



North Lanarkshire Rural Heritage APPENDIX 3

North Lanarkshire Rural Heritage Program

DETAILED RESULTS OF THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FOR THE FIVE RURAL COMMUNITIES INVOLVED IN THE PILOT PROGRAM

The consultation is for the following
communities:

Caldercruix,
Greengairs & Wattston,
Harthill, Eastfield & Greenrigg
Plains
Upperton



Community Consultation

Part 1

COMMUNITY SURVEY (ONLINE AND PAPER COPIES)

- Background on the consultation
- Consultation Publicity
- Consultation Summary
- Detailed Results of the Community Survey

Background

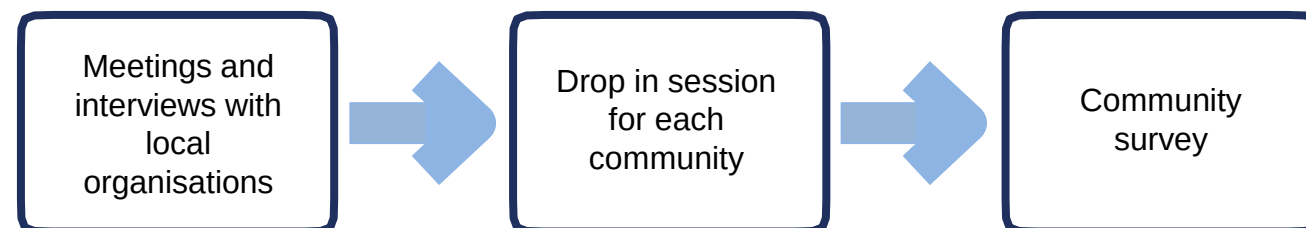
The Consultation for the North Lanarkshire rural heritage program was undertaken between January and March 2023.

The feedback from the heritage survey, the drop in events and various meetings helped to identify projects and initiatives that will help a wider audience engage with the rich local history of the Lanarkshire villages included in the program.

The five villages included in this pilot project are Caldercruix, Greengairs & Wattston, Harthill Eastfield & Greenrigg, Plains and Upperton.

The objectives of the consultation were:

- To raise awareness and support for the project
- To check accuracy of information relating to local heritage assets
- To find out the important places (physical buildings and spaces in nature)
- To find out the important local stories
- To identify potential improvements
- To raise awareness of the community grants scheme
- To generate new ideas for heritage engagement
- To understand the barriers that exist for people to engage in the heritage



Consultation Publicity

In order to reach a wider audience a range of organisations were contacted. Below are examples of the publicity undertaken.

North Lanarkshire Council

Press release copy shared on their website, social media platforms, twitter (approximately 4000 views) distributed to the local community via Council CLLD staff and local politicians to NLC's Community Board Structures.

National Press

Press release / article published online via the Daily Record

Stakeholders

A range of project Stakeholders shared on their website/Social media platforms:

- Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire
- Green Action Trust
- North Lanarkshire Leisure Trust.

Organisations

A number of organisations were approached / or approached us directly to get more information on /or to offer support in publicising the project via their websites and social media platforms.

These included:

Upperton Residents Association
Upperton Community Action Plan Steering Group
Voice of Experience North Lanarkshire
Caldercruix Community Action Plan Steering Group
Caldercruix Community Council
Greengairs Community Action Steering Group
Greengairs Community Council
Harthill Community Action Steering Group
Harthill & Eastfield Community Council
Harthill, Eastfield and Greenrig Group (HEG)
HEG War memorial Group
Plains Community Action Plan Steering Group
Pauls Parcels Shotts and Harthill
Plains Evangelical Church
Plains Community Futures
Caldercruix and Longriggend Parish Church
Voice of Experience North Lanarkshire
Airdrie Baptist Church
Harry Walker Day Care Centre
Scottish Civic Trust



Consultation - Summary

In March 2023 we asked people to have their say on the stories, information and future projects that will be included in the Heritage Plans.

For the detailed responses to the consultation please see next section.

At a glance – Results of the North Lanarkshire Rural Heritage Survey

Your Place

- 73% live in one of the 5 communities included in the Rural Heritage Program
- 8% are under the age of 35
- 82% are over the age of 35

Your Heritage

- 86% would like information on local heritage, access to nature and local stories
- 75% would like more information on or to become involved in heritage activities
- 87% think our activities and plans should consider sustainability and biodiversity
- 59% are already involved in heritage activities

Most people would look for project information online. However, 44% of people would like regular email updates and 23% said they would prefer a leaflet or hard copy.

Your Stories

- 93% think the plan should include information on place, history and heritage
- 79% think the plan should include information on open spaces, landscape & wildlife
- 88% think the plan should include information on crafts, games, food & work

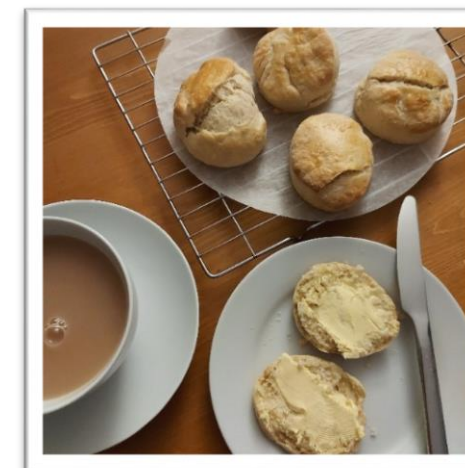
What stories should we include?

- 79% would like stories about work (industrial heritage)
- 54% would like stories about leisure (music, dance, football, gala days)
- 69% would like stories about nature (landscapes, walks, plants and animals)
- 77% would like stories about what makes their place special
- 33% would like stories about food

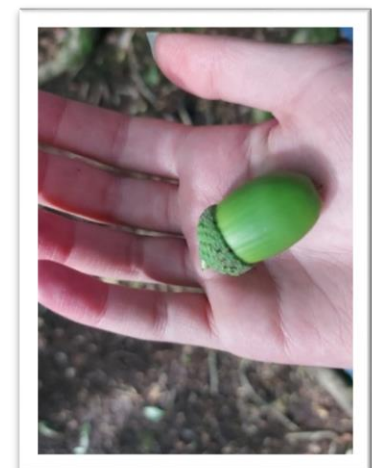
Your stories,
Your Say!

What could be improved to help you engage more with your local heritage? Suggestions to improve engagement include;

- After school childcare to do activities
- Activities for children and youths
- Provide printed materials for children to engage in local history
- Look at ways to provide clear information on local history (printed and online)
- Encourage more people to volunteer
- Find a venue that is easy to travel to and host events/meetings at accessible locations
- Some areas, such as Upperton, don't have a venue – make alternative arrangements
- Improved promotion of events (no central venue so difficult to know what is on)
- Community centre needs to be open
- Self led information so people aren't restricted to certain times e.g. information boards or a trail
- Monthly competitions to encourage engagement in heritage e.g. best wildlife picture, best local story, best recipe.



Monthly traditional recipe competition



Nature & Heritage Themed
Photography competition

What heritage projects would benefit your community?

Access to Information

- Anything that will keep memories alive, improve environment, opportunities for local access activities, equipment for children/community/education.
- Easier access to information on the local history. Information should be available in multiple formats including digital and hard copies such as leaflets. Include information on local industries and key buildings.
- Heritage trails, walks and signage would be beneficial. Walking Route Maps, clearly marked trails. Include information on nature.
- Signage should be consistent and it would be helpful to include information boards on local history and heritage, directional signage, information boards on nature.
- Support with the cost of hiring a venue to undertake activities
- Currently working with local historian to develop a guided walk
- A local Heritage or History Centre
- A library in the village



Access to the outdoors

- Improve existing walking routes and create new walking routes to link to local facilities and provide local people with an opportunity to connect with nature. Upperton Residents Association have been campaigning for a walking route between Upperton and Greengairs. There is interest in a cycle path from Harthill to Salsburgh and interest in improving the route to the River Almond. In Caldercruix a circular walking route could be created around Hillend Loch. Plains and Greengairs would benefit from heritage interpretation and improvements along the walking route to the Stanrigg Memorial. .
- There is an opportunity to increase knowledge of the local wildlife, natural landscape and local history through walking leaflets and information boards.

