

Greengairs Community Plan

2019- 2024



COMMUNITY ACTION
LANARKSHIRE



What is a Community Plan?

Community Plans gives 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 Greengairs residents and identifies ways of making these things happen. This plan represents the areas of Greengairs and Wattston; referred to simply as Greengairs throughout this plan.

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

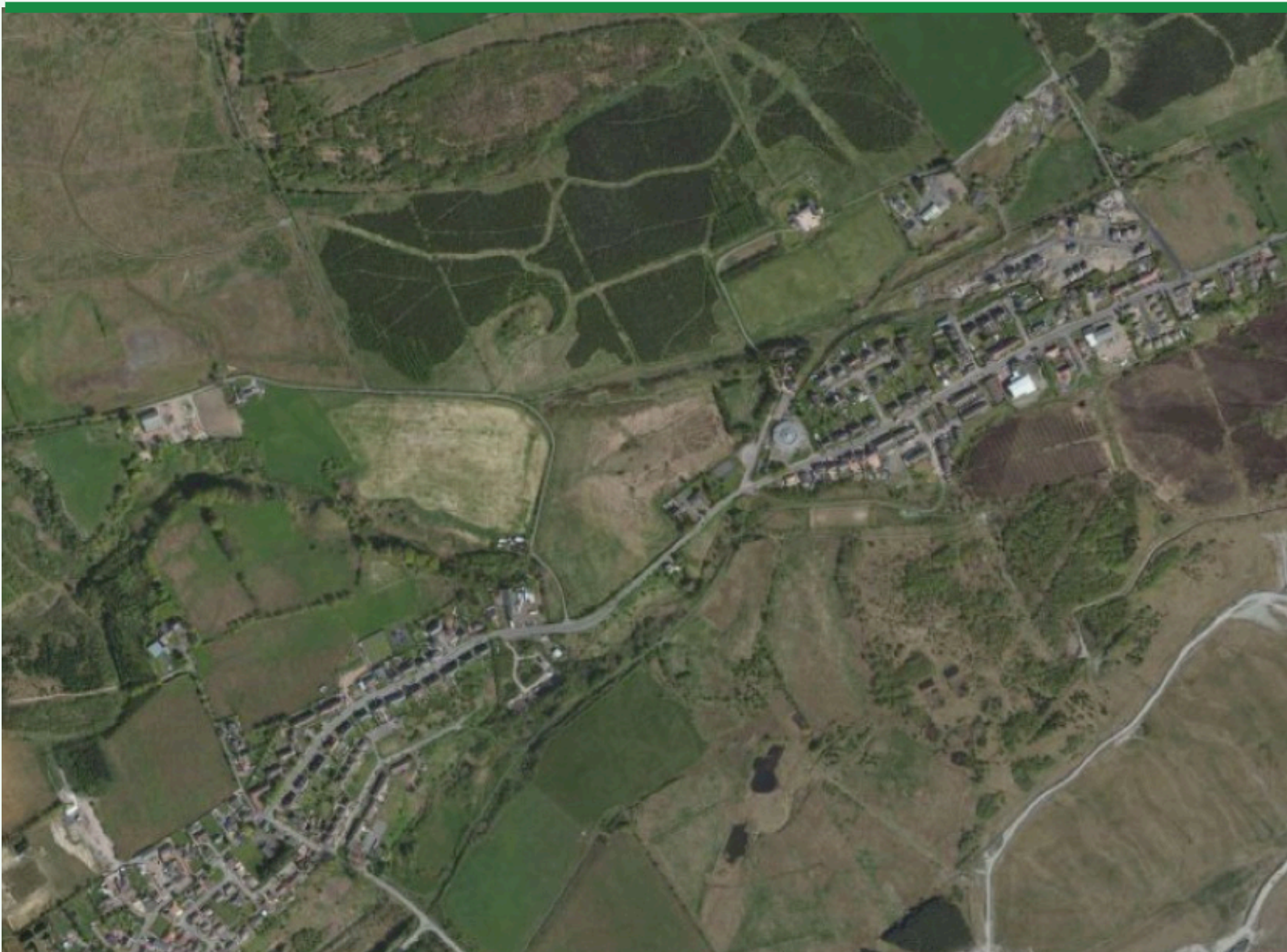
- Held a Place Standard workshop with the Greengairs Steering Group to draw out priority themes and key issues
- Developed a community survey based on these priorities to find out what the wider community thought
- The survey was distributed to every household in Greengairs and asked them to rate the importance of a number of actions
- A follow up community drop in was held to discuss these with the community in more detail in order to develop project ideas
- The Plan was then developed based on the consultation and research was undertaken on possible project ideas



Greengairs is a village in North Lanarkshire, Scotland. Lying 3 miles (5 km) southeast of Cumbernauld and 3 miles (5 km) north east of Airdrie, the village consists mainly of local authority housing. Between them Greengairs and Wattston had 1,004 residents at the 2011 Census.

It developed in the nineteenth century due to increased coal mining and quarrying. Ironstone was first mined by the Summerlee Iron Company in the 1840s. The village was badly affected by the Stanrigg Mining Disaster where, in July 1918, a collapse led to the deaths of 19 local mine workers.

Greengairs power station opened in 1996, and is powered by methane produced by biodegrading materials from a large landfill site developed since 1990 in former open cast workings situated to the south of the village. Greengairs is the largest landfill site in Scotland, handling waste from Glasgow and the surrounding area.



What's Happening in Greengairs?

