



"building on our long shared history"

WEST CALDER AND HARBURN COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2013-2018

**West Calder and Harburn Community Council,
and the people of both communities**

We are grateful for the financial support made available to the project through

Coalfields Regeneration Trust Scotland

West Lothian Development Trust

West Lothian Council



**COALFIELDS
COMMUNITY
FUTURES**



**the coalfields
regeneration trust**



OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

WEST CALDER AND HARBURN – BUILDING ON OUR LONG SHARED HISTORY

We aim to be:

- a thriving, family-friendly, lively and enterprising community with its own unique rural identity

To achieve this, we will organise ourselves to create:

- a safe and welcoming place where people of all ages respect each other and where people not in vehicles take precedence over traffic
- a superb range of social, educational, shopping and economic opportunities and facilities for recreation, sports and events for people of all ages
- a fine network of paths and trails connecting the village to the towns and to the countryside
- a bright, well kempt, colourful and cheerful natural environment
- a townscape that cherishes our fine architectural heritage and encourages first class new buildings
- well connected modern transport for local and regional journeys
- a rural community with city-class IT communications

and we look forward eagerly to taking ownership over these developments

This statement summarises the main views of local people and organisations about what they want for the future of West Calder and Harburn. It was prepared through discussions at the Community Council and the Steering Group and endorsed at the Community Futures Open Day in November 2012.



INTRODUCTION

WEST CALDER AND HARBURN COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan is a clear statement about the type of place the community wants West Calder and Harburn to be – and what needs to be done. It is being distributed to all households and businesses in the community council area.

There are four sections:

- Our community NOW
- A vision for the future of our community
- The issues that matter most and priorities for projects and action
- Action to be taken showing who might be involved.

The Community Action Plan concludes with information showing how YOU can become involved in the future development of the area.

WEST CALDER AND HARBURN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Community Council decided to explore ways in which a Community Action Plan might be drawn up to provide a framework for development for the whole community including the rural area extending into the Pentland Hills.

The Community Council approached the Coalfields Regeneration Trust Scotland and made an application to be included as one of five Coalfields Community Futures projects for the year 2012/2013. The application was successful and the Community Council went on to establish a Steering Group for the project, inviting representation from others in the community – principally from other community organisations. West Lothian Council has been a great support throughout this period with strong links provided by both elected members and the Community Regeneration Officer for the area.

The Community Council and the Steering Group members have now established a local community development organisation – West Calder and Harburn Community Development Trust Ltd – to take the lead by acting as a body to raise funds, and to oversee the development of projects and actions identified during the work.

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

The Plan was prepared following extensive community engagement over the second half of 2012.

Community engagement included:

- Regular meetings of the Steering Group
- A series of local conversations with different groups and individuals representing a wide cross section of the community
- A community views survey that went to all households and to many of the businesses
- A community profile detailing facts and figures about the community
- A Community Futures Open Day in November in the Community Centre in West Calder.

MORE INFORMATION

This Action Plan is supported by a full report on the Community Views Survey, a summary of the Stakeholder Interviews, a detailed Community Profile and a report on the Open Day, each of which are available from members of the Steering Group.

OUR COMMUNITY NOW

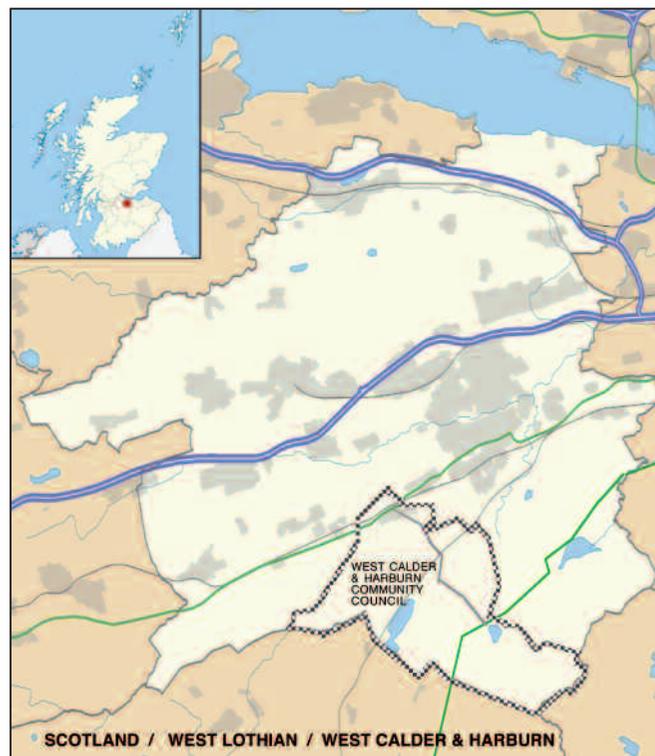
LOCATION AND HISTORY

West Calder (“the village”) is where the majority of people live, where services like health, schools and council are located, with shops for (mainly) everyday needs. Although with a history extending back before this, the village was built up in the nineteenth century around both shale and coal mining and the needs of those industries – workplaces, homes, leisure and other services. The pits and shale processing plants shut during the second half of the twentieth century; initially a number of people found re-employment in the new regional industrial developments established in the 1960s – BMC truck and tractor factory in Bathgate as one example. By the eighties these too were in decline and unemployment rose to over ten percent in the village.