Heritage Installation or a multipurpose Heritage Installation

- There is interest in designing equipment that can be used by children to play on as well as provide information on history and heritage. Opportunity to use natural materials and combine it with directional signage.
- Heritage themed play area for children and equipment for kids such as swings and slides. Displays to provide information.
- Murals to help capture the history of the local community
- A local memorial such as a miners statue
- A heritage garden is being installed in Caldercruix. A heritage trail from station to garden would be beneficial



Activities and events

- activities for children, exhibitions, displays, murals, visits, workshops, heritage themed away days, growing projects, nature identification activities, bat walks, reminiscence groups, art and theatre and other activities.
- There is a website where you can buy trails for different areas (it's called treasure trails). It's about an hour or two long and you have to clues in the local area which means you get to see the area. Something like this for each village might be fun too.
- Themed play activity for a summer fun day
- Workshops , reminiscence groups and activities
- Activities should be interactive - maybe photography, art classes, wildlife / bird watching, role play games for children - if kids are interested then families will engage. Potential for intergenerational projects.



Community Growing Projects

- Nature/food related project such as planting apple trees/fruit trees.
- Planting raspberry or other fruit canes.
- Bench near raised beds in allotment area
- Plants and soil (including plants that encourage pollinators and soil that is peat free).
- Water butts (residents noted having to carry water from their own homes to the community garden areas)
- Companion planting and other natural growing methods



Improving Biodiversity and attracting pollinators

- Bird boxes
- Bat boxes
- Improve the natural environment by increasing planting in the community garden and community growing areas. Create additional opportunities for local volunteers through the development and promotion of the community garden and growing areas. Consider using some plant species that encourage pollinators. Peat free gardening should be encouraged.
- Prepare a guide to pollinators and plants that attract bees

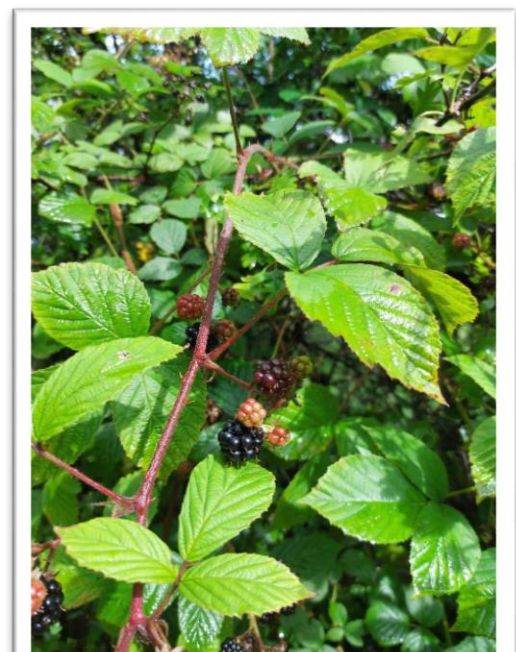


Food security, growing produce and traditional recipes

- Residents highlighted a general concern over food security and the knowledge the cost of living crisis is impacting many families. There was general support for projects that could tackle this and provide families with additional support.
- A new community growing space has been established in Upperton. Support for enhancing this space and promoting opportunities for volunteering are welcomed
- There is an opportunity to promote community growing when the crops are harvested.
- There is interest in gathering traditional recipes and some favourite recipes. This could include foraged food*



*foraged food information should include notes ensuring that food is correctly identified and washed thoroughly before use.



Detailed Survey Results

Your stories, Your Say! North Lanarkshire Rural Heritage Survey

We asked people to have their say on the stories, information and future projects that will be included in the Heritage Plans. The engagement focused on plans for Caldercruix, Greengairs and Wattston, Harthill, Eastfield and Greengairs, Plains and Upperton. Those living close to or working in these communities were also encouraged to take part.



Section 1 – Your Place

Where do you live? (51 responses)

• Caldercruix (or surrounding area)	21 %
• Greengairs (or surrounding area)	12%
• Harthill, Eastfield and Greenrigg (or surrounding area)	25%
• Plains (or surrounding area)	13%
• Upperton (or surrounding area)	2%
• Elsewhere in North Lanarkshire	20%
• Outside North Lanarkshire	6%

What age are you? (51 responses)

• Under 18	0%
• 18-35	8%
• 36-65	51%
• 66+	41%

Section 2 – Your Heritage

Would you like more information on your local heritage, access to nature and stories about your community? (49 responses)

• Yes	86%
• No	4%
• Don't know/neutral	10%

Are you currently involved in any history or heritage activities? For example, organised activities or clubs, visiting museums, hobbiesc (47 responses)

• Yes	36%
• No	41%
• Occasionally	23%

Would you like to receive more information on or become more involved in heritage activities including those relating to history or connecting to nature? (48 responses)

• Yes	75%
• No	10%
• Don't know/neutral	15%

Where would you prefer to find information on the Heritage Plans and the Heritage Engagement Activities? (47 responses)

• Website	57%
• FaceBook	57%
• Instagram	9%
• Twitter	13%
• Poster on local noticeboard, community hall or in library	28%
• Regular email updates	44%
• Press release in local press	17%
• Leaflet	23%
• Other (Hard copy, Paul's Parcels)	4%

Do you think it is important that our project considers sustainability (use of resources, future funding, climate change) and biodiversity (the variety of local plants, animals and the places they live) in the engagement activities we undertake and in the heritage plans? (48 responses)

• Yes	87%
• No	0%
• Don't know/neutral	13%

Section 3 – Your Stories

Do you think it is important that we share information on place and the history and heritage of your community in the heritage plan? (41 responses)

• Yes	93%
• No	0%
• Don't know/neutral	7%

Do you think it is important that we share information on open spaces, landscape and wildlife in the heritage plan? (39 responses)

• Yes	79%
• No	3%
• Don't know/neutral	18%

Do you think it is important that we include local stories, information on traditional, crafts, games, food and work in the Heritage Plan? (40 responses)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| • Yes | 88% |
| • No | 0% |
| • Don't know/neutral | 12% |

What kind of stories would you like to tell us about / hear about (select all that apply)? (39 responses)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Work (industrial heritage, mining, farming etc) | 79% |
| • Leisure (music, dance, football, activities, holidays, gala days) | 54% |
| • Nature (landscapes, walks, plants, animals) | 69% |
| • Place (what makes it special) | 77% |
| • Food (food memories, traditions, celebrations, etc) | 33% |
| • Other (All of the above, traditional industries) | 5% |

Do you have a favourite story about the local history of your community? If you are happy to share a story you are welcome to include it in the box below.

- Plains Evangelical Church - Originally Mission Hall built from 2 old Mine Chimneys and opened in 1921.
- The big house heading into Greenrigg. The wall dates back to the 1800's. The Main Road was 3ft from the road. There is a sunken garden still there.
- Stanrigg – there are still those in the community that remember family sharing their memories or family stories about the Stanrigg Mining Disaster which struck in July 1918. Nineteen local men and boys lost their lives. The youngest were 14 years old.
- All the adults said No Bing playing! But we played on it anyway and were told by the older kids not to say where we had been.
- Peter ran the Gala Day and was nicknamed Hip Hip – Three Cheers because he used to ask people in the parade to give the old folks at waiting the windows “Three Cheers – Hip Hip Hooray...”
- Local History & Caldercruix Paper Mill and the mining History
- Immigrants moving to Lanarkshire, for examples, Polish Community
- I can remember when the man came around and put the street lights on ,
- Before alarm clocks were invented people were paid to be a Chapper Upper – someone who would walk the streets early in the morning and knock the doors and windows to make sure they weren't late for work



Photograph of the Stanrigg Distaster Memorial

Dad was a ringer for
Ronnie Barker and their
shop was open all hours

All the adults said No Bing
Playing! But we played on
it anyway!

