

ESKBANK AND NEWBATTLE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

FIVE YEAR PLAN: 2014-2018

PRODUCED BY

Eskbank and Newbattle Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Midlothian Moving Forward
Community Planning for Midlothian

A scenic view of a large, historic stone building with a prominent tree in the foreground, reflected in a body of water. The building is a grand, multi-story structure with many windows and a central tower. The tree is large and has vibrant autumn foliage. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the building and the tree. The sky is a clear, light blue.

**THE KIND OF PLACE WE
WOULD LIKE ESKBANK AND
NEWBATTLE TO BE:
OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE**



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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION



Midlothian Moving Forward, the Community Planning Partnership, is committed to placing communities at the heart of community planning. This involves producing neighbourhood plans in each of Midlothian's Community Council areas.

This plan is focussed on the Eskbank and Newbattle Community Council area.

A Neighbourhood Plan describes the area it serves and lists the changes, developments and improvements local residents would like to see happen. This is done through consultation involving both public meetings and questionnaires 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.

A steering group consisting of community representatives working in partnership with different agencies was formed to develop and undertake the consultation process and to take forward this plan.

In setting up the Community Planning Partnership process, Midlothian Moving Forward has established the following priorities:

- Adult Health and Social Care
- Children's Services

- Maximising Business Opportunities
- Ensuring the local area is a safe and attractive place to live, work grow up in and visit
- Improving opportunities
- Conserving and Improving Midlothian's Environment

These priorities have guided both the process of consultation and the reporting of findings described in this document.



ESKBANK AND NEWBATTLE AREA PROFILE

- Community council boundary does not fit easily with the data zones.
- Population – Approximately 5,634 increase by 17% 2001-2010
- More under 16s (than national figures)
- More older people (consistent with national figures and both are increasing)
- Fewer people between 17 and 60 living in the area.

ETHNICITY

- 1.8% of Midlothian population comprises ethnic minorities. This does not include Gypsy/Traveller communities data
- UK wide figures indicate an increased minority in ethnic populations which includes European Union communities

POVERTY AND DEPRIVATION

- Based on indicators such as Income, Employment, Education, Housing, Crime and Health. Eskbank and Newbattle are not areas of deprivation (no data zones in 20% of most deprived areas in Scotland).

PRIMARY EDUCATION

- Eskbank and Newbattle residents live in the catchment area for two primary schools Kings Park and St. David's
- Education Scotland (formally HMIE) carried out inspections at:
 - Kings Park Primary School - May 2006
 - St. David's Primary School – June 2011

SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Residents live in the catchment areas for two secondary schools in this area

- Dalkeith High and St. David's High
- Pupils who live in Eskbank and Newbattle area would normally attend these schools
- Attendance rate for pupils living in this area is 94.13%, compared to 91.73% for Midlothian and 91.15% for Scotland

EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS

- There are approximately 65 individuals within this area claiming Jobseekers allowance
- This figure has remained stable between 2010 and 2012, at 3%, which is lower than the Midlothian and Scottish average (4.5% and 4.4% respectively)



HOUSING

- There are 2,434 dwellings in Eskbank and Newbattle (2010 figure)
- The majority are bands D-H council tax dwellings
- Over a third (36%) are detached properties
- 56% of properties are 4–6 bedrooms

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Population of children (0-5years) has increased slightly between 2003 – 2010 (939 compared to 1.090)

- Fewer young women than the national /Midlothian average in this area smoke whilst pregnant
- Breast feeding rates are higher in comparison to Midlothian and Scotland with 64% mothers breastfeeding at their first review compared to 48% for Midlothian and 47% for Scotland

CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

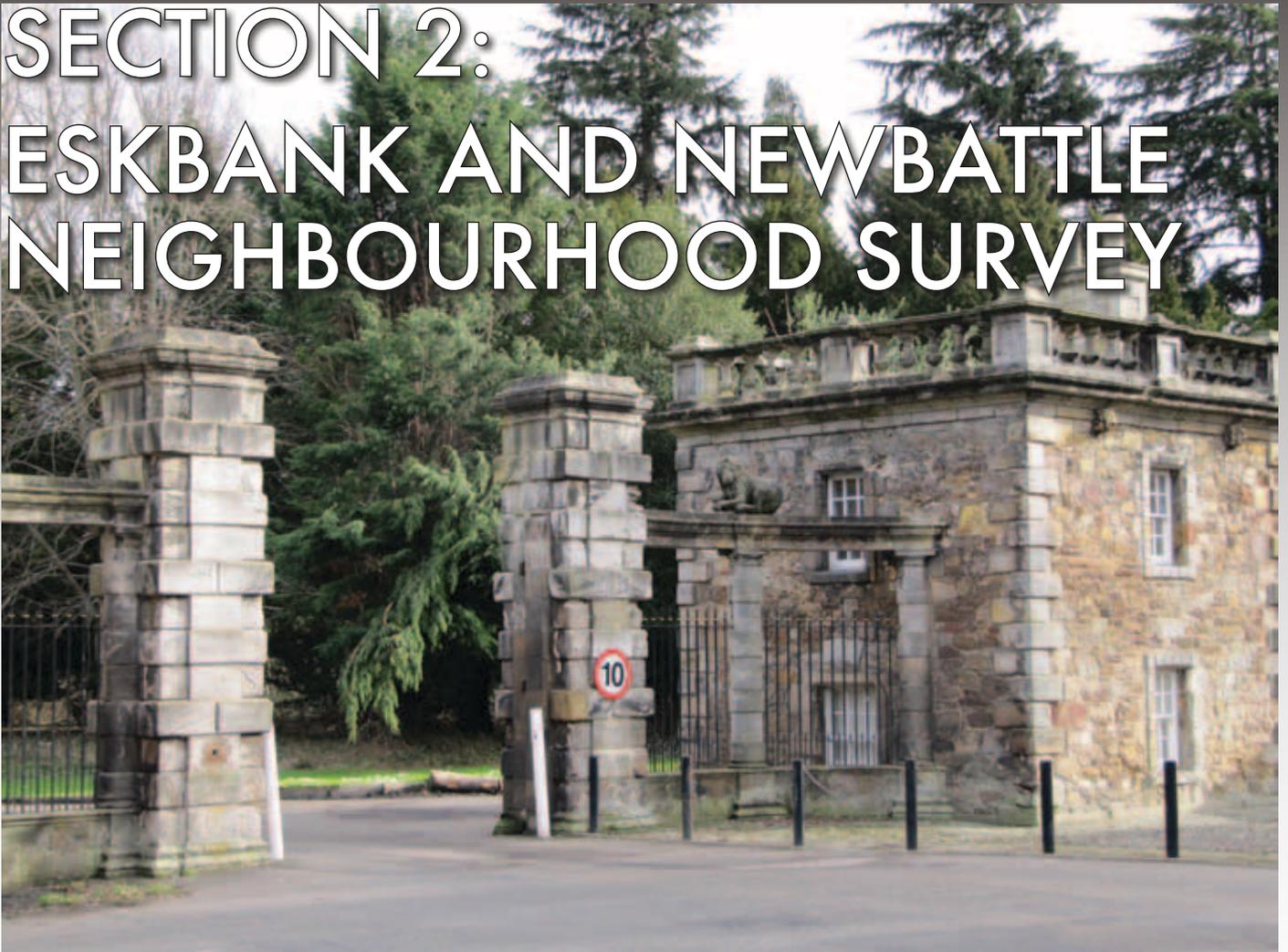
- There were 1,321 crimes committed in the Eskbank and Newbattle area between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011 as recorded by Lothian and Borders Police now Police Scotland