New public sector homes were built in the village and in Polbeth to replace the old miners’ rows in Happyland, Mossend and Gavieside. West Calder Co-operative (a one time major player with influence across Central Scotland) closed its bakery, department store and transport division and amalgamated with Scotmid. New schools were built on former farm land – Parkhead Primary in West Calder and St Mary’s in Polbeth; high school students were found a new home on a site at Limefield, Polbeth or at St Kentigerns in Blackburn.

Harburn is the generally used name for the extensive rural area to the south of the village. Mainly farm- and moor-land it also included a limestone quarry, several mines and shale extraction sites and a gunpowder mill. To service these, there were areas of workers’ cottages and tied accommodation for the agricultural workers. The products from these industries were needed in surrounding industrial developments, and in return, travelling shops from the village served Harburn and its outlying homes.

Harburn also included, and includes still, a number of large houses and their estate land. It had at one time a police station, two railway



stations and a school. It has a village hall – a former WWI barrack hut transported from Edinburgh – established in 1923 and still serving the community and others as its meeting place.

Hardale Golf Club was set up in 1923 by people from Edinburgh with an eighteen hole course and a club house. Ten or so years later, the Burngrange Miners Golf Club in West Calder took over the by-then failing club and the name was changed to Harburn Golf Club. Increasingly it acts as a unifying factor between the two parts of the community as many if not most of its members are resident in West Calder.

LOCATION AND LAND USE

West Calder and Harburn Community Council forms the southernmost part of the West Lothian Council area. It includes approximately 65 square kilometres of land that rises from around 150m above sea level in West Calder to just over 500m at Craigengar in the Pentland Hills.

Around one third of the West Calder and Harburn Community Council area – that part which is north and west of the railway line

between Kirknewton and Carstairs – lies within the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Ward of West Lothian Council. This area includes the village of West Calder and the majority of homes that lie outwith the village – in Harburn.

The remaining, and by far larger, area lies – puzzlingly – within the East Livingston and East Calder Ward boundary and includes the settlements at Cobbinshaw and the farms and homes along the A70 Lang Whang.

The Community Council boundary is therefore shared with both South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders Councils, and within West Lothian, with the neighbouring community council areas of Polbeth, Addiewell/Loganlea, Bellsquarry, Murieston, Kirknewton and Breich.

The landform is governed by the south-west to north-east “grain” of the Pentland Hills. It contains two large bodies of water – Cobbinshaw and Crosswood Reservoirs, about 10 square kilometres of plantation forestry under both public and private ownership at Camilty, Harburnhead and Pearie Law, several areas of mature mixed woodland, one significant designed policy landscape at Harburn House and a Roman marching camp – Castle Greg.

Broadly speaking, water courses deeply incised through the farm- and wood-land run to the northeast, parallel to the Pentlands, and drain via the Almond to the Forth at Cramond.

Major roads serving the area follow this line with the A71 Edinburgh to Kilmarnock road passing through the village centre and the A70 Edinburgh to Ayr road some three or four miles south. The Edinburgh to Glasgow via Shotts suburban railway line crosses the area with a station in West Calder and the main line from Edinburgh to Carstairs and on to London or Glasgow runs south of this.

POPULATION

West Lothian’s population has grown from around 140,000 in 1985 to nearly 180,000 in 2011, an increase of over 25%; projected growth over the next 25 years is for a further 20% increase.

West Calder and Harburn has a population of nearly 4,000 and the age pattern closely mirrors the rest of Scotland, although both West Lothian and our ward as a whole have more younger and fewer older people.

Source Scottish National Statistics
Midterm estimates 2011
Except for Ward figures – 2010

	West Calder and Harburn Community Council area		Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Ward		West Lothian		Scotland	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Total population	3,966		16,716		172,990		5,252,800	
Aged 0-15	670	17%	3,510	21%	34,944	20%	912,937	17%
Working age	2,485	63%	10,531	63%	109,209	63%	3,298,233	63%
Pensionable age	811	20%	2,674	16%	28,837	17%	1,041,630	20%

Age breakdown – comparison with other areas

OUR COMMUNITY NOW

HOUSING

There are around 1,550 homes in the Community Council area with the village having 1,300 of these, and the remainder being in the rural landward area. A further 60 homes are under construction next to the new Medical Centre.

In addition, there are three developments of either sheltered housing, sheltered housing with care or very sheltered housing with nearly 100 lettable homes and rooms.

West Calder & Harburn has a higher proportion of owner occupied homes than either West Lothian or Scotland as a whole.

The housing type and tenure has changed radically over the past 30 years:

- New homes have been built on around eight or ten different sites in the village – the size of these developments ranges from around 150 to a dozen or so;
- Well over 200 (157 WESLO and 59 WLC since 2002) former council homes (Scottish Special and local authority) have been sold since the right to buy legislation was introduced in 1987;
- There have been two developments of low

density Housing in the Countryside (Lowland Crofting) at West Harwood and West Mains Farms providing some 30 new homes on out of town sites;

- Odd sites have had small groups of or individual homes built on them throughout the village and – sparingly – in the rural hinterland;
- A number of older larger properties have been converted into separate flats and former agricultural buildings have been converted for residential use.

These developments have brought with them a great deal of diversification and homes now range from 1 bedroom small scale dwellings to large modern homes with outbuildings on extensive rural sites.