People were
paid to be a
Chapper Upper

Just a few memories
I thought I would
share

Amazing walks
around the loch

The Demolition of the mill is
one of my earliest
memories of the village

The entire mill workforce
moved to Caldercruix to
set up the new paper mill

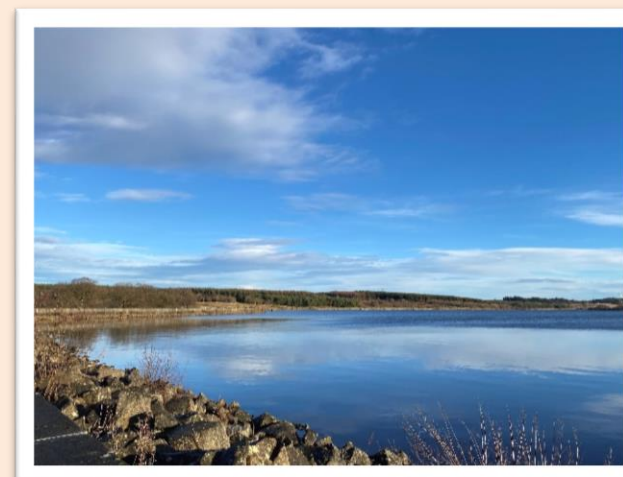
The youngest were
14 years old

- Mum and Dad ran a General Store in West Main Street for many years in the 50s till the seventies. It was called R & J Weir (Bob and Jean). My Dad was a ringer for Ronnie Barker in “Open All Hours” right down to his overall. The shop was open all hours because they lived above it and people came to their door at all hours for things they needed. It sold all sorts of things from needles, fruit and veg, toys, wallpaper - you name it! It was a hub for people in need of friendship , in need of help, in need of a good laugh. They had a telephone Harthill 311 and people from the village could use it in emergencies. Many of the villagers were helped by my Mum and Dad. I am so proud of them. He was one of only two men from Harthill who suffered this. The other person was Robert Bowes. When they can home the village gave them a heroes welcome. Just a few memories I thought I would share.
- There is a make shift “ gallery“ on the back road from Greengairs to Plains - where older men have drawn / painted pictures(the old town hall , Stanrigg memorial etc) and I love stopping and looking at them and then it gets me wondering about the past and then I need to ask people about it .
- I grew up in Caldercruix. I lived there until 2010. During this time I witnessed huge changes to the village. Perhaps the biggest change was the demolition of the old paper mill, which has now been redeveloped into housing. The old mill grounds had several bogs, which were dangerous, but kids couldn't resist playing around them. The demolition of the old mill chimneys is one of the earliest memories I have of the village. A large number of residents gathered on the old closed road opposite the church to see this landmark demolished. There were mixed feelings, with some glad to see them torn down, but others feeling that the village had just lost some of it's history.
- I loved the Gala day. I remember one year the big wheel arrived in the show park, probably 1966. It was only five metres from my grannies and grandads home in Millar street. I remember taking a young lady on it we were about 12 years old. Met her again in 1983 and we have been together ever since.
- Researching my mother's family I found out that her ancestors who lived in Newbattle, Newtongrange near Dalkeith and worked in the Lothiangrange paper mill, moved with the entire village population and mill workforce, to Caldercruix and set up a new paper mill. The move was prompted by the Mill owner who refused to pay the increased rents demanded by the landowners.

Do you have a favourite building or place in your community which has special meaning to you? If you would like to tell us about this place please write in the box below.

- Hillend Loch, Caldercruix. Memories of childhood walks and picnics
- Memories of the local church / churches
- Memories of the local school
- Plains Evangelical Church
- My house was built for the Head Master of the School from £200 - 1904 It is a substantial building that I moved into in 1978
- The war Memorial in Harthill. I am a Veteran in touch with the Scottish Brigade and other Regiments

- Summerlee
- Like walking around the Golf Course – Different World
- The Greegairs Community Centre is special to ma as my Mum worked there for 29 years!
- My favourite building is now called The Harvest Centre but it was the Baillie Institute at 113 West Main Street. It was donated to the people of Harthill by Lady Baillie and was used as a billiard Hall for many years before being bought by Munn who made it into a wedding venue. After this it was bought by the local Pentecostal Church for a place of worship and it is still used for this purpose. It is also used by the children of Alexander Peden Primary School for their end of term services. And for a Love2Craft Group.
- My favourite place is outside in Greengairs. There is a fairy trail and one resident made an activity board along our walk way. We also have the “tunnels” which are made in the trees , we are surrounded by wildlife and there are lots of opportunities for learning, for example photography, art classes, wildlife/bird watching.
- The area where Stanrigg Pit was situated
- The old trough inn (aka the owl and trout). It really was an amazing place. It seemed every customer was a unique and interesting individual. It was the kind of place you could walk into and ask for a trademan of any discipline to do a job, and one would be there. I learned so much about local history, and about life from the amazing people who frequented this pub.
- The swing park was massive 4 sets of swings, chutes, merry go rounds etc. 1 in every corner with the football pitch in the middle. I was in the park most days playing football. The school team played there as well. I remember playing for Harthill vs Eastfield when I scored from the half way line {well maybe just outside the penalty box } right over the goalies head fantastic memories
- Local walk ways
- Lily Loch
- Katherine Park



Photograph of Hillend Loch



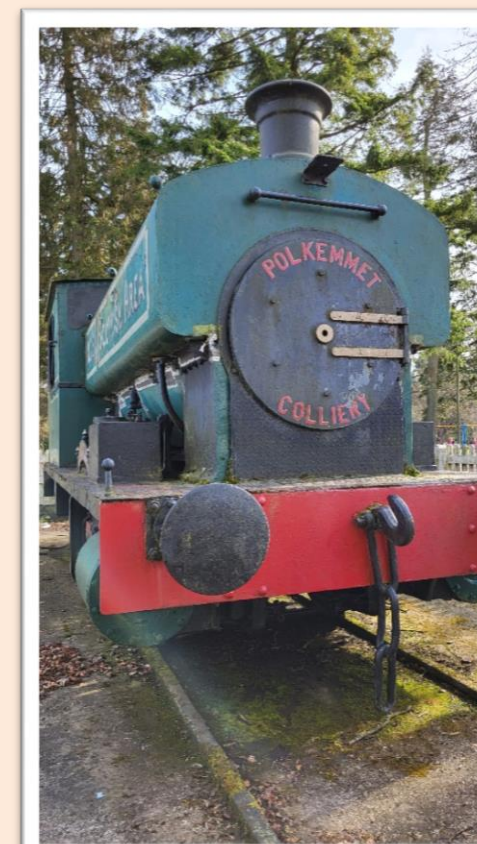
Caldercruix and Longriggend Parish Church, Caldercruix

Do you have a favourite outdoor location in or around your community where you can connect to nature? If you would like to tell us about this location please write in the box below.

- Plains mining area
- Greengairs Community Woodland
- Polkemmet Country Park is a great place to connect to nature, lots of walks and places to explore.
- Owl Show at Polkemmet Country Park.
- Faskine
- Golf Club House
- Amazing walks around the Loch. Amazing wildlife and nature
- Hillend Reservoir
- We have a public park which is used for the Harthill Eastfield and Greenrigg children's Gala day.
- Peden Stone and surrounding area
- The woods south of the wooden walkways
- Walking over the heather and enjoying the lochs and forsts
- The field beside the church. This field was used by many kids in the area to play sport such as football and golf. No one seemed to ask famerGlen but he didn't seem to mind as he never chased anyone away. It is amazing how many memories were shared in this field.
- Walking my dog beside the River Calder. The trails and pathways are in great need of repair. The river and surrounding area has a lot of rubbish and tree debris. Despite this, I have seen a heron, a few ducks and some deer in the past month.
- Polkemnet park was special, fishing for trout, minnows and sticklebacks, climbing the wall the orchard, climbing trees. Hide and seek was great fun and plenty of wildlife. Early 1960s the annual cattle show would be held there on special days.
- Fields around the villages
- Clarkston Glen
- Redlees Quarry.



War memorial, Harthill



Colliery train, Polkemmet Country Park



Cottage at Summerlee Museum



Landscape north of Plains, towards Caldercruix



Beautiful Scotland display, Plains

Have you lived most of your life in the local area? (39 responses)

- Yes 72%
- No 28%

If you have lived most of your life in the local area would you like to share stories about where you live? For example, what has changed, what has stayed the same? What traditions did your family have?

