

Midlothian



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# Dalkeith Town Centre Regeneration Engagement

## Insights Summary

July 2022

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# Context

- 1 - What is this work about?
- 2 - How did people participate?



# What is this work about?

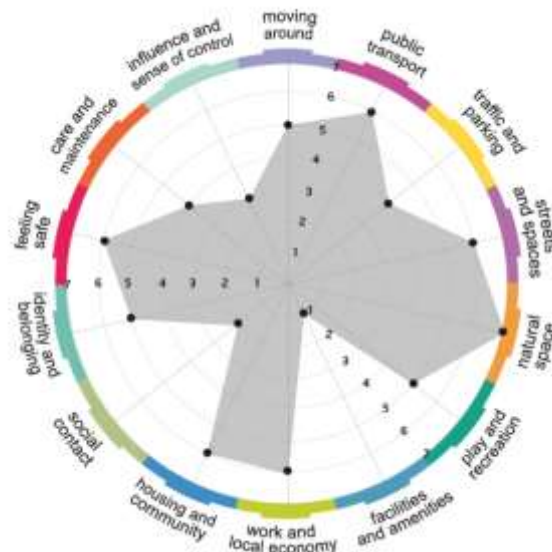
Midlothian Council is **updating the regeneration masterplan for Dalkeith, informed by a new vision for the town centre.**

We want to **build on what people have said in previous consultations and understand what people want from Dalkeith town centre today and in the future.** This new vision also needs to reflect new priorities and different ways of living that have emerged in the last few years.

Over May, June and July 2022 Midlothian Council and [People Powered Results](#) at Nesta have been **listening to people who live and work in Midlothian about their vision for the future of Dalkeith town centre.**

## Did we hear you right? Feedback on what we have heard so far

The views gathered from this engagement work are outlined in this document and have been used by architects to draft proposals for the town centre regeneration. We are sharing this document, along with these draft proposals for the town centre regeneration, with people who live and work in Midlothian for feedback in August. We will then use this feedback, alongside consultation carried out by the architects, to update the proposals and produce an updated masterplan for the town centre.



Throughout this work we have used the **Place Standard tool (above)** to help us understand what people want from Dalkeith town centre now and in the future. This tool was developed by *Scottish Futures Trust*, and is used across Scotland to help start conversations about what matters to people locally.

# How did people participate?

Between February and April 2022 we worked alongside key representatives across the Council, voluntary and community sector and businesses to co-design a community engagement approach for people who live and work in Midlothian. Through this co-designed approach we gathered a diverse set of perspectives from local residents and other stakeholders through a range of different methods and offering multiple opportunities for people to share their views. **315 people** participated so far through:



## Drop-in days

Residents, children and young people dropped in to two local events in partnership with Art Club on Fri and Sat 13-14th May at the Library and One Dalkeith.

**104 people dropped in**



## Walkabouts

Residents and young people went on virtual and physical walkabouts individually or as self-organised groups to share their thoughts about Dalkeith town centre.

**188 people took part**



## Virtual workshops

People joined three virtual workshops in early June for 1) people who live in Midlothian; 2) people who support Midlothian communities; 3) local businesses.

**23 people joined**



## Literature review

We pulled out key insights from previous consultations, incl. the 2016 Masterplan, 2016 Dalkeith/Woodburn Action Plan, 2018 Destination Optimisation Tool, Introduction to One Dalkeith, 2019 Consultation and 2021 Dalkeith High Street Study



## Feedback survey

We are sharing this document with communities for feedback, and will incorporate comments to produce an updated masterplan for the town centre

N.B. During the co-design process, we heard that Dalkeith communities were experiencing "survey fatigue" due to multiple consultations. In response, we opted to not run an online survey for the first stage of engagement.

# What did we hear?

The following section gives a summary of insights gathered across the drop in days, virtual workshops and via the Walkabouts. These are presented under **4 themes**:

1. **Moving around**
2. **Places and spaces**
3. **Services and amenities**
4. **Identity and feeling safe**

Under each theme we have presented insights about:

- **How people feel now** and their **vision for Dalkeith Town Centre**
- **Key ideas that people felt would make a difference** in each section



# Overview of insight themes

## Moving Around

- Walking
- Cycling
- Public transport
- Driving and parking

## Places and Spaces

- Buildings, streets and public spaces
- Natural space
- Play and recreation
- Shopping and eating out

## Services & Amenities

- A focal point for holistic services
- Services to live and stay well
- Work and local economy

## Identity & Feeling Safe

- Identity and belonging
- Feeling safe
- Care and maintenance



# Moving Around

- Walking
- Cycling
- Public transport
- Driving and parking

**Note:** See [appendix on page 33](#) for more detailed insights on specific changes people wanted to see to help them walk, cycle and travel by public transport.





