

Our Neighbourhood Plan for

Strutherhill and Birkenshaw



South Lanarkshire
Partnership
Stronger together

Our Place Our Plan

Phase 1

January 2019 –
December 2019



This plan sets out priorities for our community identified by residents between November 2017 and February 2018 to be acted on over the next 10 years.

Further discussions and events have taken place in the community to agree what we want to focus on first. We recognise that to make a real and lasting difference we need to take our time and do things right and not try and do everything at once.

A local Community group has produced this plan. Most of us are local residents however we are joined by representatives from key local agencies and organisations

To ensure progress is made Our Plan will be updated on a yearly basis. This is the first phase of long-term developments in our community.

You will see, this year we are also focussing on 3 of the 10 priority themes and working groups will be established to develop activity further. More will be done to take forward other themes as we move forward.

For the plan to work and make a real and lasting difference we need the involvement of everyone who lives or works in Strutherhill and Birkenshaw. There are so many ways you can do this, by talking about Our Place Our Plan and telling others about what's going on as a result of the plan. By joining the Strutherhill and Birkenshaw Community Group or one of the working groups you have an interest in or by simply taking part and enjoy what's happening around you.

What we want to do



More leisure, recreation and social opportunities

- Regenfx will host a part-time youth worker post. The post holder will work with young people to develop and deliver a youth development programme.
- Radworx will offer weekly Mobile Skatepark sessions in Spring and Summer.
- Strutherhill Activity Group will deliver a summer programme for 8 – 12 year olds.
- Children and Family Workers will establish a dads and kids group in 2019.
- New/Extended community HUB building opportunities and activities for those at risk of isolation including carers.
- Potential new Lidl development will improve shopping choice and access. SLC Community and Enterprise Resources will report on progress and work to maximise any community benefits from investment.
- Larkhall and District Volunteer Group in partnership with the Our Place Our Plan Community Group will provide a shopping bus to ease access to shopping facilities by older people and those with mobility issues. Asda shopping bus runs every Wednesday until winter 2019.
- Promote the local Army Cadets in Strutherhill and Birkenshaw.
- Our Place Our Plan Community Group will take forward actions to provide more leisure, recreation and social and opportunities.



Physical environment improvements

- An environmental working group will be established. £10K funding is available to support the community to develop proposals. **Beginning January 2019**
- Local Army Cadets in partnership the Environmental working group and the Our Place Our Plan Community Group will launch a community project supporting households and the community to improve gardens and open spaces. In return Army Cadets will gain their Capitals for Cadet in the Community Badge as part of their learning syllabus. **Launch January 2019**



Greater community safety

- A community safety group will be established and Walkabouts will take place involving residents and staff to highlight early actions in year 1. **January 2019 onwards**
- The police will respond/attend any areas where issues are highlighted by residents. **Throughout 2019**
- The Community Safety group will identify and promote a range of ways to report safety issues and concerns. **March 2019**



Stronger and better communities

- Drop in to Chalmers church to meet your development worker and find out more about what's going on and how to get involved in Our Place Our Plan. **Every Tuesday 10am – 12noon**
- The Our Place Our Plan Community Group will develop a communication plan to ensure residents and local staff are aware of what is happening, and what opportunities are available and how they can get involved. **January 2019**



Housing improvements

- Clyde Valley Housing Association on site delivering 82 new homes for rent in Larkhall including 48 at the former DAKs Site. **Completion approximately August 2019**
- Council house new build programme includes land with an estimated capacity for a further 36 new homes at the former Craigbank Primary School Site, Avon Rd Strutherhill. Completion anticipated by March 2021. SLC Housing will keep residents informed of developments.
- Strutherhill Phase 1 - External rendering to 48 properties will be undertaken. **Completion 2019/20**
- Resurfacing of car parking bays in Earn Gardens/ Ness Gardens, Larkhall. **Completed January 2019**



Better employment and business opportunities

- Maximise the positive impacts for the Strutherhill and Birkenshaw communities resulting from local business/ other developments including access to job and training opportunities. Known potential developments include Lidl **Spring 2019** and McNeills Shellfish. **December 2019**
- SWITCH provide job search support, including help to apply for jobs online in Chalmers Church on Tuesdays and Fridays. Explore how other employment support/training agencies can help.