Greengairs has seen a number of successful projects over the years, developed and supported by the Community Council. The Community Council have been able to attract significant external grant funding to build the large ball hall at Stanrigg Memorial Community Centre, as well as for a number of ongoing maintenance requirements on the premises.

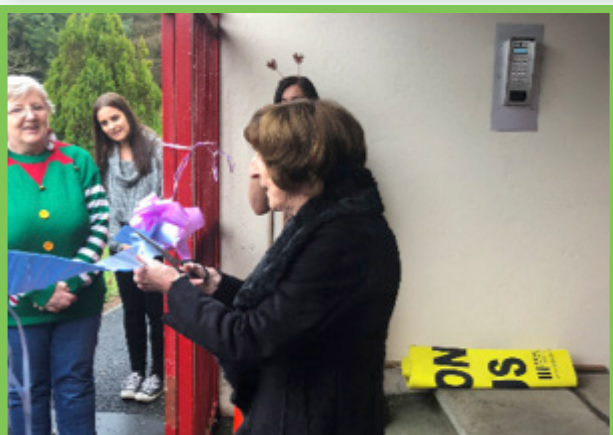
A memorial for the 1919 Stanrigg mining disaster, which also forms the village entrance features for Greengairs and Wattston, has recently been erected in the village with funding from North Lanarkshire Council.

Greengairs Community Council are responsible for a lot of the positive things happening in Greengairs. They manage Stanrigg Memorial Hall, run a number of community activities including the summer play scheme, liaise with North Lanarkshire Council on the development of new community initiatives and projects, and coordinate community action when needed. Greengairs Community Council had 7 active members as of July 2019, with 4 office bearers, they meet on a monthly basis in Stanrigg Memorial Hall with meetings publicised through Facebook.

Greengairs Primary Parent Partnership run events for schoolchildren throughout the year including picnics and fun days.

Community Groups in Greengairs

- There is a weekly mothers and toddlers class run in the village
- A school holiday playscheme is run during summer, winter, and spring holidays as well as during the October week by the Community Council
- Boxercise is run every week in the Stanrigg Memorial Hall



Population

- The estimated population of Greengairs and Wattston is 1004
- 18.6% of residents are under 16; 64% are aged 16 - 64; 17.3% are aged 65 or over
- The working age proportion of the population is slightly lower than what is seen across North Lanarkshire and Scotland (both 66%)
- The average age is 40.3 years old



Health

- Male life expectancy is 76.3 years, lower than the Scottish average of 77.1 years
- Female life expectancy is 83.2 years, higher than the Scottish average of 81.1 years
- 78% of people rate their health as good or very good; only 7% rate it as bad or very bad
- 105 people in Greengairs are carers



Income & Employment

- The level of income deprivation in Greengairs is as high as 14% , comparted to the Scottish average of 12.3%
- 36% of people work full time, 12% work part time, and 7% of people are self employed
- 19% of residents are retired
- The unemployment rate is 5.3%, compared to 4.8% across Scotland



Housing

- 26% of households are made up of families with dependent children; 1% higher than the Scottish average
- 65% of homes are owned; compared to 62% nationally
- The average number of persons per household is 2.3; slightly higher than the Scottish average of 2.2



Education

- 72% of 16-17 year olds are in education; compared to 80% across Scotland
- 8% of 17-21 year olds enter in to 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; 34% of residents have achieved 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

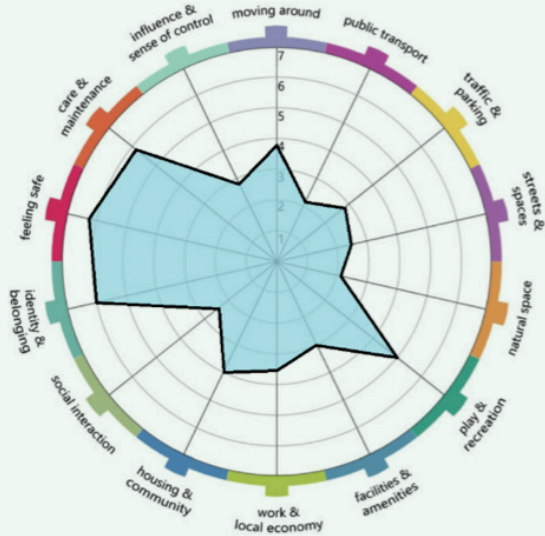
The community consultation carried out in support of this plan used a three-stage approach; this allowed us to draw out priority themes and issues early on, then test the popularity of potential actions focused on those themes with the community over the next two stages.



The Place Standard is a tool that is used to assess the quality of a place by providing a simple framework to structure conversations about place. In Greengairs’ case we used the tool to help identify priorities for development in the village. This was delivered as a workshop with Community Plan steering group members where, after a discussion around each aspect of Greengairs, we were able to identify some of the key issues affecting the village and where village priorities were most likely focussed.

Priorities

- 1. **Public Transport** Limited timetable at evenings and weekends/ No link to hospital
- 2. **Natural Space** Lots of nearby spaces but difficult to access/ Walkways unfinished/ Community garden
- 3. **Streets and Spaces** Poor maintenance/ village entrance improvements
- 4. **Social Interaction** Public transport issues/ No gala day/ Need more activities
- 5. **Traffic and Parking** Speeding through village/ poor surfacing at shop parking/ Too much on street parking
- 6. **Influence and Sense of Control** Difficulty attracting volunteers/ More community groups needed



Using these identified priorities as a starting point a survey was created which asked community members to say how important they felt a number of potential actions were, this was the second stage of the consultation. These actions related to the priority themes identified in the Place Standard. This process allowed for an effective prioritisation of all activities and actions listed in the survey. The survey was posted to every household in Greengairs, and an online version was also made available.