- The most common types of crime, vandalism accounted for 19% all crimes committed in the area (eg smashing windows of houses, car wing mirrors, smashing window/ windscreen of vehicles)

TRANSPORT LINKS

- Close proximity to City Bypass
- Served by various bus services across Midlothian and to the Borders and into Edinburgh
- Waverley Rail Line due to open in 2015

SECTION 2: ESKBANK AND NEWBATTLE NEIGHBOURHOOD SURVEY



The steering group agreed the content of the questionnaire which was publicised through the local press, on posters throughout the area and on the Midlothian Council website. The questionnaire was available to complete on line and a number were posted to households. These were chosen through a selection process of identifying particular streets to cover a representation of the local community.

Brief summary of the survey results:

- Response rate of 29% - almost 20% more than the average
- Gender Split was: 55% Women and 45% Male
- More than half (52%)

respondents were over 60 and only 2% were from the under 25 age group

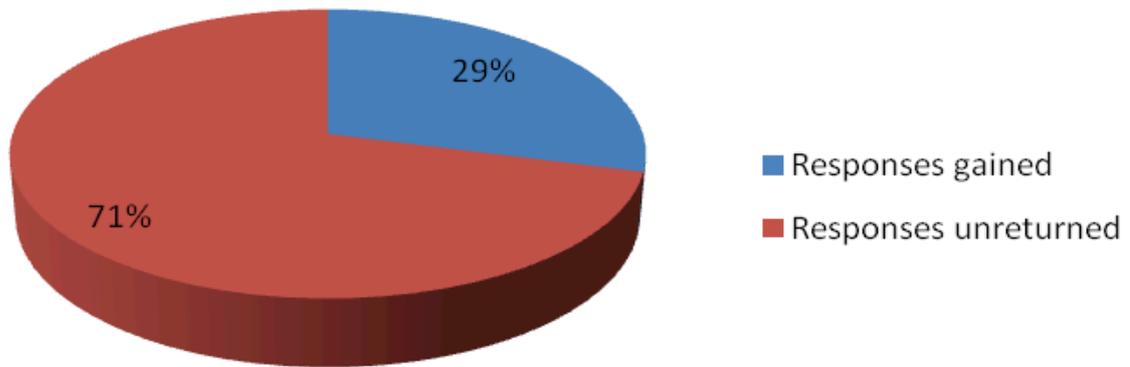
- 90% of people completing the questionnaire came from the Eskbank and Newbattle area.
- Most respondents (76%) worked in the area.
- 2% considered themselves to be from a Minority Group.
- 6% considered themselves to have a disability.
- Although more than half of respondents were in the over 60s age group only 13% thought that there were insufficient facilities for elderly and disabled members of the community.
- 2/3 of people felt safe in their community and a similar

number thought that there were 'adequate' medical facilities in the Eskbank and Newbattle area.

- More than half of those returning the questionnaire believed that there should be no further development in the area (although the survey does not specify 'development').
- One third of people surveyed thought that play facilities for children were 'lacking' and a further third thought they were 'average'.
- More than half thought that amenities for adults and teenagers were 'poor'.
- Half of those surveyed indicated that they had no concerns about the impact of the Borders Railway line.

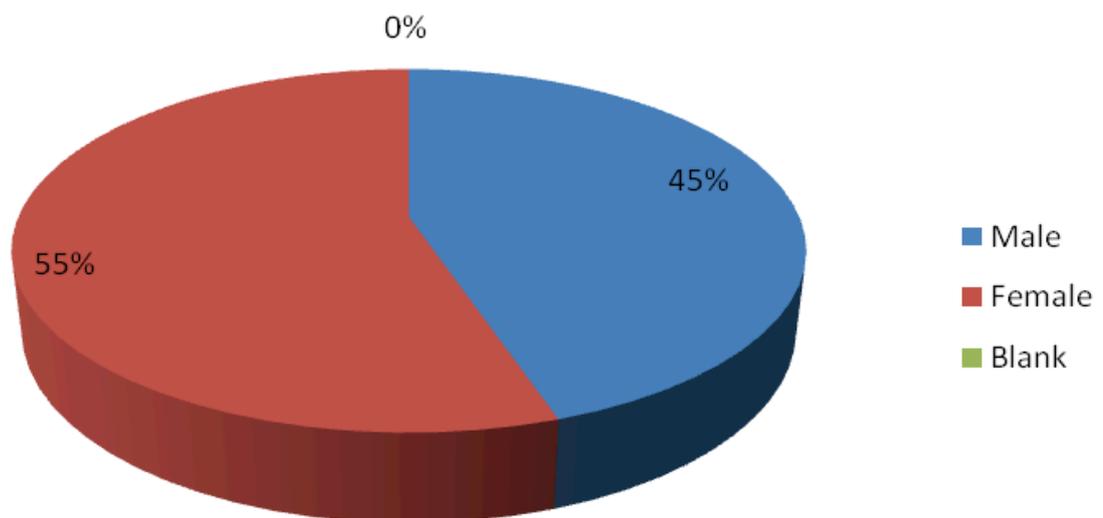
ESKBANK AND NEWBATTLE NEIGHBOURHOOD SURVEY – RESULTS

