

Caldercruix Community Plan

2019- 2024



COMMUNITY ACTION
LANARKSHIRE



What is a Community Plan?

Community Plans give people a real opportunity to say what’s important to them and what needs to happen to make sure that their communities are better places to live for everyone. This community plan sets out the priorities and aspirations of Caldercruix residents and identifies ways of making these things happen.

Why do a Community Plan?

- Local people are the best source of knowledge about their communities, which leads to better decision making
- The process of working together and achieving things together creates a sense of community
- Community involvement accords with people’s right to participate in decisions that affect their lives
- Many grant-making organisations prefer, or even require, community involvement to have occurred before handing out financial assistance

What we did for this Plan

- Caldercruix Community Council undertook a community survey in the village, distributed via Typeform which was open from May 2018- August 2018
- Two community conversation workshops were undertaken with P6’s and & P7’s from both Glengowan Primary School and St Mary’s Primary School (10th & 29th May 2019)
- A Community drop in was held to discuss the priority issues identified through the consultation exercise in more detail in order to develop project ideas (1st June 2019)
- The Plan was then developed based on the consultation and research which was undertaken in support of project ideas



Caldercruix is a semi-rural village in North Lanarkshire, Scotland, and has a population of 2,485 according to 2017 mid-year population estimates. It lies north of the A89 between Edinburgh and Glasgow, adjacent to Hillend Loch, a naturalised reservoir. The nearest major town is Airdrie, 4 miles to the west.

Caldercruix Railway station was reopened in 2011 as part of the Airdrie-Bathgate Rail Link and provides a regular service to both Glasgow Queen Street and Edinburgh Waverly.

Following the closure of the Doctors Practice in Caldercruix, the nearest doctor’s surgery is in Airdrie, there is a Branch Surgery held weekly within Caldercruix, however this doesn’t include GP appointments, only nurse appointments are available.

There are two local Primary schools within the village, which share a joint campus – Glengowan Primary School – a non-denominational school and St Mary’s Primary School – a denominational school (Roman Catholic).

There is no Secondary School within the village, local children will attend secondary schools located within Airdrie – namely St Margaret’s High School or Caldervale High School.

Caldercruix has a number of small shops located within the village, which include small convenience stores, pharmacy, betting shop, take-aways and a café.



Whats Happening in Caldercruix?

Caldercruix Community Council was formed at the end of 2017. They are an active group, who meet monthly with the aim of developing and supporting activities designed to make the village a great place to live. Since their establishment they have developed the following initiatives:

- Caldercruix Heritage Project –funding was secured towards the development of a memorial garden adjacent to Main Street
- Barrel Planters – following a donation of barrels by Inverhouse Distillery, a number of planters have been located across the village and are maintained by the local community and local businesses
- Litter Picks – bi-monthly community clean ups are held throughout the village
- Community Fun Day –held annually in August to bring the local community together
- Gowan Brae- construction of a rockery at the start of the cycle path
- Defibrillator – members of the local community have participated in bystander CPR training and the use of a defibrillator, and funding is being raised towards the cost of purchasing one
- Community Christmas tree & lights switch on Caldercruix Community Centre in Dunbreck Avenue is run by Culture and Leisure North Lanarkshire. In 2018, North Lanarkshire Council reduced the opening of this facility to term times due to budget cuts. There have been ongoing challenges in keeping this facility open and well maintained

Community Groups in Caldercruix

- Girls Brigade meet every Monday in the Church Hall
- Boys Brigade meet every Wednesday in the Church Hall
- Audrey Clark School of Dance classes are held every Thursday in St. Mary's Hall, Glen Road, Caldercruix
- Bookbug library sessions are run every Thursday in the Church Hall
- Mother and toddlers group is run every Monday during term time
- OAP Fundraising Committee
- Citizens Advice Bureau outreach is delivered during term time at the community centre
- Routes To Work is delivered weekly during term time
- Caldercruix Band practice every Tuesday
- Club365 throughout the school holidays
- Airdrie and District Angling Club
- Monklands Sailing Club
- Glengowan Bowling Club



Population

- 2017 Mid-year population estimates show that Caldercruix has a population of 2,485
- 22% of residents are under 16; 64% are working age; and 14% are ages 65 or over, this is in line with both the North Lanarkshire and the Scotland averages.
- The average age is 37.2 years old



Health

- Male life expectancy is 72 years, lower than the Scottish average of 77.1 years
- Female life expectancy is 78 years, lower than the Scottish average of 81.1 years
- 79% of people rate their health as good or very good; 8% rate it as bad or very bad
- 264 people in Caldercruix are carers



Income & Employment

- 18% of the population are income deprived, compared to the Scottish average of 12.3%
- 44% of people work full time, 12% work part time, and 5% of people are self employed
- 13.3% of the community are defined as being employment deprived, compared to the Scottish average of 10.8%
- 13% of residents are retired



Housing

- 33% of households are made up of families with dependent children; 9% higher than the Scottish average
- 56% of homes are owned; compared to 62% nationally; 39% are rented (through Housing Associations or North Lanarkshire Council)
- The average number of persons per household is 2.5; higher than Scottish average of 2.2



Education

- 62% of 16-17 year olds are in education; compared to 80% across Scotland
- 7% of 17-21 year olds enter into full time higher education
- 10% of people aged 16-19 are not in full time education, employment or training
- Wider educational attainment is lower than the Scottish average, with 35% of residents achieving qualifications at Level 2 or higher compared to 50% nationally



Access to Services

- 100% of the population live in the 20% most access deprived areas of Scotland
- The average number of cars per household is 1.1
- 75% of people travel to work by car compared to 62.4% nationally; 12.4% use public transport to get to work compared to 14% nationally
- Average drive times to a Post Office and Primary School is less than 5 minutes, drive times to a GP and secondary schools average 10 minutes, drive times to a retail centre is under 15 minutes. Public transport times are significantly higher

Community Consultation

The community consultation carried out in support of this plan used a three-stage approach; this allowed us to draw out priority themes and issues early on, then test the popularity of potential actions focused on those themes with the community.