The third stage of the consultation involved hosting a pop-up community drop in event 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 Stage 2; 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 their 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 Greengairs want to see.

Community Survey

We received 223 survey responses from the community; 75 of these were paper surveys returned via post and 148 were online responses. This was a response rate of 13% of households and approximately 9% of the total population of the village. You can see below each of the activities listed in the survey and the percentage of the population who thought they were either very important or important.

Transport & Traffic

Traffic calming measures on local roads	82%
Improve on- street parking on Greengairs Rd.	80%
Introduce community bus initiative	77%
Improve car park at village shop	70%
Improve walkway at rear of Primary School	69%



Local Activities

Improve play parks in village	85%
More activities for older people	78%
Improve sports fields in Greengairs	77%
Start a village youth club	75%
Increase the number of activities/ services available in Stanrigg Centre	75%
Enhance village memorial	47%



Environment

Better maintenance of village’s outdoor spaces	94%
More bins around the village	91%
Address derelict sites in and around village	82%
Create more local nature walks/ parks	81%
Create a community garden	55%



Infrastructure

Enhance facilities at Stanrigg Centre	76%
Sheltered housing	71%
Create path linking the Stanrigg Park in Plains to the Stanrigg memorial	66%
Enhance local cycling infrastructure	63%
More affordable housing for rent	60%
Improve village entrance features	55%



Community

Households updated about local events/ activities	86%
Better community involvement in local projects	85%
More community events throughout the year	81%
Create more local volunteering opportunities	70%
More up to date and relevant community website	51%



Other Comments from the Community

"Wattston needing attention. Lots of run down vehicles at waste ground and dumping. This doesn't look good on entering the village. It used to be a lovely place but has went downhill. Speed of traffic needing looked at around the bend in Wattston."

"Speed bumps on road as cars drive far too fast especially at the school."

"It is important to bring the community together, especially with the loss of the cancer dance and the football team.... Things like Easter egg hunts, summer BBQ, fayre day, fireworks display, Carol singing, ceilidhs Hogmanay parties..... Are aimed at all ages and all abilities.... We are more than a community we are a family."

"A community garden this would mean young and old can meet and grow together."

"Speed cameras at both ends of village and speed bumps/ traffic calming measures at school."

"Complete walkway behind Stanrigg memorial centre."

"More options to be involved in the community, local community group is closed and unapproachable, local centre needs to be more flexible and accommodating to those who wish to use it, 99% of people wouldn't have a clue about how to hire it as there is no advertised opening times or contact details."

"Need more than one bus per hour to and from Greengairs road. Last bus to have a later time to finish e.g. 9.20pm from midnight."

"Litter and fly tipping and improve communication with local business to be more responsible about disposal of waste."

"The children's play park need to be maintained better and the play park off Drumgray garden needs updated as the turf leaves children black and dirty. There needs to be more for the kids, activities etc. and more things on at the community centre. Also the speed of cars through the village needs to be restricted, children play on that main road and the speed of vehicles passing through is well over the limit."

"Stanrigg Memorial Park requires to be maintained. The trees and shrubs are overgrown which gives you difficulty walking on some of the pathway and entrances."

"Community must be truly consulted and involved, and accessible communication using a variety of media. Parking for the school and traffic calming is very important. Community Centre should be at the heart of the community with lots of activities/events available."

Community Drop In

The community drop in for Greengairs was held on the 18th of May and was attended by around 45 people. The purpose of the drop in was to find out more detail about the most popular activities and actions identified by the community in the survey.

Where would you like to see a community bus route from Greengairs to? What time of day would you be most likely to make use of a community bus?

Cumbernauld was the most popular choice among residents for a community bus route, followed by Airdrie. Evening were the most popular choice for making use of a community bus. This suggests an evening bus route to the nearby larger towns would be the most popular option.

Where along Greengairs Road do you think there is a need for extra parking?



"Improve parking at shops"

"Big car park at Hillrigg needs improvement and to be cleared, it is owned by North Lanarkshire Council"

"Resurfacing at Hillrigg needed- recently repainted white lines in the car park but not enough done."

"Main Street has the main parking issues- parking on both sides of the road"

What improvements would you most like to see made to the playing fields?

Residents were keen to see the football pitches upgraded to 3G or 4G standard and for them to be re-lined in order to make it more useable for the community, particularly any football teams who may be interested in setting up in the village.

Where do you think a MUGA would be best situated in the village?

The MUGA is not inviting currently, it's a tarmacked surface and is often covered in broken glass, and is not well maintained by North Lanarkshire Council who own the premises; the lighting on site is also poor.

MUGA at the school is always closed and residents felt it would be better for the community if access was more open. This would provide more activities for young people in the area as currently there is very little for young people to do unless parents are able to take them elsewhere to use facilities and attend clubs.

Residents were also supportive of setting up a youth group in the village to help steer the development and ensure young people are driving the refurbishment of the MUGA, helping to reduce future antisocial behaviour issues.

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

Residents were generally keen to see any sort of equipment in any upgraded play park in Greengairs; however zip wire and climbing wall were slightly more popular than the others. Whatever improvements are made, residents were concerned about longer term maintenance of the park and were keen to see plans for this to be in place.