Source – West Lothian – Scottish National Statistics
 Source – West Lothian – Scottish National Statistics
 Source – Scotland – Scottish Government Housing statistics

	West Calder and Harburn 2011		West Lothian 2011		Scotland 2011	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Estimated Total No of homes	1,550		64,896		2,388,000	
Estimated No of owner occupied homes and (for the Scotland figures) privately owned vacant dwellings	1,050	68%	40,884	63%	1,610,000	67%
Estimated number of formally acknowledged private lets	100* <i>*probably a low estimate</i>	6%	2,596	4%	183,000	8%
Estimated no of homes for social rent – by a total of 7 housing associations	400	26%	21,416	33%	595,000	25%

Housing tenure – comparison with other areas

West Calder & Harburn and the council's proposed development areas

As part of the Livingston and Almond Valley Core Development Area (CDA) around 300 houses are proposed on two sites alongside the village – at Mossend and at Cleuch Brae. Separately, the station yard has an allocation for 42 homes provided difficult access issues can be overcome.

The much larger CDA development at Gavieside Farm (a mixed use development including around 1,900 homes) is separated from the village by a narrow strip of Countryside Belt partly designated as an Area of Special Landscape Control. Both the local authority and the West Calder & Harburn community will need to debate how this extensive development might be knitted into the social and environmental fabric of the community or indeed whether it will “look” towards Livingston as much as it will to the village.

As part of the preparation for the Council's new Local Development Plan underway at present, a Call for Sites was sent out. This has resulted in a number of development options being put forward by land owners and developers for consideration by the council – the site areas vary from relatively small ones adjacent to the cemetery and along the Hartwood Road close by the village, to larger ones of 9 and/or 15 hectares east of Parkhead, 65 hectares on Hermand Farm northwest of the Waterhouse crossroads and 85 hectares at Harwood



Farm. There are also proposals for the Freeport site and for the land next to the Five Sisters.

The total number of proposed housing units put forward in this call for sites across West Lothian far exceeds the number of houses required as part of the regional planning framework in the new South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan (SES Plan). It is important to stress that no decisions have been taken at this stage on which sites may come forward for development but it is clear that this pressure for development may have huge consequences for the community and will need to be debated openly and intelligently by all parties.



OUR COMMUNITY NOW

BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Although the range of shops has diminished over the past twenty years, West Calder Main Street retains a strong sense of local identity. The shops, cafes and restaurants provide many of the daily necessities if not a wide range of larger purchase options. The Cycle store and the Kilt Shop are examples of a more regional trading pattern – one that brings customers to the village.

The village is still a place where people meet and greet each other, stop for a chat to pass the time of day or conduct business with one or more of the services available – legal, council, health and so on. Alongside this there is a sense that the village centre is bleak, sometimes untidy, torn apart by traffic – much of it heavy vehicles – and could do with brightening up.

There are around 20 retail premises with three unoccupied shops, 8 hairdressers and beauty salons, 11 pubs, restaurants and take-aways, 5 businesses serving the motor trade, a major car sales dealership 18 professional and service centres and a couple of dozen other trades working in the village. Polbeth Industrial Estate is just on the edge of the village.

The rural area includes around 20 farms including the UK's largest supplier of Christmas trees, 15 or so other land based operations, a dozen other businesses including a Country House wedding and conference venue and a good spread of self employed sole traders.

The West Lothian Business Directory shows 205 businesses registered for the Community Council area employing an estimated 790 people.

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY

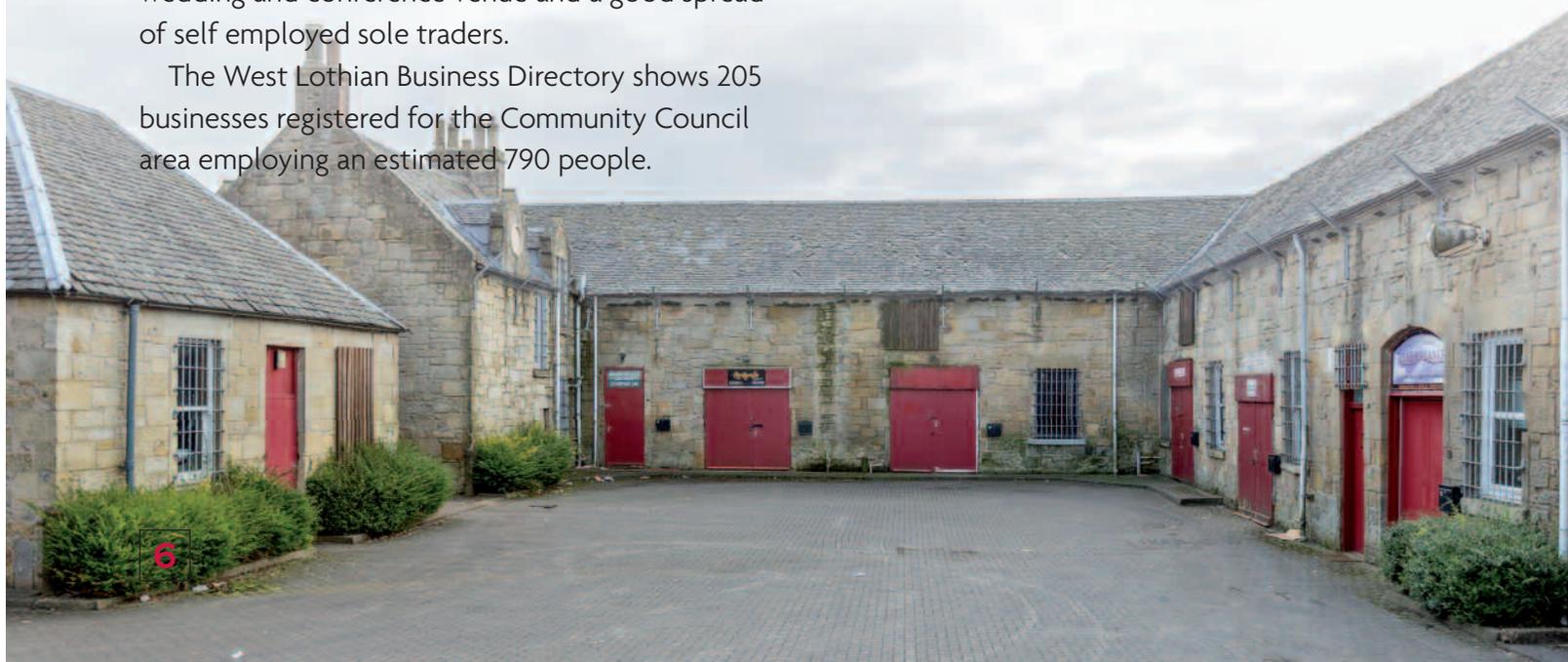
Both West Calder and Harburn have well used social and recreational centres – including the West Calder Community Centre with its Fitness Suite, Harburn Village Hall and the West Kirk Church Hall. Other premises available for functions include the Bowling Club, the Masons' and the Golf Club. None of these however has a sports hall and this lack of a dedicated venue is keenly felt.