Caldercruix Community Council undertook a community wide survey utilising Typeform between May 2018 and August 2018. As such, it was agreed that an additional community wide consultation exercise was not required.

From this survey, one of the priorities was more opportunities for young people. To find out more information regarding what young people would like to see within their local community, we undertook two community conversations with Primary 6 & 7 from the two local Primary Schools on the 10th & 29th May 2019.

When engaging with the primary schools, we used the Place Standard Tool - this is used to assess the quality of a place by providing a simple framework to structure conversations about place. This was delivered as an informal workshop, and helped to identify key issues affecting the young people, and what they felt could be improved for the wider community.

The final stage of the consultation involved hosting a pop-up community drop in event on the 1st of June 2019 in the village which all community members were invited along to. The drop in was designed to ask questions which built on the actions identified by residents as most important to them during the previous consultations; allowing us to flesh out actions and activities into more viable and detailed project ideas. The drop in also offered a chance to discuss the Plan with community members face to face, allowing them to see how priority issues were being actioned as the consultation progressed, and offering residents an opportunity to input their own ideas and suggestions directly. This approach enabled us to develop more robust projects which better reflect what people living in Caldercruix want to see.



Community Survey

Caldercruix Community Council received 78 responses to their community survey. This was a response rate of 8% of households and approximately 3% of the total village population. This survey identified that of those who responded:

- 68% were very interested or interested in their local community
- 24% are currently involved with community activities or groups within Caldercruix
- 48% would like to become involved with local community groups and activities
- 72% stated that Facebook would be the best way to keep the local community informed of the local Community Council’s activities

The local community identified the following as the best things about living in Caldercruix:

Rail links for employment/social events	73%
Good neighbours	59%
Living in a rural area	56%
Local Primary Schools	35%
It’s strong sense of community	33%
Bus service	7%

The local community felt that the following would improve their or their families’ experience of living in Caldercruix:

More opportunities for children and young people	76%
More opportunities for older people to socialise	37%
More opportunities for adults to meet each other	31%
More opportunities to become involved in the local community	31%.
More opportunities for adults to learn new skills	24%.

It was identified that the following issues affected the local community’s daily lives:

Anti-Social Behaviour	42%
Roads and pavements	38%
Health	36%
Access to services	23%
Transport	19%
Isolation	9%
Financial worries	8%
Housing	8%

Community Conversation

On the 10th and 29th of May Community Conversations were held at the two Primary Schools in the village attended by approximately 50 Primary 6's and 7's.

Young people were asked to look at key questions from the Place Standard tool, and talk about the key issues within their community. A summary of their feedback is included within the diagram below which provides a visual representation of the aspects of Caldercruix that the young people feel are good, together with the areas where the young people feel could be improved. The higher the score, the better that aspect of the community performed.

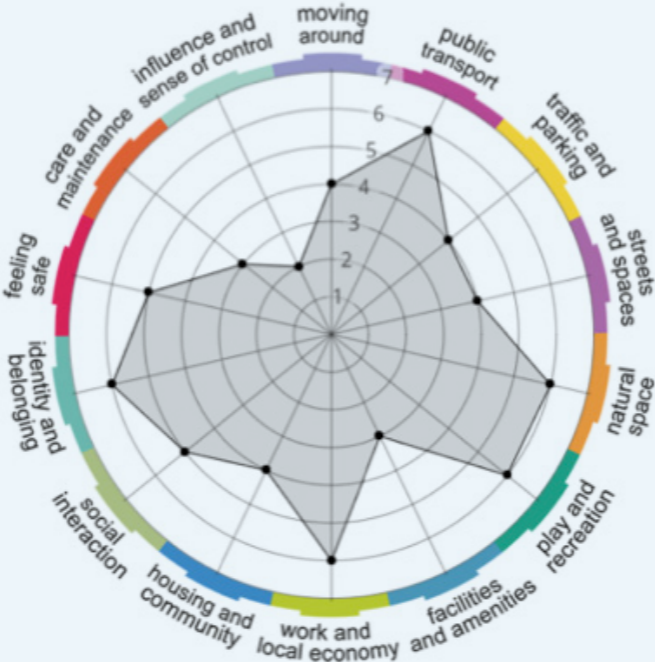
Overall the young people felt that maintenance and litter were an issue across the village that needed to be addressed. There are lots of areas for young people to play, but these are vandalised and need improved, in addition it was highlighted that there are not play areas for all ages.

Access to the nature and the countryside was identified as easy by local young people.

It was felt that there were not enough clubs or events within the local area, and that the Community Centre is not used very much.

The majority of the young people felt safe within their community during the day, but not when it was dark.

As part of the community conversation we asked the young people a series of questions, to gather a better understanding about how they felt about the area.



Your friend comes to visit Caldercruix, where do you take them?

All the young people highlighted the outdoors and the opportunities available for them to play with friends locally, with the most popular responses being:

- The local playpark
- Football at the AstroTurf pitch
- The Loch / Reservoir (Rizer to locals)
- The woods
- The cycle path

What's your favourite things about Caldercruix?

- Playing outside
- The Rizer (reservoir)
- Playpark
- Football pitch
- Local café
- Having all my friends close by

What one thing would you do to make Caldercruix better for young people?

- More bins, so that there is less rubbish
- More things to do
- Keep the park clean and tidy and always fixed
- Don't let people smoke around young people or in the parks

What things don't you like about Caldercruix?

- Litter and broken glass (especially in the play areas)
- Cars speed on the main roads, particularly national speed limit road to the village
- Play equipment gets vandalised

What one things would you do to make Caldercruix better for other people?