- Would like histories of local people recorded and documented
- My family lived in Victoria Street in a Room & Kitchen with a shared outside toilet. This got knocked down to make way for new housing. Moved to Hill Road in 1956 (3 bedrooms) Then in 1978 moved to 'Netherby' on Main Street
- My partner lives in the same bungalow. Her neighbours bungalow & hers used to be a Builders Yard, next to the Park.
- Born & Bred in the village; New houses; everybody knows everyone; that sense of community/place has gone; There were 41 groups in the 1980's - not now.
- Brought up in a council house with parents then moved away Came back & bought a small cottage. Now live in a big house on outskirts of Plains
- I am a very new addition to the community. Not long moved here. It's home now!
- Part of the Polish Community
- Not as neighbourly as it once was The ones who have always stayed in the village is always there to help each other in good and bad times.
- I grew up in Glenmavis and remember making tree swings and dens , we went walks with my dad and now I have a family of my own the village is amazing to bring kids up in - my son loves building tree houses , tree swings , he loves going fishing, camping, lighting fires, carving wood, he loves watching wildlife, he loves finding wild garlic and berries. The allotments are a great addition but they need to include the kids to look after it rather than locking them out and causing a divide. We love walking to Palacerigg driving range and getting Sunday lunch at the stables.
- The only main change is the wind turbines on the landscape. My childhood was at Upperton, then moved away for a few years as an adult but quickly came back and have had my kids growing up here and now my grandchild.
- I was born & lived most of my life in cairnhill. I now live across from Calderdale high school. I miss how vibrant and clean Airdrie used to be. There used to be great shops, cafes & a thriving market twice weekly. Airdrie fair day used to be a great event with lots of activities for the whole family. You could get a bus from Airdrie to almost anywhere in the central belt. The town centre is grim & I only visit it to go to the supermarket, Christie's bakers & the chemist.
- No community spirit due to no premises open

Did you grow up elsewhere in Scotland? Or have you moved to Scotland (10 responses)

- Yes 32%
- No 68%

Would you like to share your stories of where you grew up and where you live now? For example, old or new traditions and histories?

- Born in London in 1950. Moved to Scotland – to Arbroath as a Royal Engineer Commando in the 1970s. Married a lassie from Blantyre in 1972 and stayed in Scotland since.
- Grew up in the army.
- I was born & raised in Sierra Leone West Africa. Moved around the UK, World through the Military (Army wife) Now settled in Caldercruix.
- I grew up in Glenboig, my grandparents were Coal/Clay Miners in the pits and Clay Mines. One of my Grandfather's was killed in a pit explosion.
- I was born and brought up in Shotts and my great grandmother was one of the Newbridge mill workers who moved to Caldercruix.



Seating at Upperton



Wind turbines

Section 4 – The Future

As part of the North Lanarkshire Rural Heritage Programme we asked for your ideas for potential heritage projects.

The aim is to enable a wider range of people to engage with heritage. This includes built heritage, cultural heritage and natural heritage. Ideas for projects could include heritage themed play equipment or activities for children, exhibitions, displays, murals, visits, workshops, heritage themed away days, growing projects, nature identification activities, bat walks, reminiscence groups and other activities.



Each local heritage plan will include a list of potential heritage projects. Small projects could be delivered as part of our Micro Grants project, due to launch in May 2023. The project is funded by players of the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Grants are expected to range from £50-£500 and can support a range of projects.

Larger scale projects can also be included in the plan - even if they need a plan for long term support.

What heritage projects would benefit your community?

- Anything that will keep memories alive, improve environment, opportunities for local access activities, equipment for children/community/education. Anything that benefits community.
- Support with the cost of hiring a venue, time due to being involved in lots of other Groups and activities
- Currently working with local Historian to identify and record all History, places and important Heritage. Aim is to record everything, obtain permission to cross farmlands to build a guided walk.
- Heritage or History Centre
- History/Walks
- worried about youth issues!
- Miners Statue
- Bike Trails/Walking
- Gas in Village
- Play activities & equipment maybe good at next
- Summer Fun Day
- The Community Council is in the process of erecting a Heritage garden currently.



Woodland walk

- Themed play activity for summer fun day.
- Heritage Trails/Walking Routes. Walking Route Maps, clearly marked trails. Include information on nature.
- It would be great if we could have a cycle path from Harthill to Salsburgh th same as many that have been made in Lanarkshire.
- We would benefit from a library in the village and a Partnership Centre with a swimming pool and a library would be wonderful.
- Workshops , reminiscence groups and activities
- activities for children, exhibitions, displays, murals, visits, workshops, heritage themed away days, growing projects, nature identification activities, bat walks, reminiscence groups and other activities. All of these sound amazing - there is a website where you can buy trails for different areas (it's called treasure trails). It's about an hour or two long and you have to clues in the local area which means you get to see the area. Something like this for each village might be fun too.
- If people want to learn, we want to teach them. It needs to be interactive - maybe photography, art classes , wildlife / bird watching , role play games for children - if kids are interested then families will engage and if you can get all ages involved it brings the community together
- Heritage themed playing equipment and displays
- Murals would help to capture the history of Upperton. Not many people know the history of the area apart from the Remand Centre. It would make sure the history of the area isn't lost.
- For Caldercruix, several ideas spring to mind. The quarry and the mill deserve recognition for the role they played in the growth of the village and local employment. The moss (to the north of the village) for it's historical (use as fuel) and environmental importance. And the history of small businesses in the village. Of the four pubs that once operated in the village, three have now closed (the clansman, the village in and the trough). The old shops that are no longer with us (A lovely older lady called Rachel had a sweet shop on Main street, David Macleod had a grocers on Drumbeck Avenue. The old video store and hairdressers on main street etc)
- The arts in Shotts has a tremendous history and featured hugely in the cultural scene of Scotland until 1995. Shotts Community Centre houses the Henderson theatre, a converted space opened in 1981, named after Archie Henderson (1900- 1982) who became a member of the Scottish National Players - a theatre group which performed on BBC Radio in the 1920/30s. He formed and directed several excellent amateur drama groups and worked closely with , Joe Corrie, from Fife, the leading Scottish playwright of the day, and rooted
- Retaining information on the traditional industries
- The park use for the gala day leaves a lot to be desired. It is not in a good state and would benefit from a total refurbishment.

What could be improved to help you engage more with your local heritage?
Examples of things that may prevent people engaging in heritage are cost, lack of suitable venues, lack of information on local heritage/activities, time language, childcare or other caring responsibilities

- Lack of younger people becoming interested. This is due to lack of pamphlets showing the Heritage. Only the Community Newsletter from HEG covers the History. Need to find ways of increasing the number of young people interested in local history.
- Unsure of how to become involved in projects. Looking at ways to provide clear information would be beneficial.
- Encourage more people to volunteer /lack of existing volunteers
- Finding a suitable venue that is easy to travel to.
- Having meetings and activities on certain days at certain times maybe quite restricting so things that people can do at any time that suits them would be better - such as information boxes/information boards along the walk way, a trail idea could be downloaded and done when convenient and the “gallery” can be accessed any time.
- Suggest getting people to do monthly competitions like best wildlife picture, best mining story, best recipe) people can post it in when they have done it again when they have time - maybe badges (like the guides or scouts do) if people learn about different things. People are busy so it would be better to have more flexibility.
- Sometime events or information days are on at times that suit. In Upperton there are no local venues. The only option is to put up a tent so local people don’t have to travel.
- No after school childcare to do activities, lack of activities for children and youths.
- Difficult to promote things in the community, lack of prominence due to the lack of a central venue.
- Ensure meetings and events are held at accessible times and location.

Do you have any other comments that you would like to make?