There is a wide range of clubs and associations using these premises for social and recreational activities – a full list is included in the Community Profile. For young people, a youth club runs on two evenings a week in the Community Centre and the scouting group uses the West Kirk hall but there are few other activities and no dedicated space for young people to make their own.

HEALTH & CARE SERVICES

West Calder Medical Centre, built about 5 years ago, provides an excellent range of local medical and community health services including: GP service, Health Visitors, District Nurses, Counselling services for mental health, addictions and others. In addition there are dental practices and a chiropody and podiatry service operating in the village.

St John's in Livingston is the local General Hospital. There are strong concerns locally about the service being diminished year on year.



ROADS, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

West Calder is very well served with trains on the Edinburgh – Shotts – Glasgow line although there are gaps in the schedules (late nights and weekends) that limit the full use of the service.

In the main, bus services are good provided changes at Livingston are factored into journeys; there are some routing issues that inhibit cross county journeys to work.

Edinburgh Airport is a 20 minute journey by car or taxi but public transport users need to travel via Edinburgh.

The A71 passes through the heart of the village and the heavy volume of traffic is considered to be both dangerous and unpleasant. Maintenance of road and pavement surfaces, verges and drainage is not of first quality, particularly on the network of rural roads.

NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURES

The area is remarkable for its rich diversity of both natural and cultural heritage. There are four Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the Community Council area – at Cobbinshaw Moss, Cobbinshaw Reservoir, Hermand Birchwood and Craigengar in the Pentlands. In addition, Hermand Beech Wood at the Waterhouse cross roads is designated as a Ancient Woodland. Full descriptions of the sites and reasons for designation are included in the Community Profile report.

EDUCATION & CHILDCARE

Publicly funded schools in the immediate area include Parkhead and Polbeth Nursery Schools, Parkhead and St Mary's Primary Schools, West Calder and St Kentigern's High Schools.

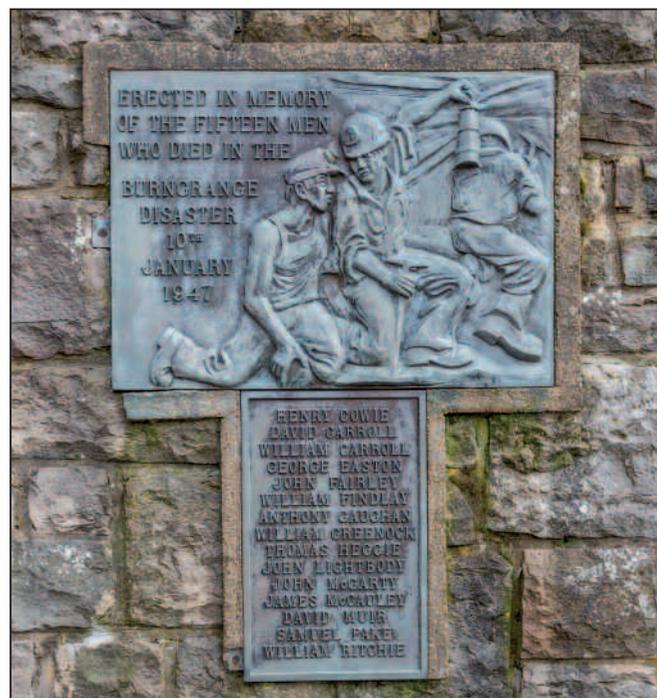
Apart from a Parent and Toddlers group in the community centre there is very little other provision for childcare.

HERITAGE & HISTORY

West Calder and Harburn are rich in industrial and social history. The mining history of the village – both for coal and shale – is still evidenced by the legacy of pit head buildings, now mostly used for other purposes or lying idle, the numerous bings – large and smaller and including the Five Sisters which has been recognised for its iconic land form as a scheduled monument – and the Main Street memorial to the fifteen miners who died in the Burngrange disaster in 1947.

Buildings that are listed for their architectural significance include: The Railway Inn, West Calder Station and the footbridge, the Coach house and stable at Hermand, Hermand House, Harburn House stables, Hayfield and the Charles X Monument, the Old Kirk in Hartwood Road, several farmhouses, the Carnegie Library and the former Co-op building at 13-19 Main Street. Other significant buildings in the community include the Workspace in Society Place and the Commercial Inn.