Lighting is important for any play park improvements as it was felt that this would contribute positively to reducing anti-social behaviour.

Stanrigg Memorial Park was identified as potential site for play park improvements to be delivered; there is already equipment here which could be upgraded and added to.

What outdoor spaces in particular do you think need better maintained?

Residents from the neighbouring area of Wattston were keen to highlight the need for improvements in that area too, as they felt Greengairs was often the priority.

The poor maintenance of the walkways around the village was a key concern, particularly the path to the rear of Greengairs Primary School. Stanrigg Park was another area where residents felt that improvements needed to be made, particularly regarding grass cutting.

Awareness of maintenance responsibilities was another issue raised, with a number of residents saying they were unsure about whose responsibility the up-keep of certain areas was. Lighting in and around the village was another issue for residents and something they wanted to see improved.

Some residents felt that the entrance feature within the village could also be improved by making it more distinctive and adding more colour to it. The current location of the feature was also discussed, with many feeling that the current location was not the best place for the feature, preferring it to be relocated so it could be seen on the approach to the village.

The play park at Hillview should also be improved as the space is currently run down and prone to vandalism, particularly the wooden fencing separating the park from waste ground to the rear. To prevent vandalism and keep the park safe, residents suggested an arts- based project allowing young people to paint a mural on the fence.





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

The clear preference for general village improvements was to have a community garden in the village; this could bring a number of benefits to the community including enabling people to grow their own food, reduce social isolation, and increase skills and confidence in gardening.

Having more heritage information available within the village was the second most popular option among residents, who felt it was very important to raise awareness of the village's mining history.

Having more public art and flower planting around the village were also of interest for residents.

Which derelict sites do you think should be addressed as a priority and do you have any ideas about what could be done with them?

There were a number of problem fly tipping sites identified by residents around Greengairs, in particular the approach road from Wattston is very bad for general waste dumping, as is the park at Hillview, and the back road towards Cumbernauld.

One derelict space within Greengairs which residents indicated was in need of upgrading was area near Hillrigg which people felt would be a suitable location for sheltered housing provision within the village, enabling people who have lived in Greengairs their whole life to remain there.

What would you like to see as part of any new nature walks/ parks? Where could these be located?

There was limited interest in introducing more nature walks and parks in the area with residents preferring to see a clean-up of the existing outdoor areas first, also better signposting of the existing walks was suggested. Stanrigg Park was specifically highlighted as in need of improvement and was suggested as an ideal location for a community garden, with parking adjacent.



How would you prefer to be updated about events and activities happening in Greengairs and the wider local area?

Facebook was the most popular option for keeping the community up to date with what is going on locally. There was also a level of interest in having a paper newsletter circulated around the village, particularly for the benefit of people who don't use Facebook, particularly older residents.

What type of community events would you like to see in Greengairs?

Fireworks displays were the most popular option for community events with around half of attendees supporting this. Gala day was the second most popular choice with people very keen to see a return of Greengairs gala day. More Christmas events and sports events were supported by some residents as well.

Other issues raised by the community during the drop in event are detailed below.