- I feel the area of Harthill, being on the border with West Lothian is quite neglected when relating to amenities.
- I fear the heritage of the community does not align with the current state of the world, with everything moving to renewable energy and to stop climate change, I believe that celebrating coal mining will be met with resistance from anti climate change groups who will see it as a promotion of fossil fuels
- We need to go back to the old days to give the younger generation a future
- Need to open community centre back up for community

Would you like to receive a copy of our regular email updates? This will include dates of upcoming heritage activities. (33 responses)

• Yes	79%
• No	21%

END OF SURVEY

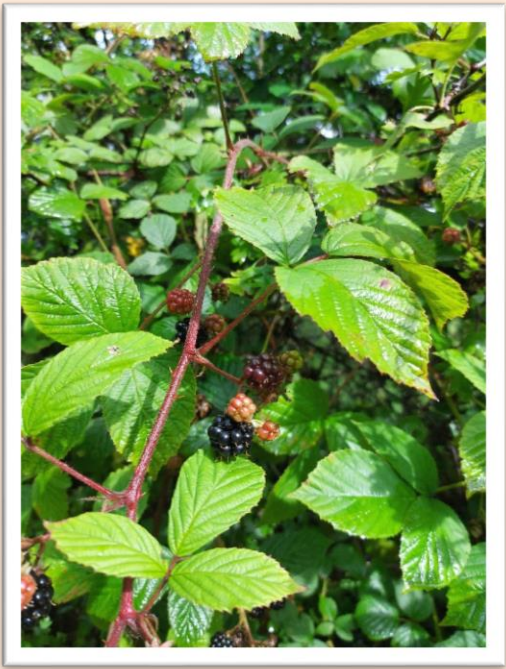
We would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete one of the survey forms. We are grateful for your help and support. Your ideas and comments will help to shape your Heritage Plan and the projects and activities that will be delivered in your community.



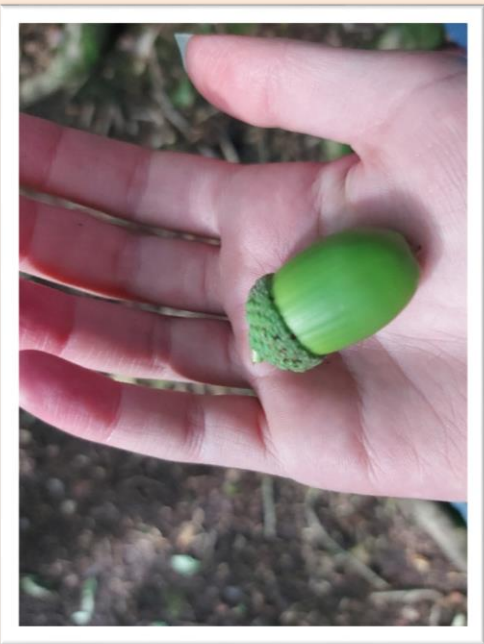
Traditional recipes and foraged food



Monthly traditional recipe competition



Connecting with nature



Nature & Heritage Themed Photography competition

Drop In Session Notes

Part 2

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – DROP IN SESSIONS

- Notes from Drop In Sessions
- Caldercruix Drop In Session
- Greengairs and Wattston Drop In Session
- Harthill, Eastfield and Greenrigg Drop In Session
- Plains Drop In Session
- Upperton Drop In Session

Drop In Sessions

As part of the community consultation 5 drop in sessions were hosted in local venues.

Members of the public and members of local community organisations were invited to participate. A community survey was also undertaken.

Drop in sessions were held as follows:

- Caldercruix Consultation Drop In Session, Tuesday 7th March 2023 6.30pm-8.30pm
- Greengairs and Wattston Drop In Session, Saturday 4th March 2023 11am-2.30pm
- Harthill, Eastfield and Greenrigg Drop In Session, Saturday 11th March 2023 11am-3pm
- Plains Drop In Session, Monday 6th March 2023

Examples of the online promotion for the Drop In Sessions is shown below:



Caldercruix Drop In

The Caldercruix Consultation Drop In Session, Tuesday 7th March 2023 6.30pm-8.30pm

Caldercruix has links to many industries including coal mining, the paper mill, farming, quarrying and supplying water to the Monklands Canal.

General discussion on how to record local history and make it accessible for as many members of the community as possible. Consideration given to making information available online, in printed form and on information boards within the proposed Heritage Garden and throughout local walking routes.

The main road running through Caldercruix wasn't there historically and it has created a physical divide because of the speed of the traffic. Difficult for cyclists and pedestrians to cross.

General agreement that activities for children would be beneficial. Invitation to RDT to participate in the next family fund day (running children's heritage engagement activities).

Local stories included visiting the Esso station and asking the man who worked there if he would give the kids oil for their bogeys. Used to be a picture house in Caldercruix. Located in tin hut behind the main street, people could enjoy access to entertainment without leaving the village. One attendee talked about memories of the gas lamps being lit in the village. References to the changes in buildings such as the demolition of the prefab houses and the demolition of the paper mill. Talked about the sweet shop on the main road and RST shared some traditional sweets. Lots of memories of favourite sweets in childhood.

Walking routes are important to the local area and there is support for mapping and signage. Living Streets have been hosting regular meetings to discuss issues related to walking.

One attendee had copies of photos and we spend time trying to work out where photos had been taken. Lots of interest in making information like this more widely available either online or in the public realm.



General discussion on the important of local memorial such as the war memorial, general mining memorials and specific memorials such as the Stanrigg disaster memorial. It was agreed that RDT would work with the community council to find information on history of the village that can be used on the information boards. RDT agreed to order books for use by local history volunteers. Information boards should include information on the paper mills and potential McCracken mines (the owners of the Stanrigg pit). Discussion on people moving into areas. For instance papermill workers coming from Midlothian to work in the paper mill in Caldercruix. Thought to be a number of Dutch immigrants who worked cutting peat. Lithuanian works were brought into the Clay pits in Glenboig.

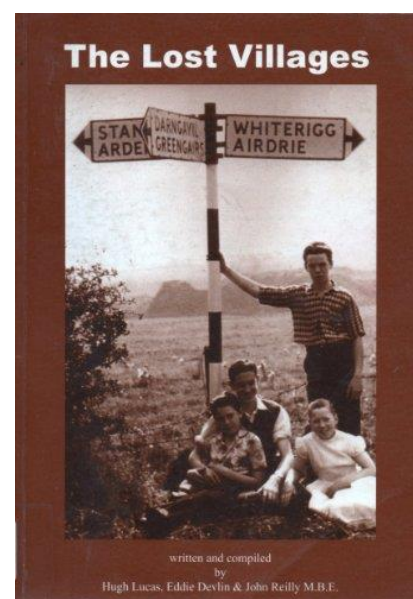
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There was some interest in setting up a regular heritage activity/heritage afternoon. Venues suggested included the Bowling Club and it was agreed that this could be combined with information for the Heritage Garden. For larger events Gartlea Community Centre was suggested as a venue that might suit a number of the communities involved.

Suggested that RDT should contact the sheltered housing complex to see if there was interest in setting up some oral history sessions.

There are still relatives of John McCabe living locally. John McCabe was the young man who was awarded a Medal for bravery for his efforts to raise the alarm during the Stanrigg pit collapse. Staff at Summerlee have already indicated that it might be possible to highlight the acts of John McCabe so there may be further discussions on this.

One of the attendees brought a number of photographs which had been blown up from a book on local history. He talked about “The Lost Villages” and advised that the children on the front cover were his cousins.



Suggestions for Potential Projects /enhancing heritage engagement

- Easier access to information on local history, more opportunity to engage, better and more consistent signage. •
- Heritage trails, walks and signage was seen as beneficial. Potential to undertake a mapping project (early discussions with Living Street and Ramblers) •
- Recording mining heritage, enhancing existing links, particularly in relation to Stanrigg • Impact of the heavy industries (i.e. Paper Mill and Mining) should be recorded. •
- Potential photography project using timeline and historic photographs. •
- Potential photography project to capture Caldercruix as it is today so that people looking back on this project in 20 years or so will have access to digital photos showing what it was like (Future History)
- Provide the Community Council with support to prepare information on the story of Caldercruix for information panels in their Heritage Garden (help accessing history books and researching stories).
- Invitation to RDT to participate in the Family Fun day (children's crafts and activities, publicity for Micro Grants, engagement activities, the Heritage Plan and Health and Heritage Walks).
- Invitation to RDT to set up regular heritage afternoon/heritage sessions for people interested in local history (photos, stories, general information)

- Potential oral history project with Sheltered Housing unit (also they have previously expressed interest in short Health and Heritage Walks around the village).
- Potential biodiversity project.