There may be an argument for an appreciation of the properties that make up parts of the Main Street to be recognised as of value because of the nature of the group that they make up.



COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY

THE LIKES AND DISLIKES

Around 300 responses were received from households across the community including a number from the High School students. 70% of the responses came from people living in West Calder. This equates to an approximate 20% return, giving a very clear indication of what people think of the community as it is now, what they'd like to see happen and what kind of a community we should aim to develop.

We are very grateful to all the volunteers who went round delivering and collecting survey forms – especially those who went to remote households in the rural area.

WHAT WE LIKE	
Good community spirit / community life Friendly – the people – feeling safe here – family connections – welcoming and supportive – friendly shop keepers	42%
Good strategic location Central for the cities – the station and good rail and bus links – close to Livingston and its services – good connections to motorway network and airports	35%
Good range of facilities in the village Shops, bank post office, Scotmid – good schools – churches – Medical Centre, dentists, pharmacies – council services – police station and officers	30%
Rural location Good access to surrounding countryside and hills – network of paths for walking and cycling – rural “feel”, views, scenery – attractive green spaces	21%
Pleasant small village atmosphere Amenities within walking distance – quiet and peaceful – a balanced community	19%
Good range of community activities Events in village hall – activities at community centre – active community – good recreational facilities	8%
Attractive village The architecture of the Main Street, particularly the Library – sense of local history and heritage	3%

“West Calder – I like the community spirit and the fact that everyone says ‘Hello’ when you meet them, whether you know them or not. Staff in the shops are friendly and helpful”

“It’s where my family live and friends live. I go to school on the bus, it’s close to Livingston, Fife for the beach, Lanarkshire for my granny, Edinburgh & Glasgow on the train. We have some shops of our own. We have the train station”

“Good range of shops & community facilities compared with similar-sized villages. Great schools”

“New footpaths between Polbeth and West Calder have opened up available environment for walkers”

“The new path between Burngrange and the community centre and the associated walkways is a great improvement especially for children”

“It has managed to maintain a village identity and not be swallowed up by Livingston”

“All the opportunities to do fun things”

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE

<p>Loss of / lack of services and facilities Limited range of shopping – poor broadband - slipping behind the rest of West Lothian – too few events – no decent pubs / restaurants – too few sports facilities</p>	28%
<p>Traffic and transport Heavy vehicles and congestion – parking issues – poor bus service to rural areas – inconsiderate driving along rural roads</p>	28%
<p>Anti social behaviour Litter, dog-mess and flytipping – young ones “just hanging around” – vandalism and underage drinking</p>	27%
<p>The look of the place Industrialisation of the countryside – run-down appearance of village centre – poor quality new buildings – dull, unpleasant parks – poor quality public spaces</p>	25%
<p>Council services Concern about housing allocation policy – winter road maintenance – potholes and pavement maintenance – poorly maintained country roads</p>	14%
<p>Too few facilities for children / young people Nothing for young children – no place of “our own” – not a lot to do at weekends – no dialogue between the generations</p>	13%
<p>Development issues Too many flats being developed – community having no say about developments – fear of coalescence with Livingston</p>	7%

“West Calder has pretty limited shops and limited places to go out at night”

“West Calder High Street lacks interest to attract visitors from outside”

“The through traffic makes it noisy and I think hinders its development as a quiet shopping centre. Because of the through traffic it does not have a centre, Union Square does not present a welcoming feel”

“Not being able to cycle safely with my children. The number of HGV vehicles and others not keeping to speed limits”

“Too many dogs leave poo on the paths and park where we play and ride our bikes, it’s dangerous and they can make you very sick. There should be lots of bins for poo”

“Union Square needs a good clean, then needs to be kept clean”

“Condition of the rural roads and roadside drainage is appalling. Roadside litter”

“There’s not a lot to do at nights and weekends if it’s raining, we need a mini football pitch”

MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

CONNECTED . . .

. . . This is the over-arching theme for the approaches outlined in our Community Action Plan. Improvements to the village need to be complemented with better access to, and improved maintenance of, the surrounding rural area. Facilities for community activities need to be made available and to be of the highest possible standard for people of all ages, and in all parts of our community.

The information that the Community Futures work brought forward – through the survey, the profile, the community conversations and the Community Futures Open Day – has helped to shape this action plan. This section sets out the five main development themes and the priorities that the community is aiming for. We will move these forward both through our own efforts and in partnership with a range of agencies and supporters.

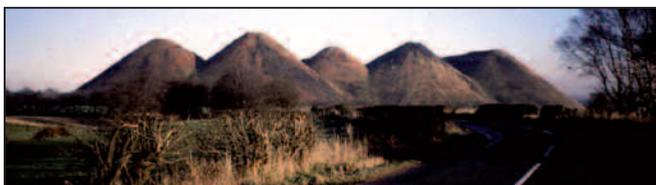
THEME 1

The environment – green, built and cultural

Our location is a unique one – a village on the doorstep of some fine and wild landscape while at the same time being within reach of the cities. Our heritage as a formerly thriving mining community has left its mark – not just in the town centre memorial and the Five Sisters bing but also in a fine and solid architectural heritage with important landmark and listed buildings. We aim to use the past as a springboard for renewal and to reach out beyond the urban nature of the village to the countryside, developing our connection to it as a resource for leisure, pleasure and recreation.