- Have a local police station
- Make the roads less busy
- More bins
- More shops near by
- Build a new community centre

Comments from Young People

"I like the café and my school where I see my friends."

"Change the astroturf to 3/4G so it doesn't hurt"

"Bigger shops and more police in the area."

There's not enough stuff to play on at the park. Too much litter."

"I like the shops, the park, and the fact we live near the countryside."

"Bring back the community centre and add a police station."

"I want less crime and less litter and bring back police station."

"Put more things in the park for kids ages 3 and under, and more things for older kids and put cool rides."

"Another park and 3G on football park"

"I think we should have a park at the bottom of Caldercruix"

"Gowan Brae crossing over is 60mph, it's not good"

"Too much parking on the pavements."

"I'd like lots of police, its dark behind the shops."

Community Drop In

The community drop in asked more detailed follow up questions leading on from the community survey in order to find out more information about the kind of projects people wanted to see locally.



What kind of evening classes or training might you be interested in attending if they were available in Caldercruix?

The most popular option was local history, which it was highlighted that the community council are already involved in; wider promotion of this existing project may be of interest to other Caldercruix residents. Foreign language, health and wellbeing, and art classes all had a level of interest from the community too, suggesting that there is interest among residents to try new things; the community centre could potentially trial a number of new activities or taster sessions to increase community interest in training and class provision.

What kind of social activities for the whole community would you like to see in Caldercruix?

Gala day was the top choice among residents for this question, indicating there is a level of interest in setting up this event locally, however it has previously been difficult recruiting volunteers to deliver fun days in the village. Walking groups and Men's Shed were also of interest to the community and could be worthwhile options for residents to pursue further to establish their feasibility.

Which of the following would you be interested in being involved with and volunteering your time to support in Caldercruix?

Community clean up, village environmental group, and Gala Day were the popular choices for this question. Two of these relate to environmental improvements within the village and could possibly be taken forward by a dedicated group of local volunteers interested in improving outdoor space in Caldercruix. Previous clean up events had a good turnout but this could be improved through better publicity. The popularity of the gala day option again indicates that this could be a project for the community to seriously consider moving forward. The newly set up community council could lead on this project but will need significant support from the community.

What activities for older people would you like to see in Caldercruix?

Establishing a gentle exercise class was the most popular option here; this broad term could incorporate a number of different activities including a walking group or Tai chi. Indoor bowls, which the community said there was existing equipment for in the community centre, was another option of interest to residents, along with a lunch club. All of these popular suggestions are social activities which could help to reduce any social isolation in the village.

What activities for young people would you like to see in Caldercruix?

An arts/ music club and youth club were the two top choices for this question at the drop in event. Sports groups, youth outreach, chill out area, and shopping and cinema trips were also supported by some people at the drop in. Any youth group established in the village could facilitate any of these activities; providing a varied programme for local young people. Generally people were supportive of any activity which offered young people living in Caldercruix with something positive to do in the evenings or at weekends.



What equipment do young people want to see in play parks and where?

This question received the most enthusiastic response from the community, highlighting the significant level of interest among the community for development of more and better play facilities within the village. Boulderling, climbing wall, slides and obstacle course were all very popular choices for this question, with zip wire, wheelchair swing, infants play equipment, and benches also being of interest which shows the broad range of demands for improvements. Other comments from the community on this question related to the significant amount of outdoor space around Caldercruix which could be made more accessible to young people for natural outdoor play, as well as upgrading existing play parks and playing fields. A number of young people attended the drop in which made this question representative of the real demands of young Caldercruix residents.

In terms of village improvements, what would you like to see in Caldercruix?

Upgrading the existing football pitch to 3G/ 4G was the most popular option under this question, with comments from residents that they would hope that this type of enhancement could help to re-establish a youth football club in the village which many people, young and older, were supportive of. Improving local woodland and installing public art were two other popular choices which people were interested in seeing more of in the village. The local woodland in particular people were interested in seeing made more useable for walking and children's play. Community garden, entrance features, and more planting around the village were of interest to some residents and could be undertaken through some form of village environmental action group. People were also very keen to see more bins and dog mess bins provided around the village.

Are there any particular issues that you think need to be addressed in Caldercruix in order to make it a better place to live and visit?

"Get more members involved with the community council to promote wider projects."

"There's no useable full size pitch in Caldercruix- so need to go elsewhere to play games- Drumpellier rugby park is where the youth football team play."

"Pitch at St. Mary's with the burn behind it, is not a good park but could be improved for kids- new goals and grass cutting etc."

"Swing park for young kids needs created behind shops, empty wasted space at the moment."

"Play park equipment is not well maintained- it would be used more if there was more to do and it was safer."

"Park needs a good bit of money spent on it to improve it."

Do you have any ideas for specific community projects or initiatives that you would like to see set up in Caldercruix in the future?

"Community bus."

"Football team in the village would be good- young people interested."

"Getting older people to the community centre was difficult before- possible bus in future."

"More things for children like fun days with attractions and activities."

The images below show the consultation boards that were used at the community drop-in event. The top row shows the original boards; the bottom row shows the boards after the community indicated their preferences, and added comments using dot stickers and post-it notes.

What activities for older people would you like to see in Caldercruix?

Walking group	Gentle exercise	Lunch club	Indoor bowls	Bridge club	Days out
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What activities for young people would you like to see in Caldercruix?

Youth club	Youth outreach worker	Chill out area	Shopping, cinema trips
Sports clubs	Art/ Music club	Volunteering/ training	Play park

What equipment do young people want to see in play parks and where?

Bouldering	Climbing wall	Small kids eq.	Benches	Obstacle course
Zip wire	Wheelchair swing	Slides		

In terms of village improvements, what would you like to see in Caldercruix?

Upgrade pitch to 3/4s	Planting	Community Garden
Entrance features	Improve woodland	Public Art

What kind of evening classes or training might you be interested in attending if they were available in Caldercruix?