Better financial wellbeing

- Our Place Our Plan Community Group in partnership with SLC and SLLC will consider options for reducing any cost barriers to our local community facilities. **December 2019**
- Explore opportunities to provide Welfare Benefits and money advice to complement the SWITCH hub.

To stay informed and involved as things move forward, search for “Our Place Our Plan Strutherhill and Birkenshaw” on Facebook.



Better education and training opportunities

- Employment actions include creating training opportunities. Actions to be considered in due course – remember this is a 10 year plan and this edition focuses only on year 1.



Health improvements

- Many of the actions listed will improve physical and mental wellbeing. Other actions will be considered and progressed in due course.

What residents have said so far about Our Place Our Plan

*“A marvellous opportunity to have a say
in the future of our community.”*

*“We need everyone to be part of this plan.
Join us and help us to make it work.”*

*“I became involved because this community
deserves better - together we can achieve a lot.”*

*“I had a great first night at the Strutherhill and Birkenshaw Community
Group recently, I was made very welcome and was given the chance
to voice my opinions as well as listen to everyone else’s. The Group is
actually making a difference to Strutherhill and Birkenshaw.”*

“We want to be even more proud of our place.”

*“I’m looking forward to seeing the area develop
and being part of the decisions going forward.”*

*“Be part of the action and help get things done,
join the Strutherhill and Birkenshaw Community Group –
it’s great being involved and helping get things done.”*

*“I think the Community Group is good. At the beginning I didn’t
understand what was happening, but I am enjoying having a say
and seeing how this can benefit my area.”*

*“Lots of new things are taking place, for example the
shopping bus to Asda is a wonderful service and there
are even more activities for young people it’s great.”*

Survey Findings

Themes

(in order of popularity)

Actions

(most popular for each theme)



1. More leisure, recreation and social opportunities

More / better facilities and activities for children and young people
New and improved public buildings and more / better shops and less vacant properties and more choice



2. Physical environment improvements

Improved open space
Better waste management and tackling litter, fly tipping and dog fouling



3. Easier to get about / moving around

Better maintenance of roads, paths, drains and gritting
Better parking



4. Greater community safety

More crime prevention measures
(CCTV, secure doors, better public lighting / secure fencing)
Less anti social behaviour (less vandalism / loitering / noise and fire raising)



5. Stronger and better communities

More investment (public and private sector)
Better community involvement in decision making
(more opportunities to take part)



6. Housing improvements

More new housing and refurbishment of existing housing stock
(including more disability friendly and sheltered housing)
More responsive landlords



7. Better employment and business opportunities

More jobs and training opportunities



8. Better financial wellbeing

More money / debt advice
Cheaper access to public buildings and amenities



9. Better education and training opportunities

Better pre-five school service provision (nurseries / parenting classes and support)



10. Health improvements

Better community facilities (new and improved buildings more surgeries / chemists)

How will we know that the plan is making a difference?

- Residents feeling more connected and more involved in community life
- Increased use of community facilities and services
- New opportunities, activities and services will be available
- Improved health and wellbeing and a reduction in isolation where it exists
- Less anti social behaviour and an even better sense of community spirit in Strutherhill and Birkenshaw



How to get involved

The community group meets regularly and working groups will meet to take forward some of the priority themes and actions outlined in the middle pages.

If you live or work in the area and think you might like to get involved then please contact Liz Jamieson on 01698 827583 or e-mail liz@communitylinkssl.co.uk

no community without U



If you or someone you know needs this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Phone: 0303 123 1015
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