# Moving around and in Dalkeith town centre - Walking



**Walking:** people were enthusiastic about a pedestrianised town centre, and new infrastructure

## What did people say in previous consultations?

People wanted the town centre to be **more walking and cycling friendly**, with **less and slower traffic**.

They wanted **improved walking and cycling links** to nearby destinations, especially **Eskbank Station** and **Dalkeith Country Park**.

They wanted the **pedestrian routes extended** into Ironmills Park.

## What are we hearing now?

Overall, there was appetite for a **pedestrianised town centre**, with **significantly reduced traffic**. Many people, especially those with children or mobility problems, said that traffic around the town feels scary and **congested**, for example on the High Street. There were requests for new **pedestrian crossings** in multiple locations around the town centre, including functioning **accessibility features**.

Many said that Dalkeith did not feel **accessible** for them when walking; pavements can be **narrow**, at times **blocked by vehicles or bins** and **uneven paving** and **hills** are difficult for those with mobility issues, wheelchairs or prams. Some people told us that **outdoor seating** would make them feel more comfortable.

There were ideas for **new and extended walking routes**, including along the railway line and reopening the route into Ironmills Park. To complement this, some suggested **better signage**.

## Key ideas to make a difference

- ★ Adding pedestrian crossings in key places
- ★ Fixing uneven or obstructed pavements
- ★ Reopening walking routes into Ironmills Park
- ★ Clear signage highlighting walking routes around the town centre and to Dalkeith Country Park

# Moving around and in Dalkeith town centre - Cycling



**Cycling:** people wanted to see new cycling infrastructure, including cycle lanes and bike parking

## What did people say in previous consultations?

People wanted the town centre to be **more walking and cycling friendly**, with **less and slower traffic**.

They wanted **improved walking and cycling links** to nearby destinations, especially **Eskbank Station** and **Dalkeith Country Park**.

They wanted **improved cycle routes** to maximise use of e-bikes.

## What are we hearing now?

Overall, there was enthusiasm for **better cycling infrastructure**, both in Dalkeith itself, and between Dalkeith and surrounding towns and destinations. Current traffic, on roads and roundabouts without **cycle lanes**, make some areas particularly **intimidating** for cyclists. Requests for new cycle routes included to and from **Eskbank Station** and **Dalkeith Country Park**.

Some said that road surfaces need to be repaired, with potholes filled.

Some mentioned that additional infrastructure like more **cycle parking** around the town centre would help them, for example at **shops** and the **children's play park**.

Some mentioned the **e-bike scheme**, and wanted to see the return of bikes for hire in the town centre.

## Key ideas to make a difference

- ★ Putting in protected bike lanes in key locations
- ★ Increasing bike parking
- ★ Fixing potholes and ensuring smooth road surfaces
- ★ Re-introducing e-bikes to the town centre

# Moving around and in Dalkeith town centre – Public transport



**Public transport:** public transport is good, but it needs to be affordable and easy to use

## What did people say in previous consultations?

People wanted more bus services to and from local places, including Eskbank Station and Dalkeith Country Park.

## What are we hearing now?

The **importance of local bus services** came through strongly. Current services are appreciated, but many felt that more could be done to **improve sustainable transport** and help people move away from cars. Many people commented on bus services that were important for them, but were **infrequent, unreliable, or recently cut**.

Additionally, new bus services on **orbital routes** or to and from new **housing developments** would help people come into and out of Dalkeith. Residents emphasised that for them to use it, public transport needs to be **affordable, accessible and regular**.

Many people mentioned that they would like to see public transport options to and from **Eskbank Station** and **Dalkeith Country Park**. A 'Park and Ride' or 'Park and Walk' into Dalkeith were suggested.

A **'Dial a Bus', youth bus or bus for disabled people** were also suggested to support mobility in and out of Dalkeith without cars.

## Key ideas to make a difference

- ★ Introducing a 'shuttle bus' to and from the town centre, Eskbank Station and Dalkeith Country Park
- ★ Introducing 'Dial a Bus' or youth bus service

# Moving around and in Dalkeith town centre- Traffic and Parking



**Traffic and parking:** residents said there was a lot of traffic in their town centre

## What did people say in previous consultations?

People wanted **more free parking** in the town centre.