IT/ Digital	Art classes	Foreign language	Employability
Fitness	Health and wellbeing	Book club/ Writing class	Local history

Other training interests?

What kind of events or social activities for the whole community would you like to see in Caldercruix?

Gala Day	Music/ Arts events (e.g. exhibitions or gigs)	Monthly social nights	More sports provision
Parent and toddler groups	Walking group/ dog walking group	Men's Shed	Refending

Other social activities?

Which of the following would be interested in being involved with and volunteering your time to support in Caldercruix?

Community clean up	Youth club	Village environmental group	Gala day/ other events
Setting up a community development trust	Refending service	Community garden	Evening clubs/ classes

Other volunteering interests?

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Community Priorities

From the previous consultation work, the following issues and themes were identified as key priorities for the community in Caldercruix.

Young People

More opportunities for children and young people was the most popular choice in the community survey for something that people felt would improve Caldercruix; the preference for this option highlights the significant importance of this issue for local people. The workshops delivered at the school enabled us to engage directly with local young people who voiced interest in a wide variety of different activities suggesting that there is demand for local young people to be able to try new opportunities. One specific demand from young people was to have more to do in the village as well. Supporting young people to access new opportunities was a key theme through the consultation which should be developed in partnership with young people to better match provision with young people's needs and demands.



Sports Facilities

The grass football field in the village behind St. Mary's Church was the main facility that community members voiced an interest in seeing upgraded. The pitch was identified as in need of upgrading drainage and better maintenance, including grass cutting and line re-marking, to enable local teams to make use of it. Currently local teams must travel to Drumpellier rugby park to play games which is inconvenient for many; upgrading the existing pitch in Caldercruix would mean that games could in future be played locally meaning more young people can get involved, potentially setting up new teams and developing existing. People also wanted to see the MUGA between Princes Street and Liberty Road upgraded to allow for a wider variety of sports to be played locally including basketball, netball and hockey. Residents also talked about the site adjacent to the school upgraded which they thought could be upgraded to 3G or 4G surfacing to enable safer and more versatile game play, and to see the size increased to a standard pitch size which would enable local football teams to play their games on the pitch. As this school is a PFI school, this would not be something the community could do themselves.

Activities for Older Residents

The community were also very keen to see more happening in the village targeted at older residents. The broad interest in a variety of activities suggests that any level of increase in the opportunities available to residents would be welcomed. Of particular interest to the community were activities which specifically could help to reduce social isolation, something that was highlighted as an issue at the drop in event. Drop in attendees discussed how previous activities targeted at older residents were not well attended given the limited mobility of many older residents within the village and that to address this in future, a community bus initiative may need to be introduced.



Roads and Pavements

Many people were very keen to see local roads and pavements repaired as there is currently significant amounts of deterioration around the village. This was seen as a priority issue that affected the everyday lives of over a third of Caldercruix residents. The prevalence of the issue within Caldercruix should be addressed as a priority; with further surveying work undertaken to determine the worst affected areas within the village. Residents also wanted to see the quality of pavements around the school to be upgraded to ensure that local young people have a safe route to school.

Antisocial Behaviour

In the community survey this was the top issue affecting the everyday lives of Caldercruix residents with 42% of respondents indicating it as such. During workshop sessions at Caldercruix primary schools safety and anti-social behaviour issues were raised a number of times by young people as serious concerns of theirs, in particular vandalism, speeding, and lack of police presence were discussed by young people. The level of interest and concern about anti-social behaviour indicates that projects are needed within Caldercruix to provide positive alternatives for people who may be responsible for vandalism, as well as measures to discourage other forms such as speeding and littering.

Health Services

Caldercruix health centre was recently closed and local residents now have to travel to Airdrie to access GP services; this has had the most significant impact on those with the poorest mobility, who invariably are also the people who most need health services. While the village does have a train station which directly connects to Airdrie, this can be an expensive option for some, the poor bus links between Airdrie and Caldercruix has exacerbated this problem as older residents who could use buses for free are limited by infrequent services. There was some interest from the community in establishing outreach health services within the village, potentially delivered at the community centre one day per week, this would allow people to access health services within the village while still significantly reducing the cost implication of having a permanent health centre.



Community Involvement

The newly set up community council are very keen to find more ways of getting the local community involved in the work they are doing within the village. Consultation with Caldercruix residents suggests that there is a significant level of interest among local people for volunteering their time and skills to run events and activities within the community. This type of community involvement will also help to address other priorities such as delivering activities for young and older residents, as more people will be empowered to deliver these opportunities. The challenge going forward will be to continue to build interest and coordinate resources to enable community action; a community action group could be set up to help direct community involvement in local project. Better online presence through social media or a dedicated community website could be another option for increasing awareness among the community about what is going on and how to get involved. While there has been interest indicated at this early stage, it should be a priority for the community going forward to harness and utilise that interest and find activities that people want to be involved in, in order to sustain that interest and involvement longer term.



Train Costs

Community members were keen to discuss the cost of train fares to and from Caldercruix. In particular a number of pricing anomalies have been identified by residents which makes travelling by train into Airdrie or Glasgow from Caldercruix significantly more expensive than from Drummelloch, the next station. It is cheaper in some instances to purchase two separate tickets; from Caldercruix to Drummelloch, then from Drummelloch onwards, rather than a straight ticket through. This has been raised with Scotrail, who have acknowledged the anomaly.

Project Development

The following sections of the Plan provide details on a number of potential projects and action points for the community to take forward. They have been designed to address the demands and aspirations of local people identified during the community consultation.

There are six project outlines.

These are ideas which the community could take forward themselves, with support from partner organisations:

- Youth Group
- Upgrade Pitch
- Community Action Group
- Play Park Improvements
- Gala Day
- Heritage Memorial Garden

There are two joint projects

These are ideas which may be more feasible for neighbouring communities to undertake in partnership, sharing resources and benefiting a larger number of residents, making the project more viable in the long run:

- Community Bus
- Outreach Health Services

There are four action points.