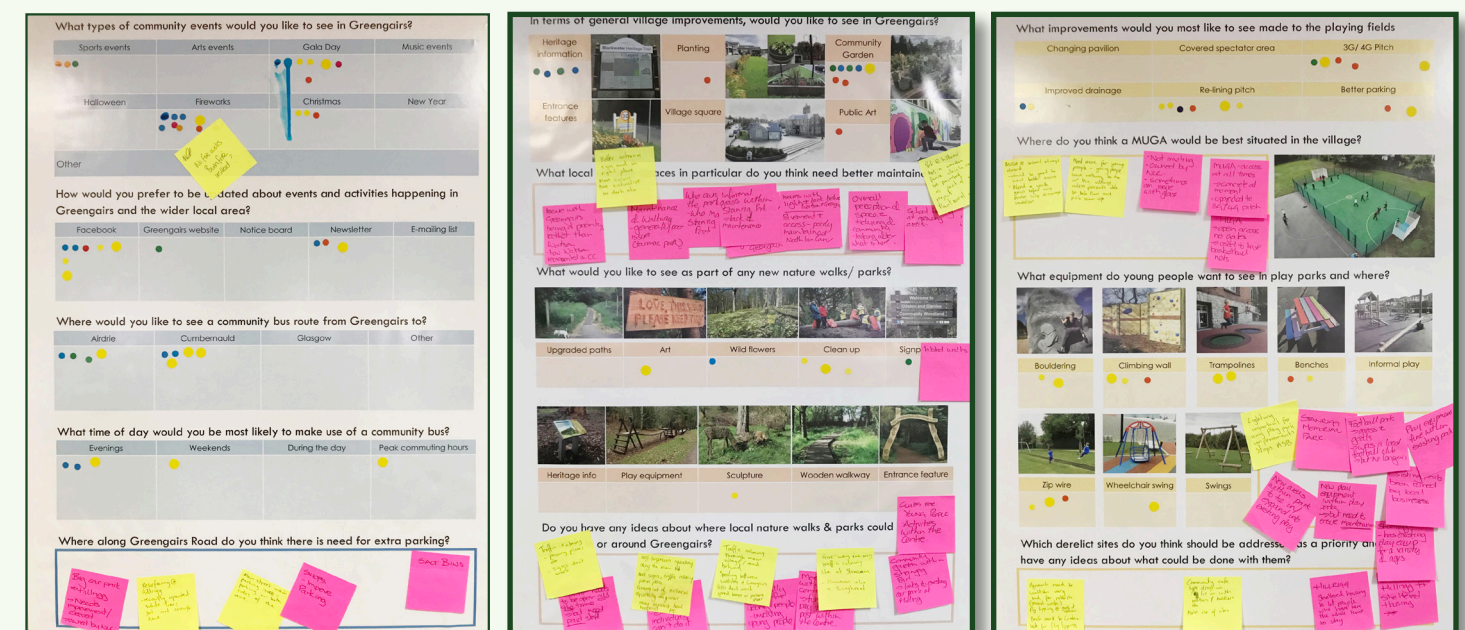
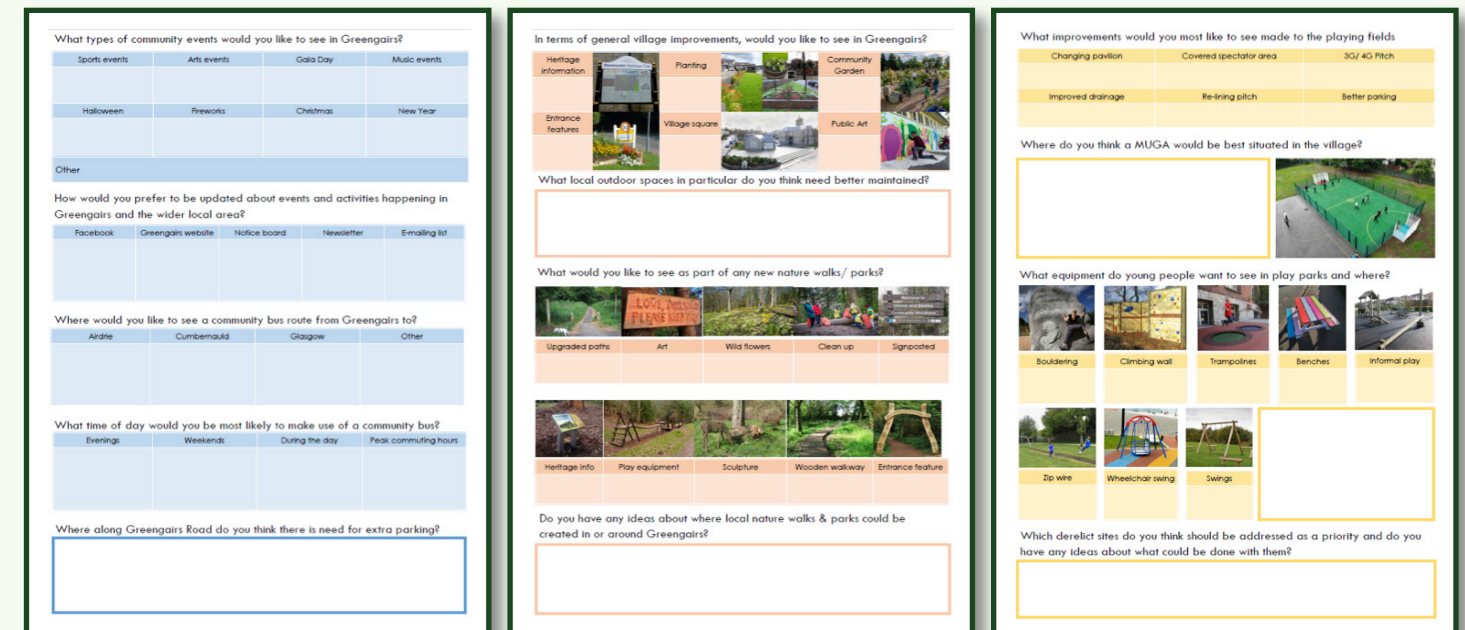
Residents felt that the community centre needed to be open more often and available for hire all of the time, with more clarity on the booking process for the hall; having a paid staff member to facilitate this was a suggested action to help improve the amenity. There was also significant interest at the drop in from community members who were interested in taking on volunteering roles within the village to help make some of the discussed improvements happen, helping to ease the pressure on existing volunteers.

More activities and groups for young people were also discussed with most residents feeling that there should be more for young people to do in Greengairs and that they should be involved in the process of making it happen. People were keen to have more youth activities available in the community centre as this could also help to increase the revenue brought into the centre.

Traffic and speeding were also raised by the community as major issues in Greengairs with community members wanting to see the introduction of more traffic calming measures in the village such as passing places or single lane working chicanes similar to what is in Slamannan. The main road through Greengairs was identified as a priority road to have traffic calming measures introduced, as was the road between Greengairs and Wattston.



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.



Community Priorities

From the consultation work carried out the following issues and actions were identified as key priorities for Greengairs residents.

Local Environment

The quality of the local environment was identified as an issue, primarily relating to maintenance and the amount of fly tipping and litter that was evident across the local area. The area of land between Greengairs and Wattston, as well as Rigghead were two areas which were of particular interest in terms of improvement among residents as many people felt they were particularly prone to fly tipping, and that this was a bit of an eyesore. People also felt that the industrial sites around the village could also be brightened up. People were also very keen to see other green areas within the village upgraded and better maintained in order to create a more attractive and safe place to live.