People also said that **busy car parks felt unsafe** with children.

## What are we hearing now?

Overall, people felt that there was **too much traffic** in the town centre and that this made it feel **unfriendly**. Some wanted to see an **end to through traffic in the town centre**, perhaps opening it to buses only - and this aligns with the vision some have for a pedestrianised 'town square'.

For those who do drive, there were **mixed opinions** about access and parking in the town centre. Some felt that the town centre was already 'well off' in terms of parking, but others disagreed, especially for Council staff and for **disabled and elderly people** accessing banks and other services in the town centre.

There were mixed opinions about **current parking charges** in the town centre. Many wanted parking to be free for longer, while some thought the current parking charges were fair. Some wanted to see **EV charging points** introduced.

**Businesses** emphasised that it was important to them to have **good communication about any changes** to traffic and parking in the town centre.

## Key ideas to make a difference

- ★ Improve parking, for example by extending free parking and ensuring access to the town centre for disabled people and shoppers
- ★ Introducing Electric Vehicle charging points

# At a glance: moving around

"The only time I feel unsafe in Dalkeith is when walking with my young son and feeling like I need to have eyes on the back of my head due to all of the traffic and junctions. Dalkeith should be a place to travel to and live in, not somewhere where people driving through ... get priority."

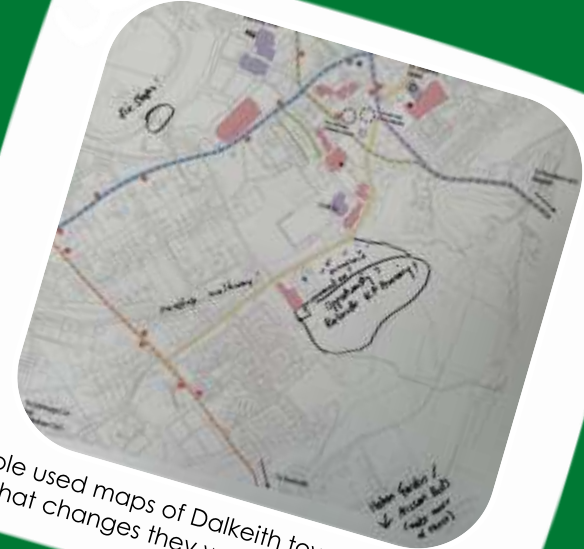
"Buses are a priority, especially orbital routes please!"

"Walking distances for people with disabilities are long"

"Walkers need sloping kerbs, especially with shopping. It's harder to get around"

"The way you need to think about it is - would you do it with a child on the back of your bike?"

"Better signage. Cycle and safe walking routes. Better bus service and link to train!"



People used maps of Dalkeith town centre to tell us what changes they want to see in the future

# Places and spaces

- Buildings, streets & public spaces
- Natural space
- Play and recreation
- Shopping and eating out



# Places and Spaces – Buildings, streets and public spaces



**Buildings, streets and public space:** People were keen for an open, pedestrianised town centre

## What did people say in previous consultations?

People were keen for a **'town square'** to be developed with space for a farmers' market, art exhibitions and a big screen to broadcast events.

They also wanted to see **additional features to improve the appearance and accessibility of public spaces** - such as seating, public toilets, planting and additional lighting.

People were keen to **stay true to original architecture and design** e.g. restoring original tile work at Eskdaill court.

## What are we hearing now?

There was enthusiasm to build on what is **already there** in the town centre and maintain the open space. People remained enthusiastic about the central area being **pedestrianised**, with seating and making space for outdoor cultural events and socialising.

Residents and business owners were keen to see cafes and other business allowed to **'spill out'** onto the street in nice weather, adding to the **'central square feel'**.

While there is love for the town's **historic buildings** and the old 'closes', many told us that there is too much concrete and that **buildings feel neglected and in need of redevelopment**. Young people were keen to see buildings reused for environmental reasons. Street art was suggested as a way of adding much needed colour.

People also commented on the need for **cleaner, better maintained public toilets**.

## Key ideas to make a difference

- ★ Pedestrianising the central area, including the high street
- ★ Maintaining and cleaning public toilets regularly
- ★ Encouraging local street art to add vibrancy and colour

*"People love to congregate in Jarnac Court. Make it more attractive, continental."*

# Places and Spaces – Green Space



**Green space:** People want parks and natural spaces to be easier to access and enjoy

## What did people say in previous consultations?

People were keen to see more attention on the **upkeep of parks**.