Action points are things that the community are unlikely to be able to deliver themselves, but which the community can advocate on their own behalf, using the plan as evidence, to organisations who are best placed to affect that specific type of development:

- Road and Pavement Improvements
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Activities for Older People
- Cycle Path

The projects outlined in the proceeding pages have been designed to meet some of the demands identified by the local community. The onus should be on local people to take these ideas forward as a community; identifying suitable leader groups and organisations, as well as local volunteers who can to help make activities happen. Any community members who want to take these projects forward or to start new community groups should feel encouraged to do so, and can use this plan as a starting point.

Taking Projects Forward

Windfarm Monies



Caldercruix is due to begin receiving circa £25,000 every year for 25 years from 2020 up until 2045 through community benefit funding from Muirhall Energy windfarm. This will be paid directly to Caldercruix Community Council and will provide an excellent source of funding for any projects that the community want to take forward. Other communities that have received community benefit money from windfarm developments have used the money to fund projects including staff costs for development trusts, community farms, provision of crisis and homelessness support, community swap shops, Scout groups, and gala days. Any decisions about how community benefit monies should be spent should be made by the whole community, ensuring that there is consensus about how funds are distributed. All community organisations are eligible to apply for a portion of any community benefit monies.

Community Development Trust

Setting up a Community Development Trust would offer an excellent means of delivering the various action and projects detailed within this plan, as a Community Development Trust could provide support to the Community Council to carry out certain tasks which they would otherwise not be able to, such as employing staff. The development trust would combine community-led action with an enterprising approach to address and tackle local needs and issues. The aim of the development trust would be to create social, economic and environmental renewal within Caldercruix, creating wealth and keeping it here. In the first instance the community could engage with the Development Trust Association of Scotland (DTAS); this organisation can provide support to communities to establish development trusts. The three main building blocks in the process which DTAS can support are:

Communication and commitment: This may start with a few conversations of enthusiasts, then move through the formal and informal processes of workshops and presentations, newsletters and exhibitions to a formal launch.

Planning and projects: Mapping out the process, deciding what the trust will do, and developing a business plan which will ensure the trust is financially sustainable in the long term. This community plan would facilitate and enhance this stage.

Structure & staffing: Building the organisation, creating systems, recruiting the Board and staff, and training them

**Contact: Development Trust Association of Scotland (DTAS) www.dtascot.org.uk info@dtascot.org.uk
Rural Development Trust www.ruraldevtrust.co.uk info@ruraldevtrust.co.uk**

Community Development Trust

The community could look at options for taking sites within the village into community ownership so that they could be developed and used by the community and for the community. In particular the sports pitch and play park are two areas which the community could engage with North Lanarkshire Council to identify if there was scope for the community to purchase them. If the community themselves were responsible for these sites they could carry out the improvements they want to see independently. Considerations for public liability insurance for any site taken into community ownership should be made. A community development trust would likely be the most suitable structure of organisation to take land into community ownership. Community Land Scotland (CLS) provide support to communities to look at all of the options that are open to them including 'Community Right to Buy', a statutory route that allows communities the right to land when it comes up for sale, and 'Protocol for Negotiated Sales of Scottish Land and Estates (SLE)' which provides guidance for sales between SLE and CLS members.

Contact: Community Land Scotland www.communitylandscotland.org.uk info@communitylandscotland.org.uk

Youth Group

Aim

To provide a safe, accessible place for young people to choose to meet and socialise in an informal setting and participate in activities

Summary

The youth group will provide opportunities for young people in Caldercruix to take part in activities designed to develop their skills and confidence. The youth group will be youth-led project, supported by adults, where young people design their own programme and activities whilst developing a sense of community and participation. This project would have an educational and developmental purpose; enabling young people to meet with their peers; socialise and become part of the wider Caldercruix community; enabling young people to move from adolescence to adulthood. The group will focus on nurturing personal growth and offering activities that challenge and stimulate young people. As members of their communities, young people have an equal right of access to community facilities and should be supported to access existing facilities within Caldercruix where they can access clean, stimulating, comfortable space which is easy to get to. The project could initially be delivered as a pilot programme by a group of supportive local adults with the potential to extend or increase dependent on the success of the pilot. In the longer term it may be suitable for the community to bring in a youth worker on a sessional basis to deliver the programme of activities in partnership with local young people. Young people themselves should be at the forefront of this project, ensuring that design and activities meet their demands and interests.



Existing Provision

There is no youth club currently operating in Caldercruix. There previously was a youth club and youth worker paid for through NLC however this ended in September 2016. A Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade are both run in Caldercruix on a weekly basis, as is a youth dance group.

Supporting Evidence

More opportunities for young people was the top priority for Caldercruix residents in the community survey with 76% of people supporting it. The workshop sessions with primary school children also identified significant interest among young people themselves to have more opportunities to take part in activities locally. Setting up a youth club was top choice for residents at the drop in event as well.

Funding Options

- Variety - Youth Club Grants
- Western Recreation Trust
- Chance to Connect

Potential Partners

- North Lanarkshire Youth Community Learning and Development
- North Lanarkshire Leisure- Friday & Saturday Night Project
- Lanarkshire Youth Counselling Service (LYCS)
- St. Mary's and Glengowan Primary Schools

Upgrade Pitch

Aim

To provide a high- quality, multi- use sports facility within Caldercruix which is accessible for all residents and encourages greater participation in sport.