Survey Response Rate

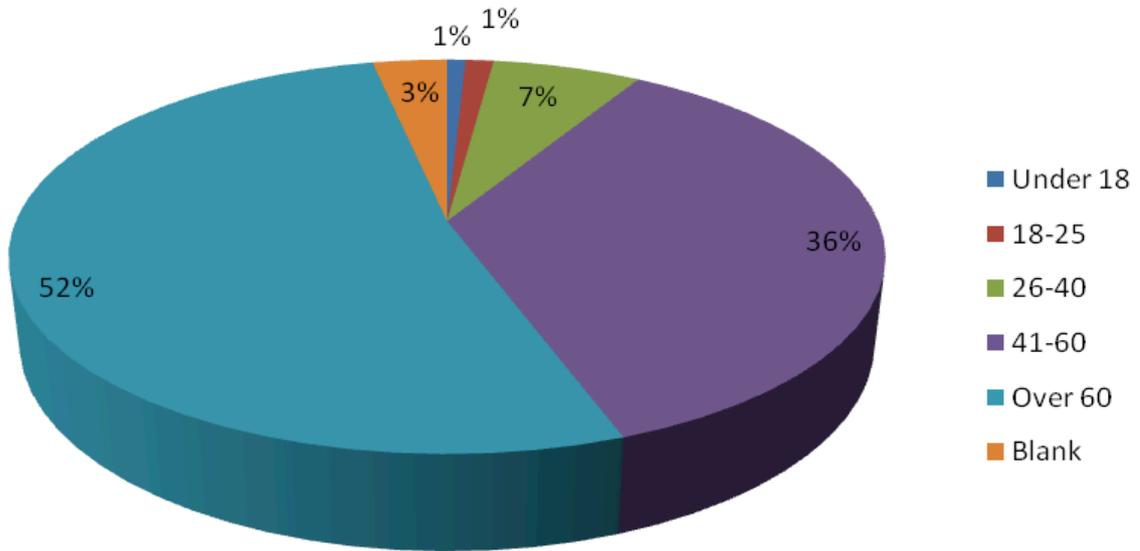


Gender

Q1(e): Gender?

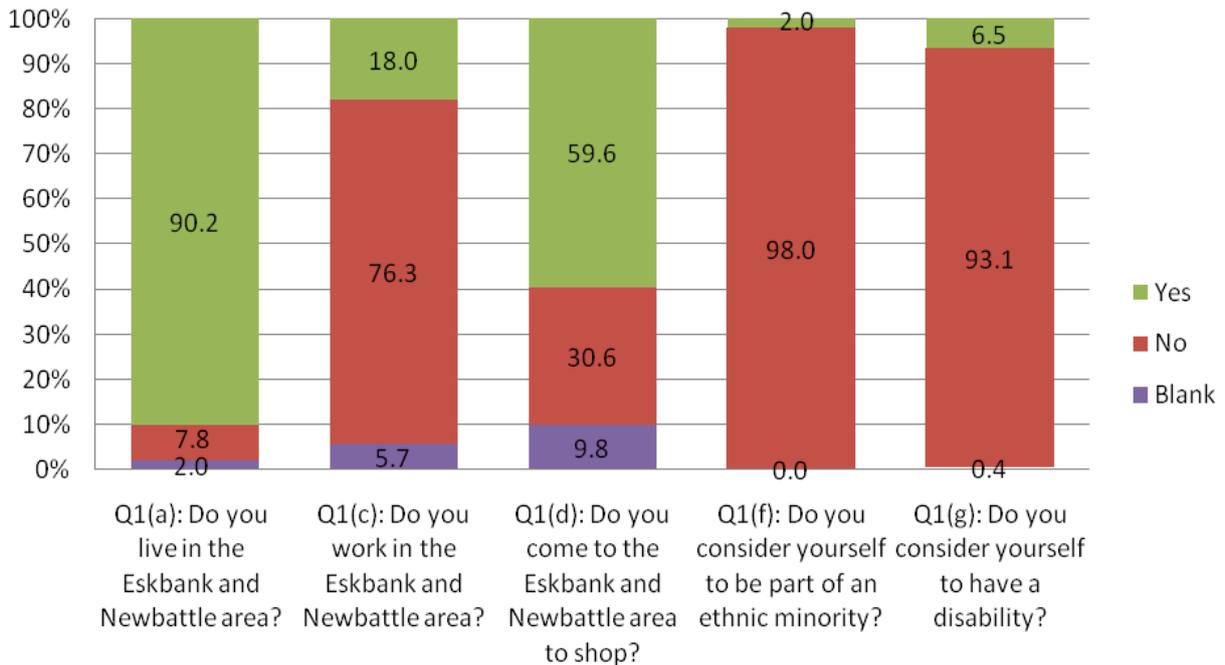


Q1: What age are you?