People talked about the **green area** around **King's Park Primary School** being unkept, and that this was encouraging anti-social behaviour.

One idea people had to address this was to fence off this green area specifically for Kings' Park Primary School to transform it into a "**school woodland**" space.

## What are we hearing now?

People were keen to see **more green** in the town centre to counteract the 'concrete jungle' feel. Trees, planters, flowerbeds and shrubs would help soften the appearance of the town centre and add much needed colour.

**Parks and natural spaces** near the town centre are really valued. Dalkeith Country park is a great asset and people would like to see more done to recognise these spaces and make the **journey** to get to them **easier** for people and families.

People also suggested simple ways to make it easier to **spend time** in green spaces by using gazebos and covered areas to '**weatherproof**' them, and making well maintained and accessible **public toilets** available.

## Key ideas to make a difference

- ★ Building covered areas to weatherproof parks and outdoor spaces
- ★ Adding trees, shrubs, flower beds and planters to central spaces
- ★ Making well maintained public toilets available
- ★ Using signage in green spaces to encourage people to visit the town centre

*"I'd like to buy my lunch and eat it outside... even if there was just one tree."*



# Places and Spaces – Play and recreation



**Play and recreation:** people wanted more leisure facilities and organised events in the town centre

## What did people say in previous consultations?

People and families were keen to see **more events** in the town centre, in the evenings and at weekends. There was enthusiasm for **outdoor entertainment** in the form of live music and shows.

People wanted to see **more support** for existing **activities** and **clubs**, e.g. tennis club, walking group, rugby club, cycling without age, faith-based and men's sheds. Families wanted to see a **Breakfast Club** and **After School club**.

## What are we hearing now?

Adults and young people told us that they wanted to see more **leisure facilities** in the town. Suggestions included play and water parks, gaming and board games cafes, a skate park, as well as a cinema, bowling alley, children's soft play centre and a 'sensory garden' in Kings Park. Many also wanted a **community centre** to bring people together and offer a range of activities - similar to Brunton Halls or the Steading in Rosewell.

Many were keen to see an **affordable gym** and a **Leisure Centre** as priorities and some suggested that Kings Park Pavilion could be transformed into a changing facility for sports activities.

People were also keen for **organised events and activities** to draw families and visitors into the town centre. There was a big appetite for affordable and accessible leisure activities, run in local venues and spaces, including:

- **Sporting & wellness** activities - running events in Kings Park, dance and yoga classes, other exercise classes, crazy golf and putting in the park.
- **Social, creative & educational** activities - cookery, sewing, art & music classes, theatre, art exhibitions, a community garden, a craft market, independent cinema and projections in Jarnac Court.

## Key ideas to make a difference

- ★ Putting on a range of family-friendly events in the town centre
- ★ Being creative with existing spaces such as Kings Park pavilion to support sporting activities and clubs to flourish

*"[I'd like to see a] community centre where lots happening and you are welcome to join in"*

# Places and Spaces – Shopping and eating out



**Shopping and eating out:** People wanted a wider diversity of places to shop and eat

## What did people say in previous consultations?

A more **diverse** offering of places to **eat out and shop** in Dalkeith was important to people, to encourage them to spend more time in the town centre.

There was enthusiasm to create space for **local markets**, showcasing local produce and providing space for '**pop-up shops**' for local businesses - from farmers' markets to local arts and craft markets.

## What are we hearing now?

While many mentioned that they like the shops in the town centre, there was strong message that people wanted more **variety** in places to **shop and eat out**. They were excited about the potential for **markets and pop up stalls** in a new '**town square**' space, to transform the experience of shopping and eating out in the centre.

The **types of shops** people mentioned that they wanted to see included a shoe shop, bookshop, haberdasher, crafts and clothes shops (including those for young people), a repair cafe and shops focused on ethical/eco-friendly products. People also wanted to see shops made more accessible to those with mobility issues, for example through step-free access and Braille information plaques.

There was also eagerness for **higher quality** restaurants, delis and speciality food shops. While **young people mentioned wanting a Mcdonalds**, others wanted to see **less fast food** outlets. People mentioned vegetarian outlets and those offering 'affordable, healthy food'. Some were keen to ensure that **gentrification** does not erode a sense of belonging for people.

## Key ideas to make a difference

- ★ Creating space for independent businesses and local farmers to have pop-up market stalls in the town centre
- ★ Incentivising a diverse range of independent businesses to set up in the centre

*"We don't want to lose that pleasant, central, open space. A definite focus of the town centre."*

# At a glance: Places and spaces

"I can't get over the quality of the green space that surrounds Dalkeith."