Summary

An options study should be undertaken for the potential development of the existing grass sports pitch within the village adjacent to St. Mary's Church. This site could be upgraded to a higher quality to provide a suitable playing field for local football teams. The development should also consider how best to incorporate the inclusion of any other sports of interest to the community in order to make the pitches of benefit to all residents, not solely those with an interest in football. The options study should engage with existing sports groups and those most likely to make use of the improved facilities to determine what type of specific improvements people would want to see as part of the upgrade. A covered playing area, and improved drainage on the existing grass pitch are potential improvements people would like to see. Development of the pitch could also help to kick start the formation of new sports teams within Caldercruix, providing them with a 'home' ground on which to play matches. Management of improved sports facilities in the village could also generate income for the community to cover ongoing maintenance costs of the pitch, generated through kids' parties and evening hires from amateur 5 a side teams etc. The options study could also look at possibilities for upgrading the MUGA behind the community centre as well, to see if there is any scope for improvements to be made here to enable an increase in community use. The improvement of these amenities will enhance the opportunities for Caldercruix residents to take part in sports and physical activity locally, reducing need to travel to further afield facilities in Airdrie.



Potential Partners

- North Lanarkshire Council
- North Lanarkshire Leisure
- Caldercruix FC

Existing Provision

The two pitches within Caldercruix are not available for people to regularly use them, particularly if a football team wanted to use them for competitive games. The grass pitch in the village is overgrown and is prone to waterlogging, with little regular maintenance undertaken, the synthetic pitch is not of a suitable size for games and the surfacing is hard and could potentially cause injury. The synthetic pitch is adequate for training purposes but is not suitable for local teams to use for games. The existing synthetic pitch is owned by the school, the community would be unable to undertake any improvements to this site themselves.

Supporting Evidence

At the community drop in event upgrade of the village's sports fields was a key priority for residents, including the many young people who attended who had an interest in football. Many discussed how they had to travel elsewhere to play football on account of the lack of facilities, and how they would like to have somewhere local they could use without relying on public transport or cars. This project would contribute to the community survey identified priority of more opportunities for young people in Caldercruix.

Funding Options

- Sportscotland
- Communities Landfill Tax
- The National Lottery Community Fund: Community Assets
- The Scottish Football Partnership

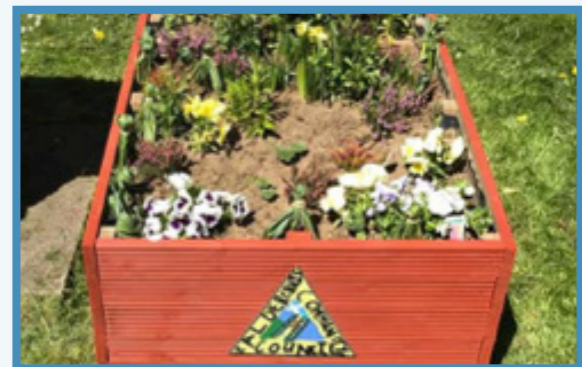
Community Action Group

Aim

To take care of and enhance the natural areas surrounding the village and bring about improvements to the appearance of the village where needed.

Summary

A community action group could take on small environmental and infrastructure projects within Caldercruix that could help to enhance the community for those living there. These types of groups often get involved in activities such as community clean ups, flower planting, and organising local events e.g. gala days. The community council already undertake much of this activity themselves, however by setting up a separate constituted group, they would be able to access other pots of funding unavailable to community councils. The group would be able to take forward a number of activities that the community indicated an interest in throughout the consultation process, working in partnership with the community council to provide a more attractive volunteering option for people who perhaps do not want the responsibility of joining the community council but would be interested in being involved on a more ad hoc basis. This project would help to stimulate the community to set up volunteer initiatives to enhance the environment and streetscape of Caldercruix and to engage local people so residents and groups can take pride in their community and their environment. The community action group could also lead on the improvement of local woodland, which was identified as a potential action by residents at the drop in. This may involve making woodland more accessible for local people on a variety of scales, for example in the short term through improvements in signposting, all the way to the larger infrastructure upgrade of informal paths and desire lines. A community action group could steer these activities to make sure local people can continue to enjoy high quality outdoor space. This could help to fill the gap left by council cuts to maintenance by engendering a greater sense of community ownership and responsibility, as well as increasing the capacity of local people to take up active roles within their community in terms of caretaking and maintenance.



Potential Partners

- Keep Scotland Beautiful
- Community Action Lanarkshire
- Clydesdale Community Initiatives (CCI)
- The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)

Existing Provision

The village does not have an existing environmental group set up to carry out these kinds of activities. The community council however have undertaken a number of activities to improve the surroundings such as clean-up days, barrel planting, and construction of a rockery. A dedicated environmental group would enable the community council to address other village priorities.

Supporting Evidence

In the community survey 48% of people said they would like to become involved with local community groups and activities. The level of interest in the activities the community council have already carried out shows there is an appetite among residents to get involved; this project would help coordinate activities and build on the participation already seen within Caldercruix

Funding Options

- North Lanarkshire Community Grants
- Awards for All
- Volunteering Matters - Action Earth Awards

Play Park Improvements

Aim

To upgrade and maintain existing, as well as providing additional, play equipment for young people living in Caldercruix.

Summary

This project would see the restoration of the existing play equipment in Caldercruix between Princes Street and Liberty Road, as well the addition of new equipment to better meet the needs of the variety of age groups in the village. The play park will provide a variety of modern equipment for young people of all ages; ensuring there is adequate and suitable provision to meet the needs of all local young people. As well as upgrading and maintaining the play equipment already within the village, residents were also keen to see more play equipment in other areas of the village. The lack of multiple play parks means that many young people may have to walk quite far to play currently, which many parents may be reluctant to let them do, particularly if roads are busy. In particular the parks should provide play equipment infants; one age groups currently without age appropriate equipment in the village. Bouldering, climbing wall, slides and obstacle course were all very popular choices for proposed improvements among residents; zip wire, wheelchair swing, and benches were also of interest which shows the broad range of demands for improvements. The provision of play facilities is most commonly provided through the local authority which would require the play equipment selected to fit with appropriate and certificated safety standards. This then enables councils to adopt play equipment and including within their duties for management and maintenance. Alternatively a community owned park could be developed, led by a constituted community organisation which can provide a means to secure funding and to build the park and take on management duties. The community should engage with potential housing developers to ensure community benefit provides good quality play equipment.