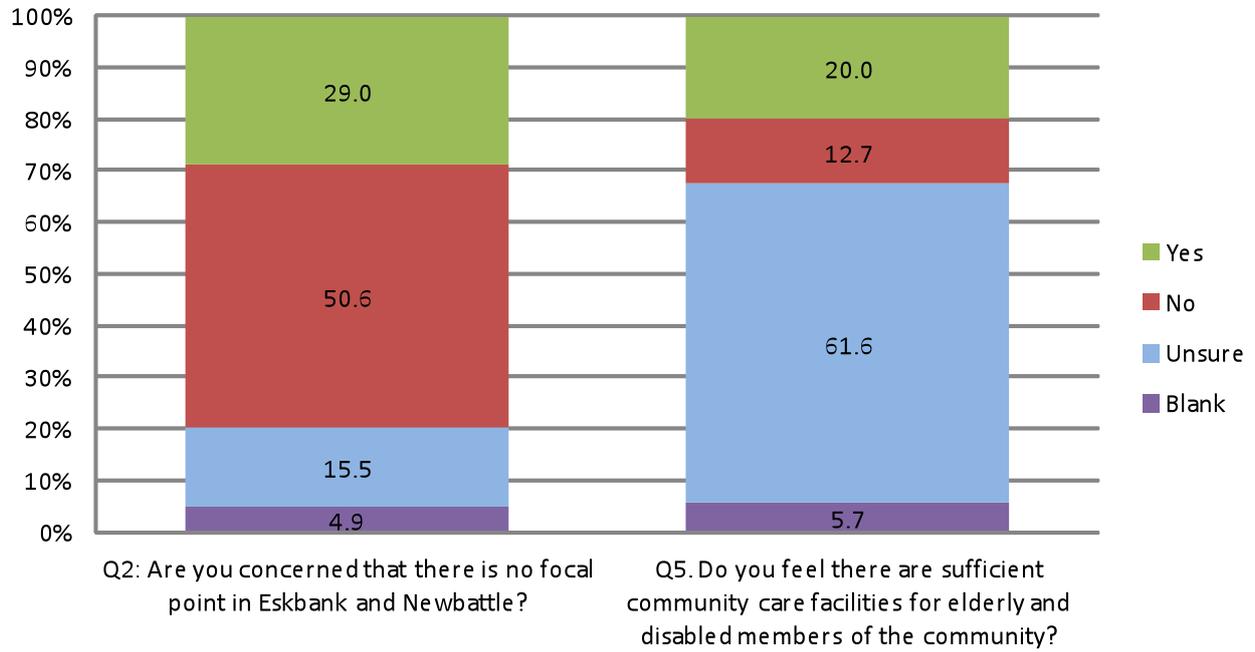


The Respondents

% of Yes/No Responses

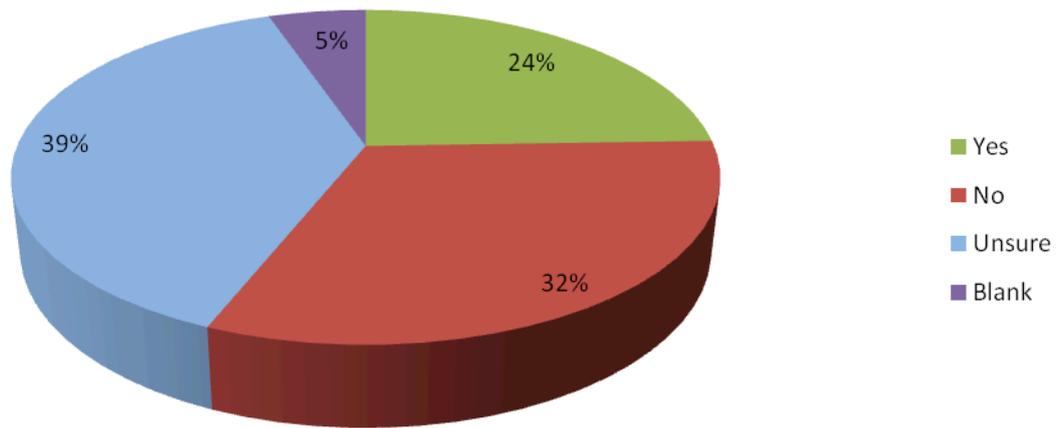


Yes/No Responses - Community

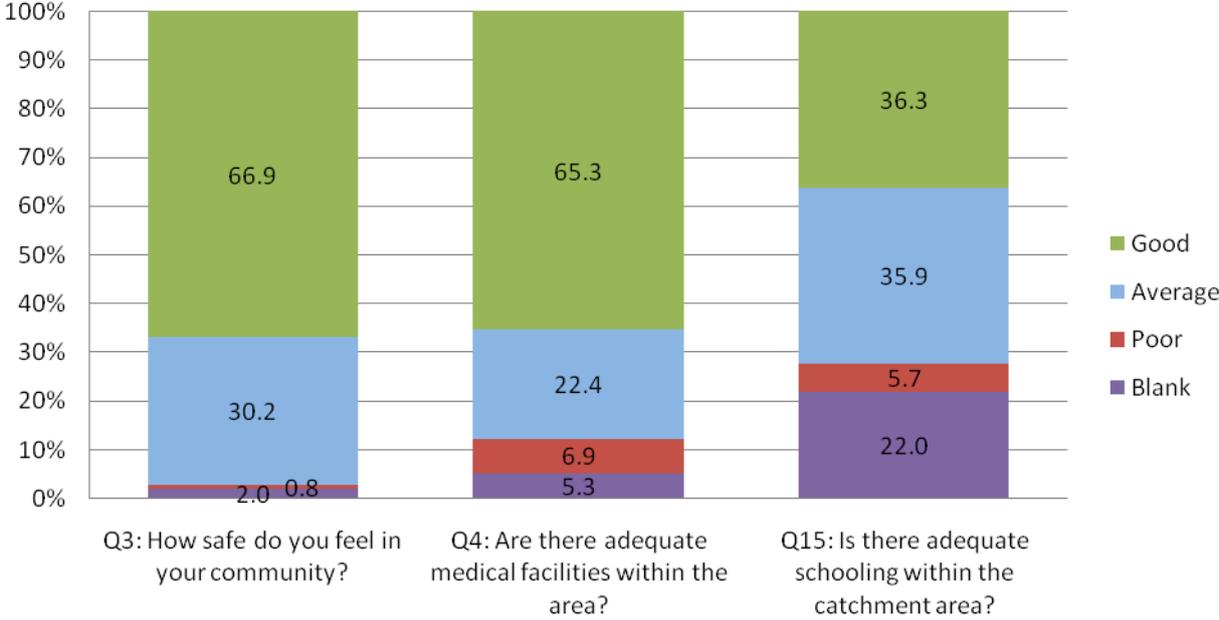


Community Assets

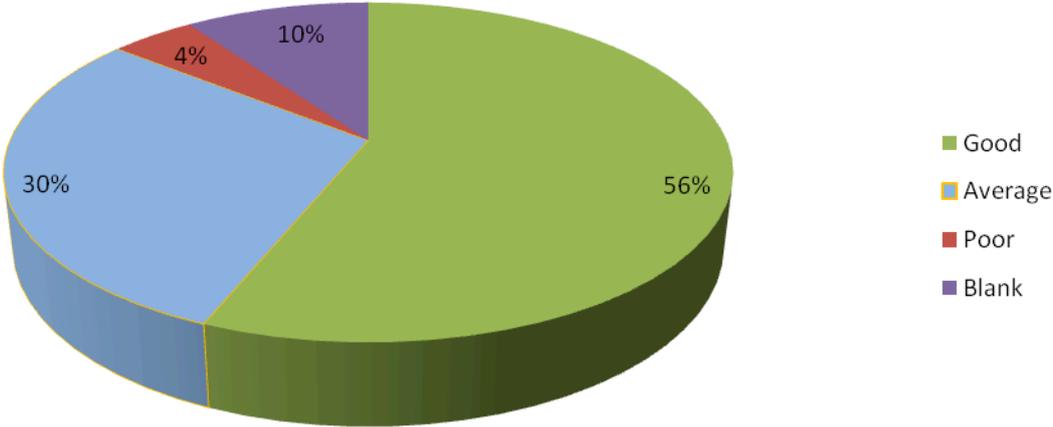
Total Responses - Community (Y/N)