"I want to get away from thinking about just shops... Let's have blue sky thinking... What about activities, entertainment?"

"[I'd like to see] refilleries and eco-friendly shops, including Zero Waste centres like in Dunbar; Tool Library like Edinburgh's Leith Walk; Repair and Refurbish - eg clothing, IT, furniture; bike station to repair and refurbish bikes.."

"I would not want people to feel like the town centre is not for them any more, because it has been gentrified."

"There should be a youth friendly space that supports us with mental health and creates volunteering opportunities"

At the drop in days, **children drew pictures of places they would like to see in Dalkeith town centre**



"Playground"  
by Orla



"Skate park"  
by Marcel



"Gaming Cafe"  
by Peter

# Services and amenities

- A focal point for holistic services
- Services to live and stay well
- Work and local economy

# Services and Amenities – A focal point for services



**A focal point for holistic services:** People were enthusiastic about bringing services under one roof

## What did people say in previous consultations?

People really valued the **library** and **post office** as focal points in the community, especially for people without transport.

Some made suggestions about **expanding the library's role** as a social space and to extend the reach of other services, e.g. private booths for people to attend digital medical appointments.

People were keen to see a **community pantry**.

## What are we hearing now?

a "non-accessible" People still highly valued the **post office** and **library** as essential services. Residents and third sector organisations were keen to see a **one stop shop** for services, advice and practical support - bringing together support from Council and third sector organisations under one roof. People wanted to build on the social work centre on St Andrew street, which has been working well on a smaller scale.

A **community hub** could be a place for people to access a **range of social, welfare, health and support** services, as well as attending affordable **wellbeing activities** such as yoga, mindfulness and dance.

The approaching cost of living crisis has also reinforced the need to be proactive in setting up services like a **community clothing bank** and **food pantry**, as well as holistic initiatives such as **allotments** that support people to access affordable, healthy food, promote skills development, and improve mental and physical health.

## Key ideas to make a difference

- ★ Setting up a community pantry
- ★ Adding private booths and equipment to the Library for people to attend digital medical appointments

*"Community space that we can book to hold events and bring citizens and service providers together.. We could use it to deliver some services as well that potentially don't require clinical space."*

# Services and Amenities – Services to live and stay well



**Services to live and stay well:** People told us they need better access to housing and health services

## What did people say in previous consultations?

People were keen to see improvements to **housing services and new housing options being developed** to provide more attractive buildings, access to green space, parking and to ensure residents feel safe.

People wanted to see a variety of housing tenure options and housing that **meets the needs of families and older people.**

## What are we hearing now?

**Housing** was still an area that **needs improvement**. While some people were keen to retain the look and feel of the historic buildings in Jarnac Court, others wanted to see the area redeveloped. There is also a need to improve **energy efficiency** and manage costs for residents, through better **insulation** and solar panels. One resident mentioned the need for better access to support from the **Housing Officer**, while another wanted to see more one-bed housing.

People wanted to see improvements in **access to local healthcare and wellbeing services**, including a walk-in facility for health advice and better access to GP appointments, women's health and holistic mental health support. Many told us about **long waiting times** at the existing chemists, and specifically mentioned the need for a **more accessible pharmacy service**.

Residents and businesses wanted to see **free Wi-Fi and access to computers** in the town centre.

## Key ideas to make a difference

- ★ Prioritising improvements to Jarnac Court, Eskdail Court and Buccleuch Street to improve housing conditions
- ★ Providing free Wi-Fi in the town centre

*"It [Jarnac Court] is like a prison sentence.. It's dirty, it's noisy and smelly and it's a horrendous place to live.*

# Services and Amenities – Work and local economy



**Work and local economy:** People wanted more support and incentives for independent businesses

## What did people say in previous consultations?

People were keen to see **incentives for businesses and additional retail space to encourage independent businesses and startups** to set up and thrive in the town centre.

## What are we hearing now?

Businesses echoed the **need for more organised events and activities** to give their customers a reason to visit the centre and stay. There was enthusiasm about the opportunity to use a new pedestrianised town square and other public spaces to

- **Celebrate local produce and talent** through markets
- **House new independent businesses and pop up shops**
- Provide much needed **additional venue space for health and wellbeing businesses** to run classes

Helping independent businesses to thrive was seen as a good route to **providing new jobs and opportunities**, alongside the job centre.

