

Shotts Community Action Plan 2019



Celebrating success in Shotts

During the term of the Shotts Community Action Plan 2013 – 2018 a lot has been achieved. Much of this progress can be attributed to local community and voluntary groups who have worked hard and raised funding to deliver better facilities and services for its residents. Of particular note are the following:

- £500,000 of funding secured and used for the benefit of the community.
- Path improvement work and interpretation panels now installed in Stane Gardens as well as a six metre tall structural piece called 'The Backshift.' The sculpture is made of four tonnes of steel, which recognises the industrial heritage of Shotts, a reflection of the fact it is known as 'a town built on coal and iron'.
- There is also an 8ft statue built which dominates the revamped Dykehead Cross. Designed as a reflection of the industrial heritage of the area, the project also includes a plaque commemorating local miners set in the pavement and was brought about through collaboration between the council regeneration and infrastructure service and the Shape Up Shotts Community Group.
- The original Scout Hall which was destroyed by fire has now had a brand new hall built with thanks to local fundraising and a large grant from the Big Lottery Fund. The reconstruction of the Scout Hall, on Benhar Road, now provides better and more accessible facilities for the scouts, local clubs and wider community. It includes a large main hall, office space, kitchen, storage and toilet accommodation.
- A Shotts Youth Forum is now well established and meets regularly. This forum gives young people a voice in helping improve the services and facilities available to the young people of Shotts.
- Getting Better Together has increased its community transport services which it makes available for all non-profit making community groups such as schools, churches, sports clubs and voluntary organisations. All Transport bookings through this service include a fully qualified driver, insurance, and fuel. Getting Better Together Community Transport currently operate with:
4 x 16 seater minibus with wheelchair access
1 x 12 seater minibus with wheelchair access
1 x 8 seater MPV 1 x 7 Seater MPV with wheelchair access.

- Springhill Bridge benefitted from funding which enabled it to be fully refurbished with new paths and an attractive mural.
- During the term of the Shotts Community Action Plan it has also been successful in achieving Town Status. Springhill Hall Asset Transfer has successfully purchased land for the benefit of the local community.
- Launch of the Shotts Men's Shed.
- Achievement of Community Sports Hub status.
- Thanks to the Energy Saving Trust Electric Bikes are now available for hire to encourage active travel in Shotts.

We want to build on what we have achieved and this revised action plan outlines the work we will be focusing on. We would like to invite you to come and help make our community the best it can be. Shotts matters to all of us so if you would like to support any aspect of this community action plan please contact Getting Better Together on 01501 825 800



Theme 1: Local economy and town centre

These are the main strategies and priorities the community has identified and will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

Town Centre Regeneration

- Make the most of the opportunities afforded by having Town Centre status for Shotts.
- Identify the best location for Shotts Town Centre.
- Develop package of improvement measures for the Town Centre that include: CCTV, parking, strategy for empty shops, street furniture, planting and floral displays, information panels and signage.

- Help local businesses to explore the possibility of establishing a Business Improvement District (BID).
- Install 'Welcome to Shotts' signage at Benhar Road.

Potential Partners

Local Businesses, North Lanarkshire Council, Getting Better Together, Scottish Government, Keep Scotland Beautiful

Support existing businesses, promote the town and attract inward investment

- Encourage local businesses to work together to encourage visitors e.g. Use of loyalty cards.



Theme 2: Access to public transport and services

Improve public transport

- Lobby for improvements to existing bus service to cover gaps in evenings and weekends.
- Further improvements required to disabled access at Edinburgh platform at Shotts train station.
- Investigate possibility of a lift at Shotts train station.
- Lobby to improve access to travel concessions.

support is available for people with addiction and mental health problems, e.g. Getting Better Together.

Potential Partners

Network Rail, North Lanarkshire Council Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority, Shotts Getting Better Together, Shotts Community Council.

Retain public services in Shotts

- Lobby to improve public services for all ages and abilities. Develop support services for vulnerable people
- Work with appropriate service providers to ensure continued and improved



Theme 3: Housing, roads and infrastructure

Improving access roads and key roads

- Upgrade Kirk Road to improve access to the Church and other community facilities.
- Put traffic management measures in place to improve safety and access to parking.
- Work with North Lanarkshire Council to introduce Traffic Wardens back into Shotts.
- Identify additional parking to make accessing shops and Post Office safer.



Encourage and support a mix of housing developments

- Ensure the community have a voice in housing development proposals and use of developer contributions to local infrastructure.



Community benefit

- Explore potential for community ownership of wind turbine for community benefit.
- Ensure significant community involvement in deciding on community benefit from Renewable Energy Companies based locally.



Potential Partners

North Lanarkshire Council, Shotts Community Council, Shotts Getting Better Together, Renewable Energy Companies, Housing Developers



Theme 4: Community and recreational facilities and activities

Community used buildings

- Develop Leisure Centre to make it more attractive, affordable and with longer opening hours.
- Work with North Lanarkshire Council to ensure that their facilities are made more available for use by the local community e.g. Youth groups, dance group, gymnastics group.