Community Engagement

People were very keen to see better communication between local groups and the wider community. At the drop in event and in the survey responses many people said that they were not aware of all the full range of activities which are on offer locally, particularly at Stanrigg Hall, and that they were unsure how they would go about accessing the Hall if they wanted to set up new activities. Improving information sharing using social media was discussed by the community with people wanting to see better promotion of events etc. online. It should be a priority going forward for local groups, in particular the Community Council, to be more easily contactable for the community. By engaging more with the community it will be easier to involve them in any projects and activities which are taken forward in future. Many people expressed an interest in being more involved in volunteering roles during the consultation, however they were unsure how to go about doing this.



Young People

Having more opportunities for young people was a key priority for the community, with 75% of people saying it was either important or very important for them. Specifically people wanted to see a youth group set up in the village; this would provide a dedicated group for Greengairs that could facilitate many different youth focussed activities. The benefit of the youth group as well is that it could be youth-led as well, to ensure that young people are involved in the decision making process about what is happening in their community. At the community drop in event as well people were very keen to see lots of improvements made to the existing parks to provide more and better recreation opportunities for young people.



Public Transport

This was a major issue identified throughout the consultation, with many people voicing their dissatisfaction with the existing public transport provision within Greengairs. Currently there is an hourly bus that stops after 6pm, this has a significant impact on its usefulness for commuting and to be able to get to nearby towns in the evening and weekend for leisure. The lack of public transport opportunities makes the community more reliant on private cars, and severely limits the accessibility of other amenities including health services, education, and shopping. Over three quarters of drop in attendees wanted to see a community bus initiative set up, with Cumbernauld being the most popular choice among residents for destinations, followed by Airdrie. Residents also believed that the current service would soon be terminated, as of summer 2019.

Speeding

Over 80% of community survey respondents identified the need for traffic calming measures on local roads as a priority. The primary stretches of road which were a concern for people were the stretch of road between Wattston and Greengairs, particularly given that as you enter Greengairs the primary school is immediately on the left hand side of the road. The potential for traffic accidents to occur on the main road through the village is also significant given the lack of pedestrian crossings throughout Greengairs. The B803 road on the approach to both ends of Greengairs and Wattston was another priority for better traffic calming to be introduced as currently there is nothing to slow traffic down other than road signage after coming from a national speed limit stretch of road.

Parking

This was a priority for 80% of respondents to the community survey with the priority areas identified within Greengairs at the drop in event being Greengairs Road, at the shops, and at the parking areas at Hillrigg. Parking along the main street within Greengairs is a major issue as many homes do not have off-street parking meaning that many people have to park their cars on the road; this causes issues in terms of lane narrowing and makes road crossing less safe. The parking at the shops was discussed by residents as current capacity is not enough, meaning that people are having to park on the street, and then surfacing in the car park is very uneven. The parking at Hillrigg was raised by the community as in need of upgrade as well, in particular the on-street parking on this road which is causing road narrowing issues, while the dedicated car park is underused, however the community identified a need for parking bay repainting in this car park. This car park is owned by North Lanarkshire Council who have responsibility for ongoing maintenance.

Walkways

The walkway to the rear of Stanrigg Memorial Hall was identified by the community as one particular route that they would like to see upgraded. This route was partially completed but has since fallen into poor condition with poor surfacing which has been vandalised. This path has the potential to provide a traffic-free safe route to school for many local children. The walking route to the playing field and Stanrigg Memorial Park was also identified as a pathway that residents wanted to see better maintained. Better signposting of existing walkways was another priority for the community, as well as improvements to walkways. In particular parking on existing pavements and walkways in the village was identified as an issue which people wanted to see addressed. Pavements around the school were identified as sites prone to flooding which made them unusable for children going to school.



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.

- Development Officer
- Youth Worker
- Walking Routes
- Community Garden
- Community Clean Up
- Upgrade Play Park

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 Development Trust
- Community Bus

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 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



Greengairs 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 Greengairs 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, and 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. 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 Greengairs and the surrounding area, creating wealth within that area and keeping it there.

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 Land Ownership

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 community centre and play parks 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.

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

Development Officer

Aim
To engage with the local community and support the development and delivery of a wider range of community led activities and events, while sustaining and promoting use of the Stanrigg Memorial Hall.

Summary
A Development Officer could be employed by the community, or potentially through a Community Development Trust, to help coordinate and deliver the projects detailed within this community plan. This position would be funded by external grant funding and could work across the two communities in the area (Greengairs and Upperton), each of whom would contribute financially to the staff costs; windfarm community benefit monies could support this. Based within Stanrigg Memorial Hall, the Development Officer would alleviate the responsibility on the community to deliver the projects that are important to them, and would help to coordinate community action meaning that local residents could be involved in projects without having to commit an unrealistic amount of time to develop, monitor, and evaluate projects. This post would be managed by a group of local volunteers – potentially the management committee of the Hall.

The Development officer would also be responsible for the co-ordination, publicity and promotion of events and activities across the local area, and for developing and maintaining a dedicated website for the existing Hall.

Potential Partners

- North Lanarkshire Partnership
- Development Trusts Association of Scotland (DTAS)
- Rural Development Trust
- Greengairs Community Council
- North Lanarkshire Council



Existing Provision

Currently there is no development worker for the local community to coordinate action, meaning that residents have to undertake all activity independently, or rely on North Lanarkshire Council to support them. This has placed a significant amount of pressure on some community members to engage with the council and to bring projects to fruition.

Supporting Evidence

The response to the local community questionnaire rates activities and community events as a high priority; with 75% of local people wanting to see increased numbers of activities and services available within the Stanrigg Memorial Hall. This was identified as a priority at the Community Drop-in, with local people highlighting that a development worker would support key volunteers, enable wider opening times and would help to bring additional income into the Centre.