Ratings Responses - Community

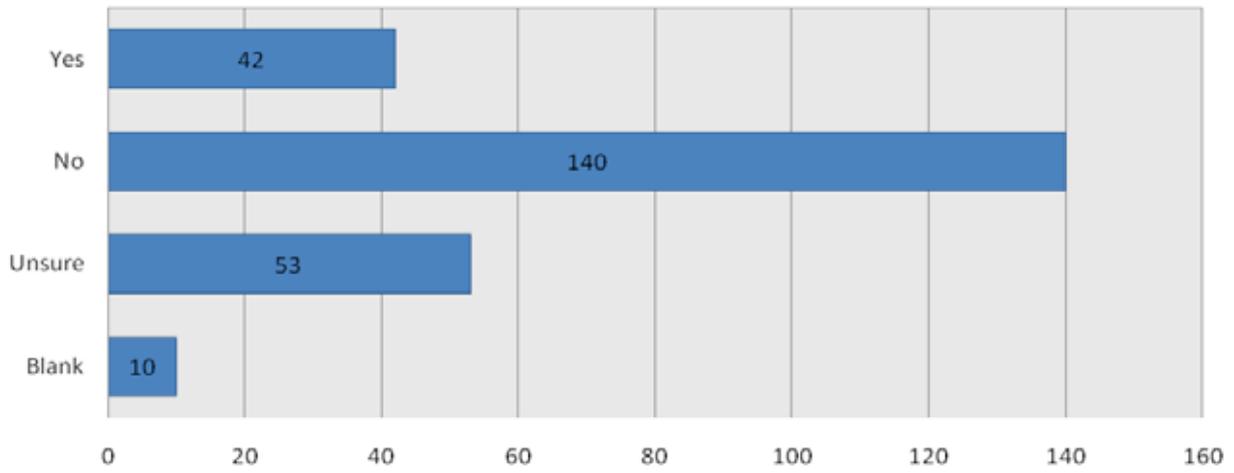


Total Responses - Community (Ratings)

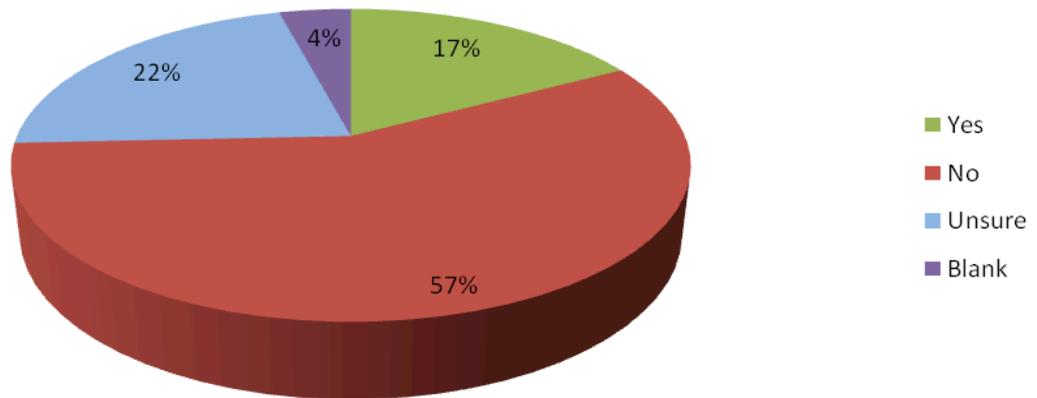


Leisure

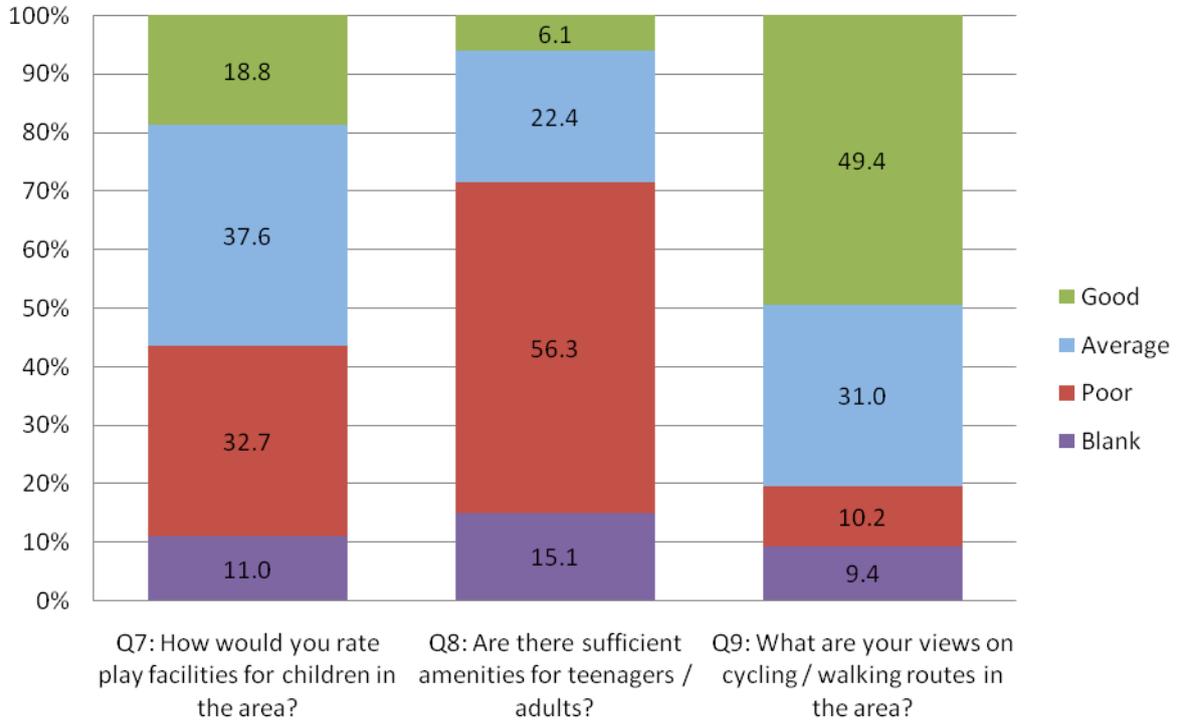
Q6: Can we sustain further development in the area? (Y/N)