There was excitement about the potential of the new **One Dalkeith premises to provide a hub for businesses and start-ups**, providing much needed co-working and hot desking spaces, a venue for meetings and to incubate start-up businesses.

People noted the Dalkeith is very quiet in the evenings and were keen to see more bars, restaurants, a cinema and theatre to support the night time economy.

## Key ideas to make a difference

- ★ Making the most of the new One Dalkeith space
- ★ Creating space for independent businesses and local farmers to have pop-up market stalls in the town centre

*"Locating our business in the centre means it's good for us strategically. We're able to service Edinburgh but also have local positioning in the marketplace. I love the vibrant, engaged and empowered community we have here."*

# At a glance: Services and amenities

*"Why can't we have a farmers' market? We're surrounded by farmland and local crafters, but right now it's all going to Edinburgh markets."*

*"I'm a newcomer, but find Dalkeith to be vibrant, edgy and friendly. I love its proximity. In recent years I've had lots of interaction with local businesses and think there's huge potential for the business community to develop and prosper."*

*"[I want to see] more support to help people get on with their lives and get into work."*

*"As a retired person.. I would like to find everything I need here in Dalkeith. I can... apart from shoes, we need a shoe shop."*

*"A health centre where you can actually see a doctor"*



Young people made comments about wanting 'more fun stuff' in the town centre



# Identity and feeling safe

- Identity and belonging
- Feeling safe
- Care and maintenance



# Identity and feeling safe – Identity and belonging



**Identity and belonging:** there's a lot of positive energy about Dalkeith that can be built on

## What did people say in previous consultations?

As a place, Dalkeith has a **rich historic legacy**, and people wanted this to be more visible. In particular, the **witch trials** that happened in Dalkeith are a popular topic for some, as shown by the panels on the One Dalkeith building. These women could be a **good focal point for a memorial, statue or fountain in the town centre**.

It was important to people that Dalkeith has its own **unique identity**, and isn't simply seen as a suburb of Edinburgh.

Dalkeith has a **coat of arms** and it was suggested that this could be used to brighten some buildings.

## What are we hearing now?

There were some really positive comments about the **identity** and **community** in Dalkeith, with some saying that it felt **vibrant, edgy, welcoming and unique**. Other ideas in this report, like a **market, wellbeing hub** or **new cultural hotspots**, could contribute to a renewed sense of identity for the town as a whole.

Many commented that they wanted to see more made of **Dalkeith's rich history**. There are some visible tributes in the town centre - like the **witch panels** and **red and blue plaques** - but more could be done to highlight this to visitors.

Many appreciated the work of the Guerrilla Gardeners, and wanted to see more **community volunteering and input**. They also wanted **opportunities to vote** on and discuss issues affecting the town centre. People also wanted a noticeboard and a face-to-face contact point, as well as **better communication** from the Council on issues like parking changes and e-bikes.

## Key ideas to make a difference

- ★ Organising events that bring people together
- ★ Publicising heritage trails
- ★ Preserve a town centre 'focal point', possibly including a market or outdoor seating
- ★ Opportunities for residents to feed into decisions, e.g. Community board

*"There's a vibrancy and edginess to Dalkeith that could be developed and fostered."*

# Identity and feeling safe – Feeling safe



**Feeling safe:** anti-social behaviour and drinking after dark make some feel less safe

## What did people say in previous consultations?

There were some comments about **antisocial behaviour** in the town centre, and Abbey Road Woodland and Rose Garden, some of which could be alleviated by after-hours use of the school.

People commented on the need for **good lighting** around the streets to improve the feeling of safety.

## What are we hearing now?

There were **mixed opinions** about how safe the town centre feels currently. While many people said positive things about the identity and community of the town as a whole, many said that they felt less safe **after dark and on Friday and Saturday evenings**. Some people told us that **alcohol consumption** and large groups can create an **intimidating atmosphere**, especially for women.

Some people spoke about **antisocial behaviour** in other areas of Dalkeith, including the old fashioned 'closes', Kings Park and Waterfall Park. People knew of crime including muggings and assaults that had happened, which made them feel less safe in certain areas.

Suggestions to improve safety included **better lighting**, a safe space or somewhere to report hate crime, and more visible police presence or a point of contact for the **police**.

## Key ideas to make a difference

- ★ Improving safety and lighting in the town centre and closes at night

*“During the day I feel safe in Dalkeith, but on Friday and Saturday at night it's a different story.. I've been followed before, so I don't go to the Abbey side any more.”*

# Identity and feeling safe – Care and maintenance



**Care and maintenance:** the town centre is visibly neglected and needs some love

## What did people say in previous consultations?

There were comments about aspects of **maintenance** including keeping buildings clean, maintaining planted areas, and rubbish and recycling.