Funding Options

- The Robertson Trust
- The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland: Community Led Activity
- The Scottish Government: Investing in Communities Fund

Youth Worker

Aim
Young people within Greengairs have increased learning and development opportunities through, and are encouraged and supported to contribute to, and develop initiatives and lead their own projects.

Summary
The Stanrigg Memorial Hall in Greengairs is a vital resource for the local community. The Centre is currently run by a small number of local volunteers, meaning that access and service delivery within the Centre is limited. The Greengairs community have within their centre a tournament-sized arena for football and other ball sports ranging from netball to badminton. In addition, the Centre has a number of rooms that could be used for music, arts and drama. The appointment of a Youth Development Worker, would enable the local community to actively engage with local young people and work with them to develop a programme of events and activities that local young people would like to see within the centre. Rather than developing a Youth Club, the Youth Development Worker would support local young people to form a Youth Steering Group for the Centre, providing support and training to inspire the young people to participate within their own community, develop skills, self-awareness and confidence and support them to make positive choices. Working alongside young people, the Youth Worker would develop a series of programmes, providing local young people with access to a variety of activities within the centre.

Potential Partners

- North Lanarkshire Community Learning and Development
- North Lanarkshire Youth Work
- Airdrie Youth Work Service
- Greengairs Community Council



Existing Provision

Despite having good amenities, there is a lack of available activities specifically for young people within the local area. The football club do not regularly use the indoor pitches; and local parents noted that for organised groups such as Brownies and Scouts, gymnastics and dance classes – the nearest groups were in Cumbernauld. A play scheme is also run during school holidays.

Supporting Evidence

The community survey identified that 75% of local people rated starting up a Village Youth Club as either important or very important. Feedback at the community drop-in session again highlighted this, with local people and local young people keen to ensure that young people were involved throughout the process. Almost 19% of the local population is aged under 16.

Funding Options

- The Gannochy Trust
- Cashback for Communities Youth Work Fund
- Cashback for Creativity Open Fund
- The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland: Community Led Activity
- North Lanarkshire Council - Playscheme Grants

Walking Routes

Aim
The health and wellbeing of the local community is improved through enhanced, attractive walkways that are accessible for all

Summary
Despite being well used by local people, especially dog walkers, the local path network is not well maintained or clearly signposted. To improve accessibility, and reduce maintenance, the footpath network could be improved by creating a more formal footpath with edging. Vegetation to either side of the footpath should be cleared to ensure a width of up to 1m at either side (where feasible), this would further reduce maintenance and issues with overhanging branches. In consultation with the landowner, the footpath network could be extended to include the Stanrigg Memorial Hall and the memorial garden.

The introduction of small interpretation information and signage would enable walkers to have a better understanding of the existing network and encourage local people to improve their health and well-being by utilising these paths.

Potential Partners

- North Lanarkshire Partnership
- Development Trusts Association of Scotland (DTAS)
- Rural Development Trust
- Greengairs Community Council
- North Lanarkshire Council



Existing Provision

The existing footpath network is well used by local people, encouraging walks away from the main road. To the south of the village, the current path network is accessed from Laurel Grove and Greengairs Road and provides access towards Wattston and Meikle Drumgray Road, via Stanrigg Memorial Park and the play area at Laurel Grove.

To the north of the village there is a path network from Blacktongue Farm Road into the Blacktongue Plantation. This is a privately owned wood comprising of mixed broadleaf and a conifer plantation, with wide pathways throughout and opens up into good views across to Greengairs.

Supporting Evidence

The community survey identified that 81% of local people would like to see improved nature walks and 66% identified that the path network should link Stanrigg Park to the Hall and Memorial Garden. Improved maintenance of exiting walkways was an overarching priority of local people during the community drop-n.

Funding Options

- Scottish Landfill Communities Fund
- Smarter Choices Smarter Places
- Sustrans Places for Everyone

Community Garden

Aim
The Greengairs community has access to locally grown produce within a vibrant growing space that encourages intergenerational social interaction, and educates all sectors of the community on ways to reduce their carbon footprint.

Summary
The creation of a community garden adjacent to (or within) Stanrigg Memorial Park, would become a vital resource for the whole community, by encouraging and supporting local people to grow their own food, increase their skills and confidence in gardening, reduce their carbon footprint and encourage groups and individuals to come together to improve the local area. The development of the space, could include a small number of raised beds, encouraging communal growing and managed by a group of local volunteers, who are supported by the (proposed) Development Officer based within the Stanrigg Memorial Hall.

To get the project established, and to promote more sustainable lifestyle choices for the local community the project may look to recruit a Community Gardener, who would be responsible for developing the garden and building a network of local volunteers. In addition, the project could expand to deliver targeted food and food waste sessions within the memorial Hall, utilising the available kitchen facilities.

Potential Partners

- Greengairs Primary School
- North Lanarkshire Council (as land owners)
- Central Scotland Green Network Trust
- The Conservation Volunteers
- Grow Wild – Community projects
- Clydesdale Community Initiatives (CCI)



Existing Provision

There are no community gardens or allotments within the local community. Local people identified land adjacent to Stanrigg Memorial Park as an ideal location, as the area is well used by the local community and there is parking provision nearby.