Greengairs Drop In

The Greengairs and Wattston Consultation Drop In Session, Saturday 4th March 2023 11am-2.30pm

Greengairs and Wattston has links to many industries including coal mining and farming. In 1918 19 coal miners from local villages were killed in a pit accident at Stanrigg Colliery. 11 bodies remain entombed. A memorial has been erected and in 2018 a memorial service took place to remember those who lost their lives.

Discussion on the lasting impact of the Stanrigg Mining Disaster – impacting on all of the surrounding villages. Asked what we could do to highlight to local schoolkids that in the past they could be down the pit at 14 and noted that the youngest victim of the Stanrigg disaster was 14 years old. Discussed the impact of multiple members of the same family being involved. Women potentially losing their home if it was tied to the job. Person attending had memories of speaking to someone who was a child at the time and remembered how the whole community was affected.

Discussed the fight for better working conditions, no-one should have to die for job. The fight to improve working conditions and the impact of the miners strikes in the 1980's. The terrible impact of the loss of traditional industries across North Lanarkshire.

Highlighted that the pocket watch of John McCabe (who received the George Medal for bravery for his part in the rescue) is in storage at Summerlee and wondered if that might be an object of interest (suggested taking children to see it after their mining tours).

The site of the former open cast working has been used as landfill since 1990 and is the largest landfill site in Scotland.

Talking about smell from landfill, particularly early in the morning. Memories of the decomposing whale. A whale had been washed up in the River Forth and rather than being taken out to sea was brought to the landfill site. Memories of the smell of decomposing whale enveloping the school and clinging to the village.

Desire to engage with outdoor learning activities e.g. outdoor classroom style spaces or equipment.

Discussed difficulty finding places such as the Stanrigg Disaster Memorial.

Suggestions for Potential Projects /enhancing heritage engagement

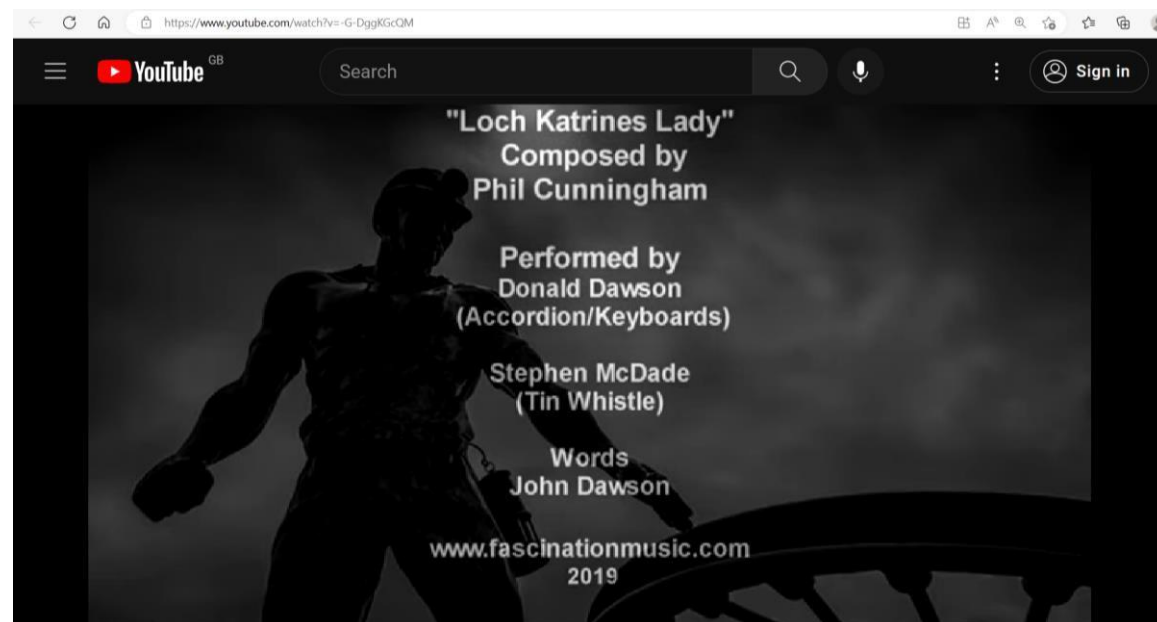
- Easier access to information on local history, more opportunity to engage, better and more consistent signage
- Heritage trails, walks and signage was seen as beneficial
- Recording mining heritage, enhancing existing links, particularly in relation to Stanrigg
- School will be setting their new activities for the curriculum. Due to covid many children missed out on the regular teaching about local mining history and there may be a gap that could be filled. Discussion on alternative means of engagement including showing the Stanrigg video (see additional material) or consider working with companies such as Magic Torch to produce a short comic
- School are looking for ideas for an outdoor classroom/learning activities

There may be potential to exploring the historic campaigning undertaken by the local community. Also, Greengairs has links to coal mining, it has a biogas powerstation (powered by methane from the landfill) and wind turbines.

Additional Material

Attendee highlighted the video in the link below and confirmed that he would be happy for us to share it as part of the material we gather on the Stanrigg Disaster.

[Phil Cunningham - Loch Katrine's Lady \(Cover\) - Stanrigg Mine Pit Disaster - Fascination Music - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-DggGcQM)



Harthill Drop In

The Harthill, Eastfield and Greenrigg Consultation Drop In Session, Saturday 11th March 2023

Harthill, Eastfield and Greenrigg is a rural village split between North Lanarkshire and West Lothian. It is halfway between Glasgow and Edinburgh which made it a natural stopping point. As coal mining grew in Lanarkshire so did the village and there were several local pits including Benhar in the west and Polkemmet in the east.



The washing board sparked a discussion on growing up in Harthill and washing clothes. Starting with the whites, then working through the darker colour until last of all the clothes from the pit would be washed. Originally the mines had no bath houses so workers had to get washed at home. One attendee remembers scrapping her grandfathers boots when he came home from work.

Query about the name Flax Mill Road. No immediate answer but a member of RDT staff checked and confirmed that there had indeed been a flax mill in the village. The mill appears to have been there prior to the 1960s. This led to a discussion on the heavy industries that villagers used to work in. One of the attendees worked in various steel works and it was noted that he was probably one of the last generations who would grow up and work beside friends from the village as most people travelled further afield for work.

ER of RDT asked if anyone was familiar with the former golf course near the woods at Benhar Woodland. Yes – confirmation that until about the 1950s there was a golf course in the village (9 holes).

Two attendees were asking about the route of the Monklands canal and noted that they had no recollection of where it would have been located in Airdrie. This led onto a discussion about where some of the street names had come from (Victoria and Albert – Victoria Street and Albert Road) and was curious why part of Peden Street appeared to have been knocked down. No one could recall a clear answer though there was a general assumption that subsidence may have played a part.

When asked about the uniqueness of each community the older attendees confirmed that the areas traditionally were very separate and talked about Eastfield having everything that you would need including shops and entertainment. Both Eastfield and Harthill had cinemas. The railway bridge was a physical barrier between the communities. Talked about childhood memories – collecting ginger bottles for money, proudly wearing beer bottle tops as badges.

One attendee talked about his interest in genealogy and gave a demonstration of how to search for information on Scotland's People. General interest in learning how to search for information. Attendee provided an interesting anecdote. A distant relative in Canada contacted him pointed him in the direction of a grandparents birth certificate. In the 1902 certificate there was a record of the father suing the boy who had fathered a child with his daughter. The daughter and her new baby appear to have emigrated and started a new life in Canada. The attendee talked of receiving food parcels from Canada in the 1950s but no one talking about who was sending them.

Attendees spoke about local people who had been important within the village. Lady Bailey had donated the funding to build Eastfield School and new roads were named after the family.

There was also a discussion on mining equipment and the progression of types of lamps. Lamps such as the Davy lamp that provided light and warned of gas and small lights designed to illuminate an area.