Some wanted to see the shopfronts **refreshed** and buildings **power washed**. Some wanted updated rubbish and **recycling storage**.

## What are we hearing now?

There was a strong consensus that the buildings in the town centre do not look properly cared for, and that this **affects the feeling of Dalkeith as a whole**. Although some people felt fond of the buildings, or appreciated them as good examples of post-war architecture, they were frequently described as **'tatty'** and an **'eyesore'** in their current state.

People wanted to see the town centre properly maintained, including shops and housing, which are visibly **neglected**. There have also been issues with **drainage** in these buildings, which have been a problem for local businesses.

Better bin and waste collection facilities in the town centre (for example, on-street **recycling** and **cigarette disposal**) were suggested along with storing larger bins away from main streets. Ideas in Theme 2, for more **greenery and 'soft landscaping'**, would also make the town centre feel more loved and looked after - but these **need to be maintained long term**. People also highlighted the need to tackle the **'gull problem'** in the town.

## Key ideas to make a difference

- ★ Improving the condition of the shops and housing in the town centre
- ★ Upgrading the bins to incorporate on-street recycling, and generally improving cleanliness
- ★ Doing more to maintain greenery, e.g. planters and trees

*"If I want to feel proud of a place I want it to be clean and tidy... Unfortunately if it wasn't for the guerrilla gardeners, the town would be in a sorrier state than it is."*

# At a glance: Identity and feeling safe

**“Dalkeith is an incredibly friendly town. If you live here you might not notice it, but as an outsider, I really do.”**

**“There’s a feeling of community, I feel safe. It just needs some love.”**

People chatted about what they want to see in Dalkeith over a cuppa at the drop in days

**“Night time venues aren’t attractive and don’t feel safe. It can feel ‘blokey’. There’s nothing family friendly or community oriented currently.”**

**“We’re not just a suburb of Edinburgh”**

**“The buildings look uncared for and this affects the feeling of the place.”**



In summary

# Key themes

People shared a wealth of views and suggestions on what people, families and businesses need for Dalkeith town centre to flourish in the future. While there were mixed opinions and unique ideas on some issues, there was a strong consensus around several areas. The following slide outlines the key areas of consensus we heard through this work, and the start of a fresh vision for Dalkeith town centre.



In summary

# Key themes



## **A pedestrianised central square as a focal point for cultural events, markets and socialising**

To give the town centre a vibrant feel, support local independent businesses and encourage people to linger



## **Improve connections between green spaces, key transport links and the town centre**

To help people transit easily between Dalkeith Country Park, Dalkeith town centre and transport links such as Eskbank station



## **More diversity in the facilities and businesses located and operating in the town centre**

To support the local economy, improve options for shopping and eating out and support the health and wellbeing of residents



## **Refresh and brighten the appearance of the town centre**

Ensure the buildings look cared for, introduce trees, flowers and greenery, and commission street art to soften buildings and add colour





# Moving around: a closer look

This page gives more detailed insights from people we spoke to about changes they would like to see in specific places to help them move around Dalkeith. We have highlighted where views were expressed by many people we spoke to, or by individuals.

## Walking

Many people said they would like:

- Walking routes to and from:
  - Eskbank Station
  - Dalkeith Country Park
  - Ironmills Park

Individuals said they would like:

- Wider pavements on North Wynd and Newmills Road
- Shrubbery cut back on A68, Eskbank roundabout and Easthouses Road
- Traffic reduction on South St
- New pedestrian crossings on/by:
  - Lothian St/Eskdail Court
  - Old Edinburgh Road
  - Dalkeith Country Park
  - Morrisons
  - Newbattle Abbey

## Cycling

Many people said they would like:

- Cycle routes to and from Eskbank

Individuals highlighted particularly dangerous spots for cyclists which they felt need attention:

- Road narrowing on Duke Street
- Justinlees Roundabout
- Sheriffhall Roundabout
- The route between Dalkeith and Lugton Brae

Cycle lanes or other measures could be considered here.