Potential Partners

- North Lanarkshire Council
- Glengowan and St. Mary's Primary Schools

Existing Provision

There is only one play park in Caldercruix currently, located between Princes Street and Liberty Road, which was installed around 10 years ago. While the equipment was of very high quality when it was installed, over the years it has not been as well maintained as it could have been and many items are now in need of repair. The equipment at this park is mainly targeted at older young people, meaning that there is nothing in Caldercruix currently in terms of play provision for very young children.

Supporting Evidence

Providing more opportunities for young people in the village was the top priority for the community in the survey and this project would directly increase the play and recreation provision within Caldercruix. The workshops delivered at the primary schools showed that local young people were very keen to see more and better play equipment in the village, and they provided many suggestions about the type of provision they wanted to see.

Funding Options

- Communities Landfill Tax
- North Lanarkshire Council Countryside and Park Department
- The Robertson Trust
- Supermarket Foundations (Tesco Bags of Help, Asda Foundation, Morrisons Foundation)

Aim

To create a heritage memorial garden within Caldercruix to celebrate the village’s history and create a focal point for community action.

Summary

This project will see the creation of a new leisure and recreation space within the community for use by all Caldercruix residents. The garden will celebrate the village’s past and provide a space where local people can come together to participate in community activities, or to simply socialise and relax. The heritage memorial and garden project will work with the two primary schools in Caldercruix to develop interpretation boards around the history and heritage of the village. This will include focus on a number of key aspects of the village’s past such as the paper mill, train station etc. The project will be completed over a number of phases.



Existing Provision

The heritage memorial garden does not yet exist, however the community council have taken steps to begin work to create the garden. The community council have carried out similar smaller scale projects including construction of a rockery at Gowan Brae and installing planting beds in the village.

Supporting Evidence

This project would provide an excellent opportunity for all community members to get involved in local action to improve the village; increased community involvement was a key priority. The garden would also create a safe, accessible space for people to enjoy nature and the outdoors, one of the top things that young people told us they liked about living in Caldercruix.

Funding Options

- Heritage Lottery
- Tesco Bags of Help
- Postcode Local Trust

Potential Partners

- Keep Scotland Beautiful
- Caldercruix Community Council
- Glengowan and St. Mary’s Primary Schools
- North Lanarkshire Heritage Centre

Aim

To continue to enhance the village fun day until the community are in a position to deliver a larger scale annual gala day event.

Summary

The community council have in recent years started to run a community fun day in the summer which has been steadily growing in popularity, this project would support the community to continue and increase support for the fun day, with the aspiration to eventually turn it into a larger scale gala day incorporating a programme of community events and activities. Support for the fun day would focus on increasing the activities which are delivered as part of the event in order to grow attendance annually. This would help to get more people interested and involved in local activities. A community gala day could act as a catalyst for a wider variety of community action as more people feel empowered and encouraged to volunteer their time to facilitate valuable, fun community activities.



Existing Provision

Caldercruix currently has an annual village fun day which was started in 2017; there is hope that this will continue to develop into a bigger gala day event for the village. The summer 2019 fun day was held on Saturday 10th August. There were a variety of activities on the day including roundabouts and inflatables as well face painting, raffles and a tombola. Funds raised through the raffle and tombola were put towards the Caldercruix defibrillator fund.

Supporting Evidence

The strong sense of community within Caldercruix was identified in the survey as a key positive aspect of living in Caldercruix, this project would enhance this even further by providing more opportunities for the community to come together. Having more opportunities to get involved with the community was something else that local people were keen to see; this project would provide an excellent opportunity to enable that involvement. The gala day would also create more things to do in the village; something that young people were very keen to see.

Funding Options

- Awards for All
- North Lanarkshire Council - Community Grant
- Asda Foundation - Local Impact Grants

Potential Partners

- North Lanarkshire Council
- Local community and sports groups
- Local businesses

Joint Projects

Community Bus

The development of a volunteer led transport initiative could offer a more accessible and responsive transport option to local communities that helps people to stay independent, participate in their communities and access vital public services and employment. The project would provide a flexible and community-led solution in response to the currently unmet local transport needs of local people, particularly vulnerable and isolated people, often older people or people with disabilities, who do not have access to private transport, and for the wider population who would benefit from an alternative to expensive taxis in evenings and at weekends to nearby town centres.



The community would benefit from a community bus initiative as it would provide much needed support to local residents who feel isolated due to a dependence on limited public transport to visit relatives, hospitals for appointments, leisure activities or shopping. This type of project could operate on a taxi bus type service, an option which other rural communities have taken forward whereby local taxi firms do fixed rates to popular destinations subsidised by wind farm funding.

Another option would be to work with Getting Better Together, based in Shotts, who run community buses which cover the Upperton area, as well as a volunteer driver scheme whereby drivers are paid per mile to take people for hospital appointments etc. The community bus service is available to all non-profit making groups (Schools, Voluntary groups, Churches, Youth Groups etc.) and they come with a fully qualified Pats and Midas trained driver. This service operates on a paid membership basis with additional fees per journey; prices for this service are available on the organisation's website. The volunteer driver scheme is a free service for people over the age of 65 who have difficulty in accessing transport and attending their appointments but are not eligible for transport from the ambulance service. They may not have their own car, no access to public transport or live too far away from their clinic to walk. Patients are referred to the Volunteer Driver Service by a health professional in their area. GBT also works with Glenboig Development Trust and Cumbernauld Action for Care of the Elderly to deliver Community Transport across North Lanarkshire.