Main Priorities

- Improving the look of Main Street and the public spaces of the village
- Celebrating our architectural heritage and our local history
- Supporting the development of the Community Garden project
- Action to reduce litter, dog mess and fly-tipping throughout the area



THEME 2

Roads, paths, traffic and transport

The A71 is an important regional connector; it passes through the centre of the village bringing both benefits and disadvantages. The main issue with it is the volume of traffic and the disruption, pollution and danger that come as part of this. The village has a lot of parking space but it needs to be better signed and made more accessible. The rural roads are well used – for leisure as well as travel by car – providing a green lung for the people of West Calder and the south west of Livingston. More could be done to improve safety along these roads and within the village – perhaps by slowing traffic down, perhaps by creating more off-road routes for other users. Roadside pavements aside, the few paths there are, are in poor condition and very weather dependent.

Main Priorities

- Better maintenance of verges, ditches, drainage and roadside pavements in the rural areas and improvements for some specific areas in the village
- Developing a better path network for walking and cycling
- Traffic safety through the Main Street
- Improvements to parking at the station and to the road junction with the A71

THEME 3**Community facilities for people of all ages**

At the heart of our vision for the future is the understanding that our community aims to reach its potential and flourish; in part this will be through the rediscovery and strengthening of local pride and our community spirit. This is driven by growth and changes already underway – more houses, more people choosing to live here, more children and families whose social development needs to be nurtured and supported by a first class provision of social and community facilities and activities.

Main Priorities

- Providing sports facilities – including better access to those around us
- Better facilities for young people in our community
- Supporting local organisations to improve the facilities for recreation throughout the community

THEME 4**Events for local people and for visitors**

A lively and thriving community can only be built with the understanding that this needs to reach into all aspects of local life – community and social, the local economy, our built environment and its rural surroundings – and support regular and sustainable activities and events to enrich the kind of place we want West Calder and Harburn to be. The Fair in the Square at Christmas, Parkhead Gala and the Harburn Festival are fine examples of the community's ability to initiate and run events successfully. They also show a hunger for more of the same.

Main Priorities

- Creating and supporting more events to bring local people and visitors together

THEME 5**Developing an enterprising community**

Destination West Calder . . . Although our local shops and businesses underpin the life of the community, our focus on enterprise needs to include community based ventures as well. A vital element of our plan for the future will be driven by local people working together on behalf of the community as a whole. As a first step towards this, we need to consider how best our “public realm” can serve our needs – for this we will need to work in partnership with the local authority. The community centre, work-space, library, CIS, parks and open spaces like Union Square are not just separate pieces but part of a whole. It is clear that the local authority is an important partner in this – our key partner.

Main Priorities

- Establish a local Community Development Trust
- A big new project to underpin the revival of the community – Destination West Calder
- Supporting the development of new job opportunities for young people
- Supporting the re-invention of the Traders Association
- Lobbying for improved broadband service



ACTION

Action steps will be tackled – some by ourselves and others in combination with our agency partners – over the next 12-18 months, although some of the projects are on a longer time-frame than this and will take some time to achieve. These steps include suggestions made in the surveys, stakeholder interviews and at the Community Open Day.

Theme 1 – The environment – green, built and cultural	
PRIORITY	ACTIONS
<p>Priority 1 <i>Improving the look of Main Street and the public spaces of the village</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Develop ideas for short term improvements – hanging baskets, better provision for litter, more frequent cleaning ◆ Support the project to draw up proposals for the “public realm” of the village – see Theme 5, Priority 2 below ◆ Seek funding for small scale immediate improvements
<p>Priority 2 <i>Celebrating our architectural heritage and our local history</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Set up a meeting to draw together people wishing to support this project, taking special care to involve those local people who are already well versed in this ◆ Arrange for support from relevant expertise – WLC local historian, other local and regional history groups, architectural heritage specialists ◆ Create a photographic and narrative record of the buildings of the village – noting what is already listed as being of local value ◆ Work towards the presentation of an exhibition of materials illustrating the best we have
<p>Priority 3 <i>Supporting the development of the Community Garden project</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ensure good links between the Polbeth and West Calder Community Garden Association and other local actions to regenerate the community ◆ Discuss ways in which the CDT can support their process of building up volunteer resources for the project ◆ Develop the idea for regular village markets in conjunction with the group
<p>Priority 4 <i>Action to reduce litter, dog mess and fly-tipping throughout the area</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Work with the relevant departments of WLC to make the response to litter and dumping even more effective ◆ As happens in Harburn, organise annual litter picks on an area by area basis involving local volunteer groups supported by WLC with protective clothing, equipment and other resources ◆ Set up a competition between areas of the village – with prizes for the best maintained public areas ◆ Set up an information and education campaign focusing on dog mess ◆ Work with WLC to ensure better provision and maintenance of bins ◆ Seek support from Scotland in Bloom and other campaigning groups
<p>Action by</p>	<p>West Calder and Harburn Community Council Polbeth and West Calder Community Garden Association West Calder and Harburn Community Development Trust Local people interested in heritage and local history West Lothian Council landscape officers West Lothian Council NETS team</p>