Discussion on the military history and stories of the war memorial.

The local HEG Magazine (free magazine delivered to every household) has a local history section. Consideration given to whether these could be compiled to make a single booklet or similar.

Suggestions for Potential Projects /enhancing heritage engagement

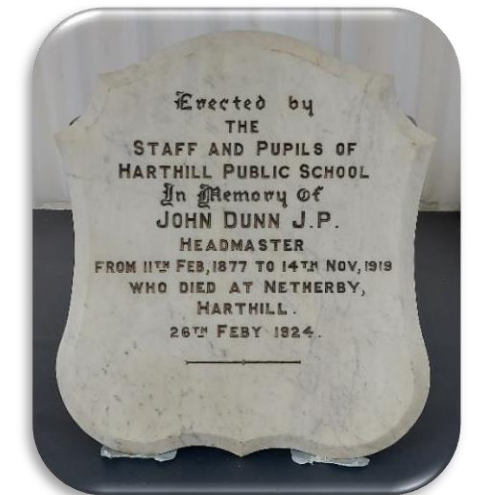
- Easier access to information on local history, more opportunity to engage, better and more consistent signage
- Heritage trails, walks and signage project – developed in partnership with existing project.
- Walking routes and maps
- Request to support two local historians to look at how best to capture information – consider a range of options such as digital recording, voice recordings and potentially printed books
- Impact of the heavy industries (i.e. Flax Mill, Mining and Steel) should be recorded.
- Potential photography project using timeline and historic photographs
- Potential photography project to capture Harthill as it is today so that people looking back on this project in 20 years or so will have access to digital photos showing what it was like (Future History)
- Heritage trails, walks and signage (in partnership)
- Mapping project (overlapping OS maps electronically) to highlight changes in the village over the years
- Encourage reminiscence groups
- Write up the story of the road “sit in” at the time of local government re-organisation
- Potential community project – purchase of tools and wood for the men’s shed project



- Micro Grant to purchase frames and titles in order to display historic photographs in the Village Hall
- More detailed history of the village is desirable
- Potential to develop a genealogy project – local studies team will be able to provide advice and can provide some training to those interested

Additional Material

Resident of the former headmasters house brought a large commemorative plaque to go on display during our Heritage Event. It generated several discussions about the local school and teachers.



Additional Material

One attendee brought a large collection of old photographs (originally supplied by NLC Museums team). The photos have lost their signage and are in need of frames. The attendee would like to frame them and hang them in the local village hall. Below is a small selection of the photos.



Plains Drop In

The Plains Consultation Drop In Session, Monday 6th March 2023

The village of Plains grew in mid 19th century with the expansion of coal mining. In 1918 19 coal miners from local villages were killed in a pit accident at Stanrigg Colliery. 11 bodies remain entombed. The memorial is easily accessible from Plains and monthly health and heritage walks go from the Community Centre to the memorial.

There was interest from attendees in participating in more heritage activities and discussing what those activities might look like. Outlined the Micro Grants Scheme. Talked about the changes seen by residents of Plains. Used reminiscence material to aid discussions and talked about leisure activities from childhood such as sweet shops and visiting the cinema. Interest in using material to aid future discussions – looked at photos of old brands and compared to brands still going today (brillo, oxo etc).

Walking route between Caldercruix and between Airdrie (then on to Summerlee) was discussed. Used but feeling was that it would benefit from more people knowing about it.

Local heritage discussion identified a desire for much more in depth study of local history, including the relationship with the surrounding landscapes. Talked about the remains of the former heavy industry on the landscape and the contrast between old industries such as mining and new industries such as wind. Noted that open cast coalmines and quarrying still has an impact on the landscape. There was a desire to connect with nature and the local landscape and discussions focused on practical ways of promoting engagement such as digital mapping, now and then style photo projects, the need for signage and interpretive material. One of the Health and Heritage Walk attendees has developed an interest in finding out more about the lost villages and mining heritage. Potential to collaborate on this piece of work.

Discussions also centred on nature, the wildlife around the village including (apparently) the most southerly recorded sighting of a wildcat.

Local stories included finding spent cartridges near the rifle range, Mr Hip Hip (local man who lead the gala and would stop outside window and ask those in the parade to shout Hip Hip Hooray and so was referred to as Mr Hip Hip. Strong sense of connecting to mining and there was a reference to a lady who still had her dads working boots hung up on her garden fence.



The local 'country park' was highlighted. This is an area of ground previously designated as a country park some time ago but without any signage, facilities or maintenance. It was unclear from the discussions whether this area could still be accessed. Laura's Pond was highlighted. This was a pond on a local farm.

There was a strong desire to engage with younger generations and encouraging them to learn about their local history and heritage. Pride in the hard work of the past but an acknowledgement that times have changed and industries have moved on. Interest in some form of statue or mining memorial at the entrance to the village (Plains Community Futures recently secured funding to install some mining carts at the entrance and this generated significant discussion). Interest in how we might tie children's activities into mining celebrations. Talked about sharing recipes for jam and biscuits (example of local who had their famous recipe on their gravestone).

The Gala day was highlighted as an important part of the social calendar of the village (see story of Mr Hip Hip above). There was a desire to record/document the history of the Gala Day.

Although coal is the most well known local industry it was noted that the paper mills were an important local employer and should also be recognised within the history of the local area.

Plains participates in the annual Beautiful Scotland competition and has been awarded a Silver Gilt on two occasions. Discussed whether the Heritage Project/Micro Grants could help promote biodiversity in the displays. Interest in the micro grants to support allotments and wildflower seeds for a local youth garden.

Desire to undertake reminiscence work with the Plains Lunch Club. Interest in following up reminiscence sessions with a visit. Possible locations discussed include Summerlee, Low Waters Museum or the National Mining Museum in Midlothian.

Suggestions for Potential Projects /enhancing heritage engagement

- Continue to promote the Health and Heritage walks as a way to connect with nature, identify significant sites in the landscape and chat about local history. Potential for industrial archaeology project.
- Longer Heritage themed walks – suggested routes could include lost villages, North Calder Heritage Trail
- Easier access to information on local history, more opportunity to engage, better and more consistent signage.
- Project to expand on the outline history being included in the Heritage Plan.
- Heritage trails, walks and signage was seen as beneficial.
- Recording mining heritage, enhancing existing links, particularly in relation to Stanrigg..

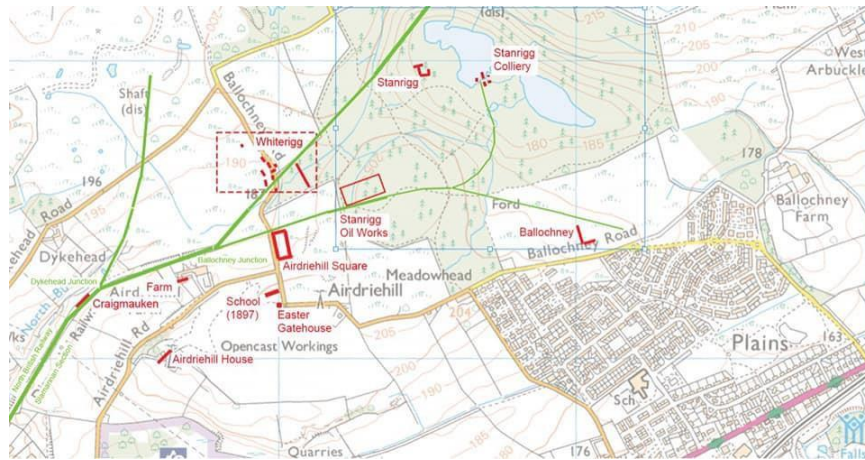


- Children's heritage themed activities – with particular focus on coal mining, energy from the landscape (story of coal to renewables) and local wildlife and connection with nature. Potential to include papermaking activities.
- Project documenting the history of the Gala Day. Potential for photograph project/timeline display.
- Potential to gather local recipes/create book