## Public transport

Many people said they would like:

- A better and more frequent bus service to and from:
  - Woodburn
  - Gorebridge
- The 48 bus route to be improved

Individuals said they would like:

- The 49 bus to be more reliable
- The 3 bus to be reinstated
- A new bus stop next to Lidl
- Buses to and from:
  - Newton Grange
  - Danderhall
  - Easter Langside
  - Pathhead
  - Bonnyrigg Road
  - Lasswade Road

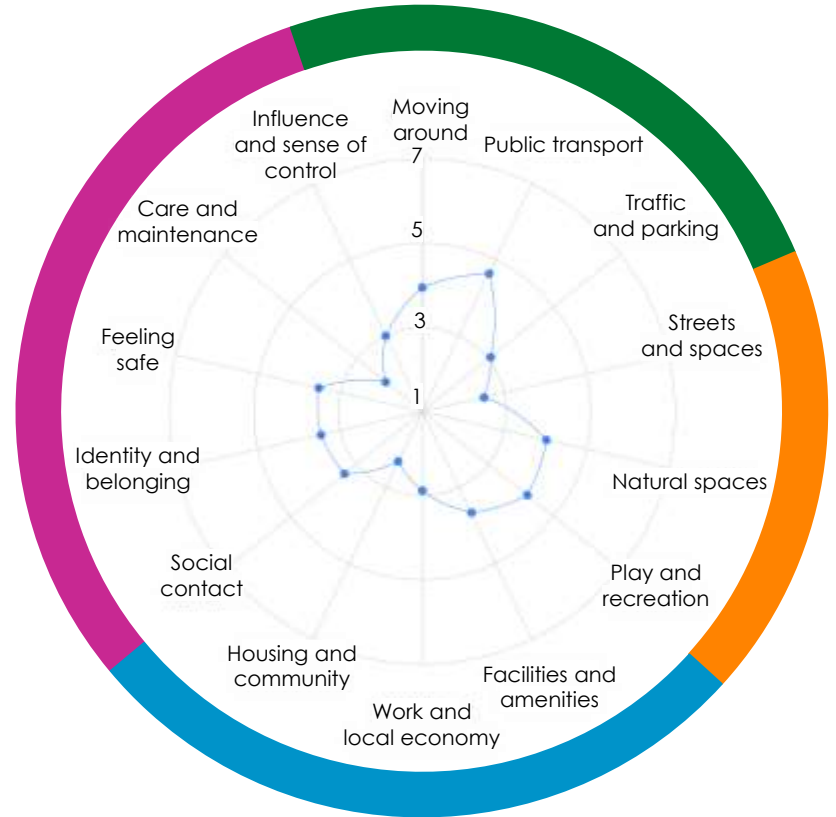
# Place Standard voting

What's working well and what could be better in Dalkeith town centre?

Midlothian Council and People Powered Results have been using the [Place Standard](#) tool (*Scottish Futures Trust*) to inform the engagement approach. Local residents considered what they think is working well and what could be better about Dalkeith town centre using this tool. Voting on a scale of 1 (*not working well at all*) to 7 (*couldn't be better*), people considered the 14 place standard indicators to reflect on life in Dalkeith.

This exercise shows that, among those who voted, residents are more satisfied with public transport and green spaces overall, while housing, maintenance, and streets and spaces are the lowest rated areas.

Whilst 220 people participated in the overall process, 30 people took part in this exercise. People mentioned finding it hard to assign a number to each indicator, as this missed out on nuance and local variation. We encourage people to read these findings as part of a broader picture outlined throughout the rest of this document.



# What have people said about this process?

We asked people to share their feedback on the engagement approach through an online form and during drop-in days. 74 people responded in total (60 in the online survey)



**63%** agreed or strongly agreed that they **felt able to share their views** about Dalkeith town centre.

**38%** said they are **feeling more optimistic** about Dalkeith town centre's future, with 49% neutral.

[n=60]

## What people liked about the process so far

**Being able to drop-in** at local events and local flyering:

*"Drop in at the library and 1 Dalkeith was a very useful start."*

*"(Useful to have) a person handing out leaflets at Lidl."*

**Facilitated virtual workshops:**

*"The workshop was great, got my point across."*

*"Well facilitated, I had chance to say what I wanted to say and listen to others."*

**New ways for people to have their say:**

*"The exercise sounds like it has been imaginatively constructed, with new ways of taking people's views on board."*

## What people said we could do differently

**More and earlier comms** through local networks:

*"Could have told people earlier - radio station, community news."*

Outlining a clearer picture of the **financial scope:**

*"If we don't know the budget, how can we make valid and justified comments?"*

We heard there is a degree of **consultation fatigue:**

*"Stop consulting and do something already."*

*"Dalkeith's Regeneration has been going on for years and years now - I'll believe it when I see it."*