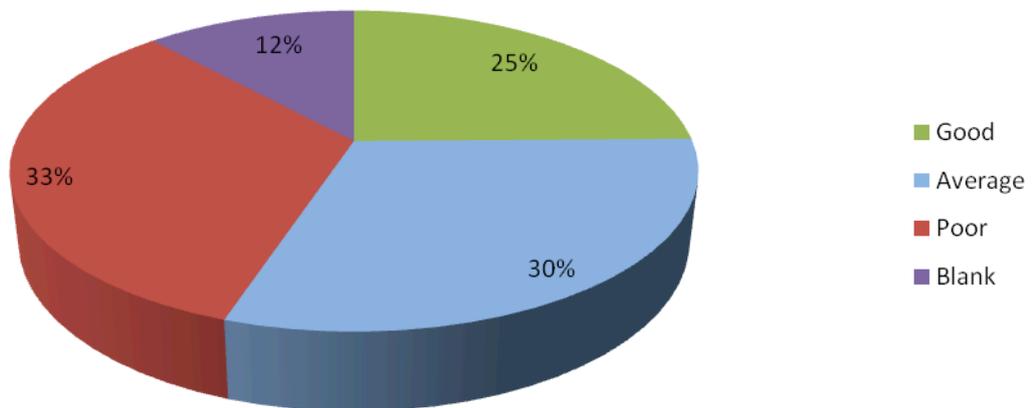
Q6: Can we sustain further development in the area? (Y/N)



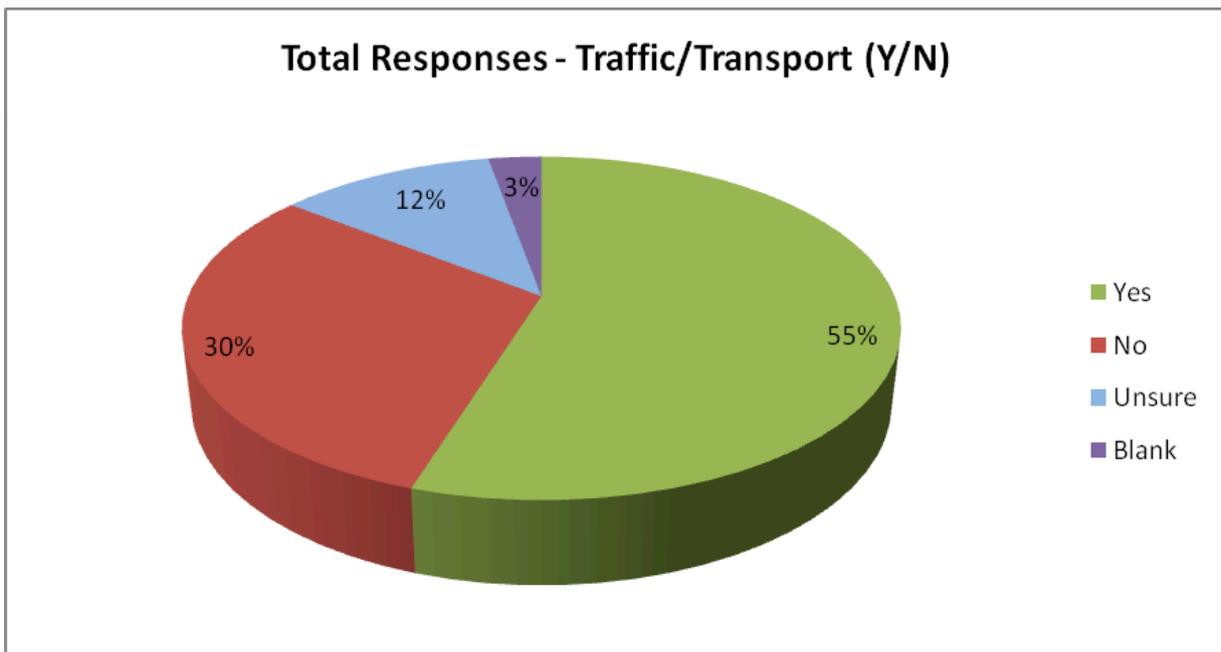
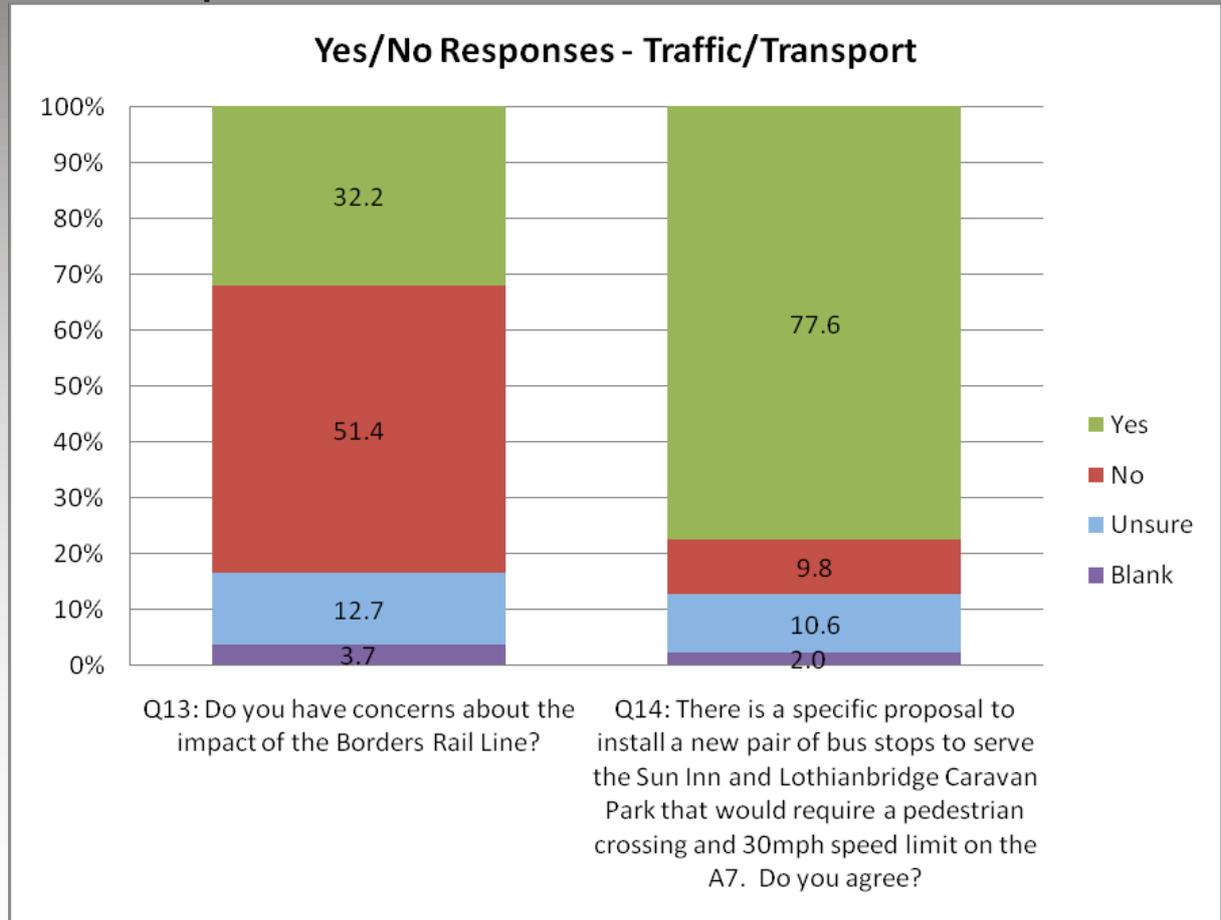
Ratings Responses - Leisure