Theme 2 – Roads, paths, traffic and transport

PRIORITY	ACTIONS
<p>Priority 1 <i>Better maintenance of verges, ditches, drainage and roadside pavements in the rural areas and improvements for some specific areas in the village</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Create a forum for regular, swift recording of road and pavement damage including issues relating to drainage and verges ◆ Gather information from other areas where effective approaches to this issue have been initiated ◆ Work with WLC to set up a reporting mechanism complete with an effective and accessible feed back mechanism to chart progress ◆ Explore ways in which local community action can complement the work of the council
<p>Priority 2 <i>Developing a better path network for walking and cycling</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Set up paths and trails working group ◆ Draw up an audit of existing routes – where, type, condition, uses etc ◆ Work with the West Lothian Access Forum to explore how agency resources can be accessed and used to support the development of a first class network – in and around the village and as links to other places ◆ Identify a series of priorities for action and establish a schedule of work groups to take action
<p>Priority 3 <i>Traffic safety through the Main Street</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Set up a system for creating a photographic and video record of traffic movements through the Main Street ◆ Record interviews with pedestrians to gauge strength of feeling about traffic issues ◆ Create a forum to present this to the relevant personnel from West Lothian Council
<p>Priority 4 <i>Improvements to parking at the station and to the road junction with the A71</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Set up a roundtable discussion with the landowners and land managers with an interest in the station area to identify issues about ownership and access rights ◆ Draw together informal interim proposals for improvements ◆ Explore liability and responsibility issues ◆ Explore feasibility of proposals and prepare a schedule of related works and costs ◆ Seek funding for improvements
<p>Action by</p>	<p>West Calder and Harburn Community Council West Lothian Council Roads Maintenance Service West Calder and Harburn Community Development Trust Network Rail and maintenance partners Other landowners and managers throughout the area Scottish Natural Heritage Landowners in the station area Paths and Trails Working Group West Lothian Access Forum</p>

ACTION

Theme 3 – Community Facilities for People of all ages	
PRIORITY	ACTIONS
<p>Priority 1 <i>Providing further sports facilities – including better access to those around us</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Call an open meeting to explore current sports activities and facilities in and around the area and define barriers and gaps in provision ◆ Identify improvements to access to existing facilities – cost, transport, timing ◆ Identify opportunities for new provision – land, ownership, premises ◆ Gather agency support for a feasibility study into new options for sports provision
<p>Priority 2 <i>Better facilities for young people in our community</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Call together a working group representing all interests – young people, clubs and associations providing facilities and running activities, premises managers ◆ Arrange to visit other communities and projects providing first-class facilities and opportunities for young people ◆ Work together to compile a list of imaginative ideas for exploration ◆ Approach local authority elected members and officers to explore best ways of partnership towards better provision
<p>Priority 3 <i>Supporting local organisations to improve the facilities for recreation throughout the community</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Using the information from the Community Profile, set up a meeting to bring together local voluntary and community organisations running recreational activities in the community ◆ Identify further ambitions and plans for the future ◆ Identify how best to tackle these unmet needs ◆ Support local organisations as they make ready for future developments
<p>Action by</p>	<p>Sports clubs and groups operating in the community West Calder and Harburn Community Development Trust West Calder Community Centre Management Committee Youth group leaders and club providers Sportscotland West Calder Bowling Club Harburn Village Hall Association Young people from the community</p> <p>West Lothian Council Harburn Golf Club West Calder United Other local groups & associations</p>



Theme 4 – Events for local people and for visitors

PRIORITY	ACTIONS
<p>Priority 1 <i>Creating and supporting more events to bring local people and visitors together in the community</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Set up a Working Group that draws together local traders, local organisations running events currently, other local interested groups and West Lothian Council officers ◆ Explore lessons learned from the Fair in the Square in December 2012 ◆ Draw up proposals for a new season of events including further market events in the Square and extending existing events to a wider audience ◆ Explore options for local provision of equipment and materials needed for events
<p>Action by</p>	<p>West Calder and Harburn Community Development Trust Local Events Working Group West Calder Business Association Harburn Craft Fair Polbeth and West Calder Community Garden Association Parkhead Gala Committee Harburn Festival organising group West Lothian Council Tourism Development Officer</p>



ACTION

Theme 5 – Developing an enterprising community	
PRIORITY	ACTIONS
Priority 1 <i>Establish a local Community Development Trust</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Celebrate the establishment of the Community Development Trust ◆ Choose an everyday name for the Trust ◆ Set up a recruitment campaign for members ◆ Appoint an interim board of directors to run the company until the first AGM ◆ Seek funding for a Development Worker
Priority 2 <i>A big new project to underpin the revival of the community – Destination West Calder</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ As a starting point, draw up a brief for an Urban Realm study for the village of West Calder ◆ Approach a range of consultants and seek costs and presentations from them ◆ Stay closely involved with the development of imaginative ideas and options for the use of our public buildings and outside spaces
Priority 3 <i>Supporting the development of new job opportunities for young people</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Call a conference to bring together young school leavers and young people not in Education, Employment or Training, with agencies operating in West Lothian ◆ Explore opportunities and barriers to creating more training, education and employment for younger people
Priority 4 <i>Supporting the re-invention of the Traders Association</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Support the small group of key local traders to re-establish a Business Association to take a lead in the development of West Calder as a great place to do business – including constitutional and other organisational matters like bank accounts ◆ Draw up proposals for peer group support ◆ Develop a set of goals for the next year
Priority 5 <i>Lobbying for improved broadband service</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Identify key individuals with the knowledge and skills to develop a meaningful campaign for an improved service in the village and in the surrounding rural area ◆ Gather information about the approaches taken by other rural communities to improve their service ◆ Consider the idea of a petition to BT and other network providers
Action by	West Calder and Harburn Community Development Trust West Lothian Council Economic Development section West Calder Business Association West Lothian Council Planning Urban Design Consultants West Lothian College Jobcentre Plus Local High Schools Modern Apprenticeship enablers BT and other telecoms providers

MAKING IT HAPPEN

The Community Futures Steering Group was encouraged by the number of people who left their contact details at the Community Futures Open Day. The steering group would be delighted if more people were to join in with taking forward the actions set out here.

