) <b>Irene Hogg MBE</b> (Head of Establishment, Loanhead After School Club & Community Nursery and Vice Chair Loanhead Community Development Association) <b>Peter Frame</b> (Secretary Loanhead MW Youth FC and Community Councillor) <b>Eric Monteith</b> (Loanhead Parish Church and Rotary Club of Loanhead & Roslin) <b>Margaret Pow</b> (The Kabin) <b>Allan Johnston</b> (President, Loanhead MW Youth FC) <b>Helen Evans</b> (Chair, Paradykes Primary School Parent Council) <b>Councillor Owen Thompson</b> (Leader, Midlothian Council and local elected member) <b>Robin Henderson</b> (MacTaggart Scott Loanhead Band and Loanhead Brass Roots) <b>Peter Collins</b> (Sutherland House Patient Participation Group and Community Councillor) <b>Annabel Cavaroli</b> (Librarian, Loanhead Branch Library) <b>Nan Haddow</b> (Loanhead SWRI)
Supported by representatives from public agencies:	<b>Tony Malone</b> (Midlothian Council Sport & Leisure Services) <b>Derek Welsh</b> (Midlothian Council Regeneration Team) <b>Tracy McLeod</b> (NHS Lothian) <b>Clare Taylor-Brown</b> (Midlothian Council Community Learning & Development) <b>PC Kenny Eccles</b> (Police Scotland - Community Police Officer for Loanhead)

\* Percentage figures given are based on respondents to individual questions and ignore those who skipped the question.

\*\* Percentage figures given are based on the total of 168 who submitted a completed questionnaire.

All percentage numbers are rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ACTIONS	LEAD GROUP OR AGENCY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “Loanhead 350” project to mark and celebrate the grant of the Royal Charter in 1669.</li> <li>• Relocation of Loanhead boundary signage.</li> <li>• Street name signage reflecting local identity.</li> <li>• Welcome pack for residents in new developments.</li> <li>• Other projects to strengthen local identity.</li> <li>• Community Events Support Team and other support for community events.</li> <li>• Encourage and support the formation of new community groups.</li> </ul>	Loanhead Community Development Association
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of new or additional community facilities, in particular arising in connection with the project for a replacement of Paradykes Primary School.</li> </ul>	Midlothian Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic Management Plan for Loanhead to progress parking and other traffic issues identified in the report.</li> </ul>	Loanhead & District Community Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community taking responsibility for flowerbeds in parks and other public spaces.</li> <li>• Floral displays in other locations.</li> <li>• Gardens and other related competitions.</li> </ul>	Loanhead Community Development Association
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of a community vehicle to support community events and projects.</li> </ul>	Loanhead Community Development Association
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog waste bins.</li> <li>• Locations for waste bins serving commercial and domestic premises in the town centre.</li> <li>• General town centre maintenance issues.</li> <li>• Identifying and reporting maintenance and repair issues in public areas throughout the town.</li> </ul>	Loanhead & District Community Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review of progress on all actions (November 2015)</li> </ul>	Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group