Community Asset Transfer

- Make full use of Asset Transfer opportunities to give more community control over community buildings, based on identified need e.g. Community Hub.
- Upgrade local football pitches and explore community asset transfer of pitches.

Develop and improve outdoor facilities

- Explore site and funding opportunities for an Outdoor Gym.
- Raise awareness of what is happening at the Stane Garden.
- Work with NLC on play park strategy to create areas for all ages and abilities.

- Carry out a community engagement exercise to identify the need for more outdoor facilities.
- Work closer with community to protect green space assets.

Create initiatives that are exciting and engaging

- Encourage more involvement of schools in community activities.
- Explore opportunities for intergenerational allotments.
- Investigate Community Cinema.
- Pilot area for Participatory Budget for capital spend of £200,000 per Ward.

Potential Partners

North Lanarkshire Council, Getting Better Together, local Youth Groups, local community groups, Police Scotland, PSYB, NHS Lanarkshire, Criminal Justice, local football teams, local schools.



Theme 5: Environment and health

Environmental improvements

- Make the most of the Pit Bings for the benefit of the community.
- Create opportunities to increase biodiversity.
- Work with Forestry Commission, Central Forest Trust and other landowners to improve surrounding environment in a way that will benefit the local community and the local economy.
- Support the findings in the Shotts Public Realm Study and seek funding to carry out environmental improvements.
- Create a youth 'Tidy Up Group' to benefit the community and the environment, fostering responsible, caring adults. Links this with local schools.
- Care and protect the North Shotts Moss SSSI site.
- Maximise opportunities afforded by Environmental Key Fund (Blacklaw Windfarm).

Develop and improve local path networks

- Develop cycle network and paths linking Shotts to neighbouring communities.
- Explore opportunities for local bike hire.
- Improve signage and promotion of local heritage features, paths and natural environment.
- Active travel co-ordinator post to investigate a path network for cycling and walking.

Local Heritage

- Support and promote local cultural activities including the Gala Day, Highland Games, local bands and other living culture.

Potential Partners

Forestry Commission, North Lanarkshire Council, Friends Shotts, Local schools, Shotts Gala Day, Highland Games Committee, Local bands, Shotts History Society, Central Scotland Forest Trust, local community.



Shotts Community Action Plan 2019

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust's overarching priority is to develop community capacity; everything that we do is about supporting coalfield communities. Community-led regeneration is at the heart of regeneration. It is about people taking responsibility by:

- Identifying issues and opportunities in their local area
- Deciding what to do about them
- Making positive changes in their communities

Coalfields Community Futures

In 2013 the Shotts Community Action Plan, with support from Coalfields Regeneration Trust and members of the Shotts community came together and formed a steering group which worked together to create a 5 year Action Plan. This was done through an extensive process of community engagement carried out by the community for the community.

Five years on, a lot has been achieved from the original plan, some priorities are still being worked on and some new priorities have been identified. This revised community action plan was produced, again with support from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, and in partnership with Getting Better Together Ltd.

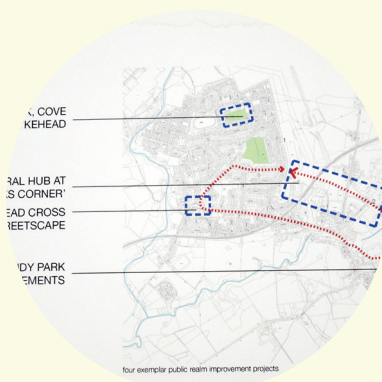
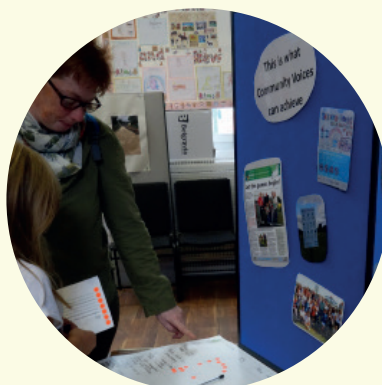
The Process:

A focus group made up of members of the Shotts community carried out a review of the 2013-2018 community action plan and identified:

- which priorities had been completed
- which priorities were still in progress
- which priorities were not yet started
- what was new and needing added to the new action plan

This was followed up by a community wide review day where the wider community were invited to carry out a voting exercise, highlighting what was most important to them and share ideas for the future that could be included in the new community action plan. This community action plan is the result of this process. We would like to thank everyone who took part in the organising of the events and the participants who took time to get involved and share their views.

We want to build on what we have achieved and this new action plan outlines the work we will be focusing on. We would like to invite you to come and help make our community the best it can be. Shotts matters to all of us, so if you would like to support any aspect of this community action plan please contact Getting Better Together on 01501 825 800



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