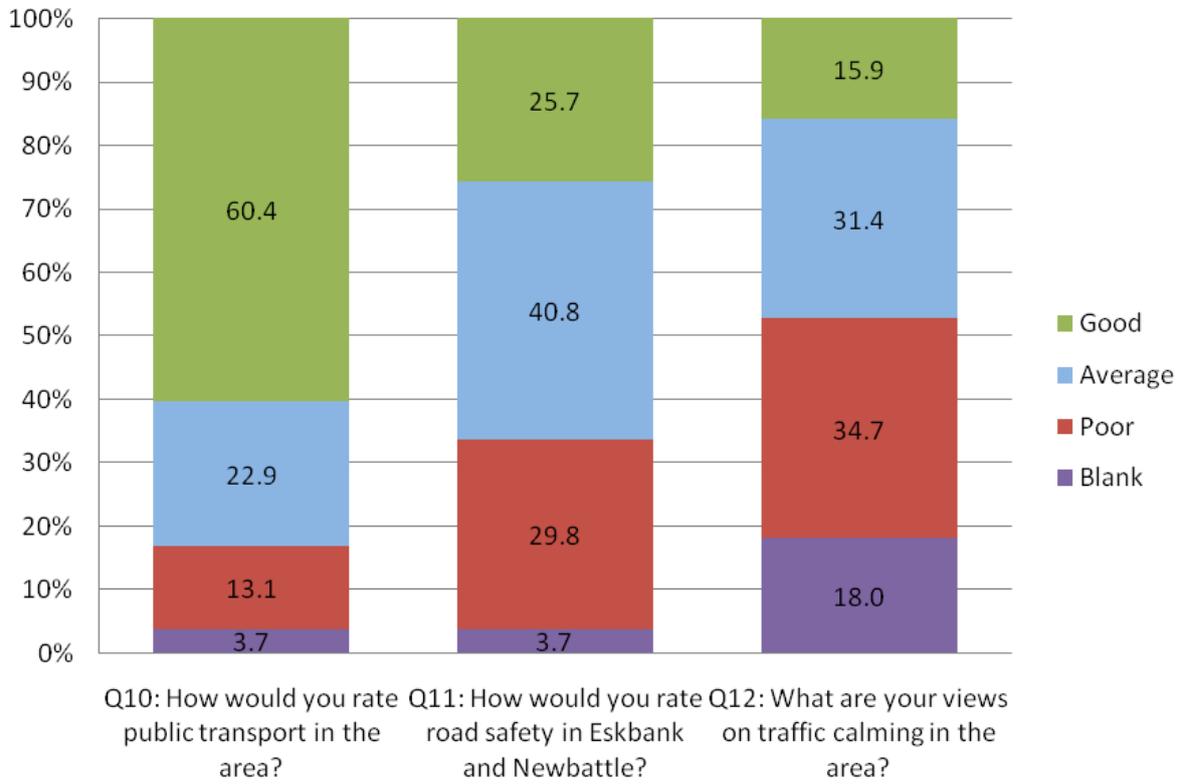
Total Responses - Leisure (Ratings)



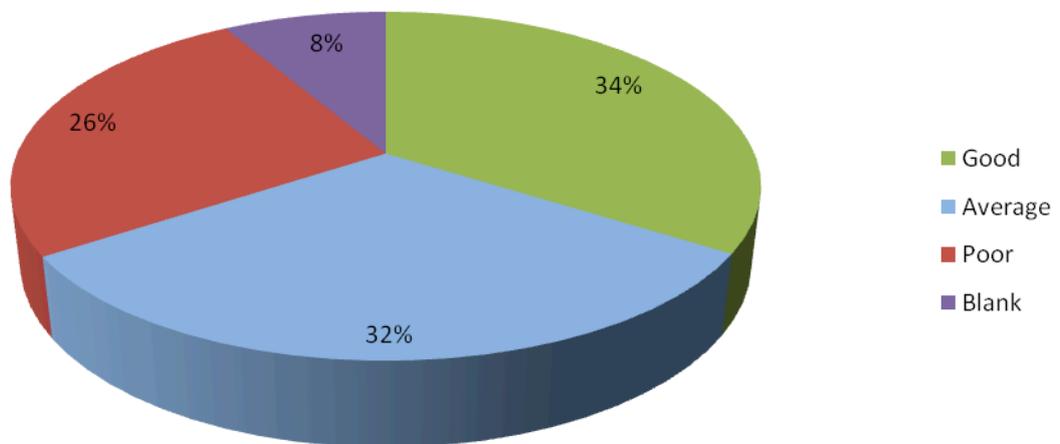
Traffic/Transport



Ratings Responses - Traffic/Transport



Total Responses - Traffic/Transport (Ratings)



SECTION 3: 5 YEAR ACTION PLAN



The results from the questionnaire and the comments gathered at the prioritisation event held in May have determined the specific actions that have been included in the action plan.