Communities in other parts of West Lothian and across the UK have set up Working Groups to bring together people who are interested in one or another of the main themes. In our case these are:

Community facilities for people of all ages
The environment – green, built and cultural
Roads, paths, traffic and transport
Events for local people and for visitors
Developing an enterprising community

If you are interested in taking part in one or another of the Working Groups

Please contact us at:

West Calder and Harburn Community Development Trust

West Calder and Harburn Community Council

West Calder Community Centre Management Committee

E-mail address:

wcandhcdt@yahoo.co.uk

wcandhcc@yahoo.co.uk

westcaldercc@hotmail.co.uk

It is anticipated that the Community Council will continue to take a lead role in areas where they are already active – representing the community's interests in planning matters, lobbying the council and other agencies for specific improvements in the public realm, and generally acting as the main contact point for community matters.

A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FOR WEST CALDER AND HARBURN

One way in which the priority projects highlighted here might be supported is through the establishment of a new Community Development Trust (CDT), and the steering group has set up the West Calder and Harburn Community Development Trust Ltd as a company Limited by Guarantee with charitable status.

Such organisations are often established as local charitable companies that draw their membership from people living and working in the area and which have a voluntary board of directors elected by the members. They make it simpler for funds to be raised and projects to be commissioned; they often work alongside but separate from the community council and make it a practice of working in partnership with other bodies. In some instances they have taken over the ownership of community assets like buildings, woodlands or open spaces. Some or all of these might be appropriate for our area.

It is clear that an agenda such as this would benefit from the support that a paid member of staff could bring to it. At an early stage, the CDT will seek funding for a Development Worker to take on the day-to-day tasks in association with the directors and project volunteers.

If you are interested in supporting the Community Development Trust, please get in touch – see contact details above.

KEEPING THE PLAN UNDER REVIEW

The Community Futures Steering Group will hand over responsibility for the ongoing development of the strategies and projects prioritised in this Community Action Plan. The CDT will convene regular opportunities for people to come together and share their progress on the projects and actions outlined here. Each year there will be a commitment to involving the whole community in charting our progress and as a way of picking up new ideas and energy.

WEST CALDER AND HARBURN COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2013-2018

This Community Action Plan sets out the community's priorities for the development of the West Calder and Harburn Community Council area over the next five years.

The plan includes:

- A summary of our Community Profile
- Headlines from the Community Views Survey
- Our Vision for the Future of West Calder and Harburn
- The Main Themes and Priorities for Action
- A summary of the action we hope to take over the next year or so
- Contact details so that YOU can become involved

Thanks to everyone who took part in the preparation of the Plan

COMMUNICATING CLEARLY

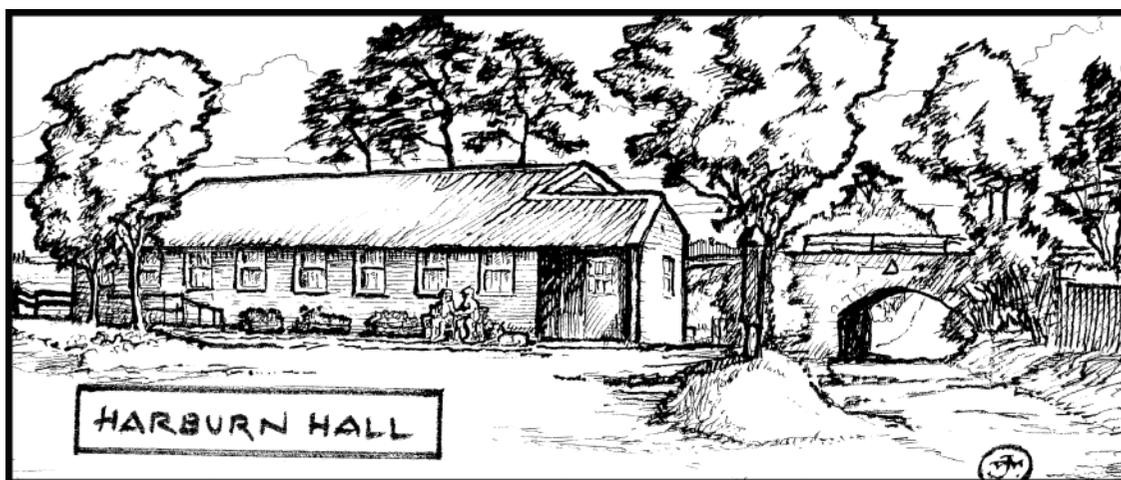
Information is available in Braille, tape, large print and community languages.

Please contact West Lothian Council's Interpretation and Translation Service on 01506 280000.

We are grateful for the funding that allowed us to carry out the work:

Coalfields Regeneration Trust
West Lothian Development Trust
West Lothian Council

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For more information on the Coalfields Community Futures Programme contact:
Coalfields Regeneration Trust at www.coalfields-regen.org.uk

For more information about the Community Futures way of working,
please contact: STAR Development Group www.stardevelopmentgroup.org