Outreach Health Services

The aim of this project would be to deliver accessible NHS healthcare services to adults and children in convenient places close to their homes. This project would deliver outreach health services on a regular basis within Caldercruix, without the need for a permanent health centre within the village; the existing portacabin could be used for delivery of services. While many requirements would still need to be met at the community's primary health centre within Airdrie, there is potential for some services to be delivered in communities outside of primary health facilities. The outreach service would offer screening, health advice, information, support and onward signposting and referral to empower and enable service users to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing; particularly for people who may have difficulty accessing services in Airdrie regularly. This project could be delivered in partnership with Plains, providing each community with (potentially alternating) regular access to health services. Having a drop in outreach service available, in addition to the one day a week nurse appointments that are available, would enable people to address less serious medical concerns in their own community and relieve the pressure on existing health services by reducing demand for GP appointments. This is particularly important given the poor out of hours service currently available which requires people to occasionally travel to Hamilton. Using the existing portacabin would also improve the value for money of this new premises by making use of it more than one day per week. The GP who previously operated in Caldercruix is supportive of re-establishing the health centre within the village, the bespoke premises for which are already available. North Lanarkshire Council, the community council, and local councillors are all supportive of reopening the GP surgery, this project could provide a stepping stone by evidencing the high level of demand within the village for better access to health services.

Action Points

Adopting Roads and Pavements

The community council should continue to engage with North Lanarkshire Council to determine any plans already in place to carry out road and pavement improvements within the village. Roads and pavements were an issue for 38% of the community who responded to the survey, specific areas within the village which were mentioned were the roads and pavements around the school which people felt were negatively affecting the safety of the young people getting to school. Improvements to these roads and pavements would help to create a safer route to school for young people, particularly if young people are being encouraged to cycle to school. A wider survey of roads and pavements within Caldercruix should be undertaken to identify other priority areas in the village which need to be upgraded. The community were also keen to see speeding issues addressed also; existing speed bumps and traffic calming measures may need replaced in due course on account of ongoing wear and tear.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Safety issues were raised by many community members; it was the most significant issue affecting the everyday lives of the community in the survey, and it was a common theme in the primary school workshops. The community have engaged with both North Lanarkshire Council and Police Scotland to explore potential options for increased police presence within the village at certain times; this has led to the set-up of the Quad Bike Action Group as well as police officers attending community council meetings. This issue could also be addressed through other actions identified within this plan, specifically increasing the opportunities available to young people living within the village. By providing more opportunities for young people to take part in positive pastimes, giving them something to do in the evenings and weekends like social activities or sports for example, the incidence of anti-social behaviour could be reduced. These two actions would provide both a proactive and reactive approach to addressing anti-social behaviour; by providing more locally-based activities as an alternative, as well as increasing security measures as a preventative measure Caldercruix will be able to address this issue.

Activities for Older People

Many local residents wanted to see more activities for older residents within the village. This could be addressed through a number of ways; a social group for older residents could be set up, existing groups and activities could be brought in to the village on an outreach basis, and new activities could be set up within the village. Caldercruix could lead on the delivery of this action by setting up a dedicated group for older residents who would be tasked with organising new activities for older people living in the village. By having a group made up of older residents the community could ensure that the types of activities delivered were relevant to the interests of the target group. Gentle exercise classes were the most popular option at the drop in event and would be a fairly easy activity to organise as a starting point from which interest in other activities could be built. A local branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A) could be an option for the community to look at. U3A is an organisation which brings older people together to develop their interests and continue their learning in a friendly and informal environment.

Cycle Path

The community could also look to undertake improvements to the local cycling infrastructure, namely joining up the two traffic-free sections of National Cycle Network Route 75 at either end of the village. Currently NCN users need to use an on-road section (Main Street/ Station Road) to continue on Route 75 through Caldercruix, as well as having to cross the national speed limit road B825. Improved cycling infrastructure could be delivered by providing a dedicated cycle lane alongside the road through the village as well as a pedestrian and cyclist bridge over the B825, improving the safety of cyclists as well as for pedestrians moving between the Gowan Brae area of the village. Sustrans can provide 100% of design stage funding for cycling infrastructure projects through the Places for Everyone fund.



Making it Happen

This Community Plan belongs to everyone in Caldercruix and we hope that the whole community will use it and be involved in taking the Plan forward to help make Caldercruix a great place to live.

Many thanks to Caldercruix Community Action Plan Steering Group:

Leanne Campbell, Thom Ferrie, Marian DiNardo, and Colin McLeod

The Steering Group wish to thank all those who have contributed their time and skills at various times throughout this process.

Many thanks to the following for being involved in the creation of the Plan:

Caldercruix Community Council, St. Mary's Primary School, Glengowan Primary School, North Lanarkshire Council, Community Action Lanarkshire, and Rural Development Trust.

Updating the Plan

A dynamic plan is essential for the ongoing development of the local community. This plan can and should be regularly updated by the community to ensure it continues to be representative of their wishes.

A yearly review and update of the plan should be undertaken by the Community Plan Steering Group, potentially tying into the AGM of the Community Council. This review and update should involve as many key stakeholders as possible, particularly those who have been involved in the delivery of any actioned activities or projects, or who would be involved in any proposed new activities or projects.

The community should also continue to be involved so that they can fully play a role in the decision making process. Ongoing involvement of the wider community will help people to see how their demands and aspirations are being addressed and reflected through ongoing work both in terms of delivering actions, and in reviewing the content of the plan.

Getting Involved

If you want to get involved in helping to progress or deliver any of the ideas and projects in this Plan, or if you have any other ideas for the future of the village, then please get in contact with Caldercruix Community Council.

The Community Council meet on the second Thursday of each month and are contactable on Facebook **@CaldercruixCommunityCouncil**, where you can find out more about what is happening in the village as well.

The group's email address is: secretary@caldercruixcc.org