Supporting Evidence

While only 55% of the local community identified the creation of a community garden as important or very important. At the community drop-in event it was evident that this was a priority in relation to wider village improvements, and local people commenting identified that the involvement of the community centre, local young people and the school should be a priority for this type of project.

Funding Options

- Climate Challenge Fund
- Scottish Landfill Communities Fund
- Postcode Local Trust

Community Clean Up

Aim

Local people have pride in their community and have a clear understanding of the impact litter has on the local environment.

Summary

This would primarily be a volunteer led activity, however there are numerous ways that this could be undertaken to ensure both wider community involvement, and to highlight to the local community the impact that litter has on the environment at both a local and a global level.

Monthly litter picks would be undertaken focused on targeted areas across the community. Waste collected would be separated into recyclable and non-recyclable, and working with groups across the village, i.e. school children, young people and the wider community, an art feature, a mural or a series of murals could be created utilising the ‘waste’ collected. This could be linked to the community garden space, to create elements for the community garden, or within the side wall of the Stanrigg Memorial Hall.

Regular sessions, would also identify key areas where litter/fly tipping is worst and these can be reported regularly to North Lanarkshire Council.

In discussion with North Lanarkshire Council, additional bins could be installed across the village – with panels, designed by school children, encouraging everyone to bin/ recycle their waste.

Potential Partners

- North Lanarkshire Partnership
- Development Trusts Association of Scotland (DTAS)
- Rural Development Trust
- Greengairs Community Council



Existing Provision

There are no formal community litter-picks or community clean up currently undertaken across the local area.

Supporting Evidence

91% of local people identified the need for more bins across the local community. Discussions with young people highlighted that while the MUGA (adjacent to the Primary School) was always accessible, there were issues with broken glass and a lack of maintenance.

Funding Options

- Climate Challenge Fund – linked with a community growing/garden initiative
- The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland - Awards for All
- Asda Foundation - Local Impact Grants

Upgrade Play Park

Aim

To ensure young people within Greengairs have access to well-equipped, safe places in which to play.

Summary

Upgrading or replacing play parks is expensive, especially when ensuring that the needs of a variety of ages are included for within the design of the space and the types of equipment available. When looking at formal play equipment across the local community, a detailed assessment of each area could be undertaken by a group of volunteers, that includes young people, to determine what people would like to see within each space and to prioritise the parks, identifying which one should be looked for first.

In addition, a decision could be made to prioritise one park/play space only for formal equipment, with a further site for informal play. This type of play encourages the use of natural elements and for young people to use their imagination - allowing young people to more freely play together and develop a greater understanding and awareness of the environment that surrounds them. This type of play area would work particularly well if designed alongside a formal Youth Worker (Project 2) and an environmental artist. The play park development could also include a trim trail or outdoor gym for use by all residents.

Potential Partners

- Scottish Landfill Communities Funds
- The Morrisons Foundation
- Postcode Local Trust



Existing Provision

There are two formal play areas within Greengairs, located at Stanrigg Park beside Laurel Grove and to the rear of the shop, between Drumgray Gardens and Greengairs Road. There was previously a play park at Hillview which was removed at the request of local residents. In addition there is a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) located adjacent to the entrance to Greengairs Primary School, and a football pitch within Stanrigg Memorial Park. All of these facilities have been identified by the local community as being poorly maintained and in need of upgrading.

Supporting Evidence

The community survey identified that 75% of local people rated starting up a Village Youth Club as either important or very important. Feedback at the community drop-in session again highlighted this, with local people and local young people keen to ensure that young people were involved throughout the process. Almost 19% of the local population is aged under 16.

Funding Options

- The Gannochy Trust
- Cashback for Communities Youth Work Fund
- Cashback for Creativity Open Fund
- The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland: Community Led Activity
- North Lanarkshire Council - Playscheme Grants

Joint Projects

These following projects could potentially be undertaken directly by the Greengairs community or in partnership with other neighbouring communities. By pooling resources multiple communities could support the development of beneficial projects which one single community would likely be unable to support long term.

Community Development Trust

Establishing a Community Development Trust (The Trust) as a community anchor organisation to employ key staff and support the development of activities and services across the local area. The Trust would have an open membership to all people living and working in the area, with the purposes to achieve a broad range of community renewal objectives for Greengairs. As a charitable organisation (SCIO) the Trust would be managed by a local voluntary management committee drawn from this membership. The Community Action Plan would inform the Trust of the main priorities for area regeneration. The Trust would have powers to raise funds, acquire land and employ staff in order to achieve community renewal goals. To avoid duplication, The Trust could be formed of (and effectively replace) the active members of the Management Committee of the Memorial Hall. This would require a transfer of assets of the Memorial Hall to the new Trust. Currently the Memorial Hall is owned by NLC with Greengairs Community Council responsible for maintenance, insurance, management etc.

Community Bus

This project would deliver a volunteer led transport initiative offering 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 Greengairs 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.

Make it Happen

Many thanks to Greengairs Community Action Plan Steering Group:

Maria Donovan, Helen Laird, Isabel Wilson, Ann Coleman, Bethany Nolan, and Isabel Clark

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 groups for being involved in the creation of the plan

Greengairs Community Council
Greengairs Primary Parent Partnership
North Lanarkshire Council

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; this could be done as part of Greengairs Community Council AGM. 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 Greengairs Community Council.

The community council meet once a month in the Stanrigg Memorial Hall with meetings open to all Greengairs residents. Meetings are publicised on the community council's Facebook page as well as in the Stanrigg Memorial Hall and local shop.