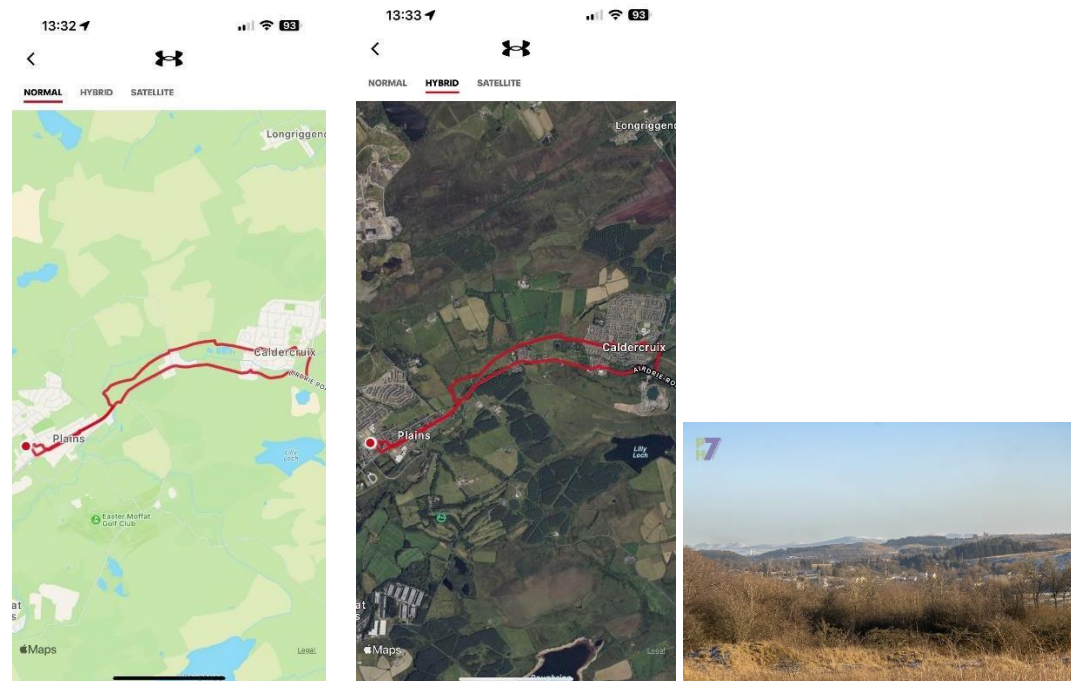


Additional Material

As a result of our health and heritage walks a local volunteer has been helping to map locations of lost villages and remains of former mining and industrial heritage in the landscape surrounding Plains. He is also a keen photographer and has offered to share his landscape photographs and his photos of birds for use in our project. Copies of the mapping work undertaken to date is shown below.



Suggestions for two alternative Health and Heritage walking routes (one shown below) have been suggested by one of the participants. RDT staff to review and risk assess routes with a view to walking them at a future date. Landscape photo courtesy of local photographer.



Upperton Drop In

The Upperton Consultation Drop In Session, Saturday 4th March 11am-2.30pm

Upperton has no publicly owned ground, has no roads maintained by the local authority, and no facilities for local residents. Nearest shop is Greengairs.



General discussion on the history of Upperton. Including links to farming and the Young Offenders institution. The community was originally built to house prison officers but the homes were sold when the centre closed. The centre has since been demolished by part of the fencing remains and the site remains derelict. The owner of the site hopes to build houses on it but there is no date for this at present.

The residents association would be keen to see something that could tell people where the important historic sites are around the village. However, as there is no land in public ownership it can be difficult to install any facilities including signage. Ideally the residents association would like to see some kind of multipurpose installation – e.g. something that could be used for signage with a mound or similar at the base which local children could use to play on.

Food and nature based projects would be beneficial e.g. planting apple trees.

Suggestions for Potential Projects /enhancing heritage engagement

- Easier access to information on local history, more opportunity to engage, better and more consistent signage.
- Heritage trails, walks and signage was seen as beneficial.
- Upperton Residents have been campaigning for a walking route between Upperton and Greengairs. Any support or enhancement to this project would be welcome.
- Request that RDT host an outdoor event early in the summer to encourage engagement, promote the Heritage Grants (and to update the Community Action Plan). RDT have agreed to host a family fun day which will include consultation, support for making grant applications, craft and general outdoor activities suitable for a small family fun day.
- Potential for some form of installation that can be used by children to play on as well as provide information on history and heritage.
- Nature/food related project such as planting apple trees.



Consultation Conclusion

Part 3

CONCLUSION

- What did the consultation tell us?
- How to use the results of this consultation

Consultation Conclusion

In March 2023 we asked people to have their say on the stories, information and future projects that will be included in the Heritage Plans.



Your stories,
Your Say!

What did the consultation tell us?

In conclusion, the consultation undertaken as part of the North Lanarkshire Rural Heritage Program reveals a number of themes which are common to all communities as well as highlighting a number of area specific issues.

- Importance of the Stanrigg Disaster to the local community
- Interest in commemorating mining and other industrial heritage
- Desire to capture local history from older members of the community
- Support for intergenerational work that brings together stories from older people with opportunities for children to learn about local history
- Support for learning materials for children based on local history and heritage
- The need for activities for older people
- The need for activities for younger people
- Support for improved connection with nature
- The need for more information on history and heritage to be available for new residents
- Materials that support walking routes and provide information on wildlife and nature
- Importance of capturing local stories and information on how villages have changed within the lifetime of residents
- Interest in improving biodiversity and various growing projects

The Stanrigg Disaster

There is a strong sense of connection to the Stanrigg disaster. Despite the disaster taking place over a hundred years earlier the consultation work undertaken demonstrated that the disaster is still very much in the thoughts of the local communities. Several people taking part in the Drop In Sessions referred to hearing family members or friends of family members talking about the experience of their relatives in relation to the Stanrigg disaster. Stories appear to have been handed down to each generation. The sense of loss does not appear diminished by time and there is a strong desire to find new ways of telling the story to new generations.

There is a desire to tell the story of Stanrigg through some form of information boards or way markers that help walkers to interpret the post industrial landscape.

Community Activism

Another common theme within the five communities is community activism. All five communities have a core group of community volunteers who strive to make their communities better for everyone. From landfill to windfarms these communities are well informed and expressive of positive and negative impacts on their village. Encouraging new volunteers is seen as crucial for the future.

Capturing stories before they are lost

Throughout the consultation there has been a sense of urgency about the loss of local information from older generations. There is a strong desire to record the stories and knowledge that exists within these communities so that it can be shared with future generations and new audiences. In particular, there is a desire to record the individuality and uniqueness of each village through memory, oral history and photographs.

Working together

All communities highlighted the benefits of intergenerational projects and/or information sharing between older people who will have stories about the history and heritage of the local communities and the younger members of the community who may not be familiar with the history and development of each community.

Activities for younger people

Each community noted the difficulties faced by children growing up in rural area. Many have no facilities such as a hall or community centre that would allow them to meet with friends. Heritage and nature projects which engage with young people would be beneficial

Connecting with nature

The importance of the landscape and getting outdoors is evident in each community. The benefits of walking and being outside enjoying the views across the local landscapes was expressed time and time again. This includes support for walking groups, information on walking routes, signage and interpretation and village trails which link walking with the history and heritage of each area.

Engaging with new audiences

There was an acknowledgement that new development and housing building means new residents who may not know the history and heritage of the community. Making people feel welcome and part of the community was seen as important and one way to do this is through local heritage. This can include making information available online or leaflet drops and posters. Activities which bring people together to share experiences and stories was seen as important and beneficial to the well being of the community. There is also an interest in bringing new visitors to the area and having activities for visitors, friends and family to do. This could include self led trails and information boards and way markers on walking routes.

The Rural Heritage Programme – Micro Grants

As part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund project, each local heritage plan has a list of potential projects.

Funding is in place for heritage micro grants which can fund small projects of around £50-£500 that use heritage to support the themes highlighted in this plan and help improve knowledge of natural or cultural heritage and support well being.

How to Use the Results of this Consultation

If you, your group or your organisation are interested in applying for a grant you can use the information in this consultation document as evidence of need for your project. If you would like to discuss a potential heritage project please contact us on heritage@RuralDevTrust.co.uk