The Steering Group would like to thank everyone involved in Eskbank and Newbattle for their support and commitment to this plan.

The Steering Group will now become the Implementation Group and meet on a quarterly basis to track progress on the actions. Other members of the Eskbank and Newbattle community are welcome to join.



COMMUNITY PLANNING PRIORITY - ENSURING THE LOCAL AREA IS A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, GROW UP IN AND VISIT

Traffic / Roads & Personal Safety

	Key issues	Suggestions / Solutions / Actions	Timescale	Lead Group / Agencies
1	Speed of traffic in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore provision of speed reduction and other road safety measures in the area including Newbattle Road, Bonnyrigg Road, Lasswade Road and the entrance to Newbattle Abbey College 	12 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eskbank and Newbattle Community Council Police Scotland Midlothian Council – Road Services and Community Safety Partnership
2	Improvement of safety of both pedestrians and cyclists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options for improvement of walkways / cycle paths and access to safe crossing points in the area Negotiate enhancement of railway cutting to provide a walk and/or cycle route within Eskbank and Newbattle area. 	12 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midlothian Council – Road Services Land Resources and Community Safety. Police Scotland Sustrans Eskbank and Newbattle Community Council
3	Sun Inn Crossing point dangerous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options for installation of 2 new bus stops to serve the Sun Inn and Lothianbridge Caravan Park: a safer crossing for pedestrians and a reduction of the speed limit to 30mph on the A7 between the Hardengreen and Orchard Grange roundabouts. 	1-5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midlothian Council – Travel Team Midlothian Council – Road and Transport Services Police Scotland
4	Condition of road surfaces in the area and visibility of signs and road markings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of gutters, repair of potholes and other general maintenance Improve visibility & maintenance of the road markings and cut back foliage 	1-3 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midlothian Council – Road and Transport Services

COMMUNITY PLANNING PRIORITY - SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

	Key issues	Suggestions / Solutions / Actions	Timescale	Lead Group / Agencies
5	<p>Concerns about litter in many locations within the local area. Particularly cycle pathways and overflowing skips in Hardengreen Industrial estate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor amount of litter and intervene as required. • Explore options for improvement with Edinburgh College, Midlothian Council and local retailers 	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eskbank & Newbattle Community Council • Midlothian Council Environmental Health & Refuse Services • Edinburgh College
6	<p>Maintenance of physical environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ownership and responsibility to repair stone walls eg Abbey Road. 	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eskbank & Newbattle Community Council • Midlothian Council Land & Countryside, Community Safety and Environmental Health
7	<p>Consider the Implications of future development on the natural environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater biodiversity required. Biodiversity corridor investigation, Newbattle Road to Lothian Road. • Seek to keep/develop green spaces and natural environment, subject to the Midlothian Open Space Strategy and Standards, and any relevant policies of the emerging Midlothian Local Development Plan. 	1 - 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eskbank & Newbattle Community Council • Police Scotland • Midlothian Council Land & Countryside, Community Safety • Environmental Health

COMMUNITY PLANNING PRIORITY - IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES MIDLOTHIAN

	Key issues	Suggestions / Solutions / Actions	Timescale	Lead Group / Agencies
8	Limited meeting spaces within the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options to increase the size of church hall Consider Planning Gain from new developments Identify availability of meeting space at Edinburgh College 	3 - 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newbattle Church Edinburgh College Midlothian Council - Planning and Development
9	Increase access to learning opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop coordinated approach to provision between Community Learning and Development, Edinburgh College and Newbattle Abbey College Promotion of educational courses available within the local area 	1 - 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midlothian Adult Learning Partnership
10	Lack of information and communication about access to services and local groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make use of Black Diamond FM community radio station Conduct an audit of community activities Produce and distribute a local information booklet or community map 	1 - 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midlothian Council - Community Learning and Development & Regeneration and Development Teams Eskbank & Newbattle Community Council Youth Forums
11	Lack of participation in Eskbank and Newbattle Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote & develop participation of local residents including young people 	1 - 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midlothian Council - Community Learning and Development Eskbank & Newbattle Community Council
12	Young people not engaged in local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Midlothian Youth Platform as forum for young people's involvement MYP to work with local youth groups 	1 - 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midlothian Council - Community Learning and Development



COMMUNICATING CLEARLY

We are happy to translate on request and provide information and publications in other formats, including Braille, tape or large print.

如有需要我們樂意提供翻譯本，和其他版本的資訊與刊物，包括盲人點字、錄音帶或大字體。

Zapewnimy tłumaczenie na żądanie oraz dostarczymy informacje i publikacje w innych formatach, w tym Braillem, na kasecie magnetofonowej lub dużym drukiem.

ਅਸੀਂ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਖੁਸ਼ੀ ਨਾਲ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਅਤੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਾਂਗੇ, ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਰੇਲ, ਟੇਪ ਜਾਂ ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹਨ।

Körler için kabartma yazılar, kaset ve büyük nüshalar da dahil olmak üzere, istenilen bilgileri sağlamak ve tercüme etmekten memnuniyet duyarız.

اگر آپ چاہیں تو ہم خوشی سے آپ کو ترجمہ فراہم کر سکتے ہیں اور معلومات اور دستاویزات دیگر شکلوں میں مثلاً بریل (ناپیدا افراد کے لیے ابھرے ہوئے حروف کی لکھائی) میں، ٹیپ پر یا بڑے حروف کی لکھائی میں فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔

Contact 0131 270 7500 or email: enquiries@midlothian.gov